



Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District
A quarterly newsletter
Fall 2023

BBMS students knead for peace



More than 50 students gathered after school one recent afternoon at Blind Brook Middle School in the Family and Consumer Science Classroom as part of “Making Challah for Peace.” The event, organized by Spanish teacher Mariela Cohen Sabban, offered students an opportunity to engage in a fun activity and offer good thoughts for a better world.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Students and parents learn practical tips for online safety

Thank you to members of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for helping our students and parents learn more about online safety. Recently Assistant District Attorney Mathieu Reno of the Cyber Crime Unit spoke with fifth graders at BMRSS about how to stay safe while using the Internet. That same evening, parents had an opportunity to learn more about Internet safety with Assistant District Attorney Laura Forbes.



Click [HERE](#) to read more!

BBHS's Senior Sophie Possick works to end stigma around mental health issues



BBHS Senior Sophie Possick recently enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in support of eradicating the stigma of mental illness at the Bring Change to Mind Revels and Revelations Gala. Sophie founded the high school's chapter of BC2M that provides resources to students struggling with mental health issues. The gala was an opportunity to meet other students from the region, support a great cause, and meet Ryan Reynolds!

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

District buildings and grounds received upgrades during long break



Our school buildings and campuses look amazing thanks to some recent upgrades!

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

¡Hola! Spanish comes to Bmprss



This year, Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) is back at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, and both teacher Jasminne Paulino and students are exclaiming “¡Olé!”

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

It always amazes me how quickly time flies. I cannot believe we are full into the holiday season already.

As I reflect on the school year so far, I am amazed by the impressive work and achievement of our students, faculty and staff. The year began with several improvements to our facilities during the summer months. Our students continue to thrive in their academic work, athletics and theatrical endeavors and community service activities. And our faculty continue to expand their knowledge with professional development opportunities.



I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Blind Brook High School Drama program for their production of “Radium Girls.” The cast and crew did an amazing job in their telling of this important story of women seeking justice from workplace related illnesses in the early part of the twentieth century. They made history come alive with this important topic.

My thanks also go out to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and ADA Mathieu Reno and Laura Forbes. The two assistant district attorneys shared important Internet safety tips with fifth graders at BMPRSS as well as parents. Each highlighted tips to help students stay safe and suggestions for how parents can navigate the space.

Finally, I would like to wish our families a very happy and healthy holiday season! I look forward to seeing what the New Year will bring!

Sincerely,

Dr. Colin M. Byrne
Superintendent of Schools

Blind Brook High School Celebrates Student Who Earned Rare Perfect Score on AP Exam

Congratulations to Blind Brook High School Class of 2023 graduate Jazmin Zeitune for earning a perfect score on a college-level Advanced Placement® (AP®) Exam in May 2023! Ms. Zeitune was one of only 308 students in the world to earn every point possible on the AP Drawing Exam. She is currently a student at Manhattan's School of Visual Arts, where she studies animation.



Click [HERE](#) to read more!

BMPRSS students learn about Diwali through drama and dance



The Indian festival of Diwali was the focus of a recent assembly at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School that showcased drama, song and dance. The event literally had students and staff dancing in the aisles as they learned some fun steps to a Bollywood-style dance.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

BBHS Model U.N. visited Princeton



Congratulations to the Blind Brook High School Model UN! The group visited Princeton University last week for their first major conference of the season. Twenty-seven students engaged in several debates and collaborative projects. They also enjoyed a campus tour led by BBHS alumnus Johnny Ramirez, who is now a sophomore at Princeton. All 27 of our delegates tried their best, and eight of them received awards from the conference:

Best Delegate Award winners: Ian Sherman and Josh Montvelisky

Outstanding Delegate Award winner: Amrit Mohapatra

Honorable Mention: Jonah Bassuk, Danny Kielman, Yana Vorobiev & Lily Cullagh

Verbal Commendation: Evan Levitan

Seasonal Scenes

This fall our students were able to enjoy some autumnal activities! Among them were the BMRSS Halloween Parade, BBMS Pumpkin carving and BMRSS apple cider making!



Honors & Accolades

BBHS Named to the 2023 AP School Honor Roll

Congratulations to Blind Brook High School which has been named to the 2023 AP School Honor Roll! BBHS is a Bronze member of the Honor Roll! BBHS had 83% of seniors who took at least one AP exam during high school, 71% of seniors scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam, and 2% of seniors who took five or more AP exams!



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BBHS students named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Congratulations to Blind Brook High School seniors Fiona Chen, Matthew Laterza, Austin Lu, Joaquin Otero and Derek Wang for being named 2024 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists!



BBHS Drama presented “Radium Girls”

On Nov. 17-18, BBHS Drama presented “Radium Girls.” The story where time plays a crucial role as the women who worked in clock factories in the 1920s became ill from the radium, they used for the light up dials they painted on clock faces. The story tells their fight for justice.



Upcoming Events

***Nov. 30 and Dec. 5, BMPRSS Half Day of School, 11:30 a.m.
(Parent/Teacher Conferences)***

Dec. 6, Board of Education Meeting

***Dec. 12, Curriculum and Instruction Discussion with Dr.
Michael Curtin, 7 p.m., BMPRSS Cafetorium***

Dec. 20, BMPRSS Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m.

Dec. 25-29, Holiday Recess

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