



BART

a college prep charter school

**Early Dismissal
on
Fri, Dec 16.**



Dates to remember:

- * *Thursday, December 13* - Shadow Day
- * *Thursday, December 13* - Field trip to Williams College (grade 10)
- * *Wednesday, Dec 14* - Quiz Team meet @ Taconic HS (6:30 p.m.)
- * *Wednesday, Dec 14* - PSAT results returned to grade 9 & 10 students
- * *Thursday, December 15* - Enrollment deadline for 2011-2012
- * *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.)

***A warm good-bye to
Ms. Debbie Dunn***

Today is Ms. Dunn's last day at BART. Undoubtedly it will be strange for many of us to no longer see her warm, welcoming smile in BART's Front Office. Although we are confident that her replacement, Ms. Michelle Ells, is up to the task of filling the big shoes that Ms. Dunn leaves behind, we will miss her and wish her & her husband a very happy retirement.

Please come back often to visit, Ms. Dunn.

- **Shadow Day to be held on Tuesday, December 13.** BART will host a "shadow day" on Tuesday, December 13, for students interested in transferring to BART for the current school year or enrolling in the 2012-2013 school year. Students interested in observing our grade 6 classes are invited to the school from 12 to 3 p.m.; students interested in observing grades 7, 8 or 9 are invited to the school from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Shadow Days provide students with an opportunity to experience classes alongside current BART students. Preregistration is required and can be completed by calling Monique Nottke at 413-743-7311, ext 132.
- **Grade 10 students preparing to blast-off!** On Tuesday, December 13, grade 10 students & faculty will be traveling to [Williams College](#) for *MathBlast*, a morning of hands-on activities with the college's mathematics professors. Our students and their teachers will participate in four half-hour workshops ranging in topics from statistics to knot theory. Thank you, Williams College and Mt. Greylock Regional High School, for including BART in this fun event. Parents: If you have not sent in your child's [field trip request form](#), please do so right away!
- **Next Quiz Team meet to be held on Wednesday, December 14.** The next meet for the BART Quiz Team will be at Taconic High School in Pittsfield on Wednesday, December 14. The team will need to arrive at Taconic High School by 6:30 p.m and the competition will begin at 7 p.m. The team's coach Mr. Keogh will arrange for carpools so that nobody misses for lack of transportation. Some parents have already volunteered to drive but if your child still needs a ride, please feel free to contact Mr. Keogh via [email](#) or by calling the school.
- **PSAT results to be given to students on December 14 and 15.** Parents of students in grades 10 and 11 should be sure to ask their child to show you his PSAT results when they get home from school. The PSAT's are the first step towards success on college application testing. We are proud of our students for their hard work at creating their own bright futures!
- **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 guest 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 notecards 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!
- **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 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!!!
- **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 a 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.

- **Congratulations!** To whom? To John Adams (grade 11) and Colleen Garrity (grade 12), of course! John & Colleen successfully auditioned for the Western Massachusetts Senior District Honors Chorus! Based on the strength of their auditions, John and Colleen will represent BART in this selective choir featuring students from across the state in a performance at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, on January 14.
- **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.

Fall Trimester 2011-2012 Honor Roll

BART is proud to announce the students who made honor roll for the first trimester of the 2011-2012 school year. Students who earned 80% or above in all of their classes received the distinction of "Honors." Students who earned 90% or above in all of their classes received the distinction of "High Honors."

Academic courses at BART are aligned with the Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks for the appropriate grade level and include all standards deemed necessary for a complete, college-preparatory, middle and high school education.

Students in Grade 6 who earned High Honors are Grace Kelley, Heather Perkins and Harrison Todd. Students in Grade 6 who earned Honors are Zachary Bettis, Mark Borelli II, Kyle Brooks, Alyssa Cahill, Nathan Carlos, Morgan Covert, Sierra Desmond, Julia Esoldi, Gabrielle Fruet, Crystal Harrington, Andrew Hopkins Sayers, Casey Jackson, Kimberly Perkins, Andrew Perreault, Raegan Phillips, Amber Pizani, Cole Seaman, Samantha Sherwood, Kara Starbird, Sarah Tracy and Jamie Vachula.

Students in Grade 7 who earned High Honors are Alain Morrisette and Blaize Pandell.

Students in Grade 7 who earned Honors are Samantha Beveraggi, Daniel Cook, Mykhenzy Cuyler, Kassandra Desmond, Christopher DiCarlo, Peter Elliott, Emily Failla, Cody Knox, Paul Peckham, Matisyn Pierce, Aiden Shaw, Autumn Sherwood, Xain Stedman, Autumn Tynan and Emma Wheat.

Students in Grade 8 who earned High Honors are Noah Chicoine and Samantha Dorwin.

Students in Grade 8 who earned Honors are David Carlos, Lauren Cornell, Lakeria Darkins, Ethan Dubreuil, Nathan Ellis, Nathan Lapine, Taylor Phillips and Zainab Raza.

In Grade 9, Dylan Quinn earned High Honors.

Students in Grade 9 who earned Honors are Felicia Belisle, Kyleigh Castagna, Kelsey Cook, Colin Douglas, Olivia Falandes, Caraghan Hadfield, Sydney Johnson, Jeannette Lambert, Trenna Marcinczyk and Lauren Shamburger.

Students in Grade 10 who earned Honors are Audrey Aka, Destiny Bigelow, Sarah Dempsey, Sarah Fisk, Caitlin Moriarty, Michael Perkins, and Christopher Tetlow.

Students in Grade 11 who earned Honors are Christianna Berti, Cassandra Chicoine, Dean Covert, Charles Kirchner, Cassidy Matthew, Casey McKeever and Kaleigh Swift.

Colleen Garrity earned Honors in 12th grade.