



# *Blind Brook Middle School Principal's Corner*

October 28, 2011

Dear Parents of Blind Brook Middle School Students,

Monday is Halloween (AKA My Own Personal Nightmare!). Those of us who are artistically and creatively challenged limp through this holiday with trepidation, especially when surrounded by 400 middle school students on a sugar buzz! BBMS (along with the high school) will continue the unique practice of reserving the holiday as a privilege for the graduating class. Many of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will don their costumes and vie for prizes in the "Funniest", "Scariest", and "Most Original" categories as determined by the votes of our 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our assembly will take place first thing Monday morning. Both the high school and the middle school have altered their schedules to flip "Activity Period" from the end of the day to the morning thus reducing the impact the assemblies will have on the instructional day. Winners of each category will be announced during lunch.

The Rye Brook Police Department has asked us to reinforce a message blasted to the community regarding "Mischief Night" and Halloween. All community parks will close at dusk and residents are reminded that people found with eggs, shaving cream, toilet paper or other items deemed suitable for purposes of mischief, will be questioned and the nuisance items confiscated.

It has come to our attention that some students are engaging in an activity that utilizes spring-loaded shooters that fire plastic pellets. The projectiles are capable of inflicting harm and we're told some students have received substantial bruises due to the force of the pellet. These potentially dangerous guns are not permitted in school. If your family owns one of these shooters, please reinforce with your child that they are not to be brought to school. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to take our online survey to provide feedback about Open House. It is not too late to have your opinion heard. The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7GFMMY7> Please take a few minutes to help us improve. The survey will be available until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are about to take a major risk. For years the BBMS community has flirted with the idea of staging a musical production. You can imagine what a major undertaking this can be and why it takes courage to even consider a production of this magnitude. I'm happy to report that a cadre of dedicated BBMS educators have pooled their talents and are willing to join together to make this happen. We have applied for the rights to a Broadway Junior production and are awaiting approvals. A congested calendar, state testing dates, and overlapping facility use left us with one possible performance schedule. The musical will be performed on Friday, February 10, and Saturday, February 11. The silver lining to this early production date is the hope that we will be able to engage more students during the less frenzied winter season when fewer sports are in session. The play may feature 30+ cast members and unlimited roles in the Artistic Design Crew and Backstage Crew. It is important to note that there may not be enough on-stage roles for all students who audition. However there will be a place for all students committed to the effort. We will host an information session for all interested students on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> during Activity Period. Please watch the middle school web site for information as it becomes available.

Finally, speaking of the theater - the high school is staging a production of *The Outsiders* and is willing to put on a special performance for our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (all of whom have read the text). Please see the attachment for more details.

Have a safe and mischief free weekend!  
Pat Lambert