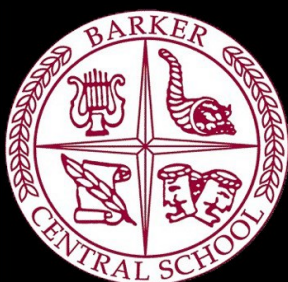


The Banner



Board of Education Appreciation



Pratt Elementary students with Board of Education members after their presentation during Board of Education Appreciation Week. Missing from the picture is BOE member Gordon Kenyon.



Presentations from high school art students were made to the Board of Education.

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VISION: "Barker Central School will provide the experiences necessary for our students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and traits to succeed intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally in an ever-changing world."

A Message From Your Superintendent



Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope you have enjoyed our warm fall weather. As of this writing, the weather forecast calls for several inches of snow. Winter has arrived. On that topic, I am writing to inform you that the Barker Central School District will be using the Global Connect System again this year. This system places a phone call to student homes to notify parents of emergency school closing and other pertinent information. You will be contacted at the phone number listed on the Emergency Contact Information Card. If you have not yet completed the Emergency Contact Information Card or would like to confirm the preferred contact number, please call the district office at 795-3832. Should it be necessary to close school due to weather related conditions, the announcement will be made by 6:00 a.m. whenever possible. Please make arrangements for your child's care in the event school is closed due to a weather or emergency situation.

I encourage you to visit the district's website for the most up-to-date listing of events and announcements. New to the website is "Headlines and Features", a section devoted to current articles from area newspapers. One of the notable articles is published by *Business First*. The article includes a listing of overachieving districts, comparing each school's academic rank and socioeconomic status. In that listing, Barker ranked #2 out of 429 districts in the Upstate New York Achievement Index. *Business First* can be found by clicking the following link: <http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2013/10/11/upstate-new-york-achievement-index.html>

Another report is the "Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Parents Right to Know". The APPR Privacy Law: Parent's Guide is posted on the district's website. Parents can now obtain the composite score and rating of their child's current teacher and principal. You can obtain this information by contacting me by phone at 795-3832 or by email at rklatt@barkercsd.net.

As our district continues to implement the Common Core Standards, updated information including a parent resource link can be found under the "Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment" tab. Here you will find a Toolkit, a collection of materials and resources that will help parents and families understand the New York State education reform initiatives and how the changes will help your child graduate from high school ready for college and career.

In closing, I extend warm wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Klatt".

Roger J. Klatt, Ed.D.

From the Desk of John Hoar, Pratt Elementary Principal

Pratt Elementary has had a very busy fall and we are looking forward to a wonderful winter full of new fallen snow and new learning too!

The first quarter has passed and everyone seems to be settling in nicely for the learning ahead. As parents, you may be noticing some changes in the type of work your children are bringing home as compared to other years. Our teachers are working hard to address higher learning standards while still allowing students to enjoy learning in different ways and to sometimes simply have some fun!

An example of this fun was our recent Halloween festivities. Grades PreK-4 had a fantastic day of activities culminating with our annual Halloween Parade. The H.S. cheerleaders and our music department added some excitement to an already busy day.



Pratt Elementary students parade in costumes on Halloween.

We recently held our Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and once again the response was overwhelming. The joy in the children's faces as they carry their donated food to the foyer was heart-warming. Learning that helping others can bring such good feelings is a tremendously valuable lesson.

December offered a chance for students to experience the joy of giving again with our PTSA sponsored holiday gift shop. Several of our PTSA members worked in the shop all week helping children buy gifts for their families.



Students enjoyed their time at the PTSA Holiday Gift Shop.

Grades 3 and 6 had a chance to learn from one another when they participated in our annual gingerbread house project. These houses were on display in the front foyer through December 19.

PTSA President, Mrs. Erin Goodlander announced that PTSA is also sponsoring the Reflections (Arts in Education) contest and the winners will be announced in January. Entries came in from all grade levels! They will continue to sponsor Family Movie Nights for our Pratt students and parents. The dates for those movies are January 10, February 7 and March 7. Hope to see you there!



Elementary Band members warm up for the Pratt Elementary Holiday Concert.

From the Desk of Barbara J. Converso, Jr. / Sr. High School Principal

The beginning of the school year has been busy with sports as well as Parent Teacher Conferences. As we head into the winter season we will have many sports competitions as well as concerts and our musical. The student councils in both the Junior and Senior High are planning winter dances in January. Here are a few examples of what will be happening over the next few months:

COURSE OFFERINGS:



We are currently offering 14 college level classes from several area colleges: Niagara University, NCCC, and GCC. There are 73 students enrolled in these classes. Our students have the possibility of earning over 30 college credit hours prior to graduation.

January regents will be held January 27-30. For students taking or re-taking these exams teachers will be scheduling review classes.

NCCC TECH WARS:

On January 8, three dozen Barker Junior and Senior High School Technology students will be competing at Niagara County Community College Tech Wars 2014.

They will be competing in several competitions against students from 25 Western New York school districts. Some schools will travel from as far as Central New York to compete at Tech Wars. Barker Junior and Senior High Technology students will compete in:

- Middle School CO2 Cars
- 2 Dimensional Technical Drawing using CAD software
- Radio-controlled "King of the Hill" robots
- High School Bridge Design
- Seismic Tower Design
- Architectural Design
- Tech Wars 2015 T-shirt Design

Barker Technology students have been competing at NCCC Tech Wars since 1996 and have won numerous competitions.



Tech Wars King of Hill robot construction.



Radio-controlled robot construction for Tech Wars.



Seismic Tower and Bridge Design for Tech Wars 2014.

BARKER ALL STAR CHORUS:

This year, the Barker High School Concert Choir was selected to perform alongside the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra in their Holiday Pops concert series on Friday, December 13. Choir Director, Mr. Drew Burke, reports that this is a first for Barker and for any Niagara County school.

Band Spectrum featuring students from Pratt Elementary through High School will be on Thursday, March 6.

Rehearsals for the musical "Pajama Games" are already underway with performances scheduled March 14 through March 16.



Holiday Pops rehearsal for the High School Concert Choir.

The official source for Barker Central School District news and the most up to date schedule information is our web site:

www.barkercsd.net



High School Concert Band prepares for holiday concert.

The 2014 Latrator is now on sale! Orders can be placed online at www.jostens.com or forms can be picked up in the high school office. Order before December 31 to get the discounted price!

A Latrator can make a great holiday gift (gift certificates are available upon request). All orders and payments must be mailed or turned into the high school office by Friday, January 17, 2014. If you have any questions please contact Emma Dewart at edewart@barkercsd.net





An Instructional Services Update

The Common Core Standards were designed to ensure that all students, no matter where they live in the United States, are well prepared for success in college and the workforce. The new standards ask teachers to make twelve major “shifts” or changes in classrooms. This includes six shifts in English Language Arts and six shifts in Mathematics. These changes are difficult as students and teachers adjust to the higher expectations. Here are some things you can do with your child to support the Common Core Standards at home:

- Ask open ended questions about your child’s day at school
- Check your child’s homework to ensure he/she is prepared for the next school day
- Review 10 week study plans posted by your child’s teacher in grades 7-12 on the Barker website
- Have your child read often and incorporate as much non-fiction as fiction (manuals, newspaper, diagrams)
- Find books that explain how things work and why
- Study academic vocabulary words with your child pertinent to course content
- Use words that your child will need to know and use in college and career
- Practice math facts to increase fluency (addition, subtraction, multiplication & division)
- Use math with real world examples

Visit engageny.org for updated Common Core resources and information throughout the year.

Connected with Instructional Technology



Virtual Fieldtrips

Technology provides the potential to extend learning for our students to exciting locations far beyond the walls of the classroom. The implementation of virtual field trips has provided us with a cost-effective, interactive solution to take our students back in time, explore new cultures, immerse them in real world situations and even transport them into a microscopic world of exploration. Without leaving the classroom, some of the places our students have visited include:



Mrs. Calandra’s class shows their finished masks after a virtual field trip.

- The Albany Institute of History & Art to study Ancient Egypt
- The Center for Puppetry Arts to explore Mexican & Aztec culture
- The Center of Science & Industry to view an autopsy and use clues to determine the cause of death
- Pennsbury Manor to learn about William Penn, the founding of Pennsylvania, and everyday life in the late 17th century

These curricular excursions include aligned supplemental resources to encourage deeper investigation and hands-on activities to bridge learning with psychomotor skills. Our students will continue to experience new worlds with endless opportunity as we transport them to places around the globe with this exciting technology.



An instructor explains masks to 3rd graders.

In addition to several championships by Barker sports teams this fall, there were individual athletes who received special recognition and awards from Section VI and local media.

Jacob Haight - WKBW Super 7
Athlete of the Week (#4), October 18

Olivia Denny - Field Hockey
Jacob Haight - Football
Heather Mason - Field Hockey

Nolan Bouchane - Cross Country
Olivia Denny - Field Hockey
Bryce Moeller - Cross Country



Golf: Niagara-Orleans League Champions, N-O League Tournament Champions. Mitchell Luckman finished first in the final league standings. Bradley Wilson was the overall medalist at the league tournament.



Boys Cross Country: Niagara-Orleans League Champions
and Section VI Class D Champions.



Field Hockey: Niagara-Orleans League Champions, Section VI Class C Champions, Class C Far West Regional Champions.

We have the following information posted on the athletics section of the Barker web site:

www.barkercsd.net/athletics

We continue to build our searchable database of champions and awards. Be sure to check out all the team and individual accolades of Barker Athletics over the years. Just add the following after www.barkercsd.net for quicker access:

- /athleticsalumni
- /athleticsarchive
- /athleticschampions
- /athleticsrosters
- /athleticsschedules
- /athleticssportstories
- /athleticsteam

Winter Safety



It is the Barker Central School District's goal to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for our students, staff and visitors.

With winter upon us, we are asking everyone to take an active role in ensuring that you, your students, and visitors enjoy the winter season injury free. Here are some tips to help prevent slips, trips, and falls.

- Don't hurry when conditions are likely to be slippery. Make sure you have plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Wear slip resistant footwear appropriate for weather conditions. Leathered-soled shoes or high heeled shoes are especially hazardous in the winter. You should change into these shoe types after you have reached your destination (classroom, office, etc.).
- Practice good housekeeping habits. Clean up small spills immediately. Identify bigger ones while you advise maintenance staff of the condition.
- Check the bottom of your feet every time you enter a building and clean off the accumulated snow and ice using entrance walk off mats.
- Anticipate hazards as you are walking. If you approach a corner, slow your pace to change your direction of travel. If you think a surface is slippery, use short sure steps instead of longer strides.
- Utilize railings when ascending or descending stairs.
- When getting in and out of vehicles, always keep at least one hand on the handle or grab bar to stabilize yourself if you begin to slip.
- Report snow, icy or wet conditions as soon as possible to your supervisor or manager so building maintenance staff can address them in a timely manner.

Have a very safe and enjoyable winter season.

The Banner is a quarterly publication of the Barker Central School District. Please direct any questions, comments or suggestions to Jeffrey Costello, Banner Editor at 716-795-3201 ext. 5185 or via email at jcostello@barkercsd.net

Upcoming Events

January

6: Barker Music Parent Club General Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM in the Pratt Elementary Library

12: AFS Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 AM—1:00 PM @ Barker Fire Hall

13: BCS Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM in the Herbert F. Ludwig Auditorium

20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School

24: End of 2nd Quarter

27: Winter 2014 Adult Education Winter Semester Begins

27-30: Regents Exams - School is still in session

February

7: Alumni Basketball Game, 7:00 PM in the High School Gym

9: Barker Music Parent Club Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM @ Barker Fire Hall

14-21: Mid-winter Recess - No School

**Barker Central School
1628 Quaker Road
Barker NY 14012**

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