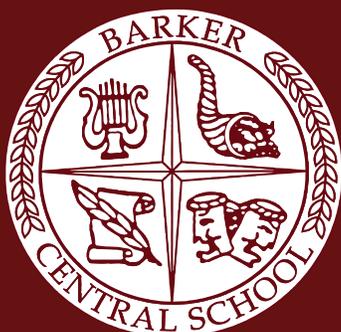


To be a leader in bringing out the best in each individual in our community.

May 2025 - Volume 40 No. 3

The Banner



Annual Budget Vote & Board Member Election

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall

To view all budget information please turn to pages 20-25 of this issue or visit www.barkerccd.net/business



(L-R): Easton Lewis and Daniel Aguilera on stage during the Pratt Elementary School production of The Music Man Kids.

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The official website and source for Barker Central School District news and information:

www.barkerccd.net

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Hello Barker Learning Community,

It truly is amazing how quickly our campus can transform in such a short time. I am sure many of you have already seen all the changes on the outside of the building, but the ones on the inside are even more exciting than what we've seen happen outside of the building. As of the publication date of this *Banner*, we have taken ownership of our new Family and Consumer Sciences classroom, and we have a few other classrooms getting ready to be turned over to us very soon. The work on the inside of the old middle school loop, where our new library media center will be located, along with our new secure entry and office spaces, have continued to progress (even though we are a little behind our original schedule). We expect to see these spaces turned over to us prior to the end of the school year in June. Work on our technology area has already begun as well with demolition of the metal shop area that started in mid-April. All of the remaining classrooms that will be renovated under the \$25 million dollar project will be worked on over the summertime, with a hopeful date of completion prior to the start of school in the fall.



We have also begun designing the work on the new \$14 million capital project, which was approved by the voters in January of 2025. We expect to send our designs to the New York State Department of Education in the next couple of months for review and approval. We are hopeful that we will be able to begin construction on the areas to be renovated in that project in the winter of 2026 with a completion of the work by the winter of 2027. Once all of this work is done in these two capital projects, a substantial portion of our entire District will have been renovated and be ready to teach our students well into the future.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the support of our entire community in maintaining our campus so we can continue providing high quality instructional experiences that will continue to get our kids prepared for whatever they want to do when they graduate from BCS.

As I reflect on over the last 12 months since the May 2024 *Banner* edition, I continue to be amazed at the achievement of our students and staff in our small school District. What I am most proud of is the amazing things that our students do each and every day in our classrooms. Barker has one of the highest graduation rates in our region, some of the best Regents exam scores in our area, and our ranking under the most recent US News & World Report high school rankings puts us at second in our region (as well as highly rated across the state and country). Additionally, our students continue to achieve highly in musical activities, athletic activities, extra-curriculars, and more. This achievement is a testament to the work our students put in, as well as the amazing tutelage and support provided by our unbelievable faculty and staff who dedicate so much of their lives to helping all of our students grow into meaningful contributors to our society when they walk out the doors of our school after graduation.

Barker is a special place and I hope our entire community sees an amazing return on the investment that we continue to put into our student's education, our school building, and our overall learning community here at 1628 Quaker Road and beyond.

I'm so excited to see all the things that our we will continue to do over the next year.

Sincerely,

Jacob L. Reimer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



FROM THE BOARD ROOM

Dear BCS District Residents:

It has been exciting to see the progress of the capital project work around the District. The beautiful new athletic field has been supporting many old and new activities, with Barker athletes spending more time on their home field. The interior renovations are making rapid progress. We appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility as demolition and construction progress in multiple areas. With the passing of the second large capital project in January, most of the classrooms in the District will be updated over the next 2-3 years in support of our educational programs and

objectives. Most of the work from the \$25 million project approved in 2024 will be complete in time for the start of school in September.

With the rapid changes and uncertainty in the world today, our mission statement is more relevant than ever:

We will provide a school environment that fosters respect, compassion, tolerance, and nurtures life-long learners who make meaningful contributions to society.

Our teachers and administrators have been working hard to enhance our educational programs and outcomes. There has been a major effort to document and align curriculum across the District and to prepare for new state guidelines. New York State has introduced multiple pathways to graduation that will offer some new opportunities for our students. Our updated facilities, including the FACS (Family and Career Sciences) and Technology areas, will support some of these new opportunities.

Also on the academic front, proficiency rates on all Regents exams at the secondary level hover around the 90-95% range with mastery rates (earning a score of 85 or higher on the exam) in the 40-50% range. It is numbers like these that have helped Barker rank high in comparison to other schools in Niagara and Orleans counties. Specifically, in the subject of Math, Barker students' proficiency and mastery rates on Regents exams are in the top 100 of all high schools across New York State.

Turning to financial matters, the proposed budget amount for the 2025-2026 school year will support continuation of all current programs. The local school tax levy is projected to increase 2.4% for a total of \$5,283,993. Total state aid is projected to increase by 20.0% over the current school year for a total of \$14,244,935.

The proposed expenditure budget for next year represents an increase in spending of nearly 19% over the current school year for a total of \$22,475,710. This is an unusually high increase due to two factors. First is debt service, including the initial payments for the ongoing \$25 million capital project (\$1,973,116), which will be more than offset by state building aid revenue (\$2,116,704). The second factor is a substantial increase in the number of special education students requiring costly outside placements (budget increase of \$1,730,000). State aid covers much of the cost of these placements. More details about the budget will be found in this edition of the Banner.

We have a significant number of staff retirements coming up at the end of this school year and over the following two years. We appreciate and commend the longevity and commitment of those who have submitted their retirement plans. We will soon be interviewing prospective employees who will contribute enthusiastically to our educational mission and vision. The total number of staff members is anticipated to remain steady into next year.

The future looks bright for our school community. We have much to look forward to and appreciate your support.

Randall B. Atwater
Barker Central School District Board of Education President

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CARTER

Hello Barker Learning Community.

We are quickly approaching our annual budget vote. This article contains some information regarding the 2025-2026 budget.

The total budget for the 2025-2026 school year is \$22,475,710. Below is a chart that shows the year over year changes to our budget.



BARKER BUDGET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY 2025-2026				
EXPENDITURES	2025-2026	2024-2025	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$ 2,585,905	\$ 2,494,298	\$ 91,607	3.67%
INSTRUCTION	\$12,278,607	\$10,651,379	\$1,627,228	15.28%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,472,126	\$ 1,440,047	\$ 32,079	2.23%
COMMUNITY SERVICE	\$ 33,600	\$ 33,600	\$ -	0.00%
UNDISTRIBUTED *	\$ 6,105,473	\$ 4,276,394	\$1,829,079	42.77%
TOTAL	\$22,475,710	\$18,895,718	\$3,579,992	18.95%

*** The Capital Outlay Project of \$100,000 is consisting of renovations to the structural work to the interior and exterior of the building and campus, including but not limited to concrete, flooring, window and other work.**

BARKER BUDGET REVENUE SUMMARY 2025-2026				
REVENUES	2025-2026	2024-2025	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
STATE AID	\$14,244,935	\$11,861,269	\$2,383,666	20.10%
TAX LEVY	\$ 5,283,993	\$ 5,157,400	\$ 126,593	2.45%
OTHER PROPERTY TAX ITEMS	\$ 1,348,449	\$ 1,612,000	\$ (263,551)	-16.35%
PILOT	\$ 36,449	\$ 36,449	\$ -	0.00%
OTHER	\$ 389,551	\$ 228,600	\$ 160,951	70.41%
FUND BALANCE	\$ 1,172,333	\$ -	\$1,172,333	100.00%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$22,475,710	\$18,895,718	\$3,579,992	18.95%

The District is proposing a tax levy of \$5,283,993. This represents a 2.45% increase above the 2024-25 school year. This amount is the allowable tax levy limit that would only require a simple majority vote to pass. Assuming there are no changes in the values of the towns, tax rates for homeowners would increase by approximately 2.45%.

The reason the budget is increasing by 18.95% is twofold: special education tuition costs have increased, but we receive a higher amount of state aid for these costs. Also, debt service is increasing for the capital project, which is offset by building aid from the state. Neither of these items is having an impact on local property taxes due to the aid we receive from New York State.

We encourage District residents who wish to learn more about the budget to attend the public hearing on Monday, May 12th at 6:30 pm in the auditorium. The annual vote will be held on Tuesday, May 20th from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the auditorium.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your continued support of the School District.

Sincerely,
Michael Carter
Business Administrator
mcarter@barkerksd.net



FROM THE DESK OF MR. CORNWELL

Happy Spring from the Office of Curriculum and Professional Development!! Hopefully this update finds you enjoying our Western New York spring weather, with the promise of warmer and sunnier weather to come.

The Professional Development Day held on March 7th for our teachers and staff was a success. The primary focus was moving the work in our District strategic plan forward. Our faculty met with their instructional team leaders to review student data and develop plans to adjust their instruction based on the data. Elementary teachers also had an extensive review of literacy practices that align with the science of reading research and information from the NYS Education Department. Our secondary

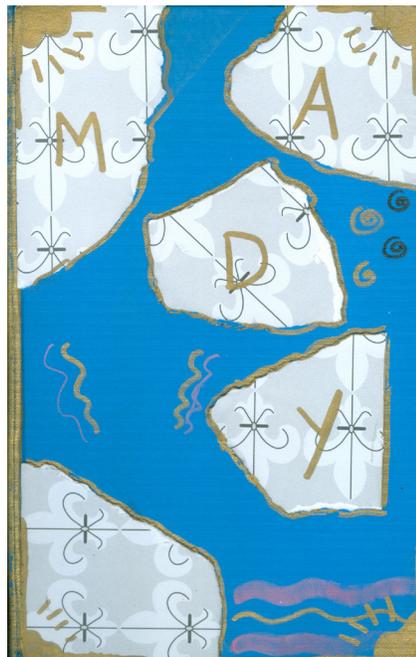
teachers engaged in a workshop with a representative from the Niagara County YWCA regarding student trauma and effective first responses to trauma.

End of year assessments for students are also in full swing. By the time you read this article, the NYS 3-8 assessments in the areas of ELA, Math, and Science will have been administered. Regents exams will take place throughout the month of June.

The Office of Curriculum and Professional Development will also be engaged in work throughout the spring in revising and updating our professional development and technology plans for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, or the instructional program of our school, don't hesitate to reach out to me. You can email me at ccornwell@barkercsd.net, or reach me by phone at 716-795-3388.

Yours in education,
Christian Cornwell
Coordinator of Curriculum & Professional Learning/AP
ccornwell@barkercsd.net
716-795-3388



*Student artwork (Clockwise from Upper Left): **Peyton Hirschman** - "Sitting Eagle", Colored Pencil Drawing. **Madyson Flint** - "A Cover That Represents Me", Altered Book: "In my altered book I decided to design the cover in a very simple way, but also in a way that represents me. I used small things that bring me joy, such as gold markers. I love anything gold. It's one of the prettiest things I have ever seen so I added it into my cover because it's a small detail about me. Making my cover brought me a lot of joy because it was the only thing that I was focused on, to represent me. I got to think about all of my favorite things and create art that allowed me to share them. It made me feel good knowing that everybody could look at it and already know something about me." **Xyon Weese** - "Ladybug on a Flower", Colored Pencil Drawing.*



FROM THE DESK OF MR. LEARO

Dear Barker Learning Community:

As we approach the conclusion of another school year, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of our Barker CSD Special Education Department. Each year we strive to meet the diverse needs of all of our learners while providing them with a challenging and empowering educational and social experience.

As I reflect on my first full year as a member of the Barker Learning Community School District, I am filled with pride to be part of such a wonderful and dynamic community and I am proud of our students for their hard work and perseverance. I am proud of our staff for their dedication and commitment and I am proud of our families and community for their belief and support in this truly amazing District.

I am a firm believer that no matter how well we do, we should always strive to continue to improve. Self-reflection, and review of our own skills and practice, are vital in the cycle of continuous improvement. As educators we ask students to step out of their comfort zones, open and expand their minds and strive for success. We challenge them to DO better, DO more and BE more. As educators and life-long learners we require the same for ourselves. As life-long learners we strive to consistently better our craft and expand our knowledge.

Life-long learners:

Reframe their mindset: We need to improve, not because we are not good enough but because we can be even better. There is no limit to what we can achieve.

Relearn, rework & redesign: We are educating our future citizens to join an ever-changing world and preparing them to expect, and be comfortable with, a constant state of change, revision and renewal.

Reflect: Take time to reflect on best practices, successes and failures. Having the ability to reflect and self-assess allows a life-long learner to continue to grow.

Research: We must remain curious and ask questions. Education is everywhere. In this digital age information is literally at our fingertips. We must take the time to seek out opportunities to improve.

Mark Learo
Director of Instructional Services/AP
mlearo@barkerksd.net
716-795-3350

Student artwork: Lauren Zglinicki - "Waterlilies", Watercolor Painting: "My favorite artwork this year is the sunset watercolor painting and mostly watercolor projects. I find art calming and a time to focus on expressing yourself in a way words can't. Art is used in everyday life on everything you use to complete daily tasks and you usually don't notice."



SRO CORNER

Greetings to the Barker Central School Community.

As your community SROs, it is our goal to keep our school systems safe and promote a healthy learning environment. One of the things that can jeopardize the safety of students and staff is cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined as sending harmful, false or mean content about someone else through posting on an electronic forum. The most common places where cyberbullying may occur are as follows:

- Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok
- Text messaging and messaging apps on a mobile or tablet device
- Instant messaging, direct messaging, and online chatting over the Internet
- Online forums, chat rooms, and message boards such as Reddit
- Email
- Online gaming communities

With the prevalence of social media and digital forums these harmful posts that share negative content can be viewed by strangers and acquaintances alike damaging the reputation of an individual. These actions may have long lasting consequences not just to the person being bullied but also with criminal sanctions to those who are doing the bullying.

If you have any questions or concerns about cyberbullying please reach out to a school staff member or your SRO team at 716-205-0503.

Have a safe and happy summer from all of your SROs and the Town of Somerset Police Department.

Barker School SROs



(Top-Bottom, L-R): Chief Jon Miller, Officer Bill Nagel, Officer Dean Adamski.

WINTER HATS, MITTENS AND GLOVES DONATED TO BCS



A collection of winter hats, mittens and gloves were donated to Barker Central School by the Faith United Methodist Church. Pastor Tom Gardner delivered the clothing items to Dr. Love on January 15th. Assisting with the collection and delivery were (L-R): Layla Kempf, Makenzie Hill, and Evelyn Wittcop.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. LOVE

Dear Barker Central School Community,

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the many amazing things happening across our District. Our students have had an incredible year filled with growth, exploration, and accomplishment—and there is still so much more to come!

This spring has been especially exciting. We were thrilled to welcome guest speakers, NED's Mindset Mission and Nels Ross, to Pratt Elementary, who delivered inspiring messages about kindness, perseverance, and leadership that truly resonated with our students and staff. These experiences have helped reinforce the values we hold dear in the Barker learning community.

We're also thrilled to celebrate the incredible success of our school musicals this year. The Jr.-Sr. High School production of Shrek and the Elementary production of Music Man Kids were absolute standouts. A huge thank you goes out to all of the staff, volunteers, and community members who helped bring these shows to life—and most of all, to our students, who knocked it out of the park! Your talent, hard work, and energy lit up the stage, and we couldn't be more proud. The HS Band also competed in the NYSSMA festival competition in April and received a GOLD standing – Bravo!

Our students have also been busy preparing for ELA, math, and science state testing, and we're so proud of the effort and focus they've shown. In addition, AP exams, FastBridge spring screening, and end-of-year Regents exams are coming up, helping us ensure that every student continues on a strong academic path.

Students are also enjoying a wide variety of events and enrichment activities over the next few months. The PTO Book Fair brought excitement and new stories into our students' hands. Trips like the 8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C., spring AFS trip to Spain, Chorus trip to Rochester, M&M field trip, Honors Passholder field trip, end-of-year grade level field trips, and the Senior Trip to New York City are offering students unforgettable, real-world learning experiences.

In May, students will have the opportunity to explore STEM in hands-on, creative ways through Challenge Island sessions and a visit from the mobile planetarium, bringing science and innovation to life right here on campus. We're also looking forward to the Traffic Safety Event for Juniors and Seniors on Friday, May 16th, hosted in partnership with the Niagara County Sheriff's Department. This important event will feature safety demonstrations, a guest speaker, and a Mercy Flight helicopter landing (weather permitting), offering students valuable information and a powerful experience that emphasizes sound decision-making and responsibility.

June will be packed with exciting and meaningful traditions to celebrate all of our students' hard work, including:

- Honors and Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 2nd at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium
- Jr.-Sr. High School Chorus Concert on Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium
- Elementary Band and Chorus Concert on Wednesday, June 4th at 6:00 PM in the 1911 Parking Lot
- Jr.-Sr. High School Band Concert on Thursday, June 5th at 6:00 PM in the 1911 Parking Lot
- Pratt Field Day on Wednesday, June 18th
- Prom on Wednesday, June 18th
- Pratt Elementary Moving Up Ceremony during the final week of school (stay tuned for more information)
- Graduations from O/N BOCES Technical Programs (information to be provided to BOCES students and families)
- And of course, Graduation on Friday, June 27th at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium



PreK registration is now open for students who are 4 years old or will be turning 4 before December 1, 2025. The registration information can be found on the District website. Our UPK program is full-day, from 7:50 AM to 2:30 PM. Placement is not guaranteed, and spots will go to District residents before non-resident students. Busing is available for all students who are District residents. Please share this information with any families you know who have a child eligible for PreK this year. Please contact Rachel Anderson at 716-795-3237 for any assistance in the registration process for students of all grade levels.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support throughout the year. Your encouragement, presence, and participation mean the world to our Barker students and staff. We are proud to be finishing this year strong—together.

Sincerely,
Micaela M. Love, Ed.D.
PK-12 Principal
mlove@barkerbsd.net
716-795-3832

ENHANCEMENTS MADE TO LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

EClub is proud to share the good news that our Little Free Library has a new look this year! Visit the Little Library and take a moment to enjoy the beautiful landscaping while sitting and reading a book on the bench all designed and contributed by BCS alumni Steve Donner. On display in grateful appreciation next to the Little Free Library is a plaque with all of the names of the donors that contributed to the little library. EClub President Rebecca Thering stated, “I think that the little library is very fun and positive. I believe that the community enjoys the little library because it encourages people to read more books without having to buy them. The bench provides a relaxing place to sit and allows people to look at the beautiful landscaping when they are on a walk. It is a very inclusive library because there is a wide range of books for all ages.”



EClub member and steward for the Little Free Library Nicholas Heidemann said, “Every time I check up on the little library there is evidence that it’s been used, new books or there has been some read and returned. The donation of the children’s books was a nice addition from the community.”

EClub advisor Ms. Feltz shared, “We are so thankful for all of the donors and everyone that has contributed to making the little library possible. The Little Free Library is for young children, teenagers and adults and we are always looking for donations of books for everyone to enjoy.”

(Front Row, L-R): Kenzie Rose , Piper Brinson. (Back Row): Kaya Lloyd, Kaylee Stoll, Jillian Fisk, Hailey Dodge, Rebecca Thering, Nicholas Heidemann, Qiessa Alwani, Madison Stephan.

GOLD RATING FOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND

On April 9th, the Barker HS Concert Band performed for two judges at NYSSMA (New York State Student Music Association) at Spencerport High School. The group received a gold rating for the third straight year. The students demonstrated an outstanding level of technical and artistic skill. Congratulations to Mr. Rappold, Band Director and all of the students in the band on the wonderful achievement while representing the Barker Central School District with honor and pride during an amazing performance.

The HS Band had an unexpected challenge added to their preparation towards NYSSMA New York State Band Competition. Two weeks before the competition, Mr. Rappold was in need of a tuba player for the competition. 7th grader Liam Garcia was elevated from the Junior High Band to fill the role. The process to get Liam up to speed was rigorous and demanding. Garcia rose to the occasion and performed admirably helping the HS Band get the Gold Medal.



High School Band (Front Row, L-R): Madison Stephan (Clarinet), Ivy Feuersanger (Flute), Robert Clark, (Timpani), Naomi Bish (Mallets), Faith Bowerman (Flute), Jillian Fisk (Flute), Charlie Gow (Flute), Addisyn Weller (Clarinet), Karl Hill II (Baritone Sax), Isaac Monaco (Alto Sax), Gabriel Nestoros (Percussion), Michael Kalynycz (Percussion), Tristen Garcia (Percussion), Liam Garcia (Tuba). (Back Row): Meghan Mallon (Tenor Sax), Evangeline Harris (Bass Clarinet), Summer Duchow (Clarinet), Chloe Duchow (Clarinet), Melodi Murphy (Alto Sax), Jocelyn Schmitt (Clarinet), Kaleigh Thuman (Clarinet), Julia Kalynycz (Percussion), Fiona Wass (Trumpet), Jordyn Kinne (Flute), Aurora Wass (Flute), Alina Riches (Clarinet), Elise Monaco (Trumpet), Adeline Atwater (Trumpet & Horn), Riley Marciszewski (Trombone & Horn), Elizabeth Samson (Alto Sax), Oscar Dergel (Alto Sax), Caleb Alexander (Trumpet), Daniel Goodwin (Baritone), Bradly Maines (Baritone), Dakota Mandaville (Percussion), Ryan Fisk (Mallets).

The Intermediate Band had a great field trip to Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo to hear the Buffalo Philharmonic. Both the Primary Band and Intermediate Band, as well as the 5-6 Chorus are looking forward to the annual trip to the Seabreeze Amusement Park Music Festival in June.

The Barker Music Department would like to congratulate all of the band and chorus students who were accepted



to one of the NCMEA (Niagara County Music Educators Association) All-County ensembles. These students were selected as festival participants based on their adjudicated solo performances in December. Each group spent two full days, Friday and Saturday, preparing brand new music for a concert performance. The ensembles are made up of some of the top student musicians from every school in Niagara County. Congratulations to each of our NCMEA students.



(Counterclockwise from Upper Right, L-R): Jr. High Band - Festival 1: Karl Hill II (Baritone Saxophone).

Elementary Chorus - Festival 2: Jacob Linkowski (Alto), Cerenity Street (Alto).

Sr. High Chorus - Festival 1: Jillian Fisk (Soprano), Alexis Dauphinee (Soprano), Connor Dwyer (Bass).

Elementary Band - Festival 3 (L-R): Easton Lewis (Trumpet), Cerenity Street (Clarinet), Adam Grabowski (Baritone Horn), Hannah Monaco (Flute), Maxwell Liuzzi (Trumpet), Lydia Atwater (Trombone), Jordyn Jones (Trumpet), Tessa Seward (French Horn).

Jr. High Chorus - Festival 3: Noralie Pierce (Soprano), Xyon Weese (Alto), Addisyn Weller (Soprano), Chace Atwater (Tenor).

Sr. High Band - Festival 2: Riley Marciszewski (French Horn), Michael Kalynycz (Snare Drum), Jocelyn Schmitt (Clarinet).



HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMS *SHREK THE MUSICAL*

From March 7th-9th, the Barker community and beyond was treated to the Barker Musical Theater production of *Shrek The Musical*, on stage in the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Auditorium. Director/ Producer Ms. Cheryl Johnson acknowledged the dedication and commitment to 14 seniors involved in the show. Many of these students have been significant contributors to the musical theater program throughout their Jr.-Sr. High School years:

- Qiessa Alwani - Happy Villager, Guard, Skeleton
- Ayame Crenshaw - Stage Crew
- Alexis Dauphinee - Mama Ogre, Queen of Hearts, Duloc, Dragon, 3 Blind Mice
- Shelby Dauphinee - Fiona
- Adler Detschner - Shrek
- Summer Duchow - Spotlights
- Connor Dwyer - Donkey
- Ryan Fisk - Pit Band: Xylophone, Bells, Percussion
- Evangeline Harris - Set Design & Construction
- Sahara Holland - Farquaad
- Michael Kalynycz - Pit Band: Drum Set
- Meghan Mallon - Stage Manager, Set Design & Construction
- Aleena Parfinski - March Hare, Duloc
- David Westcott - King Harold, Big Bad Wolf, Skeleton



Visit the Barker Musical Theater website to view the show program which includes the full cast list, images, ads, bios, acknowledgments, and more.



(Top-Bottom, L-R): Adler Detschner arrives to rescue Shelby Dauphinee. Julia Kalynycz, Ava Kelemen, Jillian Fisk, Lucas Stephan, Jocelyn Schmitt, Lucy Lunde, and Faith Bowerman performing. Diarra Taliaferro, Sahara Holland, and Kasey Thering in the dungeon. (Images courtesy of Mrs. Katie Fisk.)

THE MUSIC MAN KIDS PRESENTED BY PRATT STUDENTS

Under the direction of Ms. Andrea Nobles and Mrs. Ashley Atwater, Pratt Elementary students provided entertainment in two shows of *The Music Man Kids* on April 4th and 5th.

Visit the Pratt Elementary Musical webpage to view the show program for acknowledgments, images, the full cast list, ads, and more.



(Top-Bottom, L-R): Brayden Gregory and Quincy Atwater perform an early scene with a large cast behind. The band is assembled - Leonel Sanchez-Chavez, Derek Brawley, Hudson Prynne, Benjamin Wakefield, Peyton Green. Tessa Seward, William Burczynski, and Hannah Monaco close a scene. Emilia Farina holds Lady Liberty's torch high. Kaleb Gargano, Jordyn Jones, Richard Thering, Daniella Carnes, Rose Poyfair, Evelyn Wittcop, and Kian Baker prepare to take their bows. Blake Barr is disturbed that Harold Hill, "doesn't know the territory." Greyson Heitzenrater and Rory Harvey move the Wells Fargo Wagon.

READ ACROSS AMERICA



In 1998, the National Education Association (NEA) launched Read Across America as a year-round program to celebrate reading. In addition Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd was declared Read Across America Day. Annually, Dr. Seuss' birthday is the beginning of Reach Across America Week and Read Across America Month.

Monday, March 3rd - Thursday, March 6th was Read Across America Week at Pratt Elementary School. Students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday during the week with special theme dress up days which included:

- The Cat in The Hat Day - Wear your favorite hat or stripes
- Fox in Socks Day- Wear crazy socks
- Wacky Wednesday - Wear different patterns and colors
- Green Eggs and Ham Day - Wear the color green

Other activities during the week included daily DEAR time, read alouds, Seuss photo booth, and drop everything and read.



(Top-Bottom, L-R): Jameson Ficarella and Jacob Meyers. Robert Williams, Vayda Boring, Elyza Wedekind, Gracelynn Bachmann.

OT/PT STUDENTS MAKE CLAY PINCH POTS

The Barker Central School District Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Departments have been working with Krista Beth Feltz of the Art Department on a clay pot project. All of the students in the PT and OT departments have been making clay pinch pots which will be fired and glazed in the next few weeks. All the pots are now formed and awaiting the next step of the process. They will be on display in the Pratt Elementary lobby display case before the students take them home to their families. Stop by and look at the display which should be up sometime after Easter. "The clay is an excellent medium to build strength, encourage/motivate students to participate and taps their creative spirits," reported Mr. Monaco OTA and Mr. Wenhold PT.

(L-R): James Cantella, Emerson Cantella, Griffin Harvey and Mr. Monaco with the clay pinch pots.



THERING & LLOYD RECEIVE AWARDS FOR THEIR PHOTOGRAPHY

The 38th Storrs All High Art Show at the Kenan Center Gallery in Lockport featured work by students from 28 high schools from across Western New York. Rebecca Thering was awarded Best Color Photography with her photo "Pink Skies" and Kaya Lloyd received Honorable Mention for her photo "Falling."

Rebecca Thering

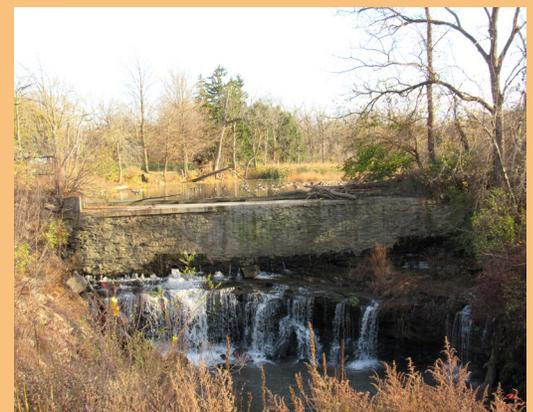
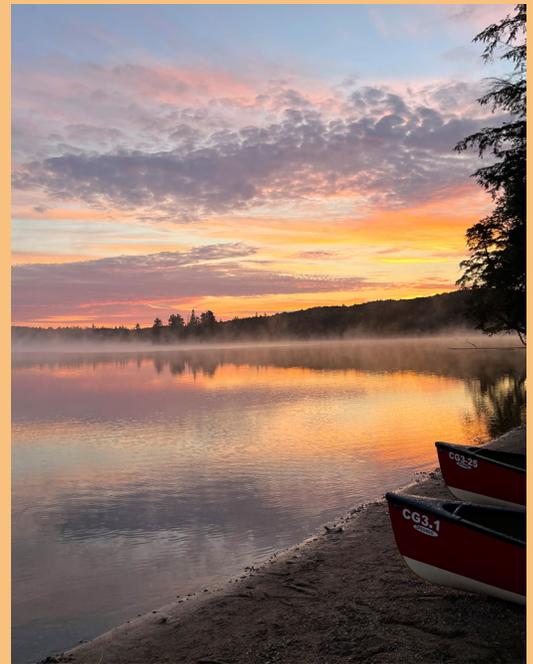
"Pink Skies"

Photography - A beautiful sunrise on an early morning in late August. This photo was taken on a very fun trip to Algonquin, Canada. The sky was a pretty mix of different shades of pinks and a little bit of orange and blue. The reflection in the water and the water on the canoes remind me of this trip the most because we spent so much time during our trip on the water.

Kaya Lloyd

"Falling"

Photography - With this photo I was able to capture the beauty of so many things almost accidentally. I originally wanted a simple photo of the waterfall when I noticed the swimming birds and decided to feature those too. After taking the photo, I realized that the trees and bushes surrounding the water created a sort of frame, and I think this really showcases the unnoticed and unintentional beauty of many things in nature.



(Top-Bottom): **Rebecca Thering's "Pink Skies."** **Kaya Lloyd's "Falling."**



*Student artwork (Top-Bottom): **Eva Kelsey** - "Sally's Seashells", Pen and Ink and Watercolor: "For this painting I wanted to try to go out of my comfort zone and use the stippling technique for shading. This technique forced me to take my time adding darker values to the seashells which I think contrasts nicely against the less uniformed waves and sand." **Lillyana Reyes** - "May is Here", Acrylic Painting: "My favorite work of art this year was the Romero Britto inspired pattern painting. The pattern painting was my favorite because we could pick our own patterns and colors based on what we like. I chose my colors by finding two sets of opposite colors that pair well together, blue and orange and yellow and purple. To pull it all together I put a flower in the center that used all four colors then spread out behind it was a checkered yellow and purple pattern and a wavy orange and blue pattern. The pattern painting was fun to make and beautiful to watch it come together."*

ART SHOWS: The Barker High School Student Art Show returns to the Barker Free Library this year from Tuesday, May 20th - Friday, May 30th. Check out the Headlines & Features area on the BCS homepage for more art show dates and information: www.barkerccd.net

MARCH MADNESS SPRING SPIRIT WEEK

This year, with the long stretch from February to spring break, in addition to their annual spring dance, the Jr. High Student Council hosted a March Madness Spirit Tournament. All 7th and 8th grade students were randomly split into four teams from which they participated in a series of weekly mental, physical and artistic challenges during 10th period: Art Day (3/4), Challenge Day (3/11), Trivia/Knowledge Day (3/18) and the dance (3/21). Total points were tallied and combined with points earned at the dance to determine a winning team. This year the green team won, earning various treats and snacks for their victory. All in all, about 25% of our 7th and 8th grade students participate in the after-school activities. The Jr. High Student Council was very happy with the pilot year of the Spirit Tournament and hopes to make it bigger and better next year.

Prior to spring break the Jr. High Student Council hosted the annual egg hunt for students in PreK and Kindergarten. Each student participant was able to find multiple eggs and win prizes.



(Clockwise from Upper Right, L-R): **Sayuri DeJesus and Ayla Riches** on art day. **Whit Lunde and D'Andre Flowers** open their egg hunt finds. **G'ohnny Tomaino and Jaidon Gregg** on challenge day.

Marciszewski Wins Pi Day Contest

Sophomore, Riley Marciszewski was the 2025 Pi Day Contest winner after he successfully memorized 172 digits of pi. Marciszewski along with the other top 5 students all won \$3.14 on their lunch account and Riley won a pi day shirt.



The following students found a hidden Einstein and won a mini pie:

- Jillian Fisk
- Charlotte Haag
- Douglas Kennedy
- Drew LaGreca
- Melodi Murphy
- Lucas Stephan
- Madison Stephan
- Peyton Wagner

(Top - Bottom, L-R in order of finish, 1st - 5th): **Top 5 - Riley Marciszewski, Jillian Fisk, Kenzie Rose, Madelene Carpenter, Sal Brinson. Riley Marciszewski with his pi day shirt.**



LITERACY CONTEST WINNERS

The Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center sponsors an annual literacy contest. This year's theme was: "Get Active and Explore the Outdoors!" Pratt Elementary students who were recognized for Top Entry (TE) and Honorable Mention (HM) in the contest are listed next to their respective picture.



Kindergarten (L-R): Charlotte Alvord (HM), Tessa Duchow (HM), Caleb Scott (HM), Allegra Schmitt (HM). Whit Lunde (HM) - not pictured.



Second Grade (L-R): Amiya Riches (TE), John Paul Grabowski (HM), Adeline Wahl (TE).



Fifth Grade (Front Row, L-R): Dieunaitre Sejour (HM), Easton Lewis (HM), Jakob Wahl (HM). *Middle Row:* Eowynn Snell (HM), Paris Evans-Johnson (HM), Amelia Linkowski (TE), Daniel Aguilera (HM), Peyton Green (HM), Gabriella Smaczniak (HM). *(Back Row):* Adam Grabowski (HM), Ayyah Kropp (HM), Emma Watson (HM), Riley Clark (HM), Avery Snell (TE).



Sixth Grade (Front Row, L-R): Makenzie Hill (HM), Edward Roessler (HM). *Middle Row:* Logan Carroll (HM), Amelia Ross (HM), Hunter Sweeney (HM), Landon Wakefield (HM). *(Back Row):* Brayden Gregory (HM), Lydia Atwater (TE), Cerenity Street (HM), Nicholas Ruvio (HM), Hannah Monaco (TE).

THE SPORTS PAGES

The winter sports season included several accolades for the combined Roy-Hart/Barker girls swim team and the combined wrestling team. Girls wrestling produced a successful inaugural season with seven wrestlers on the Roy-Hart/Barker team roster, including Barker sophomores Isabella Gatto and Makayla King.



SECTION VI SAAC WORKSHOP

SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Committee) is composed of one male and one female athlete from each grade who has been identified as having potential leadership skills to serve as a liaison between our student-athletes and school administration. This year's active members consist of:

- Freshman - Drew LaGreca
- Sophomores - Naomi Bish and Peyton Wagner
- Juniors - Madelina Pavlock and Luke Fay
- Seniors - Shelby Dauphinee and Michael Kalynycz (both completing their third and final year in the club)



On Thursday, March 20th, four members (Above Right, L-R: Kalynycz, Wagner, Dauphinee, and LaGreca) of the Barker SAAC traveled to the PBS building in downtown Buffalo for their first annual Section VI workshop. SAAC meets three times a year with the other SAAC clubs in the Niagara-Orleans League where they work on leadership skills and have the opportunity to network with their competitive peers within the league. However, this time the Barker group had the chance to work with 120 students from 16 schools that represented all five leagues in Section VI. Included in the event were icebreaker activities, a number of guest speakers on various athletic topics, and an opportunity for

some of the members to be interviewed to promote our clubs on X and even partake in shooting a commercial to be aired at a future date on PBS.

In May, the club will conclude the year with a community service project that is yet to be determined.



2024-2025 N-O League Girls Swimming Co-Champions
(Barker members of the Roy-Hart/Barker Channel Cats, L-R): **Madelina Pavlock, Cheyann Walker, Shelby Dauphinee, Mirabelle Strong.** Not pictured - Gloria Haller.

Follow Barker Bulldogs Athletics on X: [@BarkerBulldogs](#)
Visit the Barker website for more Athletics information: www.barkerccd.net/athletics
To view the Athletes of the Week, visit www.barkerccd.net/aotw

NIAGARA PAL PREP ATHLETE AWARDS



The Male and Female Prep Athlete Award is given to a high school senior adhering to a high level of athletic achievement. The basic criteria are participation and excellence. Madilyn Detschner and Owen Harris (pictured at left) were this year's Barker honorees.

Madilyn Detschner has been a dedicated athlete at Barker High School, excelling in both field hockey and track & field. She was named 1st Team All-League in her junior and senior years and earned 2nd Team All-WNY honors as a junior, followed by an All-WNY Honorable Mention as a senior. Her leadership on the field was evident when she served as team captain in her final season and guided her team to a Class C runner-up finish as a sophomore. Beyond athletics, Madilyn has been recognized for her academic achievements, earning Scholar-Athlete honors for three consecutive years. She was also named an All-WNY Scholar-Athlete Honorable Mention in the fall. In addition to her success in field hockey, she has been a three-year captain and key thrower for the track & field team, securing a 6th place finish in the

league tournament last year. Madilyn plans to continue her field hockey career at Elmira College, where she will major in Early Childhood Education. Her dedication to both sports and academics has set her apart as a leader and role model.

Owen Harris is a multi-sport athlete, excelling in cross country, basketball, track & field, and baseball. His ability to compete at a high level across multiple sports highlights his versatility and commitment to athletic excellence. A four-year varsity cross country runner, Owen was a two-time team captain and helped lead his team to two league championships. In 2022, he was a key contributor to his team's Class D runner-up finish. He also competed for two years on the varsity basketball team, demonstrating his leadership by serving as team captain in his senior year. His contributions in both cross country and basketball were recognized with multiple All-League and Scholar-Athlete honors, as well as Coach's Awards in both sports. Owen has also been a competitor in track & field and baseball, continuing to expand his athletic repertoire. After graduation, he plans to attend trade school and pursue a career as an HVAC specialist, bringing the same dedication and work ethic to his professional future that he has shown in athletics.

Scholar-Athlete Teams:

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Roy-Hart/Barker Girls Swimming

Individual Scholar-Athlete:

- Luke Fay - Roy-Hart/Barker Wrestling

Niagara-Orleans League Sportsmanship Award:

- Roy-Hart/Barker Wrestling

Niagara-Orleans League/Genesee Region Exceptional Senior Basketball Game:

- Owen Harris
- Isaac Monaco
- Logan Murrell
- Rachel Samson



Luke Fay:
Roy-Hart/Barker Wrestling - Individual Tech Record Breaker - 10 (was 8)



Madelina Pavlock:
Niagara-Orleans League Champion - Swimming, 400 Free Relay



ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall

The ballot will contain four (4) propositions which you may vote on:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – Adopt 2025-2026 Budget

Shall the Barker Central School District Board of Education, Niagara County, New York be authorized to spend the sum of \$22,475,710 in the total amount set forth in the proposed Budget during the 2025-2026 school year and to levy the necessary tax.

- Yes
- No



PROPOSITION NO. 2 – Election of Board Members – Vote for up to Two

To elect two (2) members of the Board for a 3-year term commencing July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2028, to succeed Deanna Carnes and Jennifer Ellnor Harris whose terms expire on June 30, 2025.

- Deanna Carnes
- Jennifer Ellnor Harris
- Stephanie Mason
- Write In _____
- Write In _____



PROPOSITION NO. 3 – Adopt Library Budget

To adopt the funding for the Barker Public Library, which is raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Barker Central School District and increase the Library budget from \$90,259.00 to \$98,834.00. This is an increase of \$8,575.00.

- Yes
- No



PROPOSITION NO. 4 – Library Trustee Election - Vote for up to One

To elect one (1) Trustee to the Barker Public Library Board for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2025 and expiring June 30, 2030 to succeed Brian Carmer.

Roy Anderson
 Write In _____



QUALIFICATIONS OF A VOTER

You qualify as a voter if: you are a citizen of the United States; you have been a resident of the Barker Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the school budget vote and election held on May 20, 2025; you are at least eighteen (18) years of age; you are qualified to register for an election in accordance with Section 5-106 of the Election Law. In addition, you do not need to be a property owner to be eligible to vote.



TRI-COMPONENT BUDGET INFORMATION

For information about the budget please visit the Barker website at: www.barkerbsd.net/business

The Tri-Component contains the line by line breakout of the budget as well as the property tax report card and other information and can be found at: www.barkerbsd.net/tri-componentbudget



Student artwork (L-R): Lucas Stephan - "Marigolds", Oil Pastel. Madison Stephan - "Lilies", Blotted Ink and Watercolor: "For this artwork I wanted to show the bright beauty of the lilies coming out of a cloud of darkness. I wanted to show that there is beauty or goodness in even the darkest moments or time. The quote at the bottom, 'without rain there would be no flowers' continues this theme. To begin this artwork I started with a sketch and then used a blotted ink technique to transfer it. To finish and achieve the color I used watercolor. Jack Schwab - "Two Squirrels", Colored Pencil Drawing (after a work by Albrecht Durer).

PROPOSED 2025-2026 BARKER SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET



The 2025-2026 proposed budget reflects a continuation of programs and opportunities for students in the current 2024-2025 budget. The majority of the increased expenses are related to special education needs and debt service. Special education service expenses are supported with state aid. Debt service, including the initial payments for the ongoing \$25 million capital project, will be offset by building aid revenue.

BARKER BUDGET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY 2025-2026				
EXPENDITURES	2025-2026	2024-2025	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$ 2,585,905	\$ 2,494,298	\$ 91,607	3.67%
INSTRUCTION	\$12,278,607	\$10,651,379	\$1,627,228	15.28%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,472,126	\$ 1,440,047	\$ 32,079	2.23%
COMMUNITY SERVICE	\$ 33,600	\$ 33,600	\$ -	0.00%
UNDISTRIBUTED *	\$ 6,105,473	\$ 4,276,394	\$1,829,079	42.77%
TOTAL	\$22,475,710	\$18,895,718	\$3,579,992	18.95%

* The Capital Outlay Project of \$100,000 is consisting of renovations to the structural work to the interior and exterior of the building and campus, including but not limited to concrete, flooring, window and other work.

For additional information, see also: Tri-Component Budget at: www.barkercsd.net/tri-componentbudget

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES

General Support consists of: Board of Education, Central Administration, Finance, Staff, Certain BOCES expenses, and Special Items. This also includes Maintenance and Operation of Plant, (including all maintenance and grounds salaries, supplies and materials, and utilities), Central Printing/Mailing, and Central Data Processing.

Instruction consists of: Instructional Administration and Improvement (principal’s salary and supplies, curriculum development, research and planning, and professional development for all professional staff), Teaching Regular School (all regular school teaching salaries, supplies and materials, equipment, textbooks, and BOCES services for regular students, including Occupational Education), School Library and Audiovisual, Technology Services, Attendance, Guidance, Health Services, Community Education, Psychological Services, Extra-classroom Activities, Athletics, and Special Education (special education teacher salaries, supplies and materials, textbooks, CSE and CPSE Committee expenses, contractual costs, private schools tuition, and BOCES special education costs).



Pupil Transportation consists of: All bussing and fuel costs.

Community Services consists of: Summer Programming.

Undistributed consists of: Employer contributions to the employees’ and the teachers’ retirement systems, social security, workers’ compensation premiums, unemployment insurance, health insurance, and terminal leave payments. It also includes payments of principal and interest on school bond payments and the capital outlay project.

2025-2026 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$18,895,718	\$22,475,710	\$ 22,096,260										
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 3,579,992	\$ 3,200,542										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		18.95 %	16.94 %										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 5,157,400	\$ 5,283,993											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 90,258	\$ 98,834											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 5,247,658	\$ 5,382,827		\$ 5,157,400									
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 1,292	\$ 0											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 5,156,108	\$ 5,283,993											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 5,156,108	\$ 5,283,993											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
Administrative Component	\$ 1,964,623	\$ 2,284,152	\$ 2,071,580										
Program Component	\$ 15,378,555	\$ 16,862,525	\$ 16,855,648										
Capital Component	\$ 1,552,540	\$ 3,329,033	\$ 3,169,033										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>The Capital Outlay Project as well as equipment classified as contingent have been eliminated. Reductions have also been made in materials and supplies as well as conference attendance and association dues.</p>													
<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Description	Amount		\$		\$		\$		\$
Description	Amount												
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	\$												

***NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS:** Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
\$ 368

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-2026 by the qualified voters of the Barker School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held in the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of 12:00 pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Barker Jr/ Sr High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

MEET THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES



Deanna Weeks Carnes

My name is Deanna Weeks Carnes and I am honored to be running for my second term as a member of the board of education. During my time on the board I have had the honor to participate in our facility committee helping to shape our amazing new capital improvement project as well as the budget advisory committee. I am a lifelong resident and 2002 graduate of Barker Central School. After graduation, I attended NCCC, receiving my associate degree, then attended the University at Buffalo for my bachelor's degree and finally attaining my master's degree at Medaille College in Mental Health Counseling. After receiving my master's degree, I became a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the state of New York in 2014. Currently, I am employed as an independently contracted Licensed Mental Health Counselor at Brightside Health.

My mental health background gives me the ability to bring a unique perspective to the Barker community. The hurdles that schools, students, staff and community have faced are not lost on me, especially having two elementary aged children in the district. Having been a member of the first class to attend Barker Pre-K and my mother's many years serving as a Pre-K aide, as well as over 10 years serving as a substitute teacher and volunteer at Barker, have given me an appreciation of the wonderful foundation that our district provides to our children. As a third-generation graduate raising a fourth generation here, I hope to continue being an active participant in continuing this tradition, while continuing to help strengthen our school for the long term.

Jennifer Ellnor Harris



My name is Jennifer Ellnor Harris. I live in our Barker School District with my husband, Bill and our two children. Benjamin graduated from BCS in 2022 and Evangeline will this year. We also have our second AFS exchange student, Qiessa. We moved to Barker in 2013 to be close to family and for our children to be raised in a wonderful and caring community. I am a third generation Barker graduate (1989). This community is special to me and I want to do what I can to ensure that it will continue to be a special place.

I am an active volunteer in the school and a Girl Scout leader. My education has allowed me to work with school children for my entire career. I have been a school based Speech-Language Pathologist, an Educational Audiologist, and currently work with special needs students through BOCES. I have also served in my church leadership, Girl Scout Service Unit leadership, as well as on the BCS budget committee. I look forward to continuing in service to our youth and school community.

Student artwork (L-R): **Villette Jary** - "Bank of the Rhone at Arles, 1888", Drawing (after a work by Van Gogh). **Arianna Broadwell** - "Colorful Carrés", Painting.





Stephanie Mason

Hello, my name is Stephanie Mason, and I am proud to be a 2006 graduate of Barker Central School. I am excited to announce my candidacy for a seat on the Barker Board of Education.

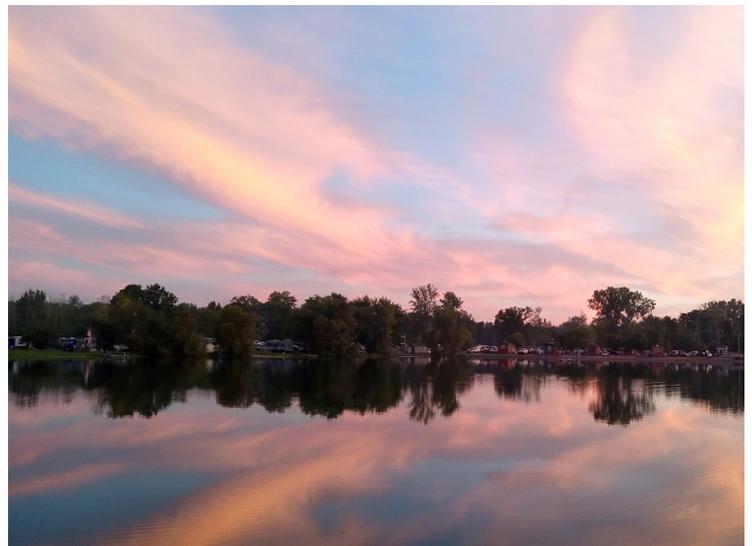
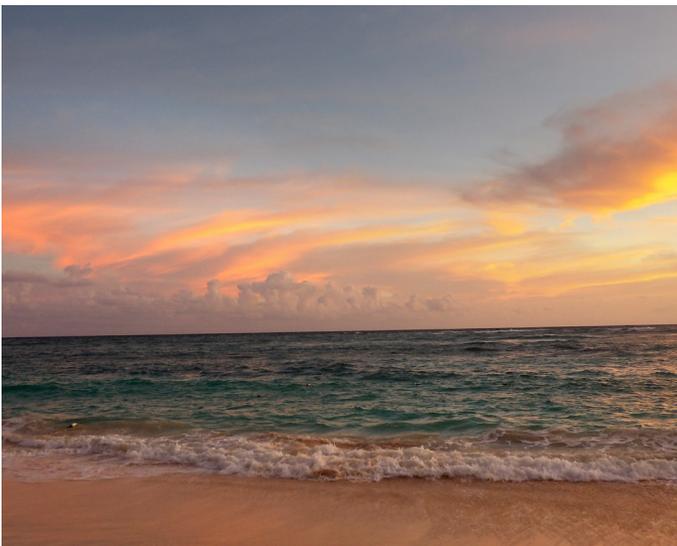
Barker has always been home for me—I was born and raised here, and I’m now raising my two children, Finleigh and Hudson, within the Barker School District. As both an alumna and a parent, I’m deeply invested in the continued success and strength of our schools.

For the past nine years, I’ve worked locally as a real estate agent with Keller Williams Realty. I also serve as the Vice President and President-Elect of the Medina Rotary Club, and I’m passionate about expanding Rotary’s mission to the Barker community, especially its focus on supporting families and education.

In addition, I’m actively involved with Hess Road Wesleyan Church, where I have the honor of leading worship and volunteering with our youth. Outside of work and church, I coach a coach-pitch team for the Somerset NY Youth Baseball/Softball League and volunteer with the Barker School PTA—activities that allow me to stay connected with our community’s children and families.

As someone who experienced the value of a Barker education firsthand—and now watches my own children growing within the same halls—I bring a unique perspective to the Board of Education. Our School District is facing new challenges, and I believe it’s vital to have leaders who are engaged, in tune with current needs and core values, and committed to preserving the excellence that Barker is known for.

When elected, I will work collaboratively with fellow board members to ensure that Barker remains a strong and supportive educational environment for all students. I would be honored to have your support.



Student artwork (L-R): Jillian Fisk - “Sunsets on the Sea”, Photography: “Over vacation I saw a beautiful sunset on the beach. I loved the beautiful colors reflecting on the water and the colors of the clouds when the sun disappeared. This picture made me feel calm and at peace which is why I was inspired to take it.” Piper Brinson - “Mirrored Sunset”, Photography: “I’ve always loved taking pictures of sunrises and sunsets but this picture is a special one. The picture was taken when I was out camping. I was passing by the pond with my friends when I saw this perfect photo opportunity and so I took the picture and immediately fell in love with it.”

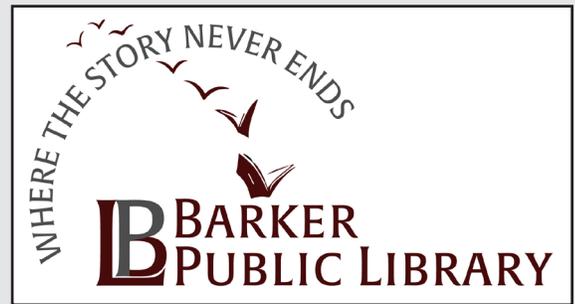
Images around campus (Clockwise from Upper Right, L-R): Elizabeth Samson and Daniel Goodwin receive hot cocoa and their honors passes from Mrs. Thibault at Hot Cocoa in Center Hall. The BCS Class of 2029 along with chaperones Mr. DerSarkissian, Mrs. Hambruch, Mrs. Monaco, and Mr. O'Sullivan, visited the Capitol while on their trip to Washington, D.C. from April 7-11. Mrs. Phillips' dance class performed at the Pratt Elementary Santa Breakfast on December 20th - Ella Gancasz, Cheyann Walker, Fallyn Mescall, Brooke Dunkelberger, Makayla King, Chloe Duchow, Olivia Voss. SRO and Somerset Police Chief Miller and Mrs. Finitz, Pratt Elementary Counselor, helped organize a Christmas gift drive for the community. Ari Shovak introduces Emilia Tyson during NED's Mindset Mission assembly which focused on Never Give Up, Encourage Others, and Do Your Best.



FROM THE SHELVES OF THE BARKER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hello from the Barker Public Library!

It happened! We are finally in our beautiful, bright new facility! We were able to move in on June 3, 2024. Lisa Thompson and her staff have been working continually to make this space the best it can be. There are so many books, DVDS, audio books, magazines and video games to borrow. Our Children's Village play area is full of books and educational toys for the younger set. There is a Nintendo Switch gaming station in our Teen Corner for those a little older. And we now have a tutoring room for anyone in need of a quiet place to work. We've created a Calming Corner to help individuals with sensory processing differences (common in autism) reduce anxiety and stress. This area is designed to help manage the senses and emotions, by incorporating calming elements like softer lighting, weighted stuffies and tactile objects. Two computer stations and WiFi are available for public use. You can work on the community puzzle or grab a complimentary coffee and read a magazine in our comfortable seating area. Our Toddler Story Hour, Book Club and Summer Reading programs continue. We've added a popular Lego Club and craft classes, technology help sessions and we are always looking to add more. Suggestions welcome! Anyone know of a chair yoga or meditation instructor? So much is going on so stop in and stay awhile. Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and our website: www.barkerpubliclibrary.com



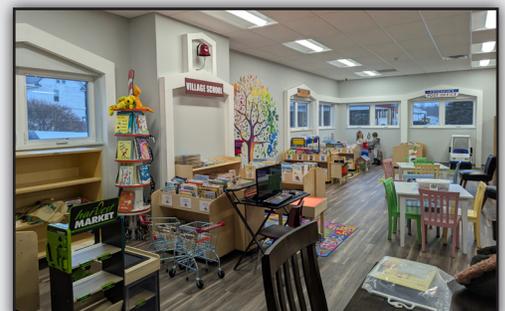
In 2014 you voted to allow us to become a School District Library and to be funded by your tax dollars. Our Library Board is a volunteer board. We dedicate our time to seeing that the funds you entrust to us provide the best services for that money. We are looking at a total budget for 2025-26 of \$120,000.00. This total provides the salaries of three employees, purchases all materials, provides programming and covers utilities, building maintenance, insurance, technical and professional services and other day to day expenses. We are asking for an increase this year of \$8,575.00. This will be shared by the taxpayers of the District and the average bill would show a \$3-\$4 total increase for the year. You can't buy a dozen eggs for that.

Looking forward, we want to provide so much more in the way of programs and events for our community. We can do this with your support. Through these joint efforts, our library is not just a place for books, but a vibrant community center where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to learn, connect and engage or just relax.

Thank you for your patience and support! Come check us out!

President - Kathie Smith
Vice President - Cynthia Harris
Secretary - Brian Carmer
Trustee - Ashley Grabowski
Trustee - Vernetta Kenyon

Director - Lisa Thompson
Sr. Clerk - Carrie Wright
Clerk - Kristin Sullivan
Sub. Clerk - Kathy Price



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1628 QUAKER ROAD
BARKER, NY 14012

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 3
MIDDLEPORT NY

POSTAL CUSTOMER
BARKER, NY 14012

Barker Central School District
1628 Quaker Road
Barker, NY 14012

Board of Education

Randall B. Atwater, President
John E. Sweeney Jr., Vice President
Deanna Carnes
Candice Gancasz
Emily Gow
Jennifer Ellnor Harris
Virginia Voss

Superintendent of Schools

Jacob L. Reimer, Ed.D.

Principal

Micaela M. Love, Ed.D.

**Coordinator of Curriculum &
Professional Learning/Assistant**

Principal

Christian Cornwell

**Directory of Instructional
Services/Assistant Principal**

Mark Learo

Business Administrator

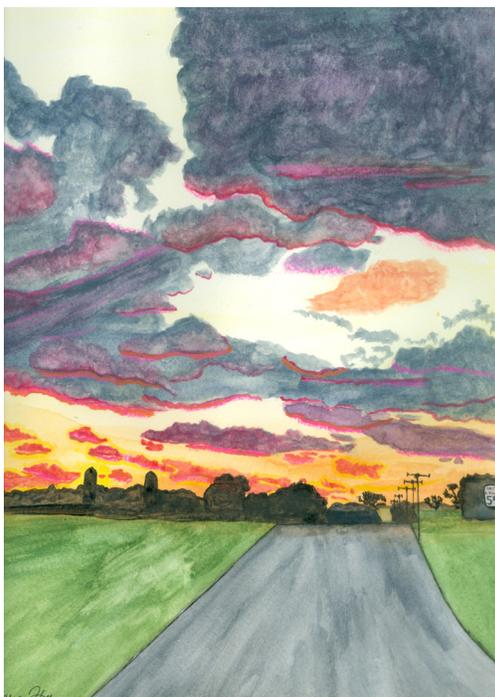
Michael Carter

District Clerk

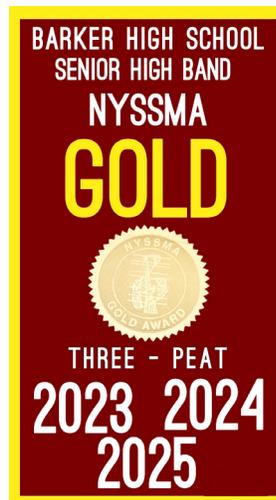
Mary Eadie

District Mission Statement:

We will provide a school environment that fosters respect, compassion, tolerance, and nurtures life-long learners who make meaningful contributions to society.



Student artwork: Gloria Haller - "Post Game Nostalgia", Watercolor Painting.



FIND IT INSIDE, FIND IT ONLINE

Turn to page 9 for an update on the Little Free Library. Read more on page 10 about the High School Band gold rating. Remember to check the Barker website calendar for all of the end of year scheduled activities and events: www.barkerbsd.net/calendar