

March 2006

Henry Barnard School

Principal's Newsletter



Principal
Dr. Ronald Tibbetts

Assistant Principal
Mr. Haven Starr

Early Signs of Spring

We have seen only a few robins, but another sign of Spring is when we start planning for the next school year.

Early in the Spring of each year the Henry Barnard faculty begin the process of recommending to the principal and assistant principal student placement for the next academic year. As part of the placement process faculty consider the match of the student with the classroom teacher, the blend of students within a class, and faculty attempt to balance both classes academically, socially, culturally, and by gender. This procedure is used so that classrooms at the same grade are heterogeneous and balanced academically and socially. Additionally, the students in a current room will be divided as evenly as possible between the two classrooms available in the next school year. Dividing the current

enrollment from one classroom into two classrooms helps the students establish new friends and develop socially.

Once the Henry Barnard School faculty have made their student assignment recommendations to the school administration, it is extremely difficult to make changes and maintain the goals of our placement procedure. Moving a student from one classroom assignment to another inevitably changes the environment of both classrooms. For that reason, administrative changes during the summer to classroom assignments will be *extremely* rare. The Henry Barnard School administration will be the deciding factor in all student placement decisions.

Parents and students will be informed of classroom placement decisions by mail in August.

Parent Teacher Conferences

The Henry Barnard School has scheduled parent teacher conferences in conjunction with our trimester reporting system. (Of course, additional parent teacher conferences may be scheduled at the request of parents or teachers.) The next scheduled parent teacher conferences are scheduled for March 24 and May 12. On March 24,

grades one through five ONLY will ***not*** have school. The parent teacher conferences for these grades will be March 24.

On May 12, preschool and kindergarten students will ***not*** have school. The parent teacher conferences for these grades will be May 12.



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***1934 School Motto:
Give to the world the best,
and the best will come
back to you.***

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ric.edu/hbs



The Henry Barnard School - 1930's

At an assembly in 1934 the Henry Barnard School principal, Mr. Chatterton, presented the new school insignia to the students. He discussed the responsibilities and privileges of attending the school with the gold anchor inside a shield. The new insignia was a blue shield with a gold anchor and with the letters HB also in gold.

After the assembly, one of the students wrote:
"No better symbol can be found
Wherein all glories abound
Than shield of blue with anchor
gold,
Oh Henry Barnard we uphold!"
Bessie Brooks, 8th Grade



On May 1, our primary students will participate in the annual May Breakfast. At the breakfast the children have the opportunity to share treats, listen to music, and dance around the May Pole. This tradition dates back to at least the 1930's. By 1937 this May Day activity was well established and girls and boys from the primary grades performed a May Pole Dance for local educators.

March Calendar

- March 17 Fifth Grade Class Play - 9:30 AM in Sapinsley Hall
- March 21 Kindergarten Field Trip
- March 22 Progress Reports
- March 24 Parent Conferences for Grades 1-5
- March 24 2006-2007 Deposits Due

April Calendar

- April 3 MAT Testing Begins
- April 17 School Vacation Week
- April 28 Field Day for Grades 3-5 **This will be in the morning, and will be track events only. The remainder of the events and the cookout will be June 2.**

Note: Your deposit for the 2006-2007 school year is due March 24. If your child will be attending another school next year, please send Mr. Starr (fstarr@ric.edu) an email. Thank you.