



FEBRUARY 2009

A message from the president

We are having another great year at Barrington. I am very proud of all the efforts everyone has put into our PTO to make it a success. I want to thank everyone for their involvement, commitment, time, and creative ideas. You are fun to work with and our success is a result of all of it.

Many thanks to:

- **Luminaries** – Julie Wright and Liz Easton for another great year.
- **ASE** – Lauren Keeler, Kim Bruckelmeyer and the countless committee people ensuring our kids have enrichment activities in a safe environment.
- **RAP** – Christie Wright for organizing the winter recess program for our kids.
- **Room parents** for all they do throughout the year to communicate to the parents and organizing holiday parties.
- **Academic Enrichment** – Cristina Gulacy-Worrel and Erin Longhitano for providing opportunities for all our students to learn outside the classroom.
- **Staff Appreciation** – Ellen Moretti and Heather Evans for providing an outstanding lunch for our teachers to show our gratitude for their dedication to our kids.
- **Safety** – Wendi Gomez and Christine Freytag for their continual efforts in making sure our kids and their environment are safe.
- **PTO Executive Board** – Valerie Goettler, Wendi Bergdoll, Leslie Heath, and Becky Scholl for all the work they do that goes unnoticed. Thanks for the dedication to the PTO and your vision for making Barrington the best it can be.

Thank you once again and I am looking forward to a great spring at Barrington.

Sincerely,
Sara Greenlee, PTO President

FEBRUARY 2009

Technology changes ...

Would you like to learn more about technology and today's classroom? If so, visit the following sites – they provide a wealth of information.

www.Didyouknow.com (2008)

www.Shifthappens.com

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-ZVCjfWf8>
(Vision of k-12)

All year, little effort dollars

Don't forget to use your Target Card and declare Barrington as your child's school – this is easy way raise money. Target writes Barrington a check every year for your participation. Last year we received a check for over \$2300! Don't you just love Target!!!!

Giant Eagle is another way to raise money for Barrington. Stop by the service counter and register your **Giant Eagle** card with our school number 4648, Barrington will get points every time your card is used. How great is that??

Thank you so much for all that you do, it really does all matter!

Start walking ...

Anywhere is walking distance, if you've got the time. Well we are making the time at Barrington in order to reach our technology goals!!



Information on the first annual **Barrington Tech Trek** will be rolled out to the students during an assembly on February 27. Students will walk during gym class the week of March 9 to raise money for technology.

Calendar of events

3/6 – Fri	Spirit Day PTO Exec Board 8:30 am Safety 10:00 am
3/9 to 3/13	Tech Trek during gym class
3/13 – Fri	QSL 11:05 am
3/17 – Tues	School Improvement Team 3:05 pm
3/20 to 3/27	Spring break – One week
4/3 - Fri	No school
4/8 - Wed	Early release 1:15 pm
4/10 - Fri	No school
4/17 – Fri	Spirit Day PTO Exec Board 8:30 am Safety 10:00 am
4/21 – Tues	School Improvement Team 3:05 pm
4/24 – Fri	QSL 11:05 am
4/29 – Wed	General PTO Board Meeting 11:05 am

Crafty needs

We are in need of glue, scissors, construction paper in springtime colors (always a need for shades of pink!), and assorted other donations like yarn, googly eyes, etc. Donations can be dropped to the craft closet, placed on the craft cart in the teachers' lounge, or delivered to 1640 Barrington Rd.

Melissa Hickman, 402-1169

View us online

The Barrington PTO is now sponsoring a website to communicate the latest PTO updates. Visit us at www.BarringtonPTO.com and please send content ideas our way!

Lisa Downey, 486-8857, lisa.downey@hp.com

Food accounts and balances

Do you have questions regarding your family's lunch account? If so please contact the district food service coordinator.

Joanne Brooks, 487-5245, jbrooks@uaschools.org

FEBRUARY 2009

Keeping the spirit!

Shake off those winter "blahs" by wearing Barrington or UA spirit wear to school!! The next Spirit day is Friday, March 6th!!

Special WINTER Offer!!! 50 % OFF

- **"UA" long-sleeve wicking T** – was \$20 NOW \$10 (Youth Medium and Large)
- **"BARRINGTON" color block sweatshirt** – was \$30 NOW \$15 (Youth Small, Medium, Large and Adult Small)

In addition, most popular items are still available! Contact Cyndi Plagenz to purchase in stock items.

Cyndi Plagenz, 486-5322, cslone@columbus.rr.com
Natalie Shafer, 487-9545, nshafer2@att.net
Soozi Cole Hamilton, 886-2244, soozione@yahoo.com
Robin Carlton, 486-7762, robin521@aol.com

Lost items

Are you missing an important item and unsure where to look? Stop by the tables outside the cafeteria Monday February 23 through Thursday February 26 and you might just find the item you're looking for!

Strategic planning

The Strategic Planning Process is one that involves and is dependent upon the contributions and commitment of the entire community. After three days of hard work and lively discussions, the Strategic Planning Team reached consensus on belief and mission statements, parameters, objectives, and strategies.

We are now at the point of writing action plans in order to operationalize our strategies. You are invited to join one of those Action Teams. The first meeting will be held March 2nd at 7:00pm.

For more information, visit the district web site at <http://www.uaschools.org> or sign up for an action team on the following page.

Debi Binkley, Asst Superintendent,
dbinkley@uaschools.org

Upcoming wellness activities

The PTO and Wellness Advisory Committee are having a skating party at Skate Zone 71 (formerly United Skates of America) on Tuesday March 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$4.00 per person and can be purchased during lunch on Friday Feb. 27, Monday March 2, and Tuesday March 3. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$5.00 per person. Flyers will be coming home next week. Hope you all can join us!!

Gina Rancitelli, 487-0229,
grancite@columbus.rr.com
Jennifer Burton, 481-9010,
jenniferburton@columbus.rr.com

Attention 5th grade parents

If you have not already turned in the 5th grade promotion form, please complete and return as soon as possible. Plans are under way for lots of fun promotion activities and volunteers will be contacted soon. We appreciate all your help. More to come...

Stacey Hall, Lisa Farber, and Jayme Rhoades

Nominations sought

Nominations are being sought for individuals interested in serving on the PTO Executive Committee. In an effort to keep our organization flowing smoothly, each spring, PTO elects new officers for the position of President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect and Secretary.

If you are interested in serving on our board, or if you would like to recommend someone who you think would be a good candidate, please submit your nomination. You may do so by email addressed to Sara Greenlee or by submitting it in writing to the PTO President's mailbox under the bulletin board outside the main office.

Sara Greenlee, 486-2566,
saragreenlee@wideopenwest.com

Action Team Sign-Up

Strategies

- _____ We will provide a rigorous and relevant education that continually assesses students' progress toward graduation.
- _____ We will develop and implement a systemic plan to imbed and support 21st Century skills in all areas.
- _____ We will provide opportunities for students to engage in meaningful community service, with instruction and reflection.
- _____ We will pursue opportunities to provide meaningful co-curricular and extra curricular programs that foster the qualities of teamwork, sportsmanship, discipline, and integrity.
- _____ We will develop and implement comprehensive staff development that will support the mission, objectives, and strategies of the Strategic Plan.
- _____ We will develop and implement a comprehensive program to enhance communication among and between administration, staff, students, and community.
- _____ We will provide the facilities, infrastructure, and equipment necessary to support the district's mission and objectives.
- _____ We will continue to be fiscally responsible and to pursue alternate funding sources in order to retain the community's support and fulfill the district's mission and objectives.
- _____ **I would be willing to be an Action Team Co-Chair if needed.**

Please print your information below:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

Please return the form by **February 20th** to Debi Binkley at Central Office or email your response to dbinkley@uaschools.org.

Needy Schools Turn to Parents For Funding PTAs Are Helping to Cover Cost of Books, Other Supplies; Paying to Keep a Teacher Aide

December 30, 2008

By ANNE MARIE CHAKER
The Wall Street Journal

Teachers' Helpers

- As schools lose out to government cutbacks, parents are being asked to help more.
- PTAs can fight "fund-raising fatigue" by planning one big drive rather than many small ones.
- Parents can offer time instead of money. Hours helping teachers or students go a long way."

Public schools across the country, hurt by state- and local-government cutbacks, are tapping an alternative source of cash: Mom and Dad.

Parent groups and local nonprofit organizations have long raised money for activities like class trips, school dances and after-school clubs. But many parents say they now are shelling out for core curricular items that were once publicly funded -- from classroom supplies to teachers' salaries.

This fall, a parent group in Columbia, S.C., bought 100 dictionaries for a middle-school teacher who had requested them. In Kentucky, the Middletown Elementary School parent-teacher association has been discussing helping to pay the salary of a teacher aide whose job might get cut. And in Sunrise, Fla., the Sawgrass Elementary School PTA is kicking in \$3,000 for news magazines that the district used to buy for classroom use. The group also is considering eliminating funding for specialized after-school clubs to free up money for classroom study programs.

There's no question that PTAs are having to reprioritize," says Michael Ryan, president of the Sawgrass Elementary PTA. "It couldn't come at a worse time for us in many respects since fund raising is so difficult because of the broad economic issues."

Sawgrass Elementary is part of the Broward County Public School District, the sixth-largest in the country, which is expecting a \$100 million reduction in state funding for the 2009-2010 academic year, according to district superintendent James Notter. That amount would be twice the size of the budget cut of just two years ago, he says.

Many school districts are facing similar cuts as governments run up deficits. Some 41 states are projecting midyear budget shortfalls this fiscal year, compared with just seven states a year ago, according to a survey by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonprofit research group. If current trends continue, combined state deficits for next fiscal year will be around \$145 billion, compared with the \$89 billion shortfall estimated for the current fiscal year, the center calculates.

The Iowa City Community School District, which serves 11,000 students, won't be receiving \$783,000 from the state it had already budgeted for this school year, says superintendent Lane Plugge. School officials expect to tap reserves from local property-tax revenues to continue providing programs and services in coming months.

Also digging deeper is the Iowa City Community School District Foundation, a nonprofit that traditionally supports non-core student enrichment programs. Now, the group is seeing a big uptick in requests from teachers for books to supplement library collections and computer gear that the district typically used to fund, says Jacki Brennan, the foundation's executive director. Last year, the foundation was able to come through with half of the funds for \$130,000 in requests from teachers for supplies and core programs. This year, "I anticipate lots more requests, way more than we can fund," Ms. Brennan says.

Strapped Parents

As schools lean more on parent groups, those groups, too, are affected by leaner times. In Oregon, the nonprofit Lake Oswego School District Foundation is lowering its fund-raising goal this year to \$1.5 million from \$2.2 million last year as local residents seek to save more and spend less. Middletown Elementary's PTA in Kentucky says donations are about one-third lower than at this time last year, even after an extra fund-raiser. And in Colorado, the Poudre School District Foundation says it is hearing from donors that they'll likely be giving less this year.

A survey by California PTA, a statewide group, of about 500 PTA presidents in the state showed that nearly two-thirds of the groups have been asked by schools this year to pitch in more money for basic supplies and programs, from pencils and books to arts programs.

"One of the things we've always said to our members is, 'Your purpose is not to be a cash cow'" to cover regular school expenses, says Jan Harp Domene, president of the National Parent Teacher Association, an umbrella organization. "But we know they are playing a critical part in making sure children still have services that were once part of the budget, from music programs to adequate custodial supplies. These are not frills."

As local PTAs play a bigger role in funding school activities, the National PTA is reminding members in organization publications to adhere to fund-raising guidelines that aim to avert potential conflicts of interest and liabilities. Among the guidelines: PTAs should obtain a broad consensus in deciding what activities to sponsor. Local groups also should keep projects at arm's length -- providing schools with earmarked donations, for instance, rather than dealing directly with contractors.

Some groups are concerned that increased reliance on parents for funding can create inequities "because not all parent and community groups can pitch in to backfill services in the same way," says Pam Brady, president of California PTA.

To minimize this, National PTA encourages local groups to avoid making donations to programs such as science clubs or band boosters that wouldn't be shared by everyone at the school. "Donations should provide for all children," Ms. Domene says. Still, she says, some inequity is inevitable since parent participation in low-income communities is generally lower than in wealthier ones.

Other parents worry that increased PTA funding of core school items will in the long run encourage further cuts by school boards "if we're here making up the difference," says Mr. Ryan of the Sawgrass PTA. "Pragmatically, though, none of us are willing to take a stand and say 'We won't provide it this year.'"

Onus on School Boards

But other PTA's are doing just that. The Eldorado Community School PTA in Santa Fe, N.M., this year has put the brakes on funding teacher salaries after it raised \$61,000 last year to save a physical-education instructor's job. "After that we decided we're not going to pay district responsibilities like salaries" because of concern that it was setting a precedent that could not be maintained, says PTA president Kathy Ritschel. To the district, "we said, 'You guys figure it out.'"