

# BARNARD BULLETIN

January 2024



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **January 2:** Back to School from Holiday Break
- **January 4:** School Board Meeting 4:30pm
- **January 9:** South Hampton Budget Committee  
Public Hearing on School Budget 7:00pm
- **January 15:** No School MLK/Civil Rights Day
- **January 16:** PTA meeting 7:30pm
- **January 25:** Barnard School Spelling Bee 12:30pm

Dear Barnard Families,

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday break and you are ready for the new year. We are looking forward to a new year of learning and growing as we finish out the second half of the school year.

As you are aware, students with parent/guardian permission completed the PEAR (Partnerships in Education and Resilience) Holistic Student Assessment earlier this fall. We had a very strong response from our families with 94% participation in grades 3-8. This assessment supports our efforts to promote the positive social-emotional development of our school community and students. We know that helping students feel good about themselves, their school, and their relationships improves learning.

The assessment utilizes the [Clover Model](#), which describes child and adolescent development as a holistic interaction among four core developmental needs: Active Engagement (engaging the world physically), Assertiveness (expressing voice and choice), Belonging (social connection and relationships) and Reflection (thought and meaning-making).

The data collected helps us to better understand our students as individuals and our student body as a whole. We are pleased with the results of the assessment which indicate that overall, our student

body is within healthy benchmarks in all four core developmental areas. In particular, the assessment identifies our school's top three strengths in the areas of *Emotional Control (34.04%)*, *School Bonding (29.79%)* and *Empathy (29.17%)*. We attribute this to the work our school counselor and staff have done over the past three years in our SEL programs that focus on understanding emotions and dealing with them appropriately. Additionally, we believe that our emphasis on relationship building within our school through Restorative Practices has helped students to improve in this area.

The assessment also identified three top areas of challenges for our collective student group in the areas of *Relationships with Adults (26.77%)*, *Learning Interest (23.4%)* and *Relationships with Peers (22.92%)*. We are addressing these challenges through our work with competency-based education, Restorative Practices, and the continuation of our strong SEL program, as well as our cross-grade level buddy groups that meet twice a month.

The Barnard School Spelling Bee (grades 5-8) is underway! The top spellers will compete in the Spelling Bee Finals on January 25 at 12:30pm. The event will take place in the gymnasium. All are welcome to attend.

Our School Newspaper Club has been working hard to publish their first edition of the *Barnard Banner*. Eighteen (18) fifth-eighth grade students joined the new newspaper club this year. Students in grades 3-4 will be invited to submit articles for the newspaper as contributing editors, as well. Be on the lookout for the first edition in the coming weeks!

We are asking for your help in updating Pick-Up Patrol each day. We have had considerable confusion at the end of the day which is causing us to call home to parents to confirm dismissal procedures for students. This is creating bus delays. Your diligence in updating and maintaining this information is invaluable in safeguarding our children. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to our community's safety.

On behalf of the Barnard School staff, we wish you a happy and healthy new year! We are thankful for your continued support and look forward to a new year with your children.

Sincerely,

Michelle Witt, Principal

## Counselor's Corner



I love a good mess up! It shows me that I was willing to try something new and challenge myself. We want our students to embrace this growth mindset

- it's ok to mess up and make mistakes . . . It's what you do next that matters! So this month our growth mindset focus is "making mistakes" . Helping students embrace their mess ups and mistakes is an important part of fostering a growth mindset. Here are three strategies that can be implemented at home and school:

### **Model a Positive Attitude Towards Mistakes:**

Openly share your own mess ups and mistakes, and talk about how you learned from them - share the struggle and how you felt when you figured out how to fix the problem.

**Encourage Reflection:** Encourage your student to reflect on their mistakes and, most importantly, what they can learn from them. Help them to brainstorm ideas of what they would do differently next time.

**Celebrate Growth and Effort:** Rejoice in the mess ups! Recognize and celebrate when your child demonstrates resilience, perseverance, and a willingness to learn from their mistakes, regardless of the outcome.

These strategies, at home and school, create a supportive environment where students feel comfortable taking risks, learning from their mistakes, and continuously growing. Embracing mess ups and mistakes will benefit our students far beyond the classroom!

More on mistakes:

[Why We Should Embrace Mistakes in School](#)

Importance of mistakes & growth mindset for grown ups too:

[Embrace Mistakes to Create a Learning Culture](#)  
[The Power of Learning from Our Mistakes](#)

## Spanish News

You might be wondering: What is "Rockalingua?" Designed for grades K-5, it is a music-based Spanish program that includes about 70 different songs. Each song has a cartoon video that covers a theme, such as "Hobbies," "What's your name?" or "Colors and Numbers." Most of the songs incorporate words or characters from other songs, so there is a lot of repetition, which is great for second language learning. The kids love the songs and it helps them remember vocabulary. Also, most of the songs come with simple computer games, crafts, or other pencil-and-paper activities. Some of them are easy enough to use with the K-1 class, while others are better for older students. Sometimes even the middle schoolers might watch a Rockalingua video! Students in grades 2-5 have access to Rockalingua on their Chromebooks. Ask them to show you the videos and games some time. Here's a warning though- those little songs will get stuck in your head!

[pcole@sau21.org](mailto:pcole@sau21.org)



*WHS Holiday Concert*

## Nurse's News

The easiest and most effective way to avoid getting sick is to wash your hands! Washing your hands with soap and water removes germs and helps to prevent the spread of germs to others.

Help your child develop the habit of washing their hands frequently, **especially before eating** or touching their eyes, nose or mouth. To prevent spreading germs to others, hands should also be washed after blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing into their hands.

For additional information and ideas to try at home, [click here](#).



## Special Services

### Child Find

*Do you have concerns about your pre-school aged child's learning and development?*

We want to connect with parents and caregivers of children, ages 0-22 who may have emotional, mental, or physical challenges or limitations. We may be able to provide services that could make a lasting difference for these children through referring, evaluating, and identifying their needs. If you are aware of any children who may need support or services in South Hampton, please bring them to our attention by contacting Lynne Rademacher, Director of Special Services at 603-394-7744 or [lrademacher@sau21.org](mailto:lrademacher@sau21.org).

## PTA News

Thank you to the PTA for a fun Holiday Shop event. The students really enjoyed shopping!

Next PTA meeting will be January 16 at 7:30pm at Barnard School. Please consider joining the group for the new year!



Grade 2/3 STEM Challenge

## Follow Us!



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

Follow us on Twitter: @Barnardschool