



BART

a college prep charter school

Winter Break
Thurs, Dec 22
thru
Mon, Jan 2



Dates to remember:

- * *Friday, December 16* - Early Dismissal (12 p.m.)
- * *Friday, December 16* - Middle School Dance (6-8 p.m.)
- * *Friday, December 16* - High School Dance (8:15-10:15 p.m.)
- * *Saturday, December 17* - Berkshire Grown Holiday Market (10-2 p.m.)
- * *Tuesday, December 20* - Diversity Day
- * *Tuesday, December 20* - Back2BART Alumni Luncheon (12:30-2 p.m.)
- * *Wednesday, December 21* - Student Talent Show (2-3 p.m.)
- * *Thursday, December 22 thru Monday, January 2* - Winter Break
- * *Tuesday, January 3* - Classes resume
- * *Tuesday, January 3* - Monthly SEPAC meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- * *Tuesday, January 3* - Monthly CFAC meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- * *Wednesday, January 4* - Monthly Board of Trustees meeting (6-8 p.m.)

Who's new at BART?

Please welcome Michelle Ells
to BART's Front Office.

Please welcome Allan Livermore,
BART's new music teacher.

- **Student Government to host school dance.** On Friday, December 16, the BART Student Government will host a school dance to raise funds for the organization that will later be used to host other school wide events. The middle school dance will be from 6-8 p.m. & the high school dance will be from 8:15-10:15 p.m. Admission to either dance will cost \$3 & guests of like age group are allowed (one guest per student, please). Permission slips for guests are available in the student office. Volunteer chaperones are needed and donated refreshments would be much appreciated. If you are available to help, please contact [Chris Hayden](#), (the group's advisor) by email or by calling the school at 743-7311, x168.
- **Need more BART ART notecards?** The BART ART notecard orders were distributed & sent home with students earlier this week but don't fret if you find that you didn't order enough. Students & their families who signed-up for BART's [spring break trip to Washington, DC](#) will be raising funds for the trip by selling notecards at the [Berkshire Grown Holiday Market](#) on Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Located in the Williams College Towne Field House (located at 82 Latham Street, Williamstown, MA), this annual event is a great opportunity to not only support BART students, but also to support some of our area's local vendors, farmers & artisans - all while taking care of some of the people on your holiday shopping list!
- **Progress Reports going home next week.** The first progress report of Term 2 will be sent home with students on Wednesday, December 21. This report is NOT an official report card, but will give students and parents a sense of how students are progressing in each of their courses. After you & your child review his report, please sign it & send it back to the school when students return from break on Tuesday, January 2. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, you can contact your child's teachers after the break via email or by calling the school.
- **BART goes to Washington.** Earlier this week a representative from [Smithsonian Student Travel](#) visited BART to help high school students & their families plan the upcoming spring break trip to Washington D.C. The trip's [itinerary](#) is packed with lots of great stops and a lot of key [information](#) was explained at the meeting. Here are some key points:

- *BART's Tour ID #: 1187074*
- *Cost: \$775 for students (if more than 25 people sign-up the price goes down!)*
- *Dates: Monday – Thursday, April 16-19 (spring break)*
- *Payment Plans: Students must enroll by 12/31/11 in order to be eligible for the monthly payment plan. If you are not planning to take advantage of the payment plan, the enrollment deadline will be 1/20/12 and families will need to contact the [Smithsonian's customer service department](#) (1.888.333.9756) to set up their own personalized payment plan*
- *Information: Tour packets are available in the student office*
- *Deadline: 1/20/12*

To stay informed about the many helpful fundraisers and upcoming organizational meetings being planned, we advise joining the trip's [Facebook group](#). Interested families who would like more information can either speak with a [customer service representative at Smithsonian](#) (have the trip's ID number handy!) or call or email [Ms. Nottke](#) (x132), the trip's coordinator, or with [Mr. Bridges](#) (x174), the trip's advisor.

- **Shopping at Target raises money for BART.** Did you know that when you make purchases at Target using your Target store credit card you can donate a percentage of the sale to BART? And since we're in the middle of the holiday shopping season this can really add up! Target's [Take Charge of Education](#) program is a great way to help BART & registering your card at a Target location or [online](#) is easy. Please take a moment to sign-up and start helping out your school now.
- **Salsa Fiesta during high school lunch on Tuesday, December 20.** The high school Spanish classes will be starting a unit on latin music (Música Latina) this trimester. The unit will culminate on December 20 when eligible students will be invited to a luncheon *Salsa Fiesta*. A latin dish will be prepared and lunch will be extended by half an hour to make time for dancing!!!
- **Back2BART Alumni Luncheon on Tuesday, December 20.** Hosted by Ms. Bowen, the alumni of BART are invited to come "Back2BART" for a luncheon on Tuesday, December 20, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. during which friends can reunite, reminisce & recount how college-life is going. We have been reaching out through [Facebook](#) but have not been able to find everyone. If you are in contact with a graduate of BART, please forward them our sincere invitation to welcome them back and ask that they [respond to Ms. Bowen](#) before Tuesday, December 20.
- **Come see the Student Talent Show.** Students will be sharing their talents in dancing, singing & more at the school wide talent show at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21. This event is open to family & friends, so we hope you can join us in the atrium for a little music and more. Bravo, everyone!
- **Plans for the winter break?** Why not take ice skating lessons?! The Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club will be hosting skating lessons from 11:45 to 12:45 p.m. on Monday through Friday, December 26 to 30. Skaters from 5 to 15 years old are invited to participate and skates are available at no extra charge. For more information, visit the [skating club's website](#) or speak to Ms. Pierson.
- **How you can help spread some holiday cheer.** Berkshire Community Action Council's "Holiday Elf Program" is in full force and looking for sponsors to donate newly purchased holiday gifts for children in our community who may not otherwise be receiving any this season. BCAC (North Adams location) is asking for donated gifts for children ranging from birth to 12 years old. If you are able to sponsor a child & help them have a holiday to remember, please call BCAC at 663-3014, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.

- **Next CFAC meeting will be Tuesday, January 3.** The Community and Family Advisory Council ([CFAC](#)) is a group of energized & creative-thinking parents who plan upcoming special events and programs at BART. Meetings are held monthly at the school and new members are always welcome. Parents who attend will receive a "jean's pass" for their child(ren).
- **Board of Trustees Meeting on Wednesday, January 4, at 6 p.m.** BART Board of Trustees meetings are held at the school and parents are always invited to sit in and observe some of the behind-the-scenes work that shapes our school and keeps it running.
- **Peer mediation is now available to BART middle school students.** Peer mediation is where students of the same age-group facilitate resolving disputes between two people or small groups. This process has proven effective in schools at changing the way students understand and resolve conflict in their lives and the experience of being a mediator can help improve a student's self-esteem, listening and critical thinking skills. The overall result is often an improvement in school climate for learning and reduced disciplinary actions. Since last spring, Ms. Egan has been working with students in the high school on how to be mediators and help resolve conflicts. Any middle school students who would like help from the high school mediators in resolving a problem can contact Ms. Egan (the group's advisor) or fill out a request form and place it in the peer mediation box located in Ms. Bushey's office.