

# Barnhill Middle School

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## Barnhill Choir

The Barnhill Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Luanne Salmon, has been singing a lot lately. At the Remembrance Day assembly, they sang "Highway of Heroes" and "Imagine". They also performed at the Empty Stocking Fund singing "Do You Hear What I Hear" and presented a cheque from Barnhill for five hundred dollars. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, they are performing at the Tree Lighting at the Wooloastook Park on Simms Corner. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, they will be singing at "Christmas with the Sopranos" with the Rothesay Netherwood Choir at St. David's United Church. The selections for that evening will be "Angel's Carol", "We Wish You a Tasty Fruit Cake", "Ave Maria" and "Stars that Twinkle and Shine". The Barnhill Choir has had a successful year so far.

*Submitted by Victoria Ruigrok*

## Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather and the concern of school closures, an appropriate announcement will be relayed to the local radio stations, the district website, twitter (@ASD\_South) and the District Information Phone Line 1-855-535-7669 (SNOW) by 6:30am.

## Christmas Dance

Our next dance is Thursday, December 6 from 6:30 – 8:30. The cost is \$5.00 per student and the canteen will be open. Thank you to all of our staff who volunteer their time to chaperone to make this event happen. Please remember that school dress code is in effect for school functions.

**Twitter** Follow us at @BarnhillMiddle for the most up to date news.

## Beyond the Hurt

The "Beyond the Hurt" program was an amazing experience for many youth facilitators in training. During this two day workshop led by Mrs. Settle (guidance counselor who attended a two day work shop in St. Stephen earlier this fall) and Mrs. Cullinan, sixteen students were brought over to St. Mark's United Church to learn about bullying and harassment. These youth facilitators will be holding workshops in the upcoming school year. From the Red Cross website, the goal is to respond to bullying through a comprehensive preventative planning model. "Research has found youth-delivered learning is most effective in prevention programs, and our experience with Beyond the Hurt bears that out. On the second day of the training, youth are asked to outline a presentation that they can deliver to their peers. Interestingly, there are striking similarities between the message from youth from different schools and communities telling us that young people have a clear vision about what's important to preventing bullying and harassment. Students are consistently showing significant growth in their understanding of the bystander role, and how critical it is in encouraging or stopping bullying. Because the youth bring their 'peer insider information' and their creativity to the delivery, and because they have a special kind of credibility when talking to the younger students, these peer facilitators make a huge impact on their audience and help to foster a safe environment for students.

*Submitted by Milena Tremblay*

## Math Olympics

Barnhill will be hosting a Math Olympics on Dec. 20 for all students. This will be a school wide event with teams made up of students from each grade. We thank Mr. Vail for organizing this co-curricular event.

## Games Room

The Peer Helpers are opening a games room (creating spaces and welcoming places) which will be taking place on Tuesday at lunch from 12:10 – 12:50 in the Tech Lab. Students will be able to play board and card games, and also get the opportunity to meet new people.

*Submitted by Natasha Taylor*

## Free Public Skating

Did you know that the Peter Murray Arena offers **free public skating** every day from 3:00- 4:00. Gather up your friends, skates and helmets and head on down for some great physical activity. Go to <http://www.saintjohn.ca/site/media/SaintJohn/Public%20Skating%20Schedule%202012-2013%281%29.pdf> for other skating times.

## Congratulations!

Emily Kingston (6 Johnston) and Natasha Taylor (7 Smith) entered and won the Scary Story contest sponsored by the West Side Library. They were awarded a \$10 Coles gift card and you can read the stories on the school website. Congratulations Ladies!

## Pay it Forward

Next month's theme for Advisory is *Pay it Forward*. The expression, Pay It Forward, is used to describe the concept of asking the beneficiary of a good deed to repay it to others instead of to the original benefactor. Imagine if every person figured out that making themselves happy could be done by taking care of others. You can follow the Saint John Pay it Forward on Twitter @PIFSJ as Saint John becomes the kindest city in Canada. The Peer Helpers will be planning ways to do good deeds for others without expecting anything in return. It will be a school wide project to "Pay it Forward" at Barnhill because "No person was ever honoured for what he received, but for what he gives".

*Submitted by Natasha Taylor*

## School Improvement Plan

Our *Literacy Goal Statement* on our SIP is to focus on effective literacy instruction in all classrooms to achieve targets set for provincial assessments. In order to achieve this goal, we have set three priorities:

1. To improve writing skills throughout the school (including the quality of written responses to text)
2. To improve the reading comprehension of students, at the literal, interpretive, and applied levels
3. Provide enrichment opportunities for students with an interest in and/or a high level of ability in English Language Arts

One of the goals to achieve the reading comprehension priority is by increasing the students' access to fiction and non-fiction text. We have been diligently working on building up classroom and school libraries with the money from our fall fundraiser.

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 6	School Dance
Dec. 6	Choir performs
Dec. 9	Choir performs
Dec. 21	Last day of classes – full day
Jan. 9	Students return to school

## Advisory Update

Our advisory groups are starting to gel as we move through the year and get to know each other. Last month we outlined the character trait of respect as outlined in the November newsletter. The week of Nov. 13 – 16 was Canadian Bullying Awareness week. In Advisory, we discussed Cyber Bullying and what students can do to combat it. Each Advisory group came up with their own acronym of a positive message from the following topics: anti-bullying, respect, trustworthiness, cyber safety or one of their own choosing. This acronym will be used for a special project in December as our theme for the month is *Giving Back*. We have moved Quarterly Goal Setting from homeroom period to Advisory.