

The Banner

Barker Central School/Excellence in the 21st Century

STOCKING UP ON COOL SUPPLIES

The Pratt Elementary School Store has been dishing out cool supplies to students for the past eight years. Run totally by 4th graders, the store members are elected by their peers. Each member then spends one full week, two to three times a year, working the store. There are four different jobs that need to be done each day the store is open: crowd control, security, cashier and inventory specialist. Parent volunteers cover week long shifts to assist the store members. The kids also help with ordering inventory and



stocking the shelves. Even 2nd graders get to exercise math skills by helping to count money.

Any profits raised through the store are used to purchase things that will benefit all of Pratt Elementary. When the 4th grade wing was being built, the store purchased play equipment to be used in the interim. They have also purchased a wagon that is used by all elementary teachers for transporting supplies and equipment around the school and hats for each student last year during their nature week.

The store is open everyday from 8:45—9:00 a.m. Stop in and say hi!



Students get into the beat at a recent assembly by Buffalo and Brandy.

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.

The cast is set and rehearsals have started! Below is the list of students that will be in The Wizard of Oz coming March 30 and 31st. Here, students audition with the help of Mrs. White, Mr. Luckman and Mrs. Johnson.



4th GRADE MUNCHKINS

Allison Austin
Maicie Baker
Sean Benoit
Kelsey Blackley
Morgan Brown
Brandon Carmer
Gabriella Clare
Jordyn Donner
Melissa Grosshans
Payton Hanssen
Sandra Huntington
Jessica Lesser
Renee Levy
Elizabeth Luckman
Randy Maedl
Kimberly McCanty
Joshua Mead
Alyssa Olaf
Melissa Pestinger

Kayla Phillips
Katie Przybyl
Kamilah Robison
Serena Rosario
Kristina Rose
Claire Sanford
Chelsea Stratton
Christopher Sweeney
Adam Vargas Jr.
Monique Vargas
Alexandrea Verost
Abby Voss
Sahvanah Wass

HIGH SCHOOL CAST


Gina Aquilina
Anna Atwater
Michelle Cain
Kevin Clark
Molly Cole

Sienna Dear
Emma Dewart
Abby Diez
Ellie Diez
Rachael Engert
Laura Furmanek
Shaun Gendrue
Samantha Greenwald
Jessica Haight
Andrew Johnson
Kaylee Keller
Sara Luce
Shannon Mangan
Mark Prunella-Miller
Kaitlin Ramirez
Crystal Rounds
Sara Sullivan
"Sunny" Tawanjai Utriyaprasit
Matt Sweeney
Emily Trinder

Andrew Upton
Jon Upton
Audra Ward
Serreina Wass
Shun Ikeda
Chelsey Wilson

STAGE CREW

Alex Alt
Jessie Alt
Jacob Demler
Todd Galey
David Haseley
John Keiffer
Caroline Laubacker
Emily Provencher



Valentine's Day is a special time to show your affection and friendship to other people. You can give gifts, cards or just say those three little words that everyone wants to hear...

I love you!!!!

By: Abby Heitzenrater

TECH WARS 2007



Barker students competed in the 10th annual Tech Wars at Niagara County Community College on January 10th. Thirteen school districts from Erie, Niagara and Wyoming counties competed in the technology competition in 17 various categories. New this year was the high school Wood Bridge competition which was created and run by Barker's Tom Mallon. Students built 5-foot long wooden bridges and then tested their strength by loading the bridges with steel plates to see how much weight they could hold. Award winning bridges held nearly 300 lbs. before collapsing with a crash.

Barker placed 5th out of 12 schools with a total of 14 points. Matthew Dankanich placed first in the CO2 Cars High School category. Tyler Schotz placed 2nd and Krystal Verost placed 3rd in the Mousetrap Middle School category. Ramona Richardson placed 3rd in the Parametric Drop Off. Alexandra Tillman placed 3rd in Video Production. We also placed 2nd in the T-Shirt Design.

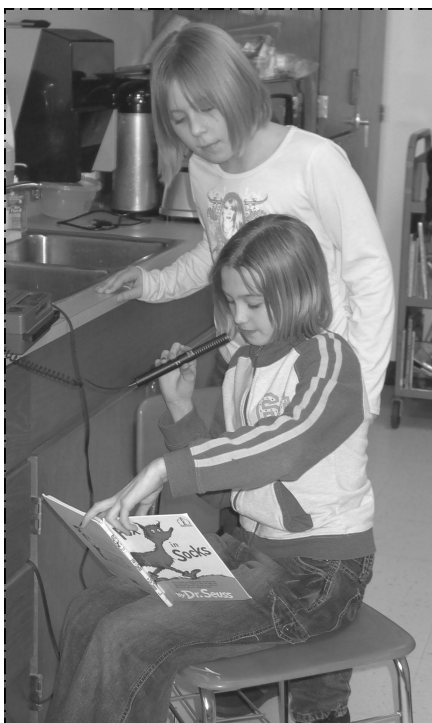
Way to go Barker!!!



Students from Mr. Daley's 8th grade, 8th period, Social Studies get together to enjoy a pizza party celebrating their donation of over 300 food items for the DECA canned food drive.

FEBRUARY'S HEALTH TIPS FROM THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Pump up your progress in strengthening your heart with these positive moves: a heart-healthy diet low in saturated fats and trans fats, at least 30 minutes of exercise daily, a normal weight and no smoking! Keep your blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels in check. Also know your family history and discuss your risk factors with your doctor.



As a part of the REAP program, 5th grade students volunteered to tape themselves reading stories for the Pre-K classes.

Here, Phoebe Elter and Kelsey Mattoon, from Mrs. Tomaszewski's class, record Fox in Socks. Other 5th graders who participated were JT Ramirez, Shelby Acker, Tyler Beecher and Jackie Moore.



Katie Przybyl looks on as Kayla Phillips thinks about taking a bite out of her cinnamon ornament. The main ingredients for these are cinnamon, applesauce and glue!



Jordyn Donner squeezes a hefty amount of glue into their mixture as Elizabeth Luckman stirs it up and Lori Mead spoons in applesauce.



Students in Mrs. Clark's first grade class are participating in an Exercise Scavenger Hunt as part of the January theme of Be Active, Be Healthy and Be Cool. All Pratt students are exercising every day and earning "snowballs" for their effort. When the whole school gets enough snowballs, Mrs. Shanley has promised to jump into the pool dressed as a story-book character. Stay tuned for more details!

The Kidwatch program received a wonderful gift this Christmas from the Lisa Moeller family. A new DVD player and several movies to go with it! Jeff Costello came down and helped to install the player and Kidwatch now enjoys movies on Friday mornings.

Pictured on the left are Christian Young, Bria Holliday, Mr. Costello, Haley Stansbury and John Ramirez with a thank you card that Kidwatch made. Below is the whole Kidwatch group along with Lisa Moeller and family holding their thank you card.



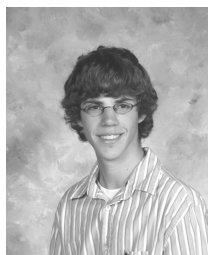
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Ginni Platt - 10th



Ginni has been playing soccer since she was 6 years old. She also enjoys running track and playing the trombone in the band. She is an active 4-H member who hopes to show her miniature horses at the state level this year.

Andrew Upton - 11th



Andrew is very active in many clubs at Barker including Drama, Spanish, English and AFS. He is also the publicity officer for AFS. In his spare time, he plays tennis and runs cross-country for the Raiders and has received scholar athlete awards for both sports. Look for him in the upcoming musical!

Sara Budde - 12th



Sara is Vice-President of her class and also holds offices in Spanish Club, AFS, Varsity Club, Video Club and Student Council. She loves playing field hockey, basketball and running track. Recently, for her senior project, Sara organized a 5k and fun run to raise money for the Dreams from the Heart camp fund.

Chelsey Wilson - 10th



Chelsey was the most improved swimmer on the team last year and also participates in soccer, cross-country and track. She recently got the part of the Wicked Witch of the West in the upcoming school musical. Chelsey also likes Spanish Club, AFS, shoe shopping and winter sports.

Cortney Wagner - 11th



Cortney currently attends BOCES for cosmetology, which she plans on using as a career through college. She enjoyed cheerleading for basketball and football and also likes to be with family and friends when she is not working.

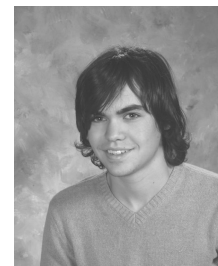
Anna Atwater - 11th



Anna is the Assistant Director of the Concert Choir and the children's music director at her church. At school, she participates in Drama Club, Jazz Band, AFS, Spanish Club and the Student Council. You can also see her perform in the school musical.

Andrew Johnson - 11th

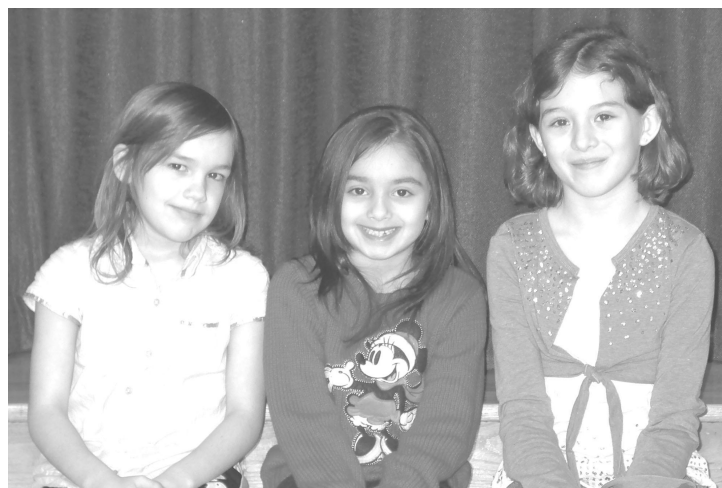
Andrew has participated in musical productions in Lockport and recently was also awarded a part in the upcoming school musical. He is a member of AFS and the Drama Club and would like to attend a school of design, like Parsons, after high school.



Sarah Wagner - 10th



Sarah loves to dance and plans on moving to New York City to get a job as a professional dancer. At school, she is a member of the Latrator staff, Drama Club, AFS, cheerleading and plays soccer.



Kasey Hayes from Mrs. Rinaldo's 3rd grade
Selenah Roman from Mrs. Thibault's 2nd grade
Kayla Phillips from Miss. D'Angelo's 4th grade

SCHOLAR ATHLETES



Cross County

First row: Andrew Upton, Erick Bennes, Michael Maines, Darrick Vanderwalker
Back row: Mark Prunella-Miller, Ryan Lamb, Jacob McGee, Joseph Bennes, Matthew Sweeney
Not pictured are Shun Ikeda and Jon Upton
Team average was 95.166



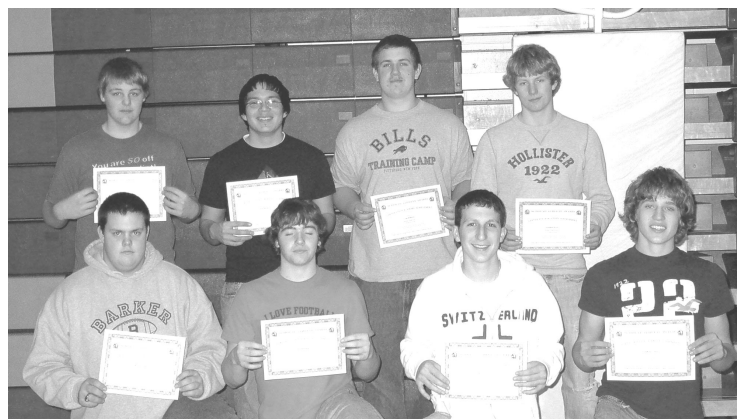
Soccer

First row: Lyndsy Payne, Megan Bucolo, Emma Dewart, Isaline Fragniere
Back row: Ginni Platt, Sara Sullivan, Abigail Diez, Janisha White
Not pictured: Janelle Lewis, Emily Provencher, Kaitlyn Provencher, and Stephanie Rounds
Team average was 91.281



Field Hockey

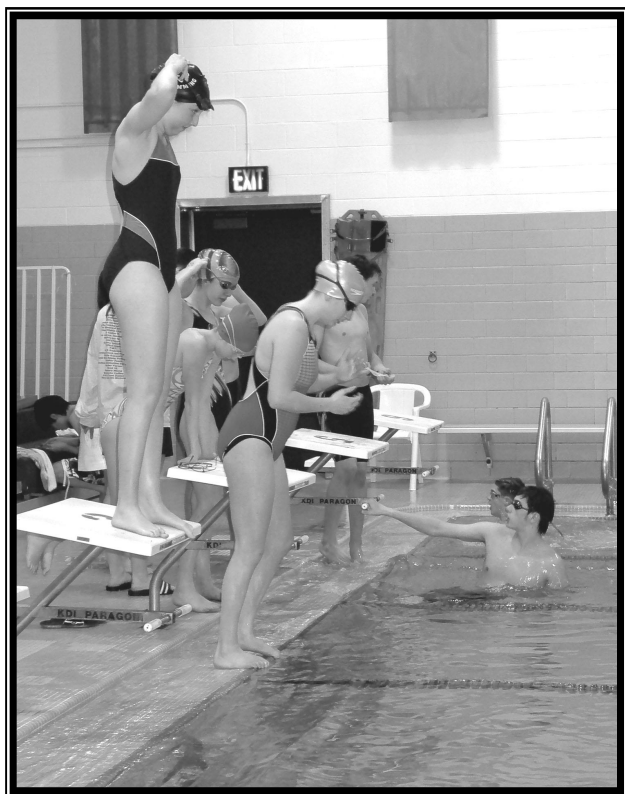
First row: Alexandra Gancasz, Kelsey Alvarez, Crystal Rhodes, Sienna Dear
Middle row: Caitlin Hawkins, Shelby Branch, Staci Palacios, Alyssa Hare, Jessie Wolski, Aileen Hinton,
Back row: Jin Capobianco, Amber Fuller, Samantha Greenwald, Leia Fannin, Sara Budde, Cortney Colern, Laina Maines
Team average was 95.691, which was the second highest in the State.



Football

First row: Kevin Sullivan, Joel Harris, Nick Dupont, Joseph Fazzolari
Back row: Steven Cassidy, Jacob Hinton, David Kaiser, Jonathan Howes
Not pictured: Eric Hayes and John Lapp
Team average was 90.990

MORE SPORTS NEWS



The Barker Swim Teams are catching up to the rest of the Niagara – Orleans League. After 0-15 records last year, the girls stand at 6-6 and the boys are 2-8 overall, with 4 meets remaining. Boys have met consideration times in 7 of the 11 events for sectionals and the teams have improved their personal best performances 409 times. Each improvement gives a swimmer a candy bar. The team's goal is to reach 600 best times, which are 200 more than last season. Last year Mr. Wilson shaved his head when the team met their goal. This year Miss Beilein will be a blonde if they meet the 600 mark and they'll dress Mr. Wilson up for school (within reason) if they make 650.

The team is still in the rebuilding stages. Four seasons ago there were only 11 girls and 8 boys. This year there are 23 girls and 12 boys; several are Middle School students that excel at swimming. With more swimmers, the girls are able to put people in every lane in every meet and pick up points. Filling the lanes is the first step in notching a victory.. The second step is learning the strokes and building endurance. The swimmers work hard at improving strokes, starts and turns. The third step is motivation. Many of the swimmers are self-motivated and are working hard on achieving their individual goals. At the present time, the team is at 74% of their team goal for improved times. Several swimmers on the present squads have placed their names on the top 25 lists for their events, occupying 22 slots.

Senior, Joe Bennes, had an incredible cross-country season this year. He finished 56th out of 132 runners in the Class D race at the State meet in Warwick Valley.

Here are some of his career accomplishments:

- Member of the league championship team in 2003, as a freshman.
- 2nd team all-league as a sophomore and a junior.
- Member of the 2004 sectional championship team, as a sophomore.
- State meet qualifier in 2004 and 2006.
- Member of the runner-up sectional team in 2005, as a junior.
- Scholar athlete for 4 years.
- Niagara-Orleans sportsmanship award representative in 2006, as a senior.



Before Christmas, ten upper-level science students attended the Pioneers of Science symposium at the Buffalo Museum of Science. They had the opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers from different fields. One extremely interesting speaker was Ellen Shulman-Baker, M.D., an astronaut. The students then got to spend their lunchtime with the speakers and scientists in order to speak with them one-on-one.

Four Physics students were able to attend the Physics Olympics at Buffalo State College. The students were given 3 tasks throughout the morning that they had to complete.

The first was a cantilever challenge, where they had to design and build an apparatus that held a bucket of water. The second was an egg drop where they had to make a device to catch an egg and were graded on the ratio of the height of the container to the height of the drop. The third challenge was using their lab and estimation skills. The students did well in all three challenges.



Runners get ready for the January Jog's 5K portion, organized by senior, Sara Budde.

PEZZINO'S CORNER

This month Jill discusses: Online safety rules — Guidelines for parents

- Get to know the services your child uses. Know what information it offers and if there are parental blocks available.
- Do not allow the child to give out personal information (name, address, telephone number, password, parent's names or school name) in a public message or chat.
- Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission. If they do want to meet face-to-face, make the first meeting in a public spot with a parent accompanying the child.
- Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children

Some website resources you can go to are:
Safekids.com
Blogsafety.com
Safeteens.com
Chatdanger.com



For the second year in a row, Barker Central has won the annual HEALTHY STEPS Contest, with a total distance walked of 13,480 miles. This state-wide contest is sponsored by the NYS Student Support Services and is coordinated here at Barker by elementary physical education teachers, Paul Harvey and Gail Damon.

For ten days, students, staff and parents wear pedometers to measure the steps they take each day. Every student in Pratt Elementary received a HEALTHY STEPS water bottle as a prize for their efforts. Above are Mrs. Groff's and Ms. Costello's 4th graders with their water bottles.



One of Barker's prominent fixtures is now gone. Jan Maybach, whose smiling face has graced the superintendent's office since 1988 has retired.

"It was just time," she said with a smile.

For those of you that remember and those that don't, Jan started working for Barker Central in 1980. Through the years she held many different positions before she ultimately moved to the superintendent's office. While chatting with Jan recently in the board room, she pointed out how she feels like she has come full circle—"This used to be my first grade classroom!"

When asked, some of her colleagues shared the following thoughts on Jan: "Jan is a true lady and a piece of the fabric of BCS."

"Although, as a District Office employee, she worked with a diverse set of folks, she never wavered from treating each person who entered that office with respect."

"...I would like to share a few words that I feel describe her best: dedicated, unselfish, smart, witty, full of fun, great cook (love that chili), confidential and beautiful."

"The manner in which Jan approached her work, with wit, wisdom, humor and sincerity, was truly a testament to her character."

"Thank you Jan—you brightened many a day for me."

"She has always been ready with what I need almost before I need it. Given a choice, however, she would be wife first, grandma second, and mom third—before anything to do with work. And I am not so sure that grandma isn't #1!"

Jan and her husband now plan on enjoying some quiet time traveling together. We'll miss you Jan and hope to see you often!

BCS HOMEWORK POLICY

The practice of giving regularly assigned, out-of-class homework to students is an integral part of the instructional program. The Board of Education strongly supports and encourages the use of homework.

Assignments should be purposeful, constructive and related to class activity, as well as individual student's interests, needs and abilities.

In general, homework is only valuable if the student completes the assignment in a timely manner and if the teacher corrects the assignment and returns it to the student in a timely manner.

Homework is also recognized as an important bridge between the school and the home. Parent concern, interest, and involvement with the student's homework is expected and welcomed.

Some helpful points to remember:

Students should understand the assignment — its purpose, when it is due and how it should be done. Using the agenda provided by the school or a separate notebook kept specifically for that purpose, students can write down these details.

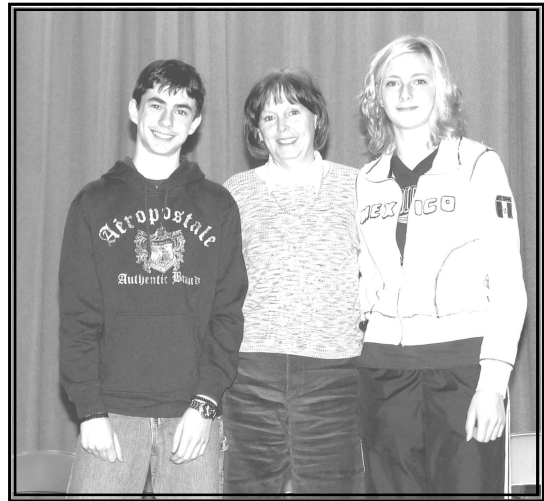
Students should budget their time. When study time is provided in school, it should be taken advantage of. Long term assignments should be carefully planned out, with deadlines throughout to make sure the project is completed on time.

Parents, if a student is not in school due to an illness or a trip, you can request, by telephone, their missed assignments through the Guidance Office. These calls should be made before 8:30 a.m. and can be picked up after 2:00 p.m. the same day.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain assignments before taking a vacation. They should understand that if they are absent, it is up to them to make up all missed work.

Parents should be aware of their child's assignments and their teacher's requirements.

Students pose for a quick photo during the Spanish Club's winter dance.



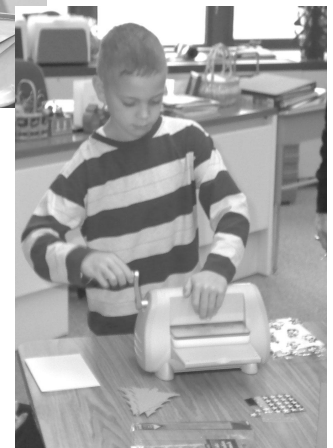
Tyler Scheving and Jessica Comerford stand with Mrs. Buri after school-wide competition in The Buffalo News Scripps National Spelling Bee. After spelling their way through precipice, insidious, gregarious and other challenging words, Tyler won by correctly spelling muslin. Next, he will take a written test which could qualify him for competing in the WNY Oral Final and then ultimately the Scripps National Final in Washington DC.



Preston Harris hands his ticket over to the "Conductor" for a ride on the Polar Express. The kids in Mrs. Weller's class created the Polar Express themselves out of boxes and then the whole class got to take a trip on it.



First graders rotated from class to class to learn about the Legends of Christmas. Kids got to learn the history surrounding the Christmas tree, stockings, candy canes among other things. Here, Luke Luckman, Jacob Bruning and Adam Wagner work diligently on their crafts.



WELLNESS PROFILE SCREENINGS



Staff had the opportunity to sign up for a full Wellness Profile Screening in January. Cindy Perry and her team from Medina Memorial Wellness Center had staff complete a wellness profile and then checked their blood pressure, screened their cholesterol, tested body fat and checked heights and weights. They also were able to meet with a dietician to learn about healthy ingredients and proper eating habits.



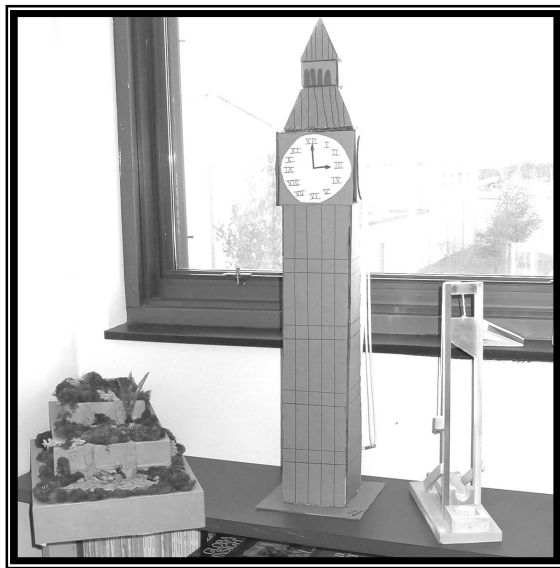
For her senior project, Valerie Richardson chose to create and organize an art show. She recently had all of her pieces on display at the Barker Free Library.



High school students of the month from September through December got to enjoy lunch recently with Principal John Hoar.



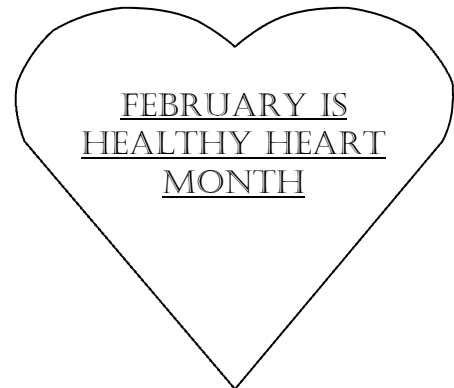
Another successful pancake breakfast for AFS!



Students in Mr. Upton's Global I class recently completed one of their major projects. They have two to three months to complete a hands-on creative project on anything in European or Asian history. To the left is one student's rendition of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. In the middle is a 3-D Big Ben Tower and to the right is a miniature guillotine.



Students from Miss Costello's class gather around Costello (no relation!), an Alaskan Malamute owned by Sandra D'Andrea. Costello won the 2006 AKC Eukanuba Best in Show award. In his 4 1/2 years, Costello has won 25 Best in Show awards. Kids got to learn all about Malamutes and their habits and how to take care of them.



Barker Central School
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