

GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

Happy Holidays from the Guidance Department

A Thought for the Day

We are all born into life with a unique sense of purpose. If it is not achieved, no other individual can fulfill that identical purpose. We all have the potential to make a difference.

Project Success Update



SADD Member, Emily Carty said *“Red Ribbon Week was a great way for the high school to come together and participate in a group activity. It was easy for me to sign the ribbon representing awareness of drugs and alcohol and I hope others felt the same. On behalf of SADD club we are all very proud of the outcome and cannot wait to do this activity next year.”*

Blind Brook High School Decked in Red

A Message from Angela Marciano and Mary Mediate

Blind Brook High School celebrated Red Ribbon week the last week of October. The *Red Ribbon Celebration* is designed to raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and encourage prevention, early intervention, and treatment services. SADD (Students against Destructive Decisions) Club planned many activities under the supervision of Angela Marciano, Project SUCCESS Counselor and Janeen Sucharski, co-advisor to SADD Club.

Red Ribbon Week is a national prevention week dedicated to special agent, Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. Agent Camarena worked for the DEA to stop drug trafficking. He was abducted on his way to meet his wife for lunch, tortured and murdered by the drug cartel. After he was found murdered, his friends and family started a grass root campaign in Camarena's hometown of Calexico, California . They donned red ribbons in his honor everywhere. The red ribbon became their symbol for prevention and awareness.

In honor of *Red Ribbon Week*, the SADD Club had a bake sale to raise money to sponsor prevention programs at school and it was called: "The Color is Red". High school SADD members wrote letters to eighth grade students encouraging them to join SADD Club , to make healthy choices in their lives with regard to alcohol and other drugs and to say no to negative peer pressure. Red streamers, along with a huge banner, were displayed in "The Commons." Students also signed huge paper ribbons indicating that they were aware of the effects that drugs and alcohol could have on their lives or the life of a friend.

On Nov. 12, 2010 students participated in a workshop/assembly by an emergency room nurse from the Nurse Network of America that travels from school district to school district explaining the effects and consequences of alcohol use/ abuse and poisoning. In the event that a student makes an unsafe and unhealthy decision, she also educated student on ways to help and respond to a friend that might be toxic as a result of alcohol and or other drugs abuse.

Academic Integrity

A committee is being formed to discuss issues of academic integrity. The committee will meet at 3:00 on a day to be determined in December. Members will analyze academic survey data, review and assess the effectiveness of current academic integrity policies and procedures, identify the root of the presenting issues and make recommendations. If you are a parent or student with a genuine interest in cultivating and fostering a school community that promotes academic engagement and honesty and you are interested in serving on the Academic Integrity Committee, please email Ms. Mediate at

mmediate@blindbrook.org with an indication of your interest. Representatives for grades 9-12 are needed. Thank you to those who responded to this request last month.

First Quarter Grades

Seniors who have done well in the first quarter should consider sending first quarter grades to colleges, particularly early decision choices, to supplement materials that have already been sent. Please see your counselor to make this request.

Academic Support

Academic support is an opportunity for students to receive assistance during the school day in math, English, science, social studies, and world language. Any student or parent may request that academic support be added into the schedule. A student may also drop in for support. To explore the possibilities, please contact your child's counselor. A schedule for academic support is attached to this newsletter.

Students receiving a C- or below in a core subject area, will be assigned to academic support for academic assistance. Teachers and counselors are recommending students for academic support based upon their first quarter performance. If a student has a free period at the same time an academic support period is offered, he/she will be assigned to academic support until performance improves. If a match with an academic performance period is not possible, the student will be asked to see the course instructor in the area of challenge during activity period.

There are also a limited number of student tutors who have volunteered to work with students during common free time. Please contact your child's counselor to pursue this option. Please note that this will not substitute for but may supplement an assignment to academic assistance for students in academic difficulty.

OPEN HOUSES

On Campus:

SUNY Canton: Open House: Apr. 23. www.canton.edu

Roanoke College – Fall Visit Days: www.roanoke.edu/visit or call 540-375-2270.

Bay Path College – Sunday Open Houses 11am-3pm: Dec. 5, Feb. 13, Mar. 27. Register at visit@baypath.edu or call 800-782-7284 x. 1331.

Old Dominion University – Open Houses, Feb. 5, Feb. 26, Mar.19. Register at admissions.odu.edu/visit or call 757-683-5678.

Berkeley College, NY – Open House Dec. 11@ 9am – 1 pm www.Berkeley.edu or 800-446-5400

Scholarships

NFIB, Young Entrepreneur Foundation Awards – Scholarships available for 2011 Class Entrepreneurs, created to recognize young people who have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit/initiative valued \$ 1,000-10,000.

Students can apply October 1, 2010, thru December 15, 2010.

www.NFIB.com/YEA or 1-800-552-6342.

Gates Millennium Scholars Program – need based, renewable scholarship provides financial support throughout the student's undergraduate career and into graduate school for those who choose to study in one of the seven graduate disciplines: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science. There are three components of the GMS scholarship application process: Student application (Nominee Personal Information Form), Educator's evaluation of the student's academic record (Nominator Form) and Evaluation of the student's community service and leadership activities (Recommender Form). Students are eligible to be considered for the scholarship if they:

- Are African American, Native American, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American
- Are a citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the U.S.?
- Have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on an un-weighted 4.0 scale
- Will enroll in a U.S. college or university
- Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities
- Meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria
- Have completed and submitted all forms by the deadline. **Completed applications must be submitted online no later than January 10, 2011.**

NYWEA (NY Water Environment Assoc.) – Two scholarships to children of NYWEA members who will be enrolled in a 4-year college or university where there is a NYWEA student chapter. Students also will plan to be enrolled in an environmentally related program. Scholarship amount is \$1,500. **Completed application, which includes two letters of recommendation and two essays, must be submitted no later than January 20, 2011.** Awards will be announced by May 5, 2011. Visit website (www.nywea.org) for more information. Application is available in the guidance office.

NYS PTA Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education – The application is available on the NYS PTA website at www.nyspta.org. Go to Awards and then Jenkins Memorial Scholarships for Teacher Education. The completed application must be postmarked, not metered, by December 15, 2010. Each school may only submit two applications.

National Co-op Scholarship Program – awards renewable merit scholarships of \$6,000 each to students who are admitted to one of the seven NCCE Partner Institutions (Drexel, Johnson & Wales, Kettering, RIT, U of Cincinnati, U of Toledo, Wentworth Inst. of Technology). To qualify,

students must have a 3.5 or better GPA on a 4.0 scale. To apply for these scholarships, visit www.co-op.edu and complete an online version of the form. **Completed application must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2011.**

Park Scholar Awards, Roy H. Park School of Communication, Ithaca College – A four year renewable scholarship - for students who have completed an application to Ithaca College and who intend to pursue their studies in the field of communications. The application requires the completion of two essays, a resume, three letters of recommendation and a high school transcript. The scholarship covers the full cost of attendance. For more information see www.ithaca.edu/parkscholars. **Completed application must be completed by January 15, 2011.**

College-Specific Scholarships

Iona College – Presidential and Deans’ Scholarships. Minimum requirements: 3.5 GPA, 1300 (Math/CR) SAT or 29 ACT. Deadline: December 1st. Visit: www.iona.edu.

Ithaca College – Park Scholar Awards cover the full cost of attendance – currently \$45,944, includes stipends for living expenses of \$2,500, and is renewable for up to three years. www.ithaca.edu/parkscholars.

Skidmore College Filene Music Scholarship awards \$40,000, (\$10,000 each year). Applicants are not required to major in music, but winners are required to remain active in Skidmore’s musical life. Deadline for submission of a CD to enter preliminary round is Jan. 15. www.skidmore.edu/filenescholarship.

Parent Workshop-Reminder

Stay Connected With Your Teen: A Multi-Media, Interactive Series of Five Workshops for Parents. If registered, the program will continue to meet:

Wednesday Mornings: 9:00-11:00 AM December 1 & 8

Thursday Evenings: 7:00-9:00 PM December 2 and 9

Community Service

All students are required to perform twenty hours of community service per year in order to meet graduation requirements. Please note the number of hours your child has completed which appears on the report card. Contact your child’s counselor or Jane Romm with any questions.

College Transcript Request Reminder for Seniors

If you plan to apply to a college with a December 30th, January 1st or any other deadline that falls within our holiday break, please be sure to submit your transcript request form to your counselor no later than December 15th. If this is your first application sent this year, the transcript request form must be in by December 3rd as your counselor must have sufficient time to write a letter of recommendation to accompany the college admission materials.

College Transcript Information

Please make sure the following documents have been submitted to your counselor:

- Self-Evaluation Form
- 2-3 Academic Teacher Forms
- 2 Non-Academic Form
- Parent Questionnaire
- Transcript Request Forms-1 per College Application.

Transcripts request forms will not be accepted until a student completes the above documents and meets with his/her counselor to review the materials.

Dates to Remember

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| December 4 | SAT's |
| December 11 | ACT's |
| December 24 | Holiday Break |