

Blind Brook PTA Summer Bulletin 2010



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PTA Meetings 2010-2011

Please make note of this year's meetings. There are so many reasons to come, be informed and have your voice heard. Our administrators and BOE members attend all meetings in addition to the PTA volunteers who work on activities for the benefit of our kids. If it is your first meeting, please be sure to introduce yourself to someone from the executive committee and we'll be happy to explain things and make you feel at home.

We look forward to seeing you there...

Tuesday, September 14th @ 8:45am

Tuesday, October 19th @ 7pm

Tuesday, November 16th @ 8:45am

Thursday, December 16th @ 8:45am

Thursday, January 20th @ 7pm

Thursday, Feb 17th @ 8:45am

Thursday, March 17th @ 7pm

Tuesday, April 12th @ 8:45am

Thursday, May 26th @ 7:30pm

Thursday, June 11th @ 8:45am

A Message From The Superintendent.....

It seems as if I was just welcoming parents and students back from the summer break of 2009 and here we are at the end of the 2010 school year. I guess there is wisdom in the cliché, “Time flies when you are having fun.” Being the Superintendent of the Blind Brook School District has been challenging. But, it has also been most enjoyable. That has been, in no small part, the result of the support that I have received from the P.T.A.

I want to especially thank Maureen Braren and Maida Robinson for the wise counsel they have provided me over the past two years. The P.T.A. is fortunate to have had these two parents devoting their time and considerable abilities to leadership of the organization.

I also want to extend warm wishes and good luck to the incoming P.T.A. Co-Presidents, Felicia DePaola and Jennifer Schlactus. I have already had the opportunity to meet with them and am certain that they will continue the tradition of quality leadership of the P.T.A.

Enjoy the summer.

Sincerely,

William J. Stark

A Note from the PTA Presidents...

We are eagerly preparing to embark on what promises to be a uniquely rewarding and challenging term as Blind Brook's PTA Co-presidents for the coming school year. As a first matter, we would like to extend special thanks to our immediate Past Presidents, Maida and Maureen, and to the entire 2009/10 PTA Executive Board for their diligence, enthusiasm, dedication and tireless energy in the service of the members of our PTA. Their underappreciated efforts played a significant role in sheparding the Blind Brook PTA through some uniquely demanding and challenging times and were the catalyst for a very successful past two years for the PTA and the Blind Brook school district :

Thanks again to Bonnie Ackerman, Whitney Bullard, Desiree Denn, Debbie Handler, Julie Hartman, Jill Maitland, Stacey Malley, Leslie Mook, Cami Landau, Susan Joseph, Judy Sarch, Wendie Seguljic and Tammy Vavolizza.

Kudos also to every parent volunteer who graciously and generously donated your time and by doing so helped the PTA to provide significant benefits to our children and our schools.

We look forward to providing you with a revamped and updated Dial-A-Friend. We will continue with more online communication for parents and students and encourage you to check the website for information. The School Calendar will be online this year. It is a dynamic document and by posting it online, it will be accurate and up to date. There will be some new and exciting PTA events this year. Please keep an eye out for these, as well.

We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to a great 2010-2011 school year!

We wish for, and will strive to achieve, a fantastic 2010/2011 year for each of you, your children and the Blind Brook PTA,

Felicia DePaola & Jen Schlactus
PTA Co-Presidents

**BLIND BROOK RIDGE STREET PTA
2010-2011 PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Co-Presidents:

Felicia DePaola
feliciagd@aol.com

Jen Schlactus
jpschlac@optonline.net

PTA Email: pta@blindbrook.org

**Vice Presidents:
Ways & Means:**

Patty Chernick
pattychernick@gmail.com

Robin Gould
robin@hamptonpopcorn.com

Programs:

Susan Rosson
srosson@optonline.net

Pam Sunshine
pamsun16@gmail.com

Membership:

Cheryl Artabane
Cartab1@aol.com

Kelly Lieberman
mjrl@optonline.net

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Building Liaisons:

RSS- Jennifer Kitchin
jsilkitchin@yahoo.com

MS- Debbie Handler
handler5@optonline.net

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blgalaw@optonline.net

**Legal Issues:
Beth Singer**

Beelee11@me.com

Recording Secretary:

Robyn Weintraub
Robynw14@optonline.net

Corresponding Secretary:

Leslie Mook
Mook1@optonline.net

Treasurer:

Adele Saunders
asgolf@optimum.net

Advisors:

Maureen Braren
Cindilou85@aol.com

Maida Robinson
maidarobinson@gmail.com

PTA Funded Activities

BMPRSS

Incoming Kindergarten Ice Cream Social
Brucemobile Educational Program
Leaf Arrow Storytellers
Author visit in conjunction with the book fair
Colonial Day
Lunchtime Chess classes
Junior Achievement
Kids Who Care Program
Movie Night
Living Voices, Inc. – 'The New American' presentation
Janice Buckner - Earth Day presentation
'Engaging Energy' performance
Science Night
'Flamenco Dance' presentation
Bird Club field trip to the Audubon Greenwich
Connecticut Ballet
Playground equipment

BBMS

Program on Bird Ecology presented by the National Audubon Society
Culmination event for unit on ecology & natural resources presented by the Hudson River Clearwater Organization
Field trip to the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts - students are exposed to various aspects of art and Renaissance culture
Arts in Education program at SUNY Purchase on Latin Jazz
Annual band & chorus trips to the Music in the Parks Festival
Hudson Valley Brass Quintet performance
Membership at the Neuberger Museum
Cafeteria game equipment
Benches & planters to provide seating outdoors

BBHS

Field trip to the Culinary Institute
Workshop at Columbia University – covers all aspects of student publishing
Binghamton University a capella group performance
Dan Riskin presentation about issues of ecology and conservation
Cultural performance on the Roots of Salsa
Sean Pica presentation to the Criminal Law Class and the Ethical Issues Class
H.S. Band trip to Washington DC to play in the festivals of music competition
Field trip to the Guggenheim museum
Tom DeLuca – Friday night hypnotist show

OTHER PTA FUNDING

Project Prevention
Books to the Libraries
Spelling Bee
Spirit Day
Dial A Friend
Young Writers' Conference
Heard in Rye Speaker Programs
Peer Leadership
Student Awards
Hospitality
Network for Special Services
Teacher & Staff Appreciation Breakfast
Teacher & Staff Recognition Day Luncheon
Support Staff Recognition Luncheon



WAYS AND MEANS

Ways and Means had a very successful year. We had many fun and exciting fundraising events. We would like to thank the entire Blind Brook community for all their help in making these events so successful. In particular, we would like to thank the many parent volunteers. Without your time and effort, we would not be able to realize our fundraising goals.

We are very excited about the upcoming school year. In addition to past events like Olympic Night, Pumpkin Fair, Book Fair, After School Activities and Bingo Night, we are pleased to announce that we are going to have a Comic Book Fair in the Spring.

We are looking forward to working with all of you this year. We want to give a special thank you to Desiree Denn and Stacey Malley. They did an exceptional job as co-chairs of Ways and Means for the past two years.

Best...

Patty Chernick & Robin Gould

Report on PROGRAMS

PTA Programming had yet another wonderful and BUSY year. We would like to thank the outstanding outgoing chairs, Judy Sarch and Debbie Handler, for their hard work over the past two years. We would also like to thank all the volunteers that supported over a dozen successful events.

Activities in the elementary school included long-standing student events such as Kids Who Care, Indoor Recess, Movie Night and School Spirit Day. In addition, this year marked yet another successful Science Night for 3rd through 5th graders as well as a Geography and Spelling Bee, both of which were well-attended and generated enormous excitement among the kids as well as the community.

At the middle school level we sponsored a very well attended MS Spirit Night, as well as a Spelling Bee and a gym and field day for our 6th and 7th grade students. These events gave all our students an opportunity to have fun in a safe environment. We will continue our support of Project Prevention and our participation in "Heard In Rye", a cooperative effort of several neighboring school districts to provide a program of guest speakers covering a myriad of parenting topics for our families.

The Staff Appreciation lunch for our faculty and support staff gave the PTA the opportunity to thank both faculty and staff for all the hard work they put in all year long. We also take this opportunity to award teachers, administrators and staff who have accomplished 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service.

We continually look for new activities to make Blind Brook schools a fun place to be. Volunteers are always welcome to help with existing events and even plan new ones. If you want to help, we will find something for you to do. Please send an email to the PTA at pta@blindbrook.org.

Have a Safe, Happy and Healthy Summer.

Susan Rosson and Pam Sunshine



[Network for Special Programs](#)
[News & Notes for the 2010-2011 school year....](#)

We have to say a fond farewell to Gene Wolotsky, an accomplished special education administrator for over 38 years, who served as Director of Pupil Personnel Services for the past 5 years for our school district. We wish him all the best on his retirement. We also want to wish Harry Burg success, as he will have the opportunity to spread his wings and develop as an administrator while he takes on the added responsibilities that Gene's parting will bring. Our committee has had the benefit and support of the pupil services department and are looking forward to, and thankful that, this collaboration will continue.

We are also thankful for the handful of active parent volunteers who have helped bring meetings, ideas and concerns to light. We hope to have their continued support and are always looking for new volunteers to bring a renewed vitality to our mission of supporting the special education community.

Our meetings consist of presentations by in-house faculty and administrators, outside specialty specific speakers and informal support group meetings to network with other parents who share similar challenges of raising children with special needs. Our committee works to developing meaningful topics for meetings, collaborating with administrators, and develop personally as a leaders or helpers in an area that has genuine meaning and reward. We hope to see some new and familiar faces in the coming year. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact [Kim Palumbo](mailto:kimpal1023@aol.com) at: kimpal1023@aol.com

Be sure to check the District calendar at blindbrook.org for our scheduled meetings.
See You in September!

Your Network for Special Programs
Committee Co-Chairs,
Kim Palumbo
Susan Mandel

JOIN THE PTA FOR 2010 – 2011

Membership in the PTA entitles you to a voice at all PTA meetings.
PTA correspondence, and includes a Dial-A-Friend Directory of all students.
Join now, attend our monthly meetings, and get to know the community and school-
related staff.

Dial-A-Friends are distributed at Open Houses in September/October.

PARENT(S) NAME(S): _____

PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

	<u>Price</u>		<u>Quantity</u>	
Membership Dues (includes full-size Dial-A-Friend)	\$15.00	x	1	\$15.00_____
Extra Full-Size Dial-A-Friend (8 ½ x 11)	\$ 7.00	x		\$_____
Mini Dial-A-Friend (6 x 8 ½)	\$ 8.00	x		\$_____
	TOTAL:			\$_____
Make Checks Payable and Mail to:	Blind Brook/Ridge Street PTA Attn: MEMBERSHIP 390 North Ridge Street Rye Brook, New York 10573			

DIAL-A-FRIEND PHONE/ADDRESS UPDATE FORM

**** We Automatically Update Grade Change From Year to Year ****

Please **ONLY** use for Address & Phone Changes.

NEW ADDRESS: _____

NEW PHONE #: _____

OTHER INFORMATION CHANGES: _____

Changes must be received prior to August 10 or they will be listed in the Addendum.

**** IMPORTANT ** YOU MUST ALSO UPDATE THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL
RECORD. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL'S MAIN OFFICE.**

Have Questions??? Contact PTA Membership Vice-Presidents:

Cheryl Artabane: cartab1@aol.com or Kelly Leiberman: mjrl@optonline.net

(7/15/2010)

CLASS PARENT GUIDELINES FOR K AND 1

GRADES K and 1: Responsibilities/guidelines include:

HEAD CLASS PARENT:

- **GOAL IS TO GET ALL PARENTS INTERESTED OR AS MANY AS POSSIBLE INVOLVED IN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**
- **ENGAGE THE HELP OF YOUR ASSISTANT CLASS PARENTS OR DELEGATE TASKS TO ORGANIZIE PARTIES/ TRIPS/ ETC.**
- **Liaison between the Teacher, Class Parents and General Class Parents.**
- **Preferably have prior Class Parent experience at BMP/RSS.**
- **Responsible to provide help/support to the Teacher, in the form of Class Parent and General Class Parent involvement when appropriate to the Teachers schedule.**
- *Responsible to staff all class trips, classroom events and parties with the opportunity to delegate out to the Class Parents*
- **Supporting the Teacher if she/he requires any copying, project prep, etc.**
- **Being available to communicate with the Teacher via email, phone and or notes sent home and responding within an acceptable amount of time.**
- **Class parents are encouraged to attend PTA meetings and partake in PTA Activities.**

CLASS PARENTS:

- **Being responsible to work together provide help/support for the Head Class Parent, and Teacher.**
- **Supporting the Head Class Parent and Teacher if she/he requires any copying, project prep, etc.**
- **Being available to communicate with the Head Class Parent via email, phone and or notes sent home and responding within an acceptable amount of time.**
- *Making an extra effort to fill in a change of schedule and provide parental coverage for an absence with a class trip, event or party.*
- **Class parents will be expected to participate in and/or help organize school functions and fundraisers.**
- **Class parents are encouraged to attend PTA meetings and partake in PTA Activities.**

CLASS PARENT GUIDELINES FOR GRADES 2,3,4,5

NEW Responsibilities/guidelines include:

HEAD CLASS PARENTS: (Grades 2, 3, 4, 5)

- **NEW: GOAL TO GET ALL PARENTS INTERESTED OR AS MANY AS POSSIBLE INVOLVED IN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES AT LEAST ONCE IF POSSIBLE**
- **NEW: ENGAGE THE HELP OF YOUR ASSISTANT CLASS PARENTS OR DELEGATE TASKS TO ORGANIZIE PARTIES/ TRIPS/ ETC.**
- Liaison between the Teacher, Assistant and the Parents of all the students in the class in regards to the class trips, parties and activities
- Preferably has a child that has gone through one or two grades in the BMP/RSS school district
- Responsible to work together to staff all class trips, classroom events and party's, making sure that the ALL the parents have the opportunity to take part in at least one class event being a trip, activity, or party if they want to.
- Supporting the Teacher if she/he requires any copying, project prep, etc.
- Being available to communicate with the Teacher via email, phone and or notes sent home, and responding within a respectable amount of time.
- Class parents are encouraged to attend PTA meetings and partake in PTA Activities.
- Assistant Class Parent's roll is to work TOGETHER with the Head Class Parent to help her/him staff the classroom events and back her/him up when needed.

ASSISTANT CLASS PARENTS: (Grades 2, 3, and 4)

- **NEW: GOAL TO GET ALL PARENTS INTERESTED OR AS MANY AS POSSIBLE INVOLVED IN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES AT LEAST ONCE IF POSSIBLE**
- **NEW: To work with and assist the Head Class Parent with getting all the parents in to the classroom for involvement**
- Liaison between the Teacher, and the Parents working with the Head Class Parent of all the students in the class in regards to the class trips, parties and activities
- Preferably has a child that has gone through one or two grades in the BMP/RSS school district
- Responsible to work together with the Head Class Parent to staff all class trips, classroom events and party's, making sure that the ALL the parents have the opportunity to take part in at least one class event being a trip, activity, or party if they want to.
- Supporting the Teacher if she/he requires any copying, project prep, etc.
- Being available to communicate with the Teacher via email, phone and or notes sent home, and responding within a respectable amount of time.
- Class parents are encouraged to attend PTA meetings and partake in PTA Activities.
- Assistant Class Parent's roll is to work TOGETHER with the Head Class Parent to help her/him staff the classroom events and back her/him up when needed.

FORM
CLASS PARENTS NEEDED FOR 2010/2011

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM FOR ALL GRADES

Anyone wishing to be a Head Class or Assistant Class Parent should return this form, **VIA U.S. MAIL, POSTMARKED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 2010**, to Marnie Korpi (**22 Beechwood Blvd., Rye Brook, NY 10573**).

A telephone call is not sufficient and/or drop off cannot be accepted. Positions will be given in order of receipt of this form and you will be notified of your position by phone or email by the start of the new school year.

Please keep in mind that the older grades do not require as much parental involvement. Being involved in your child's classroom requires a substantial, but *rewarding* time commitment on your part. Our goal is to give an equal opportunity to each family to experience the joy of classroom involvement. Please do not sign up to be a Head Class or Assistant Class parent if you can not make the necessary commitment. Please note the general guidelines included in this packet. Thank you for all your support for our school and our children.

If you have any questions please address them to Debbie Kerrick via email at dnk1213@optonline.net.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE _____
ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES AND GRADES OF YOUR CHILDREN FOR WHOM YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A HEAD OR ASSISTANT CLASS PARENT IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE:

****PLEASE "X" HEAD, OR CO, OR EITHER FOR THAT CHILD****

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE 9/10: K ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___
___ I AM WILLING TO BE HEAD PARENT
___ I AM WILLING TO BE ASSISTANT CLASS PARENT
___ I AM WILLING TO BE EITHER HEAD OR ASSISTANT

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE 9/10:K ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___
___ I AM WILLING TO BE HEAD PARENT
___ I AM WILLING TO BE ASSISTANT CLASS PARENT
___ I AM WILLING TO BE EITHER HEAD OR ASSISTANT

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE 9/10:K ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___
___ I AM WILLING TO BE HEAD PARENT
___ I AM WILLING TO BE ASSISTANT CLASS PARENT
___ I AM WILLING TO BE EITHER HEAD OR ASSISTANT

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE 9/10:K ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___
___ I AM WILLING TO BE HEAD PARENT
___ I AM WILLING TO BE ASSISTANT CLASS PARENT
___ I AM WILLING TO BE EITHER HEAD OR ASSISTANT

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2010

Letter from Our Incoming HS Principal...

July 2010

Dear Students and Families of the Blind Brook High School Community:

I hope that you are enjoying the summer vacation!

I am delighted to begin my work as Principal of Blind Brook High School. This spring, I was able to spend some time in the district, observing classes, participating in faculty search processes, attending concerts, sports events, and the science symposium, and participating in the graduation ceremony. These experiences have given me a glimpse of the outstanding programs and opportunities afforded our students and have allowed me to meet some of our exceptional faculty and students. The skill and commitment of the faculty, the curiosity and diligence of the students, and the interest that families show in their children's education make Blind Brook High School a truly learning environment.

Parental involvement in their children's education is a strong predictor of student success. I encourage you to keep yourself informed about your teen's academic and social experiences by staying connected with the school. The Blind Brook PTA is an excellent vehicle for home-school connection. In addition to the volunteerism and financial support that the PTA contributes to our programs, it also provides a wealth of information on its website and organizes many school-related activities. I encourage you to become a member, to use the website, and to participate in the many programs that the PTA offers.

Before coming to Blind Brook, I served for eighteen years in the Newton Public Schools, in Newton, Massachusetts as the Principal of the F. A. Day Middle School and as Housemaster at Newton South High School. I began my career at Reading Memorial High School, in Reading, Massachusetts as a French and Spanish teacher and later as Foreign Language Department Head. Like Blind Brook, both of these school districts set high expectations for their students and have strong records of student success and active parental involvement. I feel fortunate to be able to continue my administrative work in as fine a district as Blind Brook.

Providing effective leadership for the faculty, students, and families of the Blind Brook community is a wonderful challenge. I look forward to getting to know you and working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely yours,

Gina M. Healy
Principal

2010 SENIOR CLASS AWARDS

Faculty Awards

Participation

Daniel Newmark

Service

Alexandra Blaiotta

Leadership

Diksha Nagia

Departmental Awards

English

Justin Cohn

Valerie Weimar Memorial Award for Poetry

Megan Santarsiero

Pati Sherlock Creative Writing Award

Devan Toal

Math - Tom Reistetter Award

Rachel Lumish, Justin Starr

Science

Rachel Lumish, Justin Starr

Mad Scientist Award

Jonathan Berardi

Social Studies

Sharon Friedlander, Diksha Nagia

Jean Hurley Memorial Award for Citizenship

Sage Berger

Foreign Language – French

Rachel Lumish

Foreign Language – Spanish

Karina Tachihara

Music - Instrumental

Justin Cohn, Samantha Langstein, Amanda Saxe, Michael Zingman

Dedication to Band

Jake Epstein, Zachary Held, Elana Levy, Paul Nadasi

Music - Vocal

Laurence Rosenzweig

The George Trautwein PTA Scholarship Award

Justin Cohn

Thespian Award for Outstanding Senior Performance

Jacqueline Mamorsky

Thespian Participation Award

Blythe Duckett

Theatrical Renaissance Award

Tyler Ketchabaw

Business Education

Jillian Forbes, Zachary Greenberg

Art Portfolio

Alexandra Blaiotta, Katherine Ehrmann, Karina Tachihara

Photography

Barrie Schneiderman

Blind Brook Federation of Teachers Mike Dockwiller Memorial Award

Amanda Silver, Weisblum

Spirit of Blind Brook High School Award

Daniel Gold

Culinary Arts

Joshua Kaplan

2010 SENIOR CLASS AWARDS (con't'd)

Community Service Award in Memory of Mrs. Barbara Sitner

Adam Goldberg, Devan Toal

Steven J. Piccolo Memorial Award

Elana Levy

The Nicholas Peter Ciccone/CYP Memorial Scholarship

Jonathan DiCanio

The Bruno M. Ponterio Scholarship Award

Alyssa Davis, Daniel Newmark

Ted Reed Memorial Scholarship Award

Jennifer Jond, Tyler Ketchabaw, Rachel Lumish

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Nita M. Lowey

Allison Engle, Leigh Engle

The Kay Ferraro Memorial Scholarship

Blythe Duckett, Elana Levy

The Mel Sobel Microscopes Award

Jennifer Jond

American Association of University Women Writing Award

Rachel Lumish, Sarah Sgro

Geraldine and Charles R. Gevertz Human Relations Memorial Award

Barrie Schneiderman, Danielle Treacy

The Victor Ridder Memorial Scholarship

Daniel Newmark

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship

Rachel Lumish

Rye Brook P.B.A. Criminal Justice Memorial Scholarship Award

Sharon Friedlander

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Alexandra Blaiotta

PTA Scholarship Award for Character Development

Justin Starr

Suzi Oppenheimer Certificate of Merit in Recognition of Outstanding Community Service

Alexandra Blaiotta

Port Chester/Rye Brook Rotary Club Individual Achievement Award

Samantha Amar, Lauren Calman

Port Chester Teachers Federal Credit Union Award for General Excellence

Kristina Creadore-

The Dr. Carlos A. Lithgow Memorial Scholarship Award

Zachary Greenberg

The President's Volunteer Service Award

Alexandra Blaiotta

40/40 Club Scholarship

Jeffrey Arvoy

National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation

Daniel Berkowitz, Kristina Creadore, Sharon Friedlander, Rachel Lumish,

Diksha Nagia, Daniel Newmark, Sarah Sgro, Justin Starr

National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Justin Cohn

The Blind Brook Enrichment Program Scholarship

Sage Berger, Daniel Gold

Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents Achievement Award in Recognition of Top Two Students in Class

Rachel Lumish, Justin Starr

2010 SENIOR CLASS AWARDS (con't'd)

Blind Brook Community Service Award

Molly McBride, Michael Zingman

The United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Samara Meyers

The United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award

Kristina Creadore

The United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence

Michael Zingman

The McGraw-Hill Companies Scholarship

Justin Starr

Macy's Foundation Scholarship

Zachary Greenberg

Letter from Our MS Principal...

July 16, 2010

Dear Parents,

Now that the lazy, hazy and hot days of summer are underway, there are moments to pause and appreciate the excellent 2009-2010 school year that we had here at Blind Brook Middle School. This safe and successful year was distinguished by the many good things that continue to define us. Our BBMS Values and Expectations: safety, respect, good decision making and care for others, continue to become part of our middle school fabric and familiar to our students.

Because this past year was marked by numerous activities that demonstrated our students' care for others, it has been suggested that the last "S" in the BBMS slogan (Be Safe, Be Respectful, Make Good Decisions) will stand for "Show You Care" as we go forward. This is very fitting after a school year that raised thousands of dollars for those in need in Haiti, Tanzania, and closer to home. We are proud of the efforts led by our student government and Shared Decision Making Teams that brought these efforts to life.

Other good things such as the seventh grade Environmental Footprint Project, the eighth grade Sharpe trip, the Spelling Bee, Book Fair, Spirit Night and other events came about with the ongoing support of PTA. As always, the gift of time and perspective that our PTA leaders and liaisons provide is invaluable to give us as administrators insight and perspective on our progress at each level. Hospitality parents who lugged snacks and drinks to activities like Parent Orientation, Sixth Grade Field Day and others ensured that no one would go hungry or thirsty while enjoying the many events that make for a great school year.

Academically, our students continued to distinguish themselves as our emphasis on instructional growth through ELA curriculum revision and the Professional Learning Communities spurred a focus on pedagogy that hits the right balance of academic rigor and developmental appropriateness for our young adolescents. The new seventh grade DARE Program was added, and our building efforts to increase ongoing positive and productive communication to parents and families has taken hold.

At our Moving Up Ceremony a few weeks ago, it was clear once again that the transformation that happens right before our eyes during the three years of middle school is nothing short of miraculous.

Jane Wermuth and I wish to thank you for the support that makes all the difference. Have a great summer!

Karen Bronson

Karen Bronson
Principal

BLIND BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS
2009-2010

8th GRADE AWARDS presented at the 8th grade Moving Up Ceremony on Thurs. June 24, 2010.

American Association of University Women Award – given to female students who have demonstrated excellence in math and science.

Awarded to: Monika Malhotra, Danielle Manko, Sabrina Parisi, Dina Poplausky

Rep. Nita Lowey Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition – awarded to a student from the 18th Congressional District who has demonstrated outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

Awarded to: Rachel Weltman

Ted Reed Memorial Award

Criteria: Plaque awarded to an 8th grade boy and an 8th grade girl who have demonstrated not only athletic achievement but also the qualities of good sportsmanship, commitment and responsibility.

Awarded to: Shannon Reddy, Raymond “Cal” Snisky, Scott Wurtzel

Golden Apple Faculty Award

Criteria: Plaque awarded to an 8th grade student for the greatest academic, personal and interpersonal growth during the last three years.

Awarded to: Ryan Breslow, Michael Dellorusso

Citizenship Award

Criteria: Plaque and gift awarded by the PTA to the 8th grade student(s) who have demonstrated the most appropriate involvement in school activities and a positive attitude towards their school community.

Awarded to: Ross Jablon, Emily Kellman

Bruno M. Ponterio Award

Criteria: Plaque awarded to an 8th grade student(s) for excellence in academic studies, interpersonal relations and extra curricular activities.

Awarded to: Shannon Reddy, Scott Wurtzel

Blind Brook Middle School
List of Suggested School Supplies 2009-2010

The following supplies are generally needed and recommended:

- Black and Blue pens and pencils
- Looseleaf paper
- A metric ruler
- A scientific calculator (unless specified otherwise by math teacher)
- A set of colored pencils and highlighters
- Post-It Notes
- A USB flash drive
- One box of tissues at beginning of year to turn in to team teachers.
- Pleasure reading book

Sixth Grade

English 6: 1 Heavy-duty Folder
 1 Marble Composition Notebook,
 minimum 100 pages/200 sheets
 1 pad 3/8x7/8" post-it notes

Writing Workshop 6: 1 Heavy-duty Folder
 1 Marble Composition Notebook,
 min. 100 pages/200 sheets

Science 6: 5 folders with pockets and fasteners for
 looseleaf

Math 6: 1 1" red binder with 5 dividers

SS 6: 1 1" black binder with cover pockets and 8
 dividers

Spanish 6: Three ring notebook with dividers and hole punch

Italian 6: 2" binder with dividers
 Ital/Eng dictionary recommended

* Please note that colored binders are suggested but not mandatory. It has been found that color coding the binders makes it easier for students to remember what they need while at their lockers.

Seventh Grade

Science 7: Schaefer: 1 large marble composition notebook
 Harrington: 1 1" three ring binder with dividers
 1 Pocket folder
 Shallo: 1 1 ½ " 3-ring binder exclusively for Science
 15 dividers for binder
 1 Pocket folder
 a few packs of index cards

Math 7: 1 1" binder

English 7: 1 1" binder with looseleaf paper (exclusively for
 English)
 4 Dividers for binder
 1 Marble Composition notebook

SS 7: 1 1" binder
 3 pkg of 5 asst. colored 4x6 index cards (blue, pink, yellow, green & purple)

Italian 7: 2" binder with dividers
 Italian/English Dictionary recommended

Eighth Grade

Science 8: 1 1" binder with dividers
 2 Pocket folders

Math 8: 1 1" binder with dividers

SS 8: 1 1" binder
 2 pkg of 5 asst. colored 4x6 index cards (blue, green, pink, yellow, purple)

English 8: 1 1 ½" binder w/looseleaf paper exclusively for English
 3 pkgs post-it notes (small and large)
 1 pack index cards

Spanish 8: 5 section (360pg) composition notebook
 3 ring binder with dividers and hole punch
 (Sp/Eng Dictionary recommended for all)

Italian 8: 2" binder with dividers
 Ital/Eng Dictionary recommended

Special Subjects:

Health 6/7/8: Gr. 6: 1" binder with looseleaf paper
1 folder
Gr. 7: 1" binder with looseleaf paper
Gr. 8: One subject notebook
1 folder with pockets
Looseleaf paper

Computer 6/7/8: Flash drive

Tech 6/7/8: Colored markers, black sharpies

Home and Careers 6/7/8: 2-pocket folder w/ 10 pieces of
looseleaf
6: two pieces 8x10 felt, dried beans
7: socks for sock babies (details in class)
Applique: one 8x10" picture frame

General Music 6/7/8: 1 3-ring binder

Chorus 6/7/8: Black music folder
Clear plastic folder for chorus only

Instrumental Music 6/7/8: $\frac{1}{2}$ " three ring binder (for home use only)
Instrument
Snare Drum Sticks (percussion)
Valve oil, slide grease, cork grease, swabs
Box of reeds #3 minimum
Accent on Achievement Book: Grade 8: Book 3
Music stand for home practice
Optional: pocket tuner, metronome

PE 6/7/8: Shorts/t-shirt
Sneakers and socks
Sweatpants/sweatshirt
Shin guards

ESL 6/7/8: Native Language / English dictionary
Binder and spiral notebook

Learning Center Grade 6: 1 2" binder
5 packs 3x5 ruled index cards

Learning Center Grade 7/8: 1 $1\frac{1}{2}$ " binder with dividers
5 packs 3x5 ruled index cards

Letter from Our ES Principal...

Summer 2010

Dear Ridge Street Families,

At this midpoint of the summer, we hope that you and your family are enjoying the warm weather and leisure time. We are looking forward to seeing you again on Tuesday, September 7th when the new school year gets underway. The staff and I appreciate your confidence in the work we are doing with the children.

The summer always brings changes and Ridge Street has been a hive of activity:

- There have been significant improvements to our facilities including a new floor and wall mats in the Old Gym and a refinished floor in the New Gym.
- We are getting a new public address system for our building and classrooms.
- We have hung our RSS Blue Jays tiles in the hallway by the bird garden.
- We have made some changes in room locations:
 - All 5th grade classrooms can be found in the New Gym wing. This will include our new 5th grade science lab!
 - All 4th grade classrooms can be found in the former 5th grade wing.
 - All seven of our 3rd grade classrooms will be on the same floor (Library and Computer Lab wing)
 - All K-2 classrooms can now be found on the northwest part of the building, with all 2nd grade classes together in the Main Office wing. This has been a very exciting summer for us in that we have had the chance to work with several groups of teachers on curriculum. This work will allow us to ensure that our students are receiving experiences that are what Tony Wagner refers to as "rigorous, relevant and respectful."

While vacation is a time to relax and have fun, it is also a great time to read and practice those math facts. Summer learning loss, also known as "summer slide", typically happens during the time students are not engaged in formalized and structured learning. We encourage your child to read every day -thirty minutes or more each day would be ideal. We also encourage them to practice math facts or engage in some kind of math learning (Cooking is a great way to practice math!!! Or, you could chart the temperature!!) We are including some wonderful online resources that will give you some at-home ideas for reinforcing previously learned material:

Literacy

www.rif.org - Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit children's literacy organization.

www.summerreadingnys.org - Welcome to Summer Reading at New York State Libraries - 2010.

www.scholastic.com/summerreading - Join Scholastic's **summer** reading **challenge** to read four or more books over the **summer**. Plus, play games, earn points, and participate in a live webcast!

Math

www.mathcats.com - Fun interactive math projects, math games, math art and crafts, math writing contests, math story problems, even a magic chalkboard!

www.figurethis.org - Assortment of mathematical challenges based on real life situations.

All Subjects

www.kids.nypl.org - Search the online catalog, browse useful web links, and read reviews of books, movies, and music.

www.creativekidsathome.com - Kids crafts: free children's activities and gifts for kids.

school.familyeducation.com - School resources and educational help - every grade from preschool through high **school**.

<http://www.besthistorysites.net/Multimedia> - An annotated list of fun history games and animations organized around broad historical periods.

We hope that you all continue to enjoy the wonderful summer break with friends and family. We are look forward to the children being energized and ready to return to school on **Tuesday, September 7th**.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Deborah Weisel
Principal

Tracy Taylor
Assistant Principal

5th GRADE AWARDS - 2010

PRINCIPAL FACULTY AWARD

Rowan Gopala Reddy
James Michael Jardine
Heather Melvin
Rebecca Kimmel

MICHAEL ROSENHACK SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Christopher Steven Megdanis
Elise Yockelson

LYNDA SAXMAN “DO IT NOW” AWARD

Nikolina Cuk

CARRIE SARKOZI MEMORIAL AWARD

Justin Matthew John

BRUNO M. PONTERIO CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Zoe Kansler
Michael Joseph Malley

SCHOOL SUPPLIES 2010-2011 School Year Grades K-4

KINDERGARTEN

Backpack (one that the child can easily open & large enough to hold lunch box and folder)(no wheels)

Smock (labeled with name) – we recommend an adult t-shirt to man's dress shirt

2 boxes of baby wipes (one for art & one for classroom)

1 box of Ziploc bags (gallon size)

- **Please label all of the above items with student's name**

FIRST GRADE

Large Backpack

2 large erasers

4 plain folders with bottom pockets

1 marble composition book

Adult tee shirt for art (size medium)

1 box each of Ziploc bags (quart & gallon)

1 box #2 pencils (sharpened)

SECOND GRADE

Book bag

2 box pencils (sharpened) – plain no designs

Erasers (large good quality – Pink Pearl)

1 plastic **dark blue** folder with bottom pockets (no Trapper Keepers)

Sturdy box to store supplies (cigar-box size only)

Smock or size large man's tee shirt for art class

1 box each of Ziploc bags (quart size)

THIRD GRADE

Book bag

48 sharpened #2 pencils (generic)

2 marble notebooks

7 plain plastic horizontal pocket folders

10 manila folders (letter size) – NOT LABELED

Con-Tact (clear) to cover workbooks (to be left at home)

Large Ziploc bag to hold pencils, erasers, etc.

Smock or size large man's tee shirt for art class

- No binders are needed

FOURTH GRADE

10 pocket folders (with holes to fit loose leaf notebook to be divided into sections in notebook) – plastic are suggested

12 pencils (sharpened)

Small zip case for supplies (optional – no plastic boxes)

Pleasure reading book for independent reading

3 marble composition books

Flash drive/memory stick (USB)

1 box large Ziploc bags

Smock or size large man's tee shirt for art class

Note for all grades

- **Please label all of the above items with student's name**
- **Pencils and erasers should be replaced as needed**

***PHYSICAL EDUCATION - sneakers, laced or Velcro (platform, sketchers, rubber soled shoes and slip on sneakers are not acceptable) (no hats are to be worn in physical education classes)**

5th Grade Supply List for 2010-11

General Supplies

- 1 combination lock for the lockers (NO KEYS PLEASE!)
- 1 two pocket folder for **Homework and Notes**
- 1 Fifth grade "Tool Kit"
 - Please use a pencil box or pencil case to do so and include the following items. (Remember you will need to replenish these items during throughout the year:
 - Pencils
 - Erasers
 - Glue sticks
 - Post it notes
 - Highlighters
 - Pens (red and blue)
 - One flash drive (memory stick)

Math

- 1 two pocket folder
- 1 ruler with metric and inches

Science/Health

- 1 one and a half inch binder
- 2 dividers – one for Science and one for Health
- 1 package of loose leaf paper with holes
- 1 two pocket folder for Health

Social Studies

- 1 two pocket folder

Language Arts:

- 3 marbled composition notebooks (stiff cover)
- 1 red two pocket folder
- 1 yellow or white two pocket folder
- 1 green two pocket folder

Languages Art Mini-Course

- 1 two pocket folder

Spanish

- 1 two pocket folder
- One composition notebook

Art

- 1 smock (You may use a large old t-shirt) to be kept in your locker.

Band

- 1 two pocket folder

Suggestion:

Over the years, 5th grade students have found it helpful to purchase a "Case-It" to carry their materials to and from class. A Case-It is a 2 inch round ring zipper binder with book holder on the front. This is an optional purchase and not required for 5th grade.

