

Barton Bugle



a publication of Clara Barton Open School
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www.bartonopen.org

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

As we begin the new calendar year 2008, at the mid-point (almost) of the academic school year, I want to encourage a renewed commitment from Barton families to get our students to school on time. Students should be in classrooms ready to learn at 7:30 AM. The challenges of the early start time can be particularly burdensome in the winter months. What's worth emphasizing, though, is that it can be very unsettling for students when they arrive late every day, even if the late arrival is only a few minutes here and there. The parallel for adults would be a pattern of arriving late for a morning business meeting. Your colleagues wonder why you couldn't have started five or ten minutes earlier as they did and you end up beginning the day out of sync with the professional community of which you are a member. It's no different for our kids. They all need the benefit and advantage of starting the day together with their classroom learning community. The difference, for most of them, is that they are often dependent upon a parent to get them here on time. Please do your part so that every classroom begins with all students ready to learn at 7:30 AM, every day.

While I am addressing school attendance issues, let me clarify a double standard we have at Barton regarding family planned absences/vacations. At the K-6 elementary level, we have traditionally been very accommodating of planned absences for families that deviate from the regular vacation days on the school calendar. The make-up work for students is usually tied to keeping a journal, daily reading, and, in some cases, doing a research project on the place visited.

The school perspective changes at the seventh and eighth grade level when planned absences during the academic year are highly discouraged. Students in the uppers program are taking six courses from as many as five teachers. The instruction is not easily made-up, especially in cases where new content is tied to planned group work in class. Uppers teachers, responsible for as many as 120 students each day (in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and elective courses) are simply not able to tailor a make-up program for an individual who is absent from the regular class instruction. I have told families this individually, but I have never put the following into writing: If you are planning a vacation outside the regular school release-day calendar, please do so during your child's K-6 elementary experience, not during their seventh and eighth grade uppers experience. This shift in planned vacation practice will be solid preparation for the realities of the attendance demands on our students when they successfully transition to the high school.

--Steven R. DeLapp, Principal (email address steven.delapp@mpls.k12.mn.us)

Calendar 2007-2008

January

- 10 Area C Parent Forum 6:30-8:30 PM at Hale Community School
- 11 Theatre Mu *Taiko Drumming* 8 & 9 AM
- 12 K-12 School Information Fair 9-2 PM
- 17 Leadership Council 4:30-6:30 PM
- 18 School Spirit Day: *Hero/Heroine* Day
- 18 Barton Spelling Bee 8:45 AM
- 21 No School K-8: Martin Luther King Day
- 23 Historical Perspectives for Children
Clara Barton Performance 8:45 AM
- 25 No School K-8: Record Keeping Day
- 28 Uppers Exhibition Night 5:30-7:30 PM
- 31 Leadership Council Meeting 6-8 PM

February

- 7 Barton Family Roller Skating 6-8 PM
- 18 No School K-8: Presidents' Day
- 21 Area C Parent Forum 6:30-8:30 PM at Jefferson Community School
- 27 No School for Half Day Kindergarten
- 27 First Day Winter Options Classes
- 27 Leadership Council & Staff Retreat at the Dunrovin Retreat Center
- 28 No School K-8: Building Professional Day and Parent Conferences
- 29 No School K-8: District Professional Day

March

- 13 Leadership Council Meeting 6-8 PM
- 13 Area C Parent Forum 6:30-8:30 PM at Whittier IB School
- 19 Last Class Session for Winter Options
- 21 No School K-8: Flex Duty Day
- 24 Middles Environmental Field Trip to Wolf Ridge
- 28 No School K-8: Record Keeping Day
- 31 Spring Break Begins

April

- 7 Classes Resume Following Spring Break
- 10 Leadership Council Meeting 4:30 PM

The *Barton Bugle* is published weekly and distributed on Wednesdays. Articles should be submitted to the office on the preceding Friday of each week to be considered for publication.

To view the newsletter online, visit the school website at www.bartonopen.org and look under "Barton Bugle Archives." To receive weekly notification of new information, submit your e-mail address under "E-Mail Updates."



The Barton Open School Green Corner

Re-use and Save!

Update: Barton's "Green Grant" has already started to take its course. We've ordered recycling bins for all the classrooms, and you can expect to see them around school. People are really starting to take an interest in recycling! Kids are recycling their bottles after lunch and everyone is starting to think of paper as more than just your average notebook rip-outs. Thanks for doing your part, Barton!

This Week's Tip: If you're ever running late to an important meeting, and are tempted to grab a non-recyclable cup of coffee from the nearby Starbucks, think about this; it might be a good idea to keep a glass or plastic mug in your car for times like these. You can still get your Starbucks coffee, just without the wasted cup, and you might even get a few cents off the charge of the coffee for being so equipped!

Just a Reminder: Be sure to always crush your finished milk cartons! Stomping on non-recyclables will save lots of landfill space and help our world a lot!

-The Uppers Green Team

Minneapolis Public Schools School Information Fair 2008 Pre K - 8th Grade

The Minneapolis Public Schools are holding their annual School Information Fair at the Hyatt Regency this Saturday, January 12, from 9 AM to 2 PM. If you have friends or neighbors who might be interested in Barton Open School next year, encourage them to visit us at the fair. Parents and staff members will be available to answer questions about the open school program.

Asthma Survey

If your child has asthma or has had asthma in the past, you will receive an Asthma Survey in the mail in January, 2008. The survey will come to your home in an envelope from MPS Nursing Services.

Please take the time to complete the survey and mail it to the Lung Association in the envelope provided. Your participation is important because the survey results will guide our school asthma program. If you have questions, please call Mary Heiman, MPS asthma program manager at 612-668-0853. Thank you.

Barton School Spelling Bee Friday, January 18 at 8:50 AM

This year's Barton Open School Spelling Bee for students in grades 5-8 is scheduled for Friday, January 18, at 8:50 AM in the Barton Commons. Students qualifying for the school Spelling Bee will be those scoring the highest on a written spelling test administered this week. Barton's Spelling Bee winner will then participate in the district Spelling Bee held at Sheridan School on Wednesday, January 23, at 6:30 PM.

Blaisdell YMCA Winter Indoor Soccer & Basketball

Registration is underway for the Blaisdell YMCA Youth Sports Winter 2008 Indoor Soccer and Basketball. The winter program sessions are held on Saturdays from January 12 through February 23, 2008, for ages 4 through 11 year olds.

Please contact Noah at 612-728-7631 with registration questions and/or for more information. Registration flyers are also available in the Barton main office. The deadline for the winter session registration is Friday, January 11, 2008.

Barton Leadership Council 2007-2008

The Barton Leadership Council is comprised of parents and staff members who meet once or twice a month to identify school improvement priorities, guide overall staffing, program and budget decisions, plan and implement fundraising activities, and encourage broad participation from all members of the school community.

Council meetings are held on Thursdays in the second floor resource area in the north wing. Meeting times will alternate between 4:30-6:30 PM and 6-8 PM. All meetings are open to any member of the Barton community. If you have a question, issue or concern that you would like the Council to address, please contact a member of the Council or the principal. Agenda planning takes place the prior week of each scheduled Thursday meeting.

Parent Representatives

Steve Richter, parent co-chair, 825-0455 (srichter3@comcast.net)
Jennifer Bennett (jbennett3636@mac.com)
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Staff Representatives

Kristin Sonquist, staff co-chair
Kate Glasenapp, primary team representative
Mark Downing, older primary team rep
Katrina Belding, middles team representative
Amber Damm, uppers team representative
Karen Karis, representative at large
Andrea Borgman/Mary Charron, support staff
Trish Clarke, dean of students
Steven DeLapp, principal

Student Representatives

Officers from the Student Council