



MARCH 2010

A message from the president

Everything is moving forward at Barrington this year: from the learning to the construction to our reaching into the 21st century with technology. Each time I sit down to write this newsletter, I again am struck by how many of you put effort into our children's educational experience. Thank you....each and every little effort that is put into our school pays off a thousand times. Many thanks to:

- All of the parents and staff: You have put up with a lot from us this year. With the new building and construction, it has become a year to try new and different ideas for fundraising and events for the PTO. Thank you for supporting us on all of our endeavors as we search to see what works and what doesn't.
- Luminaries: Nicole Caldwell and Connie Aschinger for all their hard work on another successful year.
- After School Enrichment: Lauren Keller and her committee again put together an incredible line-up for our kids to enjoy. Our winter session is running smoothly with more kids than ever.
- RAP: Carolyn Weeks and Mindy Wilhite for organizing the winter recess program for our kids. They have done such a great job with organizing volunteers, games and art projects. The kids have loved every minute of it.
- Room Parents: Thank you for helping the PTO get all of our information out in a timely fashion and for organizing holiday parties.
- Staff Appreciation: Ellen Moretti, Heather Evans, and Shelly Krauss for providing an outstanding lunch for our teachers to show our gratitude for their dedication to our kids.
- Safety: Wendy Gomez and Christine Freytag are tireless in their efforts to keep our kids and their school environment safe.
- Academic Enrichment Committee: Erin Longitano, Kim Young, and many others have done a great job with the Geography Night, the Spelling Bee, and Junior Great Books. Thanks for making learning fun.
- Communication: Lisa Downey Gearhart for all her work on the website and the newsletters.
- Restaurant Fundraisers: A special thanks to Tiffany Lhota for organizing our Restaurant Nights Out to benefit the PTO.

And a special thank you to the PTO Executive Board: Amy Winslow, Kate Schlatter-Norvell, Leslie Heath, Tina Muldoon, and Becky Scholl for all the work that goes unnoticed. Thanks for all your support and laughter.

Sincerely,
Valerie Goettler, PTO President

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Haiti fundraiser success

After the massive earthquake devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010, the Barrington Elementary School community initiated a student fundraiser at the school. On January 20th, the Barrington students took a bulletin home from school outlining the fundraiser: asking students to bring "spare change" into school. Each class was given a mason jar labeled "Haiti Fund" and the students had seven school days to pool their change and fill their jars. The students embraced the project and after just one day, the jars were overflowing!

Students and staff collected, counted, tallied and wrapped the coins. Fourth and fifth graders made daily announcements, created posters and bulletins and visited classrooms to remind fellow students of the project. Students emptied their piggy banks, donated their allowances, and searched their parents' cars and sofa seat cushions for spare change.

In just seven days the total amount raised was \$5280.19. The Haiti fundraiser was a huge success; the Barrington students were truly inspired! The children learned an important lesson about the spirit of philanthropy: it is not what or how much you give but rather the feeling you experience when helping others in need.

The money raised has been sent to the American Red Cross-Haiti Relief and Development and may be used to restore safe water supplies and basic sanitation, and for relief supplies and family reunification. Thank you for your support of Haiti. Your generosity has made a difference.

Jennifer Faris and Carmen Gray

Keeping the spirit!

We've got spirit, yes we do . . . We've got spirit and so do you!! There is still Spirit Wear available so contact us to get the latest gear.

Please note that Spirit Days are the 1st Friday of each month! Don't forget to show your Barrington and UA pride Friday, March 5.

Cyndi Plagenz, cslone@columbus.rr.com
Soozi Cole Hamilton, soozione@yahoo.com
Robin Carlton, robin521@aol.com

Calendar of events

3/5 – Fri	Spirit Day PTO Exec Board 8:30 am Safety 10:00 am
3/8 to 3/12	Tech Trek during gym class
3/12 – Fri	QSL 11:05 am
3/19 to 3/26	Spring break
4/2 - Fri	No school, Good Friday
4/5 - Mon	No school
4/9 – Fri	Spirit Day PTO Exec Board 8:30 am Safety 10:00 am
4/14 – Wed	Early Release 1:30 pm
4/16 – Fri	QSL 11:05 am

PTO board nomination needed

The PTO Executive Board is requesting nominations of Barrington parents interested in serving as President-elect, Treasurer-elect and Secretary for the 2010-11 school year. The President-elect and Treasurer-elect positions require a two-year commitment with the first year (2010-11 school year) serving on the Executive Board and training with the President and Treasurer, and the second year (2011-12 school year) assuming the positions of President and Treasurer.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in serving the PTO in this capacity, please email your nominations to Kate Schlatter-Norvell by March 12.

Kate Schlatter-Norvell, kateschlatter@yahoo.com

All year, little effort dollars

Every year Giant Eagle and Target donate money back to Barrington. All you have to do is go to the service desk at Giant Eagle with your Rewards Card or the service desk at Target with your Target credit card and declare Barrington as your child's school.

Kroger's also has a Community Rewards Program that can benefit us. Just go to the service desk and have them designate your Kroger's Plus Card for Barrington and you are registered. It's an easy way for the PTO to earn money. Thank you so much for your support, it really does matter

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PTO dollars at works

So far this year we have spent almost \$9,000 on sending our students on field trips. For a number of years, the school district has not paid for student field trips so the PTO pays for busing and admissions when necessary. We continue to ask for donations when you receive a permission slip so that we can continue to send our children on these great adventures. Thanks for your continued support!

Important safety tips

The friendly Upper Arlington Police Department continues to patrol around our school. They are patrolling the area around Barrington more this year to help with safety issues involving students and parent drivers. Please slow down, put away your cell phone, and pay attention as you near our school. Our students are precious and we want them all to be safe.

Also, be sure to follow all traffic safety laws and signs, they will be ticketing. And remember:

- Be sure that your vehicle does not block the crosswalk when turning the corner. It is **illegal and unsafe** to block a crosswalk
- Do not make the turn if there is not enough space for your vehicle on the other side.
- Ensure pedestrians can safely cross in the crosswalk without your vehicle in the way.

Christine Freytag and Wendy Gomez

Staff appreciation lunch

The Staff Appreciation committee has the fun responsibility of hosting two PTO-sponsored luncheons throughout the school year to celebrate and honor the incredible Barrington staff. The fall luncheon was postponed due to construction delays but February 17 the committee hosted its first luncheon of the year in the new gymnasium. Teachers and staff were treated to delicious Moretti's food and tasty baked treats from volunteer parents. It was a wonderful lunch, and the staff members were truly grateful. We would like to thank all of our committee parents who donated the wonderful desserts, drinks and paper products, as well as Moretti's of Arlington for the awesome food! We will host our final luncheon of the year in April.

Heather Evans, Ellen Moretti and Shelly Krauss

A huge success!!

PTO again needs to acknowledge the classes of Mrs. Benton and Mrs. Emery. They were nominated for and won the Upper Arlington Youth Community Award for their Beat Michigan, Beat Cancer fundraiser.

Classes underway

After School Enrichment Winter Session has begun. Please remember that if school is cancelled due to weather ASE is also cancelled and will be made up the week of March 8th. If your class is held off site, please check that location. Thanks again and we look forward to a great spring!

Lauren Keeler, lkeeler@wowway.com

Lost items

Are you missing an important clothing item and unsure where to look? Stop by the cafeteria and you will see two bins where all lost items are placed. After several months, the PTO goes through these, returns the ones with names on them, displays all the rest, and after a period of time, we donate all of the items to a non-profit that can distribute them to children in need. PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS WHEN POSSIBLE. If a coat or sweatshirt or lunchbox has a name on it, we can get it back to you. Thank you

Buffalo Wild Wings success

Our Wednesday night at the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant on 5th Avenue was a great success! We raised over \$300 and a number of families enjoyed a great night out. Thank you for stepping out of your kitchens and joining us for a fun night out to benefit the PTO.

View us online

The Barrington PTO has a website and we would like you to know what a great resource it is. Visit us at www.BarringtonPTO.com for all the information you could possibly want on what is going on at Barrington and with your PTO.

Lisa Downey, lisa_downey@hp.com

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A BIG thank you from RAP

RAP is finishing up its 6th week of offering indoor activities for our children during these cold, snowy months with only 3 weeks left! We would like to thank all of the parent volunteers who have made this program a success whether it was helping out in the computer room, working on various crafts with the children, or shouting out Bingo numbers. Many of you volunteer on a regular basis and both us and the kids thank you so much for your time.

We still need help in March so look for an email to help in the home stretch to Spring Break. Thanks!

Carolyn Weeks and Mindy Wilhite

QSL and cell phone use

Quality of School Life has been working on the development of a friendly cell phone use tool for parents. We have also begun the process for a safety night program and invited Heather Galli to present information to parents concerning electronic telecommunications and what we need to do to keep our kids safe. We will be providing more information in the near future

Jeanine Hummer, jamid@uaoh.net

5th grade promotion

The 5th Grade Promotion committee is hard at work planning for the students' final days at Barrington. We would like to thank everyone for all of their efforts and enthusiasm in making this a special time for our students. If you have not turned in the 5th grade promotion form and a kindergarten picture, please do so as soon as possible. We would like to have them all collected by March 15. If your 5th grader did not bring the form home or it has been misplaced, please let one of us know and we will get a new form to you. Again, thanks to our committee for all of their hard work!

Melanie Orlandini, Mindy Wilhite, and Christen Hawthorne

Tech Trek is coming

During the next week, you should be hearing a lot about our second annual technology fundraiser, Tech Trek. It is scheduled for the week of March 8 and your child(ren) will be walking to raise dollars for technology during their class scheduled gym periods. With help from all of you, we are going to complete our three-year goal of outfitting every classroom and specials room with sound systems and projectors!! Be sure to support your child(ren) by sponsoring them for the Tech Trek

Stay informed easily

Are you on the Barrington PTO List Serv yet? We are working on building up the List Serv so it becomes an effective communication tool. Please follow the directions below to sign up. Next year, we plan to cut down on paper usage and have this be our only means of communication.

Welcome to the BarringtonPTO@ualistserv.uaschools.org mailing list! To post to this list, send your email to: barringtonpto@ualistserv.uaschools.org. General information about the mailing list is at: <http://ualistserv.uaschools.org/mailman/listinfo/barringtonpto>.

Elf shelf success

Thanks to the help and support of staff, parents, and students, the PTO Elf Shelf Holiday sale was a huge success. Although we had some kinks in the process, the kids loved it and it would be a great new tradition to continue at Barrington. And much to our surprise it raised \$1500 for the PTO. Again, all and all, very successful and we truly enjoyed the experience. Thank you so much for your support!

Suzanne Black and Lisa Downey

