

Hi! Welcome to Barnsley's 2017 2018 school year! My name is Alison Russ and I am your PTA President. I am a 4th grade teacher in the county and my third grader, Avery, is in Mr. Thuro's class this year. This is my third year on the PTA board, the last two years I've served as your Vice President.

Many wonderful people have already begun working over the summer in preparation for the upcoming school year. This includes members of the executive board, which were elected last year to lead the PTA, as well as volunteers, who head committees to plan the events we all enjoy throughout the year, such as Spooktacular, International Night, and Science Night! You'll learn much more about these wonderful people through our website, bi-weekly newsletter, and mailings sent home with your children. We are all very excited for a fantastic year!

The purpose of the PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Here at Barnsley, we work hard to support not only our students, but also our Barnsley families, and Barnsley staff.

To kick off our school year, we hosted a welcome back luncheon for our teachers and staff members to show how much we appreciate everything that they do for our children. Our staff appreciation committee also provided a coffee cart and welcome back messages for our Barnsley staff.

You should have received a copy of our PTA brochure. This brochure has a lot of information for you. It has contact information for all of the PTA executive board members as well as contact information for our membership and directory volunteers. It lists the dates of our PTA meetings, it also lists when our PTA events, like Spooktacular, International Night, and Science Night will take place.

There is also information there on how to sign up for our online school directory. Joining the school directory allows you to receive the PTA's newsletter, The Bayer Report, which comes out twice a month. It also allows you to see contact information for other Barnsley families.

Our Buy Nothing Campaign is how we raise money for our school. Every penny you donate goes directly to funding programs and activities. We do this rather than sending home wrapping paper orders or asking your child to sell anything. This is an ongoing fundraiser. Again, this money is used to directly support the students and staff members here at Barnsley so please donate. You can either write a check made payable to Barnsley PTA or donate online.

All of this can be also found on our website www.barnsleypta.org.

Our first PTA meeting is on October 3rd at 7 o'clock. You will be able to meet all of us and find out what we do and how you can help make a difference in your child's education and school experience.

On October 5th, we will have our Back to School Picnic. We hope to see you all there, please look for more information to come home in your child's backpack.

Sign up to become a PTA member. You can either send in your PTA membership fee with the form attached to your PTA brochure, or go to our website and join there.

We also have a lot of volunteer opportunities available if you'd like to get involved. Thanks to all who have already signed up to help!

On behalf of the PTA executive board and committee heads, we look forward to a fantastic year here with you all.