

The Banner

Barker Central School/Excellence in the 21st Century

!! MARCH MADNESS !!

It was a busy month at BCS. We hope you enjoy all the information and activities inside this month's edition.



Bridget Moeller from Mrs. Voutour's class tries some Perry's ice cream.

Pre-K through 6th graders and their families got to move and groove at the Fit and Fun Family night in March. Students and their families visited different interactive demonstration tables and got to see a Tae Kwon Do demonstration. There was a scavenger hunt throughout the evening and several prize giveaways along with a DJ to provide music and games.

Some of the organizations that participated were: Boy Scout Troop 26, 4-H, YMCA/Camp Kenan, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Healthy Community Alliance, Niagara County Youth Bureau Summer Recreation, Perry's Ice Cream, the PTSA, Somerset Youth baseball/softball and our own Trooper Pezzino with a lesson on bike safety.

One activity involved "pudding catch", where several students stood in a circle and threw a zip lock bag of pudding mix back and forth to mix it up.

The event was the culminating activity for the Fit and Fun Program.

Kirk Fay, from Mrs. Pavlock's 3rd grade class tried his hand at making an origami jack-rabbit. Japanese native Kyoko Roszmann, from Lockport, came in recently to teach students about the art of origami. Origami literally means "folding paper."



Vision Statement: Barker Central School is a place where every person is secure, respected and appreciated. The resources of the school district will be used to inspire each student's confidence as a learner and develop all to their full potential.

Nine high school students recently participated in the Model U.N. team. Barker was team Morocco for the day at the University of Buffalo. Here are some quotes from the participating students:

"Maybe we should already start writing resolutions for next year?"

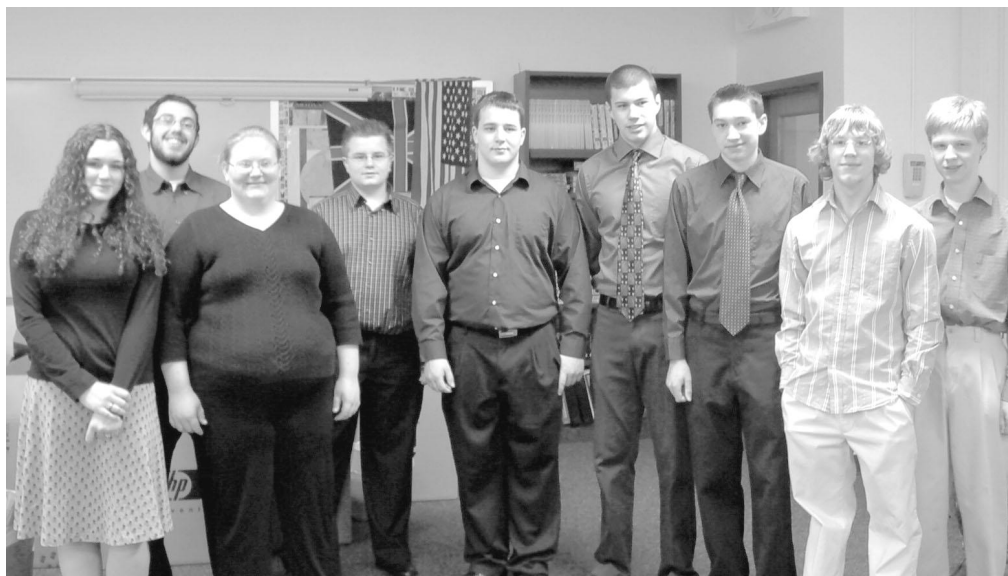
"Miss Banks—PLEEEEEEASE can we go to the Ohio conference in May? PUH-LEEEASE??? We've been practicing since August! C'mon! Okay, well, maybe not everyday or anything, but...PLEASE? Okay, fine. Well, how about next year?"

"Model UN can give us experience at negotiating and diplomacy. The debates in the committee sessions are a lot like the real thing, so we feel like real ambassadors or international delegates."

"It was fun this year. I hope we can do it again next year."

"The best part was going to UB all day and meeting so many hundreds of students from so many schools. The teams from Spain and Ireland were driving me crazy. Go Team Morocco!"

"Can we go to Canisius in October too? We'd better get started now. Can we meet in your room after school today?"



And the lucky students who went were: Stephanie Qualiana, James Cantella, Kristina Cooner, Michael Johnston, Brad Dingman, Shaun Gendrue, Mark Prunella-Miller, Derek Remington and Stephen Trinder.



Richard Laskowski, the Executive Director for Leadership Niagara, introduces Barker LYNC students Joelle Thilkey and Nicholas Neithe to the board last month. Joelle and Nicholas talked about their experiences and knowledge they have gained through the LYNC program.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

Here is an inside look at how students celebrated



The Banner is published monthly during the school year.
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STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Kristina Cooner - 11th



Kristina has been on the honor roll ever since she can remember. She is also very active in many clubs at school. To name a few: English Club, Spanish Club, Drama Club, Model UN/Debate, DECA and AFS. She enjoys helping coach summer soccer.

Hope Guessefeld - 12th



Hope is the daughter of Linda and Kenneth Edminster Sr. She has been a member of Track and Field at school and enjoys playing the guitar outside of her studies. She is planning a trip to Ireland in August and wants to pursue a career in Criminal Psychology.

Abigail Diez - 11th



Abby has been on the honor roll for 8 semesters. She also plays in the band and sings in the chorus. In The Wizard of Oz she played the part of Lady Growlie. She also plays soccer and swims on the swim team. She would like to major in anthropology in college.

Blaze Worrells II - 9th



Blaze is new to Barker this year. He is the son of Amy Worrells and Blaze Worrells, Sr. They recently moved here from the Rochester area. Outside of school, Blaze enjoys working on cars and dreams of owning his own repair shop someday.

Emily Provencher - 12th



Emily is active in several school clubs and sports. She is the president of the National Honor Society, secretary for the Drama Club, Student Government representative and a member of AFS, Spanish Club and Jazz Band. She received a Coaches Award for soccer and also plays softball and tennis.

Michelle Cain - 10th



Michelle has been in the Drama Club since her freshmen year and loves it. She also played a part in The Wizard of Oz. Outside of school she enjoys riding her horses, four-wheelers and snowmobiles. In the future, Michelle would like to be a lawyer.

Ethan Dewart - 9th



Ethan has been on the honor roll his entire school career. He also plays baseball, basketball and football. Outside of school he participates in the historical society and the Relay for Life. In the future he would like to attend West Point.

"Sunny" Tawanjai
Utriya Prasit - 12



Sunny is an exchange student who has thrown herself enthusiastically into her studies and the school. She joined the tennis team, AFS, the Women's Chorale, and The Wizard of Oz. Her host family is Sherrie Wilson and Kent Wakefield.



PRATT ELEMENTARY

Scott Hoyle - Mrs. Pavlock's 3rd grade

Abigail Bachman - Mrs. McMurray's 2nd grade

Sergio Cruz - Miss Costello's 4th grade



8th Grade ELA Orbital Projects

Students in Mrs. Haak's class selected a topic of choice and then researched and wrote a one to two page report on it. They had to do a five to ten minute presentation in front of their classes on their projects. These projects are similar to the Senior ELA Presentations.

Here, Rachel Schlosser is presenting her topic to the class. Rachel did her project on her hamsters and taught the class many different things they did not know about the furry creatures.

These projects are a great way to introduce younger students, in their earlier school years, to the format of their expected senior presentations .

The Banner will feature a couple different senior presentation projects in the next two months. Peter Wayner decided to chronicle the process of writing a short story. He had never tried to write a complete short story before and took the panel through his process—from the first skeletal draft to the research he had done to get his story published. Here is an excerpt from Peter's story titled: "Perspektive" -

...I knew that if I were to ask most of the church-going men that I knew, those who were acclaimed in the small village for their piety, I would either be chastised for my impudence or given a list of ambiguous clichés. My Grandfather, however, would give me two other things: a hearty laugh and a clear explanation.

"Grandfather," I said, "why are you a Christian? I mean look out there." I pointed to the horizon, the blue sky and the white clouds. "The whole world is at your fingertips. Get on a ship tonight and you can go to Shanghai, Madrid, New York, anywhere! Why would you burden yourself with a list of rules, a code of dos and don'ts, when there is so much to see and experience?"

I was right; Grandfather belted out a hearty laugh, not a condescending laugh, mind you, but a laugh that broke the tension that my question immediately created. Then, Grandfather began to speak. He spoke slowly, deliberately, with a low, warm voice that held my attention. He spoke to me as if I was an old friend, though I had known him for such a small fraction of his life.

"I suppose, Jack, that a lot of things in life depend to a large degree on one's perspective. This bay, for example, looks to me to be quite ordinary. Oh, it's pretty enough; a fit sight for a painting, I shouldn't wonder. But beyond that, it all seems very uninteresting." A shadow passed over Grandfather's face, and he spoke in hushed, furtive tones.

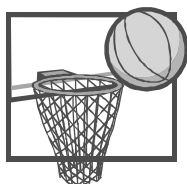
"But, if I were to tell you that two-hundred years ago to the day, three black frigates, crewed by pirates, laid low yonder village with cannon-fire; that over a hundred of the bloodthirsty sea-rats came to shore and that the local militia, joined by His Majesty's Royal Infantry, met them on this very hill in one of the fiercest displays of hand-to-hand combat that the world has ever seen, and what is more, that every hundred years on the anniversary of the battle, the ghosts of the dead rise to continue the bloody fray - well, it makes this plot of land a sight more intriguing, does it not?" His face lightened, and he laughed at my eyes, which bore the bewilderment that his illustration created.

"It's the same with Christianity, Jack. Now, I could preach a blazing sermon to you right now about the applications of perspective on faith, but if you are anything like I was at your age, your mind would be drifting to far-off places before I was five minutes in. No, I see that I'll need something a bit more exciting to make my point."

"You have learned about the time when the world exploded into that fireball of chaos that they now call World War I, haven't you Jack?"

"Oh yes, we learned all about it in school. They say that the battles of the Great War were glorious, that they proved that England was the greatest nation in the world."

"The Great War...never was a more ironic name given," Grandfather replied, shaking his head. "It is all well and good to teach about the stoic bravery of Britain's finest, the nightly Lion dispatching the wicked Hun. But I'll bet you Jack, that those who teach that battlefields are glorious places of proven courage and brandished heroism have never smelled the air that hangs over such places. I daresay that if they did, they would find it more rank than refreshing. I must say, however, that part of what they teach is true. The men and women who took part in the war effort were very brave, if only in the fact that they endured such a horrible time. But Jack, do not pay heed to the tales of the evil Hun, for such tales are the seeds of ignorance and hatred. Of course, there were some evil Germans, but there were also some evil British, some evil French and so on. An important lesson that we all must learn in this life, Jack, is not to put a whole group of people into a bucket together. People are different, and assuming that one German is just like every other German can only lead to calamity. There now, that's a good start," he smiled.



The girls basketball team had 4 seniors leaving this year:

Janelle Lewis, Cortney Colern, Janelle Lewis and Stasha Haag

We asked the girls what their most memorable or most valuable experience was while playing for Barker and this is what they had to say:

Beating Albion this year and how crazy-intense the crowd was - Sara

Go-carting and the bouncy balls with the team - Janelle

Beating Albion this year - Stasha

Getting thrown to the wolves at Starpoint in 8th grade - Cortney

WINTER SPORTS SENIORS

The boys basketball team had 5 seniors leaving this year:

Eric Hare, Terrence Riddick, Nick Branch, Mike Hagen and Ethan Hansen

We asked the guys the same question as the girls - what was their most memorable experience while playing for the Raiders and they said:

When playing on the modified team, we were playing against Roy-Hart and were down by 1 point. I hit a 1/2 court shot in the last 6 seconds of the game - Eric

When the team beat Starpoint in double overtime - Nick

Hanging on the rim this year - Terrence

Working on my favorite dunks during practice - Mike

On the JV team in 10th grade we upset Newfane and I had a couple of 3-pointers - Ethan



WINTER SPORTS

TEAM & INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Niagara-Orleans Athletic League, Section VI Athletics, and/or the New York State Public High School Athletic Association recognized the following teams/individuals from Barker:

WRESTLING

Brad Dingman:

- 2nd Team Niagara-Orleans All-League
- Finished 4th at Class A Section VI Wrestling Meet (out of 17 small schools) in the 215lb weight division
- Finished 3rd at the State Qualifying Meet (out of 34 schools) in the 215lb weight division

Steve Cassidy:

- Finished 2nd at Class A Section VI Wrestling Meet in the 275lb weight division
- Wrestled in the State Qualifying Meet

BOYS BASKETBALL

The team won the Niagara-Orleans Sportsmanship Award for Boys Basketball. Sam Ginavan was selected to represent the team for this honor.

Ray Paul:

- 2nd team Niagara-Orleans All-League

Sam Ginavan:

- Honorable Mention Niagara-Orleans

Mike Hagan:

- Received a Sportsmanship award from Section VI for being “caught displaying good sportsmanship”

GIRLS SWIMMING

The team achieved Scholar Athlete Team status with an average of 94.775. Members of the team were: Chelsy Cervi, Abigail Diez, Rachael Engert, Taylor Gallo, Savanna Gancasz, Emily Gendrue, Alyssa Hare, Emily Klatt, Sara Sullivan, Elizabeth Tillman, Chelsey Wilson, Jenna Fitts, Caitlin Hawkins, Allison Luckman, Crystal Mott, Brooke Robinson

Kate Huttenmaier:

- Received a Sportsmanship award from Section VI for being “caught displaying good sportsmanship”

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls won 2 sectional home games and delivered Barker’s 1st ever trip to the Class C Sectional Semi-Finals where they lost to #1 seeded Franklinville in Jamestown. They also achieved Scholar Athlete Team status with an average of 95.416. Members of the team were: Sara Budde, Cortney Colern, Emma Dewart, Janelle Lewis, Jessie Wolski, Shelby Branch, Aileen Hinton

Stasha Haag:

- 1st Team Niagara-Orleans All-League
- Niagara-Orleans Exceptional Senior
- Received a Sportsmanship award from Section VI for being “caught displaying good sportsmanship”

Emma Dewart:

- 2nd Team Niagara-Orleans All-League

Janelle Lewis:

- Honorable Mention Niagara-Orleans

Cortney Colern:

- Honorable Mention Niagara-Orleans

BOYS SWIMMING

The team won the Niagara-Orleans Sportsmanship Award for Boys Swimming. Shaun Gendrue was selected to represent the team for this honor.

Robert Schumacher:

- Received a Sportsmanship award from Section VI for being “caught displaying good sportsmanship”

Shaun Gendrue:

- Won the 200 IM at the League Meet, which makes him a Niagara-Orleans All-League Swimmer
- Set a school record in the 200 IM with a time of 2:13.33

The Winter Sports Awards will be held on
April 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

MS. UNITED STATES WOMAN VISITS BARKER



She's a national spokeswoman for many causes, including organizations that deal with child abuse, bullying and neglect, and she speaks about those issues to students across the country. High School students at Barker were able to hear part of Dawn Basham's message recently during an assembly arranged by the Healthy Schools Committee.

She hit on many key issues that our students deal with on a regular basis. After showing a picture of a gawky, homely child with a bad haircut, she told the kids it was her when she was younger. She stressed that your appearance isn't about designer clothes and how much money you have, but how you present yourself. And, that learned self-awareness is a quality that all kids should possess. She discussed the choices we make and the friends we choose to have. Sometimes, even when we know the choice is a bad one, we make it anyway. She gave the students a checklist for deciding who your real friends are or should be: Are they happy for you when you succeed?, Do they support your goals?, Do they gossip or put people down all the time?, and Do they strive to succeed themselves?

One of her main passions is eliminating bullying. She talked about how bullies are ultimately weak and it is the bullying itself that gives them a feeling of power. Bullies look for weak people because strong people actually have real power. Power to change their situations, power to accept other individuals and power to succeed. She defined for the students the mean-group mentality, which is when bullies decide it is not enough to hate their victims themselves, they need others to be mean to them as well. She instructed the kids to sit up straight and look people in the eye—to be confident in themselves and tolerant of others. Bullies won't bully a confident person.

At the end of her talk, Ms. Basham encouraged students to go to her website www.DawnBasham.com and contact her with questions or thoughts. You can watch her Dateline piece on her website. She has also appeared in films as well as TV shows and is a jazz vocalist, appearing in a South Florida nightclub.

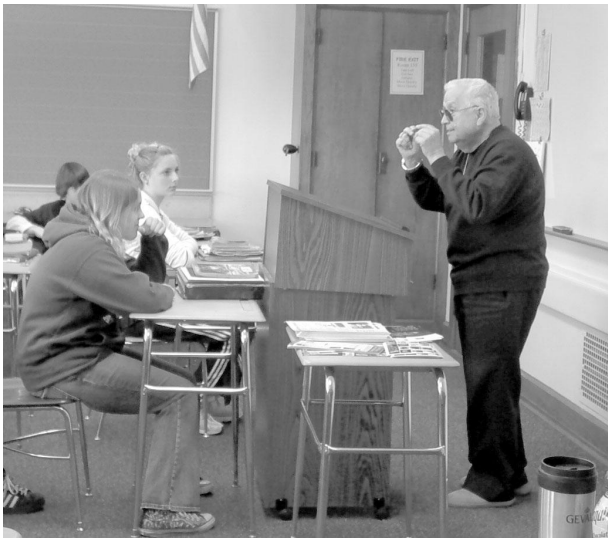
PEZZINO'S CORNER

Trooper Jill discusses bicycle helmet requirements:

- ◇ All children under age 14 who are operators or passengers on bicycles must wear a helmet. This includes two-wheeled bicycles with training wheels.
- ◇ All children over age 1 but under age 5 must be in a specially designed child safety seat, which is secured to the bike. This seat is equipped with restraints to secure the child and is designed to protect them from moving bike parts.
- ◇ It is illegal to carry a child under age 1 as a passenger on a bicycle.
- ◇ Parents or guardians are responsible for all bicycle helmet violations by children under age 14. They may be fined up to \$50 for each violation.
- ◇ Good quality bike helmets can cost as little as \$15.

NIAGARA REGION FOURTH & FIFTH GRADE PTSA SPELLING BEES

Barker Central will be hosting this year's National Region PTA Spelling Bees here, in the Herbert Ludwig Auditorium, on **Saturday, April 21st**. Approximately 120 students and their families representing 14 school districts will be visiting our school. Registration for the 4th grade bee is at 9 a.m. with the bee starting at 10 a.m. Registration for the 5th grade bee is at noon with the bee beginning at 1 p.m.



Members of the American Cancer Society's New Voice Club of the Niagara Frontier recently came to Mr. Bruning's health classes to speak about preventing and eliminating cancer. Ron Osborne, Julia Stoklosa and Clifford J. Neal spoke to students on smoking and chewing tobacco and using marijuana.

"It doesn't matter if its grass or cigarettes, it doesn't belong in your body," said Osborne.

Students listened somberly as Stoklosa and Neal shared life experiences—both are cancer survivors.



Former wrestler, The Destroyer, recently spoke to middle-schoolers. Here, he shows off one of his masks.



The Pre-K recently had their annual T-shirt day where students painted their handprints and then put them on enough T-shirts for the whole class. Mrs. Kathryn Class helps Zachary Murrell with his hand-printing.

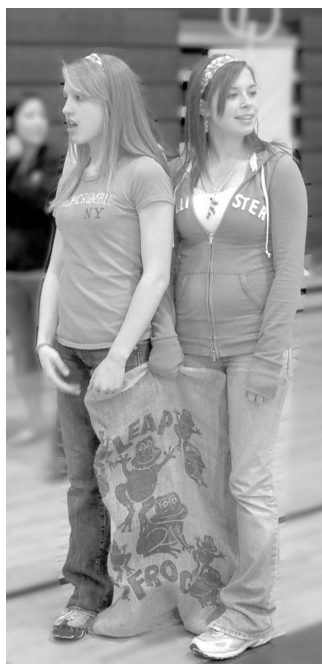


Middle school students saw a presentation from Hawk Creek on endangered and rehabilitated wild animals in March.





Brian Alt shows off his temporary goatee from French Fun Day. The MS French Club does this fund-raiser each year. This year's proceeds went to Doctors Without Borders.



Crystal Mott and Rebecca Quackenbush get ready to participate in the three-legged race during the high school's March Madness theme week.



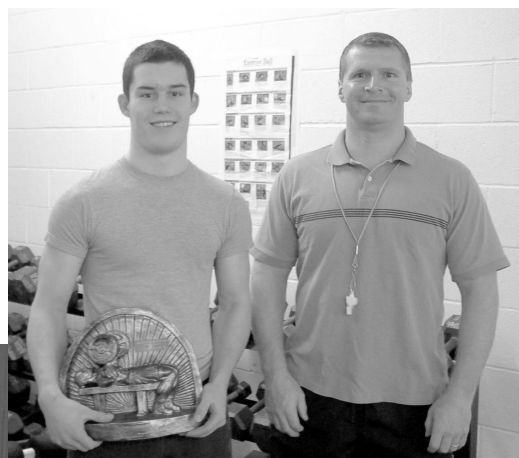
Courtney Zimmerman shows off her winning Reflections photography entry to the Board of Education.



Students in Mrs. Weller's kindergarten class created a robot completely out of recyclable items. He even had a hankie in his Band-aid box pocket! Once the robot was done, the kids gathered around him to get their photo taken.



Andrew Carmer and Jake Greenwald work on a science experiment for Mrs. Baronich's class. The experiment dealt with Newton's Second Law of Motion.



Senior, Fred Duchow, recently won first place in the Lewiston Red Brick Bench Press Competition. Fred has been weightlifting and training for competitions for three years. Physical Education teacher and coach, Paul Sanford helps him in the school's fitness center. Look for a profile on Fred in the Union Sun and Journal soon!

DARE GRADUATION

Barker's 5th graders recently graduated from the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. DARE officer, Roger Haseley, of the Niagara County Sheriff's Department was there to congratulate the students for their dedication to the program.

Here - Dillynn Taylor, Kayleigh Frasier, Jacqueline Moore, Harley Miller, Hayden Hathaway and Jessica Wilson enjoy cake at the reception held afterwards in the cafeteria.



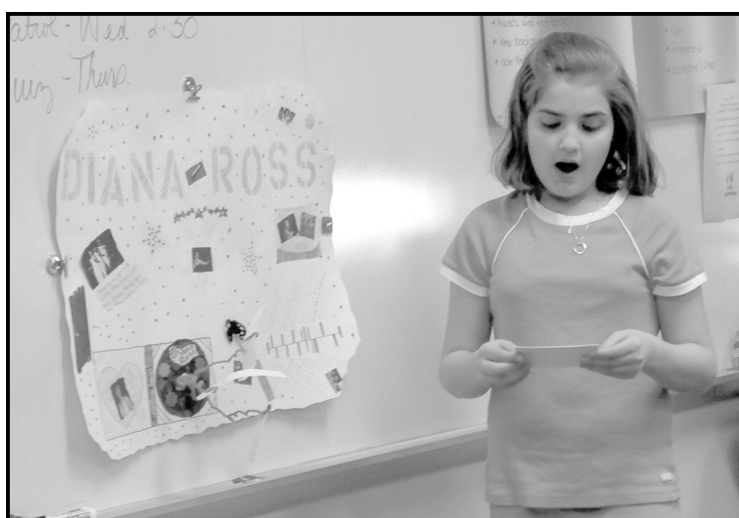
GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Graduation this year will take place at 9:30 a.m., on Saturday, June 23, 2007, in the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall. The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for ticket seating. Ticket seating will be from 8:30 until 9:15 a.m. Open seating will be from 9:15 until 9:30 a.m.

We will be issuing each graduate a specific number of tickets. For the vast majority, this will meet their needs. Any family requesting more than the allotted tickets can do so by sending their prospective graduate to the High School office to complete an "extra tickets" request form, which will then be turned in by a specific date. Once that date has passed, we will distribute any extra tickets evenly to those who request them. Graduates who do not end up using all of their tickets can either give them to friends who need them or are encouraged to turn them into the office so we can put them into the pool of tickets used to fulfill the requests for "extra tickets".

We will open the cafeteria for those people who would like to attend but do not want to sit through the entire ceremony, which will last approximately 1½ hours. We will be video-taping the entire ceremony and those people will be able to watch it "LIVE" on a large viewing screen in the cafeteria. This was a suggestion made by people who would like to bring their young children and know that they would be happier in this setting. Coffee, juice and snacks will be provided as well.

The atmosphere of the auditorium at last year's graduation allowed our graduates to be recognized in a very dignified manner. We look forward to seeing you at graduation!



Fifth grade students recently presented their visual representations that they created on famous Black Americans as the final project for Black History month.

Above, Samira Arafat talks about Diana Ross's life. Below, Jacqueline Moore helps Hayden Hathaway as he teaches the class about Oprah Winfrey and her many successes and philanthropic contributions.



Paulina Evoy paints Emma Jenks' face at the annual AFS Carnival. The carnival helps the AFS parent's club raise money for the short term exchange trip each year.



Is your teen getting enough sleep?

Are you aware that while you see your teen's habit of staying up late and rising later as an annoying habit that you want them to break, your teen actually has no control over this frustrating cycle. Not only do their own biological clock rhythms fight against going to sleep early, they also can't control the time their bodies are ready to wake up.

We all know that insufficient or poor sleep can be responsible for memory deficits, impaired performance, delayed responses, increased irritability, anxiety, depression and reduced concentration. But for a teen, how much sleep is enough? Studies show that teens who get fewer than 9 ½ hours of sleep per night may be "sleep deprived". And, sleep deprivation can influence weight gain, poor performance in class, mood swings and cause teens to be at a high risk for car crashes.

So how can you help your teen get enough sleep?

First – convince them that they need sleep. It is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

Second – help them manage their schedules so there is enough time for sleep.

Third – have them set consistent bed-times and wake-up times (even on weekends).

Fourth – eliminate televisions, cell phones and other electronic equipment from their bedrooms. The body needs silence and darkness during its deepest stages of sleep.

Fifth – be a good role model and let your teen see that sleep is important to you.

An alert, well rested teen is more likely to be a happier, more emotionally stable and socially competent individual than a sleepy teen.

PTSA General Membership Meeting

Monday, April 23rd

6:30 p.m. - Pratt Elementary Library

Guest Speaker: Roger Klatt,
Assistant Superintendent

PRE-K OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION

Open House Dates:

Tuesday, May 1st & Thursday, May 3rd
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Registration Dates:

Tuesday, May 8th & Thursday, May 10th
all day on both days.

To be eligible for Pre-K in the fall, your child must turn 4 by December 1, 2007.



Now that the weather is getting warmer, it would be a good idea for you and your student to review the student handbooks in regards to the dress code. Then you both can make sure they are dressing appropriately during these warmer months. Some examples of inappropriate attire would be swimwear, halter tops, spaghetti straps and shirts and other clothing with inappropriate sayings or slogans. Please see each school's handbook for a complete code.

Barker Central School
Board of Education

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Barker, NY 14012

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