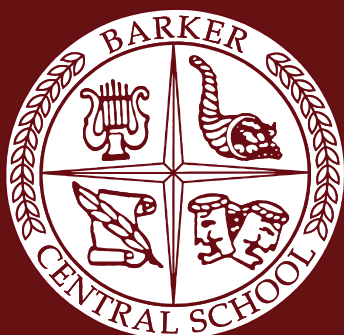


To be a leader in bringing out the best in each individual in our community.

May 2022 - Volume 37 No. 3

# The Banner



## Annual Budget Vote & Board Member Election

Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall

To view all budget information please turn to pages 8-12 of this issue or visit [www.barkercsd.net/business](http://www.barkercsd.net/business)

## Masks Off, Hats & Smiles On



(L-R): **Cody Schwab, Quincy Atwater, and Chace Atwater** celebrate *Seuss Week and Hat Day*. Read more on pages 24 & 25 about the *One School, One Book* initiative.

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

[www.barkercsd.net](http://www.barkercsd.net)

## From the Board Room

Dear BCS District Residents:

It has been great to have all of our students back to school for a full schedule of academics, sports, and extracurriculars this year. A primary focus of this year has been to identify any gaps in learning from the past two years of educational disruptions due to the pandemic. Supplemental resources, funded largely with federal stimulus money, have been implemented this year to assist with assessment and remediation designed to catch up students to the extent possible.

Your Board of Education is pleased to submit the proposed budget for the 2022-2023 school year in the pages of this Banner for your review. This budget was designed to maintain all of the programs that have been in place this year. The supplemental resources mentioned above will also be extended another year as we seek to bring all students up to speed. (The federal stimulus funds and staffing are not included as part of this budget review and vote.)



You will note that the expense budget for next year increases 3.26% over the current year, well below the recent cost of living increases we have seen. The expense budget is what we vote on every year. The tax levy is planned to increase 3.9%, but the actual property tax rate is anticipated to be slightly less than in 2020. You are likely well aware that School District revenue from the power plant has dropped dramatically from when it was in full operation. The District has applied for and has been approved for special state funding from the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund. This will help us to close the budget gap in the near term, but this funding phases out over seven years. Therefore, we still need to increase the tax levy modestly to ensure the long-term financial health of the School District. Our state aid has been increasing as NYS is finally correcting the under-funding of foundation aid to reflect the greatly reduced wealth of the District with the closing of the power plant.

At the beginning of the current school year, the school board created two new ad hoc committees to include community members to offer input to both the budget process and long-term facilities planning. The budget herein reflects the input and approval of the budget committee. The facilities committee meets every other month and plans to develop a list of building renovations and improvements for voter consideration, likely in December 2022.

Your school board and administration have been focused for years on resolving the long-term financial deficit due to the closure of the power plant and related loss of tax revenue. We have made great progress in this regard and our five-year financial model shows that our need to tap reserves to close budgets has nearly been eliminated, given what we know today. You may have noted a news report this year that the Barker School District was identified by the state as “susceptible to financial stress”. That was based on the fact that we have had to draw down reserves for nine years in a row due to the structural deficit we faced. This designation will not apply next year or likely in the foreseeable future.

The investment this school year in energy saving technology (replacing older lighting with LED fixtures, updating heating controls and equipment, and weatherstripping) will pay dividends for many years. We are already seeing a significant savings in our electricity consumption as compared to pre-COVID times.

The new solar panel installation, west of the elementary school, will be coming online soon. This will provide at least 25 years of solar power to largely offset our annual needs, saving the District about \$1.4 million over the life of the project in exchange for the use of about four acres of school property to host the project.

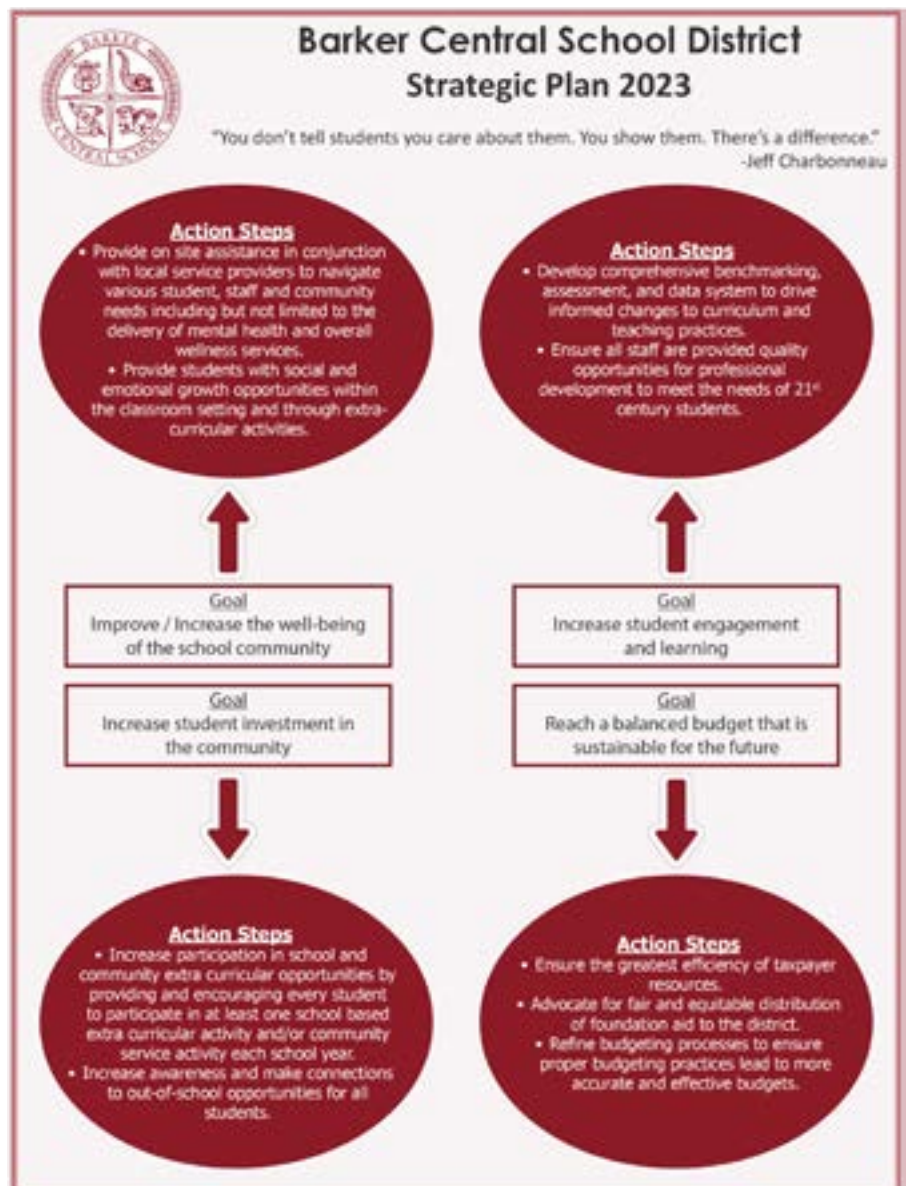
About three years ago, we adopted a strategic plan for the School District, including updated Mission, Vision and Foundational Values statements. In addition, four fundamental goals were adopted:

- Increase student engagement and learning
- Improve/increase the well-being of the school community
- Increase student investment in the community
- Reach a balanced budget that is sustainable for the future

Each goal has specific actions outlined to support it and all of this can be found on the District website. We have recently been reviewing the significant progress in all of these areas, with plans to identify any appropriate adjustments over the summer. The strategic plan is an important tool to focus our decision-making for the District.

In closing, I would like to thank again our school administration, faculty, and all staff for their dedication and flexibility in navigating the many challenges of the past 2+ years due to the pandemic. Thanks also to our families and students for working with us to adapt to the many changes required along the way. We cannot predict whether we will see any similar resurgence in the future, but if we continue to pull together, we can work through any obstacles to give our community the best learning environment possible.

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



## A Message From Your Superintendent

Dear Barker Learning Community,

It finally looks like we have turned the corner and are pretty much back to normal operations here on campus. It has been more than two years in the struggles to get to this point, but we have made it here together as best as we could. While we hope that the current state will remain and continue, we still don't know what the future entails for us here in Barker or across the state. However, no matter what, we know that we will continue to improve who we are and what we do every day, regardless of the circumstances or challenges that we may face.

This edition of *The Banner* is a little different than years past. It is a bit less heavy on the school budget, as preliminary information about the 2022-2023 budget was sent out to all taxpayers in April. However, this *Banner* is chock full of, and focuses on, the amazing things that our students and staff do every day. Ultimately, this is what our school is about – what our kids do in the classroom, on the stage, on a court, in a lab, on a field, or on a computer, is nothing short of amazing.

If you have not attended a school event in a while, I encourage you to attend some of the many activities noted here within *The Banner* or that can be found on the District website. Most of our events are open to the general public, so please come and see these for yourself. I promise that you will not be disappointed!

Lastly, I hope you take some time, even if you don't have a child or relative in our school system, to look through all of the awesome things that our kids do day in and day out. Trust me, there is some very impressive stuff here and it is only through your support that makes all of this possible for our kids.

We thank all of our community for the continued support in providing our students with the opportunities that allow each student to learn and achieve to the best of their abilities.

Sincerely,



Mr. Jacob Reimer  
Superintendent





## From the Desk of Mr. Carter



Hello Barker Families and Students,

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year, and we are pleased to announce that our activities, programs and events are fully back in effect. We wanted to take this time to remind or update families on a few specific items as we approach the busiest time of the school year.

1. Our graduation ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in our auditorium. Letters have gone out to students with information regarding tickets and other details. We plan to announce other end of year events for our seniors in the coming weeks, so please be on the lookout for further communication. If any families or students have questions, please contact the main office at 716-795-3000.

2. Our traditional End of Year Elementary Moving Up Day will also be occurring, incorporating a few additional activities for our kids we have implemented over the past years. Further information on date and time will come out soon.

3. Our Music Department has been conducting full-scale band and choral concerts here on campus. It is amazing how much students have persevered and grown despite the challenges to this type of instruction over previous school years. Please check the District website for more upcoming events. Also, thank you to everyone who came out to support both of our musicals: Little Women and Annie. Our students and faculty did amazing work with both of these productions.

4. The District is also planning a full-campus safety evacuation drill for May. Specifics about the drill are sent to families in a separate letter.

5. Our teachers have been hard at work ensuring all of our students are prepared for the end of the year. This includes Regents Exams at the high school level, as well as state and benchmark assessments at the elementary and middle levels. If you have any questions regarding academics, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for your continued support of the school. Please reach out if we are ever able to assist with anything.

Mr. Michael Carter  
District Principal

## From the Desk of Dr. Kramer

Dear Barker Community,

### Special Education

In the last issue of *The Banner*, I shared the process for the Committee on Preschool Special Education and the Committee on Special Education. In this edition, I'd like to provide information about Early Intervention (EI). Children up to 3 years of age are eligible for services through EI, based on the child's need, through their county of residence.

The research has shown us how important the infancy and toddler years are to a child's growth and development. The EI program is a statewide program that provides many different types of early intervention services to identified infants and toddlers with a developmental delay or disability and to their families. If you suspect your child might need additional help with their speech, their motor skills (moving from place to place or climbing stairs), or their cognitive understanding (skills your brain uses to think, read, learn, remember, reason, and pay attention) the first step would be to reach out to your pediatrician and consult with them. Your pediatrician can share with you the different milestones as children grow. If your child seems to be in need of EI services, please don't hesitate to call the county. The earlier intervention can be provided, the better it is for children. Children in EI are eligible to receive services year-round.

Contact Information can be found below:

Niagara County Department of Health - Early Intervention Program  
Trott Access Center 1001 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Niagara Falls, New York 14301  
Referral Number: 716-278-1691 (or 716-278-8180 if unable to get through)  
Fax: 716-278-8288

Orleans County Department of Health - Early Intervention Program  
14016 Route 31 West  
Suite 101  
Albion, NY 14411  
Main Phone: 585-589-2762  
Fax 585-589-3169

### Instruction

As we move closer to the end of the school year, I reflect back on everything we've done this past year. First, and most importantly, it was exciting to see all students back in the building for 5 days per week. Some of our students were more excited than they've ever been to return to school! In our Elementary School, we are seeing students make huge gains in literacy and numeracy. In the Jr.-Sr. High School students are moving forward with their academic careers and are one step closer to graduation. The June Regents exams signal another return to pre-pandemic "normal".

Despite the pandemic, the District has moved forward with several programs and updates. A Technology Committee met to update the District Technology Plan. This was submitted to the New York State Education Department in February and we are awaiting feedback from them. The Instructional Cabinet continues to



work on the Comprehensive District Education Plan, which is focused on the Board of Education's goals. The Resource Review Committee has spent the year meeting to look at different resource options for Elementary Literacy and Math. Changes to the resources we use and instruction will move forward starting during the 2022-2023 school year. We continue to use FastBridge as a screening and benchmark assessment for K-12 students in Math and Reading. This benchmark data helps us shape instruction and guides us on curricular changes and updates. As we move into the summer, we will continue to work hard to provide your child(ren) with the best education possible.

Enjoy the rest of the school year and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions,

Dr. Mariah Fiona Kramer  
Director of Instructional Services

## Barker Central School Kitchen Sees Overhaul

This year the kitchen in the Jr.-Sr. High School is seeing an overhaul. Through a series of grants, including the National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant, the District was able to purchase two new combination ovens, a new convection oven, a new countertop refrigerator, two mobile warming carts, and a new serving line. These new purchases will replace equipment that is at least 40 years old and will allow us to cook food faster and continue to follow the Department of Health food safety guidelines. The first combination oven was delivered and installed on April 1<sup>st</sup> and the new serving line was installed the week of April break. The other two ovens are scheduled to arrive in early summer. As you can see from the photo above, Mrs. Fuerch is pretty excited about the upgrades.



## SRO Corner

Happy Spring Barker School and Community.

With the coming of warmer weather, your School Resource Officers (SROs) would like to remind students and parents about a few things:

1. As a reminder, it is not allowable to drive any type of vehicle on school grounds unless it is in a designated area. School SROs / Somerset Police will be monitoring this.
2. Let's all practice safe driving. Please refrain from texting, cell phone talking, eating or other driving distractions. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association shows teens 16-19 years of age are involved in 10% of distracted driving fatalities.
3. Let's all help to keep our school and community safe. This is the main goal of the SROs. If you hear something say something. If you see something say something.

Barker School SRO John Yotter  
Somerset Town Police Department



# Annual Budget Vote

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**

**12:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall**

There are three (3) propositions that you may vote on this year at the annual meeting of qualified voters to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM prevailing time in the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall (auditorium) of the District.

## **Proposition #1 - Budget**

Shall the Barker Central School District Board of Education, Niagara County, New York be authorized to spend the sum of \$17,817,534 in the total amount set forth in the proposed Budget during the 2022-2023 school year and to levy the necessary tax.

## **Proposition #2 - Barker Central School District Board Members**

To elect two (2) members of the Board for a 3-year term commencing July 1, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2025, to succeed Mary Jo Clemens-Harris and Heather Ecker whose terms expire on June 30, 2022.

Candidates are listed in order they will appear on the ballot: Richard Weller, Jennifer Ellnor Harris, Deanna Weeks Carnes, Charles Stodolka.

You may review their bios on pages 10 and 11.

You may vote for two individuals.

## **Proposition #3 - Public Library**

Shall 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 be increased from \$79,590 to \$81,182. This is an increase of \$1,592.

## **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 17, 2022; 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.



## Detailed Explanation of Expenditure Categories



### General Support consists of:

Board of Education, Central Administration, Finance, Staff, 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, 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.

### Community Services consists of:

Summer School and Adult Education.

### 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.

<b>BARKER BUDGET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY 2022-2023</b>				
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>\$ CHANGE</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
GENERAL SUPPORT	2,086,994	2,050,087	36,907	1.80%
INSTRUCTION	10,080,126	9,697,114	383,012	3.95%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	1,430,277	1,466,665	-36,388	-2.48%
COMMUNITY SERVICE	33,600	33,600	0	0.00%
UNDISTRIBUTED	4,186,537	4,007,246	179,291	4.47%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,817,534</b>	<b>17,254,712</b>	<b>562,822</b>	<b>3.26%</b>

The Capital Outlay Project of \$100,000 is consisting of door, security, communication, and entry enhancements at the Central School Building.

<b>BARKER BUDGET REVENUE SUMMARY 2022-2023</b>				
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>\$ CHANGE</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
STATE AID	10,490,920	9,466,700	1,024,220	10.82%
TAX LEVY	4,953,914	4,767,964	185,950	3.90%
OTHER PROPERTY TAX ITEMS	2,003,786	2,630,696	-626,910	-23.83%
PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)	36,449	35,852	597	1.67%
OTHER	228,600	328,500	-99,900	-30.41%
FUND BALANCE	103,865	25,000	78,865	315.46%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>17,817,534</b>	<b>17,254,712</b>	<b>562,822</b>	<b>3.26%</b>

## Candidates for Board of Education

The Barker Board of Education has two vacant seats for the 2022-2023 school board election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The candidates that returned petitions are listed here in the order they will appear on the ballot.



### **Richard Weller**

My name is Richard Weller and I have lived in the Barker Central School District since 1980.

I am married and have three children. My wife, Jamie Weller, and I have been married for 27 years. We are Barker Central high school sweethearts. We have 3 children together, Grayce is 22, Jacob is 20 and Addisyn is 11. Jamie and I are both graduates of BCS along with Grayce and Jacob. Our youngest Addy is in 6th grade.

I am running for the board because I am passionate about helping the students receive an excellent education at BCS. As a graduate, father of 2 graduates and another still attending, I feel it is my duty as a lifelong citizen to give back to the school and community. With so many changes happening, it is highly important to make sure our children are getting the education they need to thrive in today's society. As a spouse to a teacher in the District I see the obstacles teachers are faced with daily in today's society. Teachers are the folks shaping our future leaders and by being able to help them succeed is an important aspect for serving on the board of education. I believe more engagement from board members is very important and helps aid in making decisions that will affect all staff, students and community members.

As the WNY Construction Manager for Spectrum Cable, I have expanded knowledge of overseeing a large team handling large scale projects with a substantial budget. I feel my expertise will help aid in the decision making of budget items, staffing and distribution of funds throughout the District. I feel it is highly important that the community is well informed on the decisions being made that will affect their taxes and their children's education that can last a lifetime.

### **Jennifer Ellnor Harris**

My name is Jennifer Ellnor Harris. I am running for the Board of Education for the first time. I live in our School District with my husband, Bill and our two children. Genevieve and Evangeline are both high school students.

My family 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.

### **Deanna Weeks Carnes**



My name is Deanna Weeks Carnes and I am honored to be running for the board of education. 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 adjunct instructor in psychology at both Niagara County Community College and Daemen University. My mental health background gives me the ability to bring a unique perspective back to the Barker community. The hurdles that schools, students, and staff have faced during the COVID pandemic are not lost on me, especially having two elementary aged children in the District. I understand first-hand the need to return to normalcy.

Both my family and my husband's family operate businesses in the community, and I am cognizant of the challenges that accompany both business owners and residents in difficult economic times.

Having been a member of the first class to attend Barker PreK and my mother's many years serving as a PreK aide, as well as over 10 years serving as a substitute teacher 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 be an active participant in continuing this tradition, while helping to strengthen our school for the long term.

### **Charles Stodolka**

My name is Charles Stodolka and I have resided with my wife Madonna since 1973, on a family farm in the District. All 9 of our children attended K-12 at Barker Central School. Four of them are now teachers in area schools.

I am a graduate of SUNY Buffalo with a BS in Chemical engineering and an MBA. After a career in the corporate world, my interest in education led me to substitute teach in Barker, Roy Hart, Newfane, Lew Port, and Niagara Falls City School District. I liked education so much after an internship at Niagara Falls CSD business office, I returned to school and received an MS in education from Niagara University with a major in school business administration.

The District has had a lot of financial stress with the closure of small businesses and the power plant. I want to help the parents, teachers, administration and board of education stabilize the budget for the long term, and preserve the School District for its children.

While the supporting groups and budget, enable operations of the school, the focus on student performance is essential to preparing our children for the challenges of their future lives. The pandemic took its toll on everyone including our kids. Ensuring state and federal pandemic resources maximize student achievement will be an important administration and BOE focus in the coming year. I would like to serve the children and their parents by working with the school board and administrative team in that process.

## School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 17,254,712	\$17,817,534	\$ 17,587,384
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 562,822	\$ 332,672
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.26 %	1.93 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 4,767,964	\$ 4,953,914	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 79,590	\$ 81,182	
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)	\$ 4,847,554	\$ 5,035,096	\$ 4,847,554
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 4,771,988	\$ 5,004,625	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 4,767,964	\$ 4,953,914	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 4,024	\$ 50,711	
Administrative Component	\$ 1,594,948	\$ 1,638,867	\$ 1,604,167
Program Component	\$ 14,120,474	\$ 14,391,016	\$ 14,350,566
Capital Component	\$ 1,539,290	\$ 1,787,651	\$ 1,632,651
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
The Capital Outlay project as well as equipment classified as contingent has been eliminated. Reductions made in material and supplies as well as conference attendance and association dues.			

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

Under the Budget Proposed  
for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$ 412.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 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 17, 2022, 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.



## Martell Secures Chemistry Grant

Mrs. Loriann Martell, chemistry teacher, recently received a grant provided by the American Chemistry Society, in the amount of \$2,550, and another \$500 donation from VanDeMark Chemical. Mrs. Martell, along with Andy Poss, a member of the American Chemical Society and the Barker community worked together as part of the ACS mentor/outreach program to develop new labs to utilize the grant money. They were tasked with finding chemical and kid appropriate high school labs that would help to promote chemical education. New equipment was purchased to replace old equipment that would help better prepare students for college level chemistry upon entrance. The grant and donation money is also being used to help fill in gaps caused by COVID. Some of the equipment purchased included: distillation apparatus, two heating units, hot plates, general chemical equipment, and chemicals to be used with the new equipment.

The BCS Board of Education had to approve all donations. Mrs. Martell would like to extend her gratitude to Mr. Poss, the American Chemical Society, and VanDeMark Chemical for all of their assistance and support of chemical education at Barker Central School.

*(Top-bottom & L-R): Allison Hotaling, Madison Miller, Alexis Weeks, Aidan Voss, Nathan Meza Ray, Jaret Black with new equipment.*



## Class Constructs Rowing Machine

Students in Mr. Mallon's Principles of Engineering class spent much of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter designing an exercise machine. Using only materials that were already on hand in the technology rooms they were tasked with designing and building a working rowing machine. Working through the engineering design process students first listed their assets, namely 10 pound weight plates from an old universal exercise machine, perforated angle iron, a seat from an old lawn tractor, and miscellaneous bits of metal and hardware. They then sketched out possible ideas, analyzed and measured existing exercise equipment, and plotted out their course of action.

Identifying and addressing the many elements of the project was arguably the most challenging part. Covering a large white board with lists of things that needed to be done, they set about deciding what order to do them and who would do what. Certain parts of the machine needed to be cleaned up and refinished (the seat and seat frame) while others had to be manufactured from scratch using the metal lathe and milling machine (weight adjustment bar). Putting it all together and making it work for people of different heights was the final part of the design challenge.

Working a problem, from idea through the entire engineering design process, to completed machine, is quite an accomplishment. The students had to make critical decisions and act on them every day. They had to work together as a team to complete the project on time. It was a real world engineering exercise.



*(L-R): James Mason, Cameron Hefferon, Camren Szafranski.*



## Little Free Library Grand Opening

EClub members are currently planning the grand opening of a Little Free Library for the school and community. A Little Free Library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book, or share a book. The Little Free Library grand opening will be Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:00 PM. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and some fun activities for all. The planned location and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Little Free Library is near the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall parking lot, between the bus loop and the entrance to the Quaker Road parking lot. If you would like more information or to make a donation to this outreach effort please contact advisor, Ms. Krista Beth Feltz at: [kfeltz@barkercsd.net](mailto:kfeltz@barkercsd.net).

## Jr. High & Sr. High Student Councils Sponsor Theme Events

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, the Jr. High Student Council hosted an Olympic Day that was open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The two grades were mixed together and split into teams for activities including scooter races, a basketball shootout, crab soccer, and more.

In March, the group got involved with grades 1-3 to encourage them to build some Leprechaun traps at home. No Leprechaun's were caught, but chocolate was left behind.

Just before spring break the Council was able to, once again, hold their annual Easter Egg hunt for the PreK and Kindergarten classes.

Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> the Jr.-Sr. High School participated in a Spring Spirit Week that was sponsored by the Sr. High Student Council. Special theme days for the week included:

- Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, Pajama Day: Get cozy by wearing your favorite PJs.
- Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dress Like a Teacher Day: Bust out your bald cap, wind jacket, and whistle.
- Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wear Pink Day: Wear your favorite pink attire.
- Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, Country vs. Country Club Day: Wear flannel or fancy clothes.
- Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, Anything But a Backpack Day: Bring in your funniest, craziest school appropriate container to carry all your stuff.



(L-R): **Samson Lewis** is "eggcited" to show off his matching Easter Egg Hunt findings. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders participate in Olympic Day activities.

Also, on Friday there was a matching game that had students identify old teacher photos and match them with the new 2021-2022 pictures.



## Moen Wins Black History Month Essay Contest

Pratt Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grader, Aiden Moen was selected as a winner in the Tops Friendly Markets Black History Month Essay Contest. The contest was open to students in grades 3-5 and required an entry consisting of a paragraph or more describing someone the student looks up to. Entry deadline was February 18<sup>th</sup>. As part of his winning entry Aiden won a \$50 Tops gift card, and the school also was awarded \$100 toward it's Tops in Education program. To learn more about the contest that Aiden participated in, visit the Tops Friendly Markets Black History Month web page at: <https://www.topsmarkets.com/BlackHistoryMonth>

Tops Public and Media Relations Manager, Kathy Sautter, congratulated the School District for encouraging Pratt Elementary students to participate in opportunities that help them continue to be expressive, to learn, and to grow and thanked the District for participating in the contest.

On Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> Manager Scott Fumanti from Tops in Newfane visited Pratt Elementary to present Aiden his prize and Mr. Carter the award for the School.



(L-R): Mr. Carter, Aiden Moen, Mr. Scott Fumanti, Tops Friendly Markets Newfane Manager.

## Annual Pi Day Contest Winners Recognized for Math Skills

Congratulations to the 24 semi-finalists in the Pi Memorizing Contest: Petra Bish, Ireland Brady, Julia Cimato, Alexander DerSarkissian, Emma Evans, Jillian Fisk, Ryan Fisk, Kaitlyn Goodwin, Julia Kalynycz, Cameron Kiner, Kaya Lloyd, Catherine Mallon, Riley Marciszewski, Nathan Meza Ray, Madison Miller, Lilly Monthony, Jake Munn, Melodi Murphy, Elizabeth Samson, Abby Socie, Kaylee Stoll, Rachel Sutter, Anthony Taliaferro, and Alexis Weeks. They each won a mini pie. Ryan Fisk was the overall winner (of a Pi Day shirt) and was followed by Kaitlyn Goodwin in 2<sup>nd</sup>, Melodi Murphy in 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nathan Meza Ray in 4<sup>th</sup>, and Cameron Kiner in 5<sup>th</sup>. The top 5 also won \$3.14 on their lunch account. Kaitlyn Goodwin memorized 240 digits of pi and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the round robin format.

The 4 students who found Pythagoras were Andreas Nestoros, Gabriel Nestoros, Mason Allee-Castro and Dominic Cimato. They also each won a mini pie.

(L-R): Ryan Fisk, Kaitlyn Goodwin, Melodi Murphy, Nathan Meza Ray, Cameron Kiner.



## EClub Goes to an Escape Room

Recently students in EClub went to *Into the Enigma*, an escape room located in Medina. EClub president Alexzander Detschner said, "The escape room was fun. It had a cool story line." Members successfully worked as a team to problem solve clues to make their way out of the room. Evelyn Bish thought that the escape room "was a great communication and team building activity." Meghan Mallon said, "I liked being able to solve an escape room with my friends. I thought the story line was really fun and I would definitely do it again."

Everyone also had an opportunity to have lunch together at Avanti Pizza and visit some shops on Main Street. Alyssa Thompson said, "Lunch was amazing. The walking around before and after really brought the day together. I had so much fun." Madilyn Detschner added "I loved the rest of the trip as well. The meal was good, the books looked really cool and the chocolate was great." Elizabeth Hopkins summed up the day saying, "It was a really fun experience and a wonderful time." "Avanti Pizza was delicious and it was fun to sit together and talk about the day. We went to the bookstore, flower shop, and pharmacy which were all very cute stores and very enjoyable to walk through. I never knew there were so many cute shops there and I am excited to go again. The chocolate store smelled really good and there were a lot of options," said Evelyn Bish.



(Top-bottom & L-R): Catherine Mallon, Genevieve Harris, Meghan Mallon, Madilyn Detschner, Alexzander Detschner, Ms. Feltz, and Sahara Holland at *Into the Enigma*. Elizabeth Hopkins, Evelyn Bish, Cloey Sanders, and Alyssa Thompson share some words to live by.

## 3 Cast Members from *Little Women* Secure Award Nominations

Shelby Dauphinee, Elizabeth Hopkins, and Paris Moffitt have all been nominated for an individual Kenny Award for their role in *Little Women*. More information is available on the [BCS homepage](#) under Headlines & Features.

*The Cast (L-R):* Sahara Holland, Gloria Haller, Alexis Dauphinee, Shelby Dauphinee, Kaitlyn Goodwin, Cameron Kiner, Genevieve Harris, Andon Wedekind, Elizabeth Hopkins, Paris Moffitt, and Connor Dwyer.

*The Stage Crew (Lighting):* Adler Detschner, Summer Duchow, Evangeline Harris, Catherine Mallon, and Meghan Mallon.

*Pit Orchestra:* Natalie Brandel, Alexander DerSarkissian, Matthew Goodwin, Emily Oliveira, Lillia Peace, and Caleb Pierce.





## Annie Kids

Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Pratt Elementary School students, in grades 3-6, returned to the stage with the production of *Annie Kids*. It marked the first time since 2019 that an elementary musical was performed.

Members of the cast and crew, under the direction of Ms. Andrea Nobles and Mrs. Aileen Gilbert, are listed below:

- Adeline Atwater (6<sup>th</sup>): Pepper (Main Orphan)
- Lexi Brazzell (6<sup>th</sup>): Apple Seller, Servant, NYer
- Charlotte Gow (6<sup>th</sup>): Drake, Servant, NYer
- Billy Jaques (6<sup>th</sup>): Bundles, NYer
- Milayna May (6<sup>th</sup>): Ms. Hannigan
- Elise Monaco (6<sup>th</sup>): Annie
- Jayde Moss (6<sup>th</sup>): Orphan, Ensemble
- Brionikah Mussell (6<sup>th</sup>): Orphan
- Lucas Nestoros (6<sup>th</sup>): Stage Crew
- Matthew Parris (6<sup>th</sup>): Stage Crew
- Sophia Pavlock (6<sup>th</sup>): Lily St. Regis
- Areanna Reinard (6<sup>th</sup>): Star, NYer
- Alina Riches (6<sup>th</sup>): Usherette, NYer
- Kenzie Rose (6<sup>th</sup>): Lt. Ward
- Arnie Sturtevant (6<sup>th</sup>): July (Main Orphan)
- Olivia Voss (6<sup>th</sup>): Grace Farrell
- Xyon Weese (6<sup>th</sup>): Stage Crew
- Addisyn Weller (6<sup>th</sup>): Duffy (Main Orphan)
- Aine Davis (5<sup>th</sup>): Tessie (Main Orphan)
- Robert Dietrich (5<sup>th</sup>): NYer
- Delaney Lefever (5<sup>th</sup>): Servant, NYer
- Savannah Kelsey (5<sup>th</sup>): Orphan
- Stephen Lee (5<sup>th</sup>): NYer
- Eian Phillips (5<sup>th</sup>): FDR, NYer
- Noralie Pierce (5<sup>th</sup>): Orphan
- Diarra Taliaferro (5<sup>th</sup>): NYer
- Zoey Quiett (5<sup>th</sup>): Star, NYer
- Chace Atwater (4<sup>th</sup>): Oliver Warbucks
- Aidan Brandel (4<sup>th</sup>): Stage Crew
- Isabella Bowerman (4<sup>th</sup>): Kate (Main Orphan)
- Carson Costello (4<sup>th</sup>): Rooster Hannigan
- Lily Ecker (4<sup>th</sup>): Servant, NYer
- Lilah Kelemen (4<sup>th</sup>): NYer
- Isabella Marvin (4<sup>th</sup>): NYer
- Aiden Moen (4<sup>th</sup>): Bert Healy, NYer
- Ayla Riches (4<sup>th</sup>): Orphan
- Jayden Rinker-Lewis (4<sup>th</sup>): NYer
- Tierza Rose (4<sup>th</sup>): Orphan
- Courtney Smith (4<sup>th</sup>): Orphan
- Adalyn Snell (4<sup>th</sup>): Molly (Main Orphan)
- Kasey Thering (4<sup>th</sup>): Orphan
- Ariane Watts (4<sup>th</sup>): Sandy, Orphan
- Lydia Atwater (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Addyson Buyea (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Oliver Dergel (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Emilia Farina (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Elanor Gow (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Brayden Gregory (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Makenzie Hill (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Shawnalee Hill (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Dominic Holm (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Hannah Monaco (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Tessa Seward (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Cerenity Street (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble
- Kalyynn Sturtevant (3<sup>rd</sup>): Ensemble

A special thank you to Mrs. Christine Donovan, Miss Chloe Goodlander, Mrs. Erin Goodlander, Ms. Cheryl Johnson, Miss Ruth Scofill, Mrs. Sara Thibault and the many other volunteers who assisted in various capacity to make the show a huge success.



(Top-bottom and L-R):  
**Elise Monaco (Annie) & Chace Atwater (Oliver Warbucks).** **Carson Costello (Rooster Hannigan), Sophia Pavlock (Lily St. Regis), Charlotte Gow (Drake), Olivia Voss (Grace Farrell).** **Milayna May as Ms. Hannigan.**



## Students Receive All-County Recognition

On Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> all Barker bands hosted a Band Spectrum Concert in the High School gym which included all 5 bands from Elementary through the Sr. High School. Guests were treated to music played by the Primary Band, Intermediate Band, Jr. High Band, Sr. High Band, and the Jazz Ensemble. A week later on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> the auditorium was filled for the Choral Spectrum Concert, as all of three of the District's choral groups, Elementary (grades 3-5), Jr. High (grades 6-8), and Sr. High (grades 9-12), performed.

Meghan Mallon (9<sup>th</sup>), Tenor Saxophone, Level IV, was mistakenly left off the All-County Solo Festival list published on page 13 in the December 2021 Banner. She is pictured below.

The following students have received All-County and Area All-State recognition:

### Jr. High Area All-State Jazz Band:

- Michael Kalynycz (9<sup>th</sup>), Drum Set

### High School All-County Band:

- Kaitlyn Goodwin (12<sup>th</sup>), Clarinet
- Matthew Goodwin (10<sup>th</sup>), Baritone

### Jr. High All-County Band:

- Ryan Fisk (9<sup>th</sup>), Snare Drum
- Michael Kalynycz (9<sup>th</sup>), Drum Set
- Riley Marciszewski (7<sup>th</sup>), French Horn
- Caleb Pierce (9<sup>th</sup>), Tuba

### Elementary All-County Band:

- Adeline Atwater (6<sup>th</sup>), Trumpet
- Charlotte Gow (6<sup>th</sup>), Flute
- Karl Hill (6<sup>th</sup>), Alto Saxophone
- Elise Monaco (6<sup>th</sup>), Trumpet
- Zoey Quiett (5<sup>th</sup>), Alto Saxophone
- Mirabelle Strong (6<sup>th</sup>), Clarinet
- Fiona Wass (6<sup>th</sup>), Trumpet
- Addisyn Weller (6<sup>th</sup>), Clarinet

### Jr. High Area All-State Chorus:

- Alexis Dauphinee (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Shelby Dauphinee (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Connor Dwyer (9<sup>th</sup>)
- James Giarla (8<sup>th</sup>)
- Gloria Haller (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Caleb Pierce (9<sup>th</sup>)
- David Westcott (9<sup>th</sup>)

### Sr. High All-County Chorus:

- Paris Moffitt (12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Lilly Monthony (12<sup>th</sup>)
- (Event was canceled due to weather)

### Jr. High All-County Chorus:

- Chloe Crafts (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Alexis Dauphinee (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Shelby Dauphinee (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Connor Dwyer (9<sup>th</sup>)
- James Giarla (8<sup>th</sup>)
- Sahara Holland (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Julia Kalynycz (8<sup>th</sup>)
- Caleb Pierce (9<sup>th</sup>)

### Elementary All-County Chorus:

- Adeline Atwater (6<sup>th</sup>)
- Elise Monaco (6<sup>th</sup>)
- Sophia Pavlock (6<sup>th</sup>)



(L-R): Meghan Mallon. Matthew Goodwin & Kaitlyn Goodwin.

Students participating in **Vocal Music Solo Festival** this spring are listed below:

- Alexis Dauphinee (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Shelby Dauphinee (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Connor Dwyer (9<sup>th</sup>)
- James Giarla (8<sup>th</sup>)
- Gloria Haller (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Sahara Holland (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Brionikah Mussell (6<sup>th</sup>)
- Aleena Parfinski (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Areanna Reinard (6<sup>th</sup>)



(L-R): Caleb Pierce, Ryan Fisk, Michael Kalynycz, Riley Marciszewski.

#### **Upcoming Music Department Events:**

- Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>: Jr. High Area All-State Chorus
- Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sr. High Band, Jr. High Band, Jr. High Chorus, and Sr. High Chorus performing at Darien Lake Music Festival
- Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>: Solo Festival at West Seneca for all music groups
- Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>: Sr. High Band, Jr. High Band, and Jazz Band Outdoor Concert at BCS
- Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>: Primary and Intermediate Bands Outdoor Concert at BCS
- Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>: Primary and Intermediate Bands performing at Seabreeze Park Music Festival
- Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>: Elementary & Jr. High Chorus Concert in BCS Auditorium

Updated lists of recognition and additional spring solo festival information will be posted on the BCS website. Look for new information later this spring on the [homepage](#) and under the [Music Department site](#).

## Monaco Wins Poster Contest

For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. Barker Lions Club participates in this International Competition. To determine the local winner, the entries are put on display at a regular meeting. The members present vote by secret ballot to select the entry to move on to the District 20N competition. From there, the winning entry moves to the MD20 New York State and Bermuda competition, and finally onto the International competition. At the International level, the student receives a college scholarship. Also, he or she is a guest at the Lions International Convention and has their entry made into a lapel pin.



(L-R): Mr. Mallon, Elise Monaco, Mrs. Phillips.

This year, 6th grade student, Elise Monaco, was selected as the local winner. Mr. Tom Mallon, Barker Lions Club member, presented Elise with an art kit for her winning entry. The Lions appreciate all the entries and look forward to next year's Peace Poster Contest.

## Thompson Awarded Best Of Show

Nine high school art students in both Ms. Feltz's high school Portfolio class and Photography Club have their photography on exhibit at the Kenan Center House Gallery in Lockport for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Storrs All High Photo Show. Artists who participated included: Evelyn Bish, Angelina Broecker, Sarina Drake, Abigail Heidemann, Emma McGrath, Catherine Mallon, Emily Oliveira, Trinity Parfinski, and Alyssa Thompson. Three of the photographers received awards:

- Alyssa Thompson was awarded Best of Show for her photographic work *The Magic Library* (pictured on page 21).
- Evelyn Bish received Best Waterscape with her *Sunset Seekers* (pictured on page 21).
- Emily Oliveira received the merit award for her *The Staircase of Work* (was featured on page 12 of the December 2021 issue of *The Banner*).

Alyssa said, "My favorite part was having my work on display for other people to see." Evelyn stated "I was proud to get an award and I had a good time looking at all the photos in the show. I was glad to have my family there to support me and it was really fun to be able to see everything with them." Angelina Broecker also attended the opening of the show and said "I thought it was very nice and felt great to have a photo featured in the show. It made me feel very accomplished and proud."

## Portfolio Class Artwork in Show At UB

Four students from Ms. Feltz's high school Portfolio class had their artwork on display at the University at Buffalo in the 2022 Western New York Regional High School Art Exhibition. All four students listed below had their artwork featured on page 12 of the December 2021 issue of *The Banner*:

- Evelyn Bish for her watercolor *A New Perspective*.
- Angelina Broecker for her acrylic painting *Chérie*.
- Emma McGrath for her oil pastel *The Last of the Honey Bees*.
- Emily Oliveira for her mixed medium *The Staircase of Work*.

## Upcoming Art Events

The following are upcoming dates for shows featuring Barker High School student artwork. All are cordially invited to attend the shows and show their support for our student artists.

- Villa Maria College 28<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Juried Photography Exhibition will be virtual this year and viewable online through their website in May: <https://www.villa.edu/>
- Barker High School Student Art Show. Artwork will be on display Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> with a cookie and punch reception from 5:00-7:00 PM.
- Niagara Police Athletic League Art, Music and Theater Art Gala on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Lewiston-Porter High School.
- Western New York Federation of Women's Club 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Helen P. Kelley Memorial Art Show on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in Holland, New York.
- Barker High School Portfolio Class Art Show Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Jr.-Sr. High School Honors and Awards Night.



(Clockwise from upper right): **Emily Oliveira** - Logo, **Trinity Parfinski** - Toucan, **Angelina Broecker** - Frosted Petals, **Evelyn Bish** - Sunset Seekers, **Alyssa Thompson** - The Magic Library.



## Pratt Elementary School Store

The elementary school store, also known as The School Shop Deluxe, opened for business on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Fourth grade students run the store under the direction of Mrs. Jamie Weller. Students keep track of inventory with a tally sheet and use a cash register for sales. Student groups working the store change each week. Some school supply items for sale in the store include pencil grips and toppers, glue sticks, highlighters, erasers, and folders. In addition, shoppers will find key chains, stampers, and a variety of novelty items that may be purchased. Hours for the store are Tuesday-Friday from 7:50-8:15 AM. Anyone interested in purchasing a school store certificate may contact Mrs. Weller via email: [jweller@barkerksd.net](mailto:jweller@barkerksd.net).

(Top-bottom and L-R): **George Schaner, Gabriella Smaczniak, Elyza Wedekind, and Ashton Botting** shop at the school store. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who operate the school store: Row 1: **Madelene Carpenter, Carson Costello, Ariane Watts, Jordan Spearin.** Row 2: **Parker Johnson, Aidan Brandel, Krystal Marciszewski, Isabella Bowerman.** Row 3: **Hunter Green, Erinn Lanighan, Malik Wearen, Adalyn Snell.** Row 4: **Logan Kropp, Jackson Dunkelberger, Aiden Moen, Lily Ecker, Kasey Thering.** Row 5: **Trenton Tillinghast, Jesus Garcia, Courtney Smith, Ayla Riches, Isabella Marvin, Lilah Kelemen, Mrs. Weller.**



## 6th Grade Academic March Madness

Throughout the month of March, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a March Madness contest in their ELA and Math classes. Using the IXL website, students competed against themselves each week to improve their overall score in each subject. Students that were successful each week had their names entered in a drawing for a basketball. The basketballs were graciously donated by Mrs. Lorie Niethe. Lucky winners whose names were drawn were: Alina Riches, Chase Walker, Lincoln Wedekind (pictured to the left - was the first winner), and Addisyn Weller.



## After 18 Years, Pratt Elementary Garden Receives Makeover

Do you remember back to the spring of 2003 when a small garden had been set up in the courtyard space between the kindergarten and intermediate wings of Pratt Elementary? That's when several 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade members of the garden club last painted the fence that posed as a backdrop. Those "children" have since grown up and moved well into their adult lives, meaning the garden fence has weathered many years and so it was determined that it is time for a garden makeover.

The transformation process began last year with a major clean up and addition of raised beds and soil to the existing space. Several staff and students donated time and numerous resources to complete this first phase and create a magnificent growing space for vegetables and herbs.

We are now at the next phase of the makeover - to give the garden fence a new look. In collaboration with Mrs. Phillips' art students, a design contest was held in which the students submitted their ideas on a blank garden fence. Then, a preliminary vote was taken by select individuals to locate the top 12 creations out of the entire collection of submissions from students in grades 2-8. The finalists' designs were displayed for a District-wide vote, and the data was tracked by 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in a tally table. After the tallies were counted, the results were converted to a bar graph to display.

Although there can be only one winner, all of the finalists are to be commended for a job well done. The top two designs were within 5 votes of each other. With the help of Mr. Mallon and his tech students, the fence will be cleaned and prepped this spring, and in the fall it will receive a new paint job from Mrs. Phillips' art students.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this endeavor over the years. It is a community garden, so please stop by anytime over the summer to harvest and enjoy the vegetables and herbs that are ripe for the picking. For more images from this project please visit the District Photo Gallery web page:

[www.barkercsd.net/photogallery](http://www.barkercsd.net/photogallery)



**Noralie Pierce** displays her winning design.



**(L-R): The 12 finalists hold their design: Lilah Kelemen, Tierza Rose, Summer Pratz, Fiona Dalton, Cheyann Walker, Riley Marciszewski, Mr. Carter, Noralie Pierce, Naomi Bish, Rory Harvey, Amelia Klopfer, Erinn Lanighan, and Kenzie Rose.**

## One School, One Book

In March, and to recognize Dr. Seuss' birthday month and the Read Across America event, Mrs. Diane DeMarco and Mrs. Amanda Cottle organized a week of fun-filled activities. "Hats Off to Reading" and "Read Across America" activity booklets were provided for teachers to share with their students. Word searches, coloring pages, and making a Dr. Seuss hat were just some of the fun ideas provided on the activity pages. A theme week from Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> provided four "Seusstastic" dress up days: Crazy Sock Day, Twin Day, Hat Day, and Pajama Day. Throughout the week, a photo booth was available for teachers to visit with their class. Props and a backdrop were used for class and individual photo ops.

The two-month long focus on reading culminated with a large scale special project at Pratt Elementary School, a community-wide book club called One School, One Book. One School, One Book began on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and ended on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Every family received a copy of the book, *Friendship According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney and were asked to read it at home. Books were delivered to all classrooms for students, teachers, and aides to take home. Along with a book, each student was given a pacing calendar as a guide to complete the book. The suggested goal was for each student to read 5 pages a day. A parent initial, on the calendar, was required. Understandably, there were some students who could read the book independently and others who needed to have it read to them. To kick off the book club, Mr. Carter read the first chapter over the PA on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

As the initiative ended, the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>, students were invited to turn in their completed calendar to their homeroom teacher for a snack coupon, redeemable in the cafeteria.

The goal of the project was that everyone reading the same book at the same time would give students an opportunity to have good conversation about Humphrey and his friends, and for parents to provide parents with a home-school connection to the school book club. Everyone – students, parents, teachers, even administrators were all reading the same book.



(L-R): Trevor Brawley, Mrs. DeMarco, Chace Atwater, Malik Wearin, Liam Dickinson, G'ohnny Tomaino, Logan Kropp, spend time reading *Friendship According to Humphrey*.





(Clockwise from upper left and L-R): Maxwell Liuzzi, Bryce Remington, Landon Wakefield, Hudson Prynn, and Jacob Linkowski pose in the Seuss photo booth. Mrs. Weller's class celebrates Hat Day during Seuss Week. Miss Tabone visits the photo booth with Hunter Worrells, Camden Durow, and James Garcia. Evelyn Wittcop and Fiona McEachern are dressed for Pajama Day. Semira Allee, Teagan Costello, and Paris Evans-Johnson are dressed for Twins Day. Lincoln Atwater, Aiden Alt, and Kyler Dupont display their Humphrey calendars and snack coupons.



For more Seuss Week and Read Across America pictures, please visit the District Photo Galleries page at: [www.barkercsd.net/photogallery](http://www.barkercsd.net/photogallery)



## Challenge Island

Challenge Island, a STEAM building activity, took place at Pratt Elementary on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades 3-6 were tasked with using recyclable materials to construct various items to perform a task. The students had to use their creative and critical thinking skills along with teamwork and communication to complete the task assigned. Each grade level participated in a different activity:

- **Grade 3: Antarctic Iceberg** - Students visited Challenge Island's Antarctic Iceberg. Amidst all the fun, each visitor learned about the location, climate, and natural habitats of the continent of Antarctica, which is home to adorable penguins. Tribes discovered penguins' distinct physical features and learned about the physical and behavioral adaptations that help penguins stay warm in the frigid climate and how they move through the snow (waddling, hopping, and tobogganing). Teams designed a penguin toboggan ride using their knowledge of inclined planes and potential/kinetic energy. The challenge was to design a toboggan that decreased run times by reducing friction and maximizing velocity.
- **Grade 4: Tiger Fairway** - Teams learned about Tiger Woods, how he started playing golf at a very early age, and about his amazing achievements. Tiger is a great example of how perseverance and dedication to a sport is really important if you want to be the best in the world. The task for each tribe was to design and build a mini golf course similar to one that Tiger would have played on as a child. After working through the design process the course was opened up to the public.
- **Grade 5: Solar System Stable** - Students traveled to outer space and learned about the Solar System and what objects are in our universe. Teams were introduced to the concept of Balance Points and used craft sticks to demonstrate the concept. The teams learned about the famous artist Alexander Calder who used balance to create moving art called a stabile. Each team worked together to design a Calder-style stabile using the planets and the sun.
- **Grade 6: Cool Careers Mechanical Engineering Orange Grove** - Students became mechanical engineers for the day and learned about the mechanical engineer's role on an orange grove, from picking, sorting, and packing. The project for each team to complete was to engineer their own sorting machine that sorted oranges based on size as they move through the machine. The engineers designed, tested, and improved their machines to complete the challenge.

For more information about Challenge Island, please visit [www.challengeisland.com/niagara-frontier](http://www.challengeisland.com/niagara-frontier). You can also contact Mrs. Julie Seitz-Brummer at [NiagaraFrontier@challenge-island.com](mailto:NiagaraFrontier@challenge-island.com) or call 716-638-0088.



(Top-bottom & L-R): **Rory Harvey, Makenzie Hill, Hunter Sweeney, Brayden Gregory, and Lydia Atwater** design a toboggan ride. **Brendan Smith, Owen Volkosh, Connor Baker** plan their solar system. **Kenzie Rose, Mirabelle Strong, and Robert Clark** construct an orange grove sorting machine. **Jordan Spearin, Alexa Reyes Farias, Jackson Dunkelberger, and Bryce Hirschman** work on their Tiger Fairway.

## Prestigious Winter Sport Recognition for Santarsiero & Hill

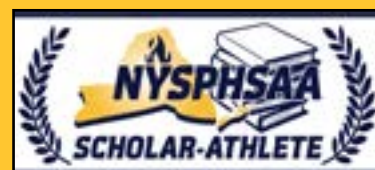
The winter sports at BCS brought some significant swimming and wrestling recognition as Ryan Santarsiero was crowned Niagara-Orleans League Champion in both the 100 Freestyle and 200 Freestyle events. Claiming the two events at the All-League Meet helped him garner the N-O League Swimmer of the Year accolade as well.

On the mat, Zachary Hill was a New York State Public High School Athletic Association State Qualifier for Section VI at 189 lbs. As a State Qualifier, Hill represented Barker and Section VI at the New York State Tournament Meet on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at SRC Arena on the campus of Onondaga Community College. The Niagara-Orleans League also lauded Hill as the league's Co-Wrestler of the Year.

Hill was also selected as the Niagara PAL Male Prep Athlete of the Year for Barker. Cloey Sanders was selected as the girls recipient for the Niagara PAL award.

Two Barker swimmers received Sportsmanship Awards from the Niagara-Orleans League: Emma Evans and Drew Sandolfini.

Scholar Athlete Teams for the winter season were: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Girls Swimming. Hill received All Western New York Scholar-Athlete recognition.



**Ryan Santarsiero**



**Zachary Hill**



**Cloey Sanders**



**Emma Evans**



**Drew Sandolfini**



For the latest Barker Raiders Athletics information:  
[www.barkerccd.net/athletics](http://www.barkerccd.net/athletics)

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## **Barker Central School 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.**

## **Did You Know?**

Did You Know that the [BCS News Network](#) is a graphical slideshow that is available on the [BCS homepage](#)? You can obtain a quick look at a variety of current newsworthy events and notices at BCS. Look for the link under the Headlines & Features area of the homepage to view Students of the Month, athletics, upcoming events, and other recognition for PreK - 12 students.

## **District Reminder**

As the weather continues to improve, please be mindful of the District's guidelines when it comes to the use of the campus. We ask that families and community members do not use any of the District's spaces or facilities during instructional hours (7:50 AM-3:15 PM) or if there are events taking place. This includes the playground, sports fields, nature trail, etc. Thank you for your understanding.