

Barnes-Gram
July 13, 2007

During my conversations with local stakeholders this past month, several individuals asked if our students ever participated in fundraisers for worthwhile causes. I was surprised at the question, but the question deserves an answer. While I could use many examples from our schools, I will just use one example from May.

During the first two weeks of May, Holly High School's world geography classes held a fund raiser. The purpose of the fundraiser was for humanitarian aid to benefit the victims of genocide in Darfur, Sudan. The high school students created flyers to raise awareness around school. The students wrote speeches for the daily announcements and created locker tags to remind students of the reason for the fundraiser. Realizing the need for politicians to know of their efforts and reinforce awareness, the students wrote letters to elected officials. The students also participated in a penny drive that raised \$2,800 for International Rescue Committee and Doctors Without Borders, two groups providing humanitarian aid to the 2.5 million refugees in Darfur and neighboring countries.

If the question then is do our students care about the world about them, the answer is undoubtedly "yes". Each of our schools could relay accounts of their efforts for their local communities as well as activities that reach individuals outside of our communities.

Throughout this summer, parents have asked, "what is the best activity their children can do to keep them "up to date" and be ready for the start of school in September?" The answer is a simple one – *read, read, and then read some more*. Whether your children read the comics, the classics, the newspaper, magazines, religious literature, etc., the point is that your children will be doing possibly the best activity they can do over the summer months.

Likewise, depending on your child's age, play some math games, encourage them to do crossword puzzles, etc. Getting your child to use their minds in activities throughout the summer is a wonderful action taken by a parent or guardian. Before one knows it, our new school year will be underway.

Renovation is well underway at Sherman Middle, Holly Elementary, and Davisburg Elementary schools. The work at Patterson Elementary School will begin the summer of 2008 and continue throughout the summer of 2009. I know our communities will be excited when all of the renovations are completed.

Beginning the first week in August, I will be sending a weekly Barnes-Gram to my e-mail list members just to distribute the latest information about our school district, plus state and national legislation that will impact our school district.

Thanks so much for taking your time to read today's Barnes-Gram, and I look forward to sharing additional information regarding our Holly Area School District with you in upcoming weeks.

R. Kent Barnes
Superintendent