



BARTON CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 2009

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Mrs. D. Jukes—Principal

Mr. B. Torrens—Vice Principal

Mr. B. Wallace—Vice Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As you are no doubt aware, many schools in Hamilton are experiencing documented outbreaks of respiratory illness and H1N1 related activity. We assure you that we are closely monitoring Barton student and staff attendance daily and to this point (November 6), we are NOT considered an outbreak school. If your student is away from school, please inform the school as quickly as possible as to the reason for the absence and provide us with information about symptoms such as fever or cough. This will help us better understand the extent of the illness transmission in the school population. Answering machines are operating at the school 24 hours a day, seven days a week to make this communication as convenient as possible.

As hard as it may be to believe, first semester is now half over and midterm reports are being issued. Midterms are an indication of the progress so far in the semester and there is still time to make improvements. However, culminating activities and final exams will soon be upon us so it is very important that daily attendance, homework completion and assignment submission remain your student's priority. Combined with the many fall activities and the always enjoyable December holiday, this can be a challenge. It is important that we all work together to keep our students focused on their course work. If you have particular concerns, we encourage you to contact the individual teachers directly or speak to their guidance counsellor. We have many supports in place to assist our students, including Club Barton, a homework help session that runs every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school and is managed by Ms. Younes, a Barton teaching staff member.

Remember, parental involvement is a key ingredient in student success!

Fall is always a busy time at Barton and this year is no exception. As student transitioned to new courses and expectations, a flurry of activities began. School teams started competing, club activities offered out of classroom opportunities for growth and two school dances were held to celebrate Homecoming and Hallowe'en! However, the greatest celebration of all was the Awards Assembly that honoured our students who achieved academic excellence. Congratulations again to these students and to their parents and guardians. These are just some of the many activities that heralded in the new school year.

Finally I , along with our new chair Alexandra Butty, would like to extend a warm invitation to you to join the Barton School Council. Your commitment to the activities of the Council can be triggered to whatever degree you can make and feel comfortable doing. We do very much value and appreciate any input you can give as we work together to make Barton the best school it can be for your children. The next meeting is Monday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room (just to the right of the front doors). Meetings are



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Students Achieving Their Full Potential • www.hwdsb.on.ca/barton

Keeping Your Kids Safe

The HWDSB is in the process of developing a new Code Lockdown Policy. Although this policy is under development, schools are required to begin to use new terminology during emergency situations. The chart below outlines our new terminology.

Status	When Used	School Actions
Hold and Secure	the school is secured due to an ongoing situation outside and <u>not related</u> to the school (e.g. bank robbery near a school)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school continues to function normally, with the exterior doors locked until the situation is resolved.• A staff member posted at each entrance.• All movement in and out of the school is restricted.• Exterior facing windows should be covered or blinds drawn, lights dimmed, where possible.
Shelter in Place	an environmental, or weather related situation, where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school to protect them (e.g. chemical spills, blackouts, explosions or extreme weather conditions).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People enter and remain in a building with the doors and windows closed.• Fans including heating and air conditioning units, should be turned off to prevent air from outside entering the building.• Normal operations may continue within the building.
Lockdown	a major incident or threat of school violence within the school, or in relation to the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threat is inside the school, or is on school property, and poses an immediate threat to the students and staff.• Current lockdown procedures are followed.• All movement in and out of the school and within the school is restricted.• Doors remain open to permit police immediate entry.

Parent Assistant is coming!

Parent Assistant is a module of our student information system. It allows parents to log in through a website and view information about their child such as attendance history, grade history, diploma requirements and option sheets. Parent Assistant will be available at Barton this year and you will receive communication regarding it as well as a userid and password in the coming months.

If you would like to find out more about Parent Assistant please go to

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/pa>

SMOKING



1. No one is permitted to smoke in the school building, on school property, in a car on school property, or in a school bus. It is against the law! You must go to the sidewalk if you are smoking during the school day.
2. If this law is broken, consequences may include a warning, detentions, fines or a suspension.

STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Learning Resource

All IEP's for our identified students have been sent home to be signed. Please have your son/daughter return a signed copy to Mrs. Giordano or Mrs. Whalen in room 109. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact us at any time.

Guidance Department

The guidance counsellors have met with grade 9 students to provide an orientation to pathway planning and guidance services. In early November, counsellors will meet with grade 10 students to review important information to assist with appropriate course selections based on pathway destinations.

Post-secondary sessions were held in early October with potential graduating students and information was shared on apprenticeships, direct entry into the workforce and the college/university application process. All students were given resources for reference purposes. The presentation was offered to parents on Parent-Teacher interview night. In late October, Mrs. Price conducted a scholarship workshop and introduced the students to excellent scholarship/bursary websites. Please ask your son/daughter to share the handout information with you.

Colleges and universities will continue their visits to Barton until mid-November. This is an excellent way to research admission requirements and to ask specific questions to the liaison officers.

In mid-February guidance counsellors will present course selection options. Although it is a few months away, it is never too early to identify courses based on post-secondary plans. More information will be shared regarding the course entry process.

If you have any questions, please contact the guidance office at (905) 389-2234. We are happy to assist. For your information, the following counsellors are responsible for the students whose last names begin with:

Mrs. Spence	A-E
Ms. Thompson	F-J
Mrs. Rinas-Smyth	K, L, Mc-Mz
Mr. Greig	Ma, N-Z

CO-OP

Co-op placements, for students enrolled in co-op semester 2, are being arranged or confirmed during November and December. Please see Mrs. Walton if you have had a change in the type of placement you formerly requested on your co-op application form or if you no longer want to participate in the co-op program.

If you have co-op on your timetable for Semester 2, but you haven't handed in a co-op application form, an interview and placement **will not** be arranged for you. See Mrs. Walton, in the co-op office, or see Mrs. Potts, in the Guidance office, ASAP and pick up an application form.

Almost half of our grade 9 students participated in this year's "Take Our Kids to Work" day on

BEST Program

Students have been working on diverse individual courses. So far, students have accumulated 8 credits, and many are very close to completing credits.

Credit Recovery

The Credit Recovery class allows students who formerly did not finish courses or who were not successful in gaining a course credit, to complete all or a portion of a particular course and therefore "recover" the credit.

Currently, there are 15 students enrolled in the Credit Recovery program for this semester.

ESL Student Success - General Learning Strategies for the English Language Learner

Barton's ESL and Student Success Departments are very excited to offer this course for the first time for our ELL population! ELLs enrolled in this program are working towards developing a bilingual personal learning profile that will help facilitate academic, social and future pathway success within the context of enhancing their English skills and acculturation to our school and the community.

Student Success

Student Success is gearing up for another busy and exciting year. On November 4th, we hosted **GR-8 START AT BARTON** for C.B. Stirling, Lawfield and Helen Detwiler grade 8 students. The afternoon consisted of a welcome orientation, school tours and classroom visits. A follow-up visit is scheduled in December where the grade 8 students will participate in our ever popular Amazing Race and option sheet presentations.

Members of the Student Success Team which include Administration, Student Success Teachers, Guidance Counsellors, Learning Resource Teachers, and Alternative-education Teachers

collaboratively work together on Ministry/Board initiatives geared to assist and support our at-risk student population. Through such programs as Credit Recovery and B.E.S.T., junior- and senior-level students are able to catch up on credit accumulation. We hope to run Barton's "Cool to Care" event again in May where our students will have the opportunity to hear from a motivational speaker, sign up for 3 workshops of choice and enjoy an exciting lunch hour filled with good food and special guests brought in by Barton's Cultural Awareness group.

Comprehensive Class

The comprehensive class has had a busy start up and is now settled in Room 107. Teachers are focusing on literacy, numeracy and life skills while also introducing the students to art, gym and computers. Students will soon begin a cooking class. The comprehensive class are organizing Barton's walk-in closet. Workshops have been conducted by the public health nurse and the



E.S.L. NEWS

As of the beginning of the Academic School Year 2009~10, Barton Secondary School is now the only High School located on Hamilton Mountain that will continue to offer ESL Programming indefinitely.

The ESL Department would like to welcome back **Mrs. Latanska** and our new additions, **Mrs. Edmiston** and **Mrs. Bentham!** In addition to Grade 9 ESL Geography, Grade 10 History and Grade 10 Civics/Careers,

Barton is also excited to be offering Grade 9 Applied and Academic Math, Grade 10 Drama, Grade 9 Girl's Phys. Ed., as well as Grade 9 General Learning Strategies, all specifically for our ELLs.

The ESL Department would also like to welcome back our ELL population from last year in addition to our new enrollees. This year's crop of freshmen include eager, new learners from Iraq, China, Yemen, Cuba, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Bosnia, among others! Your presence continues to add to the vastly rich mix of cultures that continues to make Barton such a uniquely diverse and tolerant school!

Speaking of welcomes, yet another one goes out to **Mr. Lindon Barrett** from the **SISO Globe Centre for Newcomer Youth**. Mr. Barrett is back to collaborate with the ESL Department and Mr. Cimba's ELDA/BO1 and GLE1O1 classes to deliver **Empower Hour** once a week on Tuesday mornings. This joint collaboration is a

combination character building and literacy program that helps newcomer youth to improve their reading and comprehension skills while encouraging self-expression and empowerment. A variety of creative outlets to stimulate learning and foster student engagement are used in the program such as: musical instruments, painting, rapping, poetry and role playing. The ELLs involved with Empower Hour become more engaged as students and more connected to the community as a result of participating in this program. After running the Empower Hour Program at Barton as a pilot last year, the Program has now expanded to all HWDSB ESL secondary schools and a number of elementary schools.

Students and their families are again reminded that they can receive additional support from the **SWISH**

Settlement Worker from **SISO (Settlement & Integration Services Organization)**, **Mrs. Mizgene Shingaly**. Her primary task is to assist students who are attending Barton that have arrived to Canada within the past several years. Mrs. Shingaly will provide advice and or referrals for students and their families in social, academic and personal matters. Please refer to Mr. Cimba or the Main Office for her contact information. Mrs. Shingaly speaks Kurdish, Assyrian and Arabic, the languages that are predominant of the current ESL population.

Mrs. Shingaly is present at Barton on most days of the week. Her office is located inside the Co-Op Office, Rm. 123.

Thank you teachers, students, staff and parents for your understanding during the Muslim holy period of **Ramadan** in September. During this period, Muslims were to refrain from eating and drinking anything during daylight hours. Thus, some of these students may have appeared to be more tired and less energetic than usual. Thank you for taking this into consideration when asking students to engage in rigorous physical activity or tasks that require high levels of concentration.

Many of our ELLs had the opportunity enjoy and participate in the Haunted Hamilton Tour on Friday,

GIRLS' ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Girls' Athletics had a very busy fall!

The girls' field hockey team lost in the quarters to Ancaster 2-1. They had a great season. A special thank you to Mrs. Graves for coaching the team.

The girls' Basketball teams are still finishing their season. The junior girls are a very young team with great enthusiasm. They currently are in 6th place and look forward to being successful in the playoffs. Thank you to Mrs. Archer and Ms. Bullock for coaching the team. The senior girls' are currently in 2nd place and are preparing to face the West side in the playoffs. Good luck!! They have had a very successful year. Thank you to Mr. Baker for all his commitment to the team.

The cross country team participated in two different meets and had a great time this season. A special thank you to Mr. Cimba and Mrs. McFadden-Hart.

The girls' jr. and sr. volleyball teams will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Please listen to announcements for try-outs. The girl's hockey and water polo teams will be starting in December/January please listen to announcements for more information.

BARTON ATHLETIC COUNCIL

The Barton athletic council had a great time volunteering at the Road to Hope Marathon on Sunday, November 1st. Barton clothing will be on sale Nov. 2nd to the 6th. The clothing will arrive before Christmas.

***The Athletic Council will be hosting a Fundraiser Pasta night on Thursday, November 19th from 5:00-7:00 in the cafeteria.

Dinner includes: rigatoni/meatballs/buns/salad/drink/desert as is catered by Romolo's Catering. Tickets are \$11.00 each and must be purchased by Monday, November 16th. Children under 10 years old are \$5.00 each.

You must buy a ticket in advance. You may purchase a ticket at the main office or from a member of the Barton Athletic Council.

FEEL THE POWER, FEEL FIT GIRLS'

Bienvenido

On Thursday's at lunch there will be a guest presenter, featuring many different types of fitness activities such as dance, Pilates, yoga, aerobics. Classes are free. Please listen to the announcements.

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

The Arabic class has prepared visual aids to demonstrate the learnings of various Arabic countries.

أحسنتم عملا

The Spanish, French and Arabic classes have had a busy semester thus far. We have been involved in learning through various media and technology such as video, computer use and hands on approach.

The Spanish class has celebrated "El Día de los Muertos" (the Day of the Dead) which is not at all scary, spooky or sombre. The spirits of the deceased are thought to be paying visits to their families during Día de los Muertos and the families prepare an altar for them. Barton's Spanish class made paper flowers, papel picado (pretty cut paper), paper skeletons and drawings to decorate the classroom and prepare for our classroom celebration.

The Spanish class will also be taking a field trip to Plaza Flamingo restaurant in Toronto. There we will engage in dance lessons. We will learn the Salsa, Merengue and Cumbia forms of dance. We will also be having an excellent lunch...all you can eat Latin American food! Finally we will watch a Flamenco show!

The FSF 1P, French classes have created excellent power point presentations on "Une Personne que J'Admire", (A person that I admire). The FSF 1D classes have created Web Pages on themselves. Très bien fait!

If you have any questions regarding the Language program, please contact 905-389-2234 ext.247:

Barton Technology

The Tech department would like to welcome two new teachers to Barton. Mr. Italiano in Transportation and Mr. Sykula in Manufacturing.

This year Barton launched two new classes in Technology.

Manufacturing Plus Program of Choice

Based on an award winning program and exceptional partnerships students will gain valuable skills in welding, blueprint reading, machining, CNC plasma and oxy-fuel cutting using a variety of software. These sector-recognized skills will be obtained on state of the art, industry standard equipment. Students will design, develop and fabricate student generated projects incorporating a variety of manufacturing equipment. These students will have a direct pathway to the Specialist High Skills Major Manufacturing program offered at Barton.

Creative Communications Program of Choice

This program uses the experiential and hands-on approach to exploring TV Studio Production, remote video shooting on location, and gives an introduction to Journalism. Students have the opportunity to create, write, produce and perform in complex productions. Students will also learn introductory graphic design techniques as well as website design skills. Student projects are designed to reach beyond the classroom into the larger community. This Communications program is an excellent lead in to the proposed Communications Technology Specialist High Skills Major (launch 2010-2011), and will develop relevant skills and experiences for students who want to explore further education or a career in the fields of Broadcasting, Television, Movie Production, Marketing, Advertising or Journalism.

Barton is in its third year of the **Specialist High Skills Major in Manufacturing (SHSM)**. This program will prepare the students who want to specialize in the manufacturing sector. This initiative allows students in all four pathways (Workplace, Apprenticeships, College and/or University) to obtain relevant training in this sector.

Students will have to complete two manufacturing courses at the grade 11 level and two at the grade 12 level.

The students have already completed training on WHIMIS and Fall Protection and Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) qualifications.

On October 1st this semester these are the students who received certifications:

Samir Dimassi, Rob Hill and Greg Knox obtained SMAW Flat, Alex Nicholson and Zach Wedlock obtained SMAW Horizontal. Paden Wood obtained SMAW Vertical. Stephano DiTomasso received GMAW Flat. Chi Chucks-Mady, Brent Coventry, Aaron Franks, Scott I' Anson, Kevin Kay, Terry Jones, Luc Walker and Ryan Wood received FCAW Flat. Great work Barons!

This exciting program has the students completing training and/or certification in CPR, First Aid and Propane in November. On successful completion of the program the students will receive a special red seal on their OSSD indicating they were successful in the Specialist High Skills Major along with a transcript of all their training and certifications. The students will also be visiting Mohawk College and industry partners as part of their reach-ahead opportunities.

Barton is an **Accredited Testing Facility for the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB)**. Barton would like to thank the Canadian Welding Association (CWA) and the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) for their support. This unique

If you or your company would like to become one of Barton's partners please contact the school for more information. Many local companies in the Manufacturing sector are coming forward to find out more information about Barton's current program.

A future in **Creative Communications** looks bright as the Grade 10 students embrace radio, video journalism and TV studio productions. Soon we will be exploring the online delivery of entertainment and information as well as website creation.

Communications Technology for Grade 11 challenges students to develop their skills in camera operation, video and audio editing, and graphic design as well as performance in front of the camera. The **Communications**

Technology program at Barton Secondary currently has a **2 credit specialist** program in Grade 11 and in Grade 12. The new Grade 11 and 12 courses, **TV, Video and Movie Production**, expands the current excellent video, audio and graphics programs to include Journalism and new media. In **TV, Video and Movie Production**, students write, act and perform all the TV and Movie crew functions needed to create stories and productions that reach and entertain an audience beyond Barton.

Students may choose **Communications Technology** or **TV, Video and Movie Production** as single credit courses, or choose both to complete a specialist 2 credit course in Communications Technology. Barton is proposing to offer a **Specialist High Skills Major in Communications** next year.

Construction Engineering (Home Construction) continues to build as students break a sweat framing structures and learn to use power tools and hand tools relevant to the construction industry. Upcoming practical projects include household wiring and plumbing.

The Grade 10 **Transportation** class has been studying engine principles and vehicle operating systems. These students have been participating in projects such as disassembling an engine, brake repairs and wheel balancing.

The Grade 11 and 12 classes in **Transportation** have been using state of the art equipment to scan the automobile electrical system and computers. Students have been working on various practical assignments to diagnose and repair a variety of current vehicles including a complete brake service on a Toyota Camry. These **useful skills and experiences** will be valuable to anyone who wishes to own a car in their future. These classes introduce relevant tools and education pathways for careers in the automotive sector.

Barton **needs co-op placements and companies who are open to student visits in the manufacturing sector** and other technical areas. If you or your company can help us please contact the Technology department at the school. It is our partners' generosity that has made Barton the school that it is. Our school and shops are open for visiting and we welcome your participation in your child's education. Remember the future and present jobs are in the skilled trades.

From The English Department...

"The world is a difficult text."

~Paulo Freire

As English teachers we are well aware of the vital responsibility we have to equip our students with the skills they need to "read" the world in a meaningful way. Case in point: the H1N1 pandemic! How do we wisely sort through the sheer volume of media messages bombarding us daily? How do we evaluate the sources of information so that we make truly informed choices? Clearly, it's never been more important to think, read and view text critically.

If you are the parent of a grade 10 student who will be writing the Literacy Test in April 2010, you will want to check out www.readwriterock.com, a fabulous test preparation tool created by three computer-savvy English teachers from Westmount S.S. Guitar-hero groupies will appreciate the flashy graphics and clever lingo used to familiarize students with each reading and writing task they will encounter on the test. We think it's awesome!

Finally, did you know that we have optional courses at the senior level that students can choose to take in addition to their required English courses?

Here are a few to consider:

EMS30 or Media Studies emphasizes the knowledge and skills students need to use media effectively and responsibly. By analyzing the forms and messages of a variety of media works, students develop critical viewing and reading skills.

ETS4U or Studies in Literature is a course suited to students with a special interest in Canadian literature. Students analyze a variety of literary texts and respond personally, critically and creatively.