

## School Spirit Days Make Fridays Fun Throughout District

Pratt Elementary and Barker Jr./Sr. High School are working together to promote Spirit Days throughout the District. With input and help from Mrs. Moffitt (Sr. High Student Council Advisor), Mrs. Pellow and Mrs. Baronich (Jr. High Student Council Advisors), Mr. Norris (Pratt Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) organizes a monthly vote of Pratt students to determine weekly dress up days to promote school spirit. A few of the themes selected so far have been Rock the Raider Gear/Class Color Day, Holiday Socks Day, Ugly Sweater Day, Disney Day and Mismatch Day. A School Spirit Days page is available under the Our District channel of the school website.

## International Club Traveling to Lignano and Siena

The BCS International Club is planning a trip to Italy this April. Last spring, the club and their families hosted 23 students from Siena and this winter they are hosting 11 students from Lignano, Italy. In return, 18 Barker International Club students will stay with host families in both Lignano and Siena to gain a total immersion and cultural experience in Italy. The students have been busy with several fundraising projects this fall to help raise money to offset the cost of their trip. A page has been set up on the DonorsChoose.org website for anyone that may want to help the Barker students with the cost of travel for this wonderful experience of a lifetime. Please check out the group project: *Immersed Into Italy: An Italian and US Exchange* by visiting: [www.donorschoose.org/Amy.Dewart](http://www.donorschoose.org/Amy.Dewart) Any support would be greatly appreciated!



## Harris and Cantella Perform at Rockwell Hall with Buffalo State Honor Band

Barker Junior Jacob Harris (trombone) and Sophomore Joseph Cantella (alto saxophone) performed in the Buffalo State Honor Band on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. The band consisted of over 100 select students from all over New York State and beyond. Both musicians were recommended by their Band Director, Mr. Jeff Rappold. The members of the Honor Band learned four pieces of concert band music in two days. On Saturday morning they were presented with the music for the first time, and by Sunday at 4:00 PM they performed a concert in Rockwell Hall, located in the Performing Arts Center at Buffalo State College. Congratulations to both on taking advantage of a great opportunity and for being part of a fabulous concert.



## Barker Jr./Sr. High Students Among First Amateurs to Present Mamma Mia!



For the next three months, our Barker stage will be transformed into a small island off the coast of Greece, as Barker Jr./Sr. High School students prepare to present the musical, "Mamma Mia!" on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. Written nearly 20 years ago, "Mamma Mia!" has been so successful on Broadway that it was only just this year released for amateur performance. Barker will be one of, if not the first school to perform Mamma Mia! as a high school production in the WNY area!

"Mamma Mia!" is sometimes called a jukebox musical, in that its score consists of previously released popular songs. This show utilizes the upbeat and fun music of the 70's band, ABBA, to tell the story of many characters who examine their lives and choices with regards to the past, present, and future. You will hear hits such as "Super Trouper," "Dancing Queen," "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "Take a Chance on Me," "Thank You for the Music," "Money, Money, Money," "The Winner Takes It All," "Voulez-Vous," "SOS," and of course the title track, "Mamma Mia."

"Mamma Mia!" has been nominated for and won multiple Tony and Grammy Awards. It is one of the top ten longest running musicals of all time in both London and on Broadway. The movie "Mamma Mia!" released in 2008, is based on the original 1999 Broadway production. This is a high energy, somewhat sentimental, yet still very comedic show with an enduring message of the importance of friendship, family, and hope.

Tickets for "Mamma Mia!" will be available in February. Program ads will be sold beginning this month and are a great way to publicly advertise and also show support for our cast, a specific person, or our entire production. Please visit the Music Theater webpage, located under the Jr./Sr. High School Clubs and Activities channel, to see the names of the entire cast. Hope to see you at the show.

For further information or if you have questions about our production, please contact Cheryl Johnson: [cjohnson@barkerbsd.net](mailto:cjohnson@barkerbsd.net), or 716-795-3201 ext. 7189.



*The cast of Mamma Mia! rehearses in December for their March 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> production.*

## Busy School Year for BCS Musicians

The Barker Central School Music Department has had a busy start to the school year. In addition to performances off campus, assemblies and concerts for Halloween and the holidays, a trip to the Buffalo Philharmonic for a BPO concert, caroling in the hallways, and preparing for the musical theater production of *Mamma Mia!*, 11 band students received recognition for their solos. Also, several band and chorus students were selected to Area All-State and All-County.

### Junior High Area All-State

Five Barker students were selected last spring for Junior High Area All-State. These ensembles consist of students who went to NYSSMA Solo Festival in the Spring of 2018 and received a high enough score to be selected into an Area All-State ensemble. The counties of Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua, and Cattaragus comprise the area. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> the following students performed at Akron High School:

- **Concert Band:** Alexander DerSarkissian
- **Mixed Chorus:** Elizabeth Hopkins, Brent Johnson, Lilly Monthony, and Andon Wedekind

### Niagara County Solo Festival

On Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> the following Jr./Sr. High School Band students performed a solo in front of a judge at the Niagara County Solo Competition. The students received a score out of 100. Level 1 is of least difficulty and Level 6 is the most challenging. The results were:

- Alexander DerSarkissian: Trumpet Jazz Solo, Level 5 - 91% & Trumpet Classical Solo, Level 5 - 97%
- Ellie Voss: Trombone Jazz Solo, Level 5 - 95% & Trombone Classical Solo, Level 5 - 96%
- Anna Bowerman: Flute, Level 4 - 96%
- Lucas DerSarkissian: Alto Saxophone, Level 4 - 89%
- Mackenzie Dodge: Clarinet, Level 4 - 95%
- Kaitlyn Goodwin: Clarinet, Level 5 - 97%
- Matthew Goodwin: Baritone, Level 4 - 96%
- Catherine Mallon: Xylophone, Level 3 - 92%
- Emily Oliveira: Snare Drum, Level 5 - 99%
- Ariana Peace: Trombone, Level 5 - 96%
- Lillia Peace: Trumpet, Level 4 - 89%



*(L-R): Nathan Meza-Ray and Cameron Szafranski perform in center hall prior to winter break.*

### Niagara County Music Educators Association (NCMEA) All-County Music Ensembles

The following groups of students were selected for music festivals which will take place in February and March:

#### Festival 1, February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Newfane High School:

- **Sr. High Band:** Elinore Voss
- **Jr. High Jazz Ensemble:** Alexander DerSarkissian
- **Elementary Chorus:** Chloe Crafts, Aleena Parfinski, Connor Dwyer, and Shelby Dauphinee

#### Festival 2, February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Niagara Falls High School:

- **Elementary All-County Band:** Peyton Bradley, Chloe Crafts, Hailey Dodge, Summer Duchow, Jacie Engert, Luke Fay, Ryan Fisk, Daniel Goodwin, Michael Kalynycz, Meghan Mallon, Caleb Pierce, Keith Schmeelke, Kaylee Stoll, and Aurora Wass
- **Junior High Chorus:** Elizabeth Hopkins, Paris Moffitt, Anna Bowerman, Natalie Brandel, and Tommy Harris

#### Festival 3, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Lockport High School:

- **Senior High Chorus:** Rachel Parfinski, Elinore Voss, and Kaitlynn Dauphinee
- **Sr. High Jazz Ensemble:** Elinore Voss
- **Jr. High Band:** Xander DerSarkissian, Ariana Peace, Emily Oliveira, Kaitlyn Goodwin, and Matthew Goodwin