

# BARNARD BULLETIN

December 2023



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- December 1:** No School (Teacher PD Day)
- December 4-11:** Toy Drive
- December 6:** Holiday Shop
- December 7:** School Board Meeting 4:30 pm
- December 8:** 8th Grade Babysitting 6pm-9 pm
- December 11:** Report Cards Available on PowerSchool
- December 8:** PTA Holiday Party 7:00pm @ Town Hall
- December 25-Jan 1:** Holiday Break
- January 2:** School Resumes

Dear Barnard Families,

We have already finished our first trimester of the year! Report cards will be available to families on PowerSchool on December 11th. Directions for opening your child's report card can be found [here](#). If you need assistance, please contact Becky Ford in the office. As you are aware, students are graded based on grade-level competencies. Teachers will be reporting on students' proficiency levels in both academics and habits of learning.

The New Hampshire Department of Education recently released comprehensive statewide assessment data for the 2022-2023 school year. The newly published data set provides information at the state, district and school levels. We are extremely pleased and proud of our school's academic accomplishments. The data reveals a consistent and encouraging trend of improvement across all subject areas at Barnard School. Particularly noteworthy is the absence of learning loss during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The longitudinal data covering grades 3 to 8 for ELA and Math, and fifth and eighth grades for Science, demonstrates substantial progress. In ELA, student proficiency has surged from 63% in 2019 to an impressive 78% in 2023. Similarly, Math proficiency has shown a notable increase from 68% to 76% during the same period. In Science, student

proficiency has soared from 42% in 2019 to an impressive 64% in 2023. It's noteworthy that Barnard School's overall student proficiency surpasses the state average significantly across all subject areas, showcasing the school's dedication to academic excellence and growth.

Thank you for supporting our school's initiative to provide food for those in need. We collected a considerable amount of food for Our Neighbors Table last month. The organization was thankful for our contributions.

Our Student Council is teaming up with WHS student council and all local fire departments to collect toys for those in need. Barnard Student Council is running a toy drive from December 4-11 to support this cause. Please consider sending your child to school with a toy to donate to the cause.

The 8th grade class will be holding a babysitting fundraiser on Friday, December 8th. 8th grade students and parents are offering to babysit school-aged children from 6pm-9pm. The cost for the service is \$20 per child or \$40 per family. They will be providing games, crafts, movies, and snacks. All proceeds will benefit the 8th grade end-of-year trip to New York City. More information can be found [here](#).

We are thrilled to be offering the Barnard School Newspaper Club again this year. Students in grades 5-8 are invited to join the school newspaper. Students in grades 3-4 can submit articles for the newspaper as contributing editors, as well. Be on the lookout for our first edition in the coming weeks!

Our girls and boys basketball teams and our cheering club are off to a great start! Come join us to cheer them on! [Here](#) is this season's schedule.

We will be on holiday break from December 25-January 1. School will resume on January 2. On behalf of the entire staff at Barnard School, I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season. We hope you enjoy the time with your family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes,

Michelle Witt, Principal

# Counselor's Corner

## Growth Mindset . . .

1. Be willing to take risks.
2. Be willing to make mistakes.
3. Be willing to FAIL.
4. Be willing to ask for HELP.
5. Be willing to keep on trying - DON'T GIVE UP!



*Middle School Math Games*

Our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) focus for this month is "be willing to take risks." This is an essential skill that helps our students grow and develop in various aspects of their lives. By encouraging our children to step outside of their comfort zones, they can explore new opportunities, face challenges with resilience, and develop a growth mindset.

Taking risks helps students become more resilient and adaptable. When they face challenges head-on, they learn to overcome obstacles, develop a positive attitude towards setbacks and build confidence in their abilities.

Risk-taking also plays a crucial role in social development. By taking risks and trying new things, students develop their communication and problem-solving skills. They learn to collaborate, negotiate, and work effectively with others. These skills are essential for building positive relationships and navigating the world around them.

Together, let's work to foster a culture of risk-taking, resilience, and growth mindset in our school community.

For more information about the physical, mental and social benefits of risk taking, check out:

[Why Kids Need To Take Risks](#)

## PTA News

### **The Barnard Holiday Shop is Coming!**

The Holiday Shop is a great way for children to shop for small gifts for family and friends. Prices per item range from .50¢ to \$6, with most being under \$3. All gifts are sent home wrapped, tagged, and ready to go! Feel free to send in a list of who your child would like to shop for, and we will be more than happy to help if needed. The Barnard School staff asks students bring a maximum of \$25 to spend.

The Shop will be open **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. All grades have scheduled times to shop. Additionally, it will be open during lunch/recess on **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** for anyone who was absent, forgot money, or wanted one last thing.

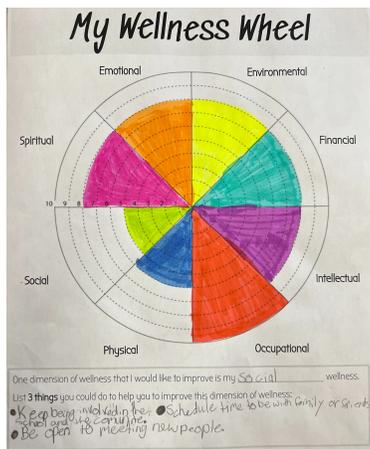
The Shop is coordinated by the PTA and shopping is optional. Money raised will go towards programs and activities to support the students and staff at Barnard School throughout the year. This is always a popular event for students, and they enjoy picking out gifts for their loved ones. Thank you in advance for your support!

Please join us for the next PTA meeting on **January 16 at 7:30pm.**

## Nurse's News

Middle School students have been hard at work in their Health Classes this first trimester. Students in grades 6-8 attend a weekly health class to learn and practice the skills that they will use to maintain and improve their health throughout their lives.

The 6th grade was introduced to health class by learning about the different dimensions of health and how they interact to affect our overall well being. They spent some time thinking about their own habits in each dimension and identified areas of strength and areas to improve. They've also started learning about and practicing the



important skill of Accessing Information, which will help students to evaluate the information they are receiving and determine if it is valid and reliable.

The 7th grade has been practicing the difficult skill of

Analyzing Influences that affect their health, such as, family, peers, media and culture. Each student identified a behavior that would improve their personal health. They carefully analyzed a variety of factors that influenced their behavior and identified ways to manage negative influences.

In 8th grade, students have been practicing their communication skills to help them prepare for their transition to high school. They've rehearsed different ways to set boundaries and use refusal skills to avoid or reduce health risks.

## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

We will be holding a Toy Drive in collaboration with Winnacunnet High School Student Council and local Fire Departments. Please bring in a toy for the drive between December 4-11.

We will be having spirit days this month:  
Thursday, December 14: Holiday/Crazy Sock Day  
Friday, December 15: Flannel Day  
Monday, December 18: Holiday Hat Day  
Tuesday, December 19: Holiday Hair Day  
Wednesday, December 20: Holiday Top Day  
Thursday, December 21: Holiday Color Day  
Friday, December 22: Holiday Pajama & Slipper Day

## Spanish News

Winter is coming, and grades 4-5 will be prepared! Their next unit combines winter weather, clothing and activities in a fun way with songs and skits. Meanwhile, grades 6-8 all just arrived in "Spain" for the winter. They flew on a pretend airplane, ordering food and beverages and practicing their small talk skills. Our youngest students in K-1 have been enjoying a song about farm animals, and books about a variety of topics. Students in grades 2-3 continue to learn body part vocabulary and have enjoyed some speedy rounds of "heads, shoulders, knees and toes" in Spanish. There is always a lot going on in the Spanish room and we look forward to all the new units that are starting soon. Please contact me any time this year with questions: [pcole@sau21.org](mailto:pcole@sau21.org)

## Follow Us!



Follow us on Facebook: **Barnard School**  
(look for the Hawk logo)

Follow us on Twitter: **@Barnardschool**