



BLIND BROOK BEACON

SPRING 2025

A quarterly newsletter

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Registered voters may vote in-person for the 2025-2026 Budget and Board of Education Trustees on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. in the Old Gym at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, 390 North Ridge St., Rye Brook, NY.

Review the Budget Newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/mv5aa655>

Comprehensive Budget Book at <https://tinyurl.com/886eek5u>

Click here for all 2025-2026 Budget Information, <https://tinyurl.com/23kwnh5u>

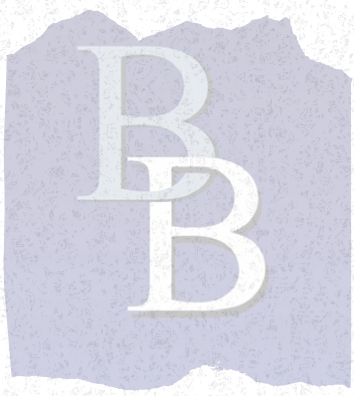


PLAY BALL! TROJANS CELEBRATE THEIR NEW FIELD

With the sun shining and gentle breeze blowing, team captains Elliot Zwicker, Roberto Cuesta and Nicholas Violino cut a red ribbon to celebrate the new field in early April. The team then went on to play Tuckahoe in not only their first home game of the season, but their first home game since last spring.

[Click here to read more](#)





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A CLOSER LOOK AT CURRICULUM

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Dr. Michael Curtin, recently hosted a virtual town hall event to share information on each grade level with the school community and to answer any questions.

[Click here to read more](#)



BMPRSS PARP WEEK INSPIRES READING!

Bluebirds at BMPRSS recently enjoyed the PTA sponsored PARP (Pick A Reading Partner) Week! In addition to encouraging students to read, among the activities special guests were invited in to read to the children and talk about the work they do. The event is an initiative promoted by the New York PTA. Last year the Rye Brook PTA won the Westchester-East Putnam regional award from the New York State PTA for their work.

Among the VIP readers were Board of Education President Jeff Mensch, Rye Brook Mayor Jason Klein, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Colin Byrne, Feeding Westchester Public Relations Director Jenna Giacovos, Rye Brook Police Officer Christian Bautista, Westchester County Legislator Vedat Gashi, News 12 Anchor Lisa Salvadorini and Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins.



The week also included a Book Swap, where students could select two books to take home.



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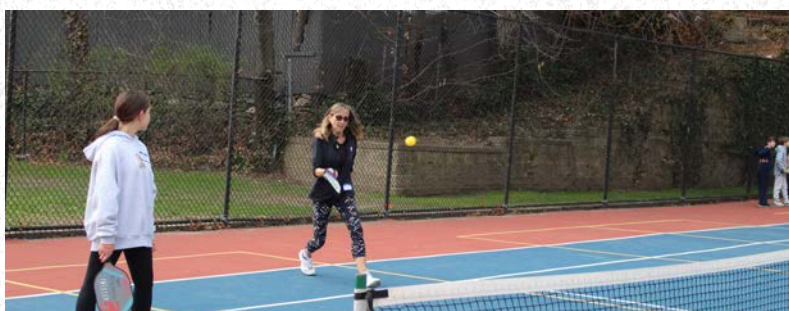
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INTERGENERATIONAL FUN: STUDENTS VISIT AREA SENIOR CENTER

In a first, students from Blind Brook Middle/High School visited the Anthony J. Posillipo Community Center in Port Chester earlier this spring where they made some new friends. Together they spent an early afternoon getting to know one another and enjoying some games.

[Click here to read more](#)



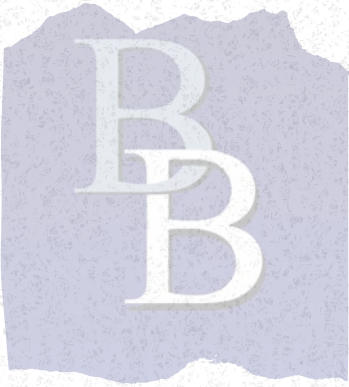
STORYTELLER LEADS BBMS STUDENTS BACK IN TIME

Oney Judge had a story tell. Her story. One of captivity to freedom. She had lived her childhood as an enslaved person and by her own wits and will she became a free woman.

Her harrowing tale was told by professional storyteller Sheila Arnold, who visited Blind Brook Middle School. Seventh graders first met her in the persona of Oney Judge, who was a maid servant for Martha Washington, wearing a long skirt and cap.

[Click here to read more](#)





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UNDER THE BIG TOP 4TH GRADERS SHOW OFF THEIR CIRCUS SKILLS

Many children at some point in their lives dream of running off to the circus. Fourth graders at BMRSS actually did!

Following a week of training where they were tutored by staff from Circus Unlimited, students showed off what they had learned during a special performance for family and friends. They walked on stilts, spun plates, defied gravity with special balancing tricks, juggled and tossed Devil Sticks and spun and tossed a Diablo.

[Click here to read more](#)



STUDENTS TAKE LEAD IN MAKING BBMS A POSITIVE PLACE

The Blind Brook-Rye UFSD and community knows that quality of character is as important in the growth of every student as curriculum, which is why the Student Advocacy Council organized the No Place for Hate Film Festival. Students chose short films to engender discussion about issues like respect and bullying.

[Click here to read more](#)





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CREATICON 2025!

What an amazing tribute to our student's creativity and ingenuity! Creaticon, held on May 15, showcased the work of all of our students who submitted their projects for display. The community was able to see student created work from animation and art of all kinds, to robotic demonstrations and 3D printed creations!





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CREATICON 2025 CONTINUED!





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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Spring is always a dynamic and invigorating time across our schools, filled with the culmination of academic endeavors, the implementation of enriching educational programs, standardized assessments, and preparations to close the school year on a high note.

Amidst this flurry of activity is one of our most important annual events — the Budget Vote and Board Election, which will take place on May 20, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Old Gym at Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School. Each year, our goal is to develop a fiscally responsible budget that continues to support the academic excellence of our students while maintaining and improving our facilities. I encourage you to visit our website and review the budget materials, including the [Budget Newsletter](#) and the [Budget Book](#), to gain a comprehensive understanding of the proposal.

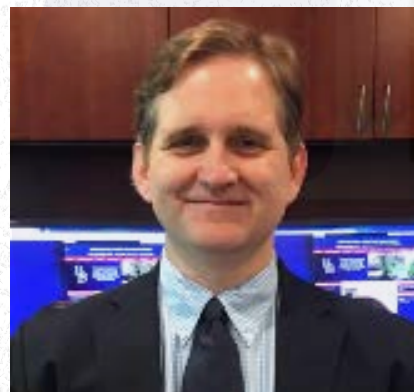
This spring marked the exciting debut of a new baseball field for our Trojans. On a picture-perfect day, our team captains had the honor of cutting the ribbon, officially opening the field after more than a year of anticipation. I deeply appreciate the community's patience throughout this process and was proud to participate in the opening ceremony. The completion of the field reflects our unwavering commitment to enhancing the student experience—both inside and outside the classroom.

We also recently welcomed families to a virtual Curriculum Town Hall hosted by Dr. Michael Curtin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment. The session focused on current initiatives in literacy and mathematics and outlined our strategic vision for future growth.

It was an insightful productive dialogue, with participants posing thoughtful and relevant questions. I encourage you to stay engaged and attend future events as we continue to share updates and collaborate in service of our students' academic success.

As we approach the final stretch of the academic year, I want to extend my best wishes to all. Let's finish strong—stay focused, keep up the great work, and take time to enjoy this special season.

Sincerely,
Dr. Colin Byrne
Superintendent of Schools





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BMPRSS BLUEBIRDS HAVE BEEN BUSY!



Parents and students enjoy a night of treats during Multicultural Night!



Second graders showcased their research and shared it with family and friends as part of their "Around the World" event.



Music teacher Greg DiMiceli leads the "Kindergarten Sing!"



First graders shared their talent with the "Remember the Magic" performance.



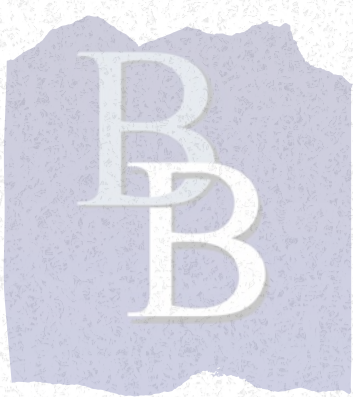
Bluebirds raised \$27,557 during "Boosterthon," and Principal Tracy Taylor kept her promise of being slimed once they met their fundraising goal!

AUTHOR SHARES HER INSPIRATIONAL STORY ABOUT THE POWER OF 'YET'

Earlier this spring author Sasha Forman visited BMPRSS to introduce the students, or reintroduce as some have read it, to her book "The Hoop Troop," and its inspiring story of overcoming challenges.

[Click here to read more](#)





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BBMS HIGHLIGHTS!



Congratulations to the BBMS Toto-ly Oz-some Girls (Destination Imagination Team) for recently coming in First Place at the State Competition! The team will next compete at the Global Finals in Kansas City. Congratulations to Ella S., Reha P., Bhoomi D., Arya E., Ellie T. and Megan T!



Congratulations to the BBMS Chess Club who participated in the 2025 Connecticut Scholastic Team Championship and secured 2nd place in the Middle School Division! Congratulations to Madison W., Ryan G., and Brandon W!



Students in Lisa Fellin's English class try out an improvised Shakespearian exercise inspired scene as they prepare for a deep dive into the Bard's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

BBMS students recently participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk to raise awareness for mental health. Students participated during their lunch period, taking several turns around the track and learn about the importance of healthy mental health practices. Thank you to NAMI Westchester for supporting this initiative!





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A BUSY SEASON @ BBHS!



Congratulations to BBHS' Rachel Horn and Charlotte Zelin!

Rachel Horn placed 3rd place in the Behavioral & Social Sciences division at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF). The 3rd place awards are sponsored by Carl Zeiss Microscopy, and the winners receive a medallion and \$50. Rachel received the honor for her poster: *Establishing Associations Between Physical Activity and Visual and Sensorimotor During Motor Tasks*.

Charlotte Zelin received a special award at WESEF, *Innovations in Biological Sciences Research Award (Medicine and Health Sciences division)* for her poster, *Characterization of Age at Diagnosis and Temporal Phenotypes for Autism*. She received a certificate and \$25 will be awarded to outstanding projects in the biological sciences. The award was donated by Westchester Academy of Medicine.



The BBHS Model UN wrapped up their amazing season with a 3-Day conference in Boston!

During the conference the team tied a school record of 33 awards this year, which is no small feat!

Congratulations to the following award winners from this past weekend:
Best Delegate Award: Chloe Beal
Outstanding Delegate Awards: Sara Levine, Dora Lopes and Tatum Schwartz
Honorable Mention Award: Rex Kanner
Position Paper Award: Trevor Feist
Verbal Commendations: Daniela Dluzhevskiy, Julia Mensch, and Lenna Zacharoulis



The BBHS Band and Choir recently went to Orlando!

While there the band students had a two-hour workshop with Dr. Tremon Kizer, Director of Bands at the University of Central Florida.

The choir students worked with two members of Disney World's iconic a Capella group, "The Voices of Liberty" and famous performing and recording ensemble, "Voctave."

While there both groups performed separately at "Give Kids the World Village," part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, for children and families currently receiving support.



Ryan Chen, a 9th grader at Blind Brook High School, is the newly-crowned Junior Varsity National Champion in the United States History Bee!



Fourteen BBHS Creative Writing students recently attended the Young Authors Conference at PNW BOCES. They interacted with professional authors who taught them various genres of writing. Ranging from 'How to Write a Murder Mystery' to Poetry, our students engaged in learning and working with students from 10 other schools in New York. The conference began 38 years ago to encourage talented students interest in creative writing and helps students gain an understanding of how writers write and learn of the diverse careers open to writers.



GREGORY WARREN APPOINTED AS NEW DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION & INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Gregory Warren was appointed as the District's new Director of Health, Physical Education & Interscholastic Athletics.

Mr. Warren has a wealth of experience in the areas of health, physical education and athletics. He has held a similar position in the New Paltz Central School District since 2017 and was Coordinator of Athletics in the Bainbridge-Guilford Central School District for nine years before that. He has been an active member of both the New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA) and the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYS AHPERD), where he served as president of its Council of Administrators for three years.

Mr. Warren holds a Masters of Education in Special Education with a focus on Adapted Physical Education from Coppin State University; an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership from Stony Brook University; and a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from SUNY Brockport. He has a NYS School District Administrator Permanent Certificate and a Physical Education Permanent Certificate.



SENIOR ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Congratulations to our student athletes Victor Lopez and Nicolas Palacios! The two recently signed their college letters of intent in a special ceremony. In the fall, Victor Lopez will be attending Gettysburgh and will play Tennis. His classmate, Nicolas, will be attending Franklin and Marshall College and play Soccer!





ATHLETICS CORNER BLIND BROOK BEACON

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CONGRATULATIONS KENDALL KONIGSBERG FOR HER ALL-STATE RECOGNITION



Congratulations to Kendall Konigsberg for being selected to the All-State 2nd Team!

BASKETBALL TEAMMATES EARN ALL-STATE HONORS

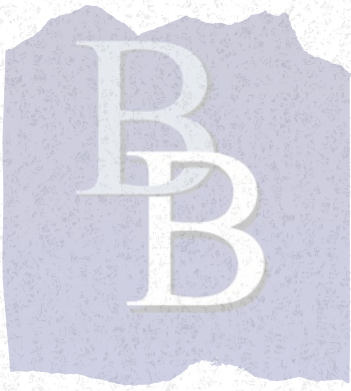
Congratulations to our student athletes Noah Brookman and Tyler Taerstein! Noah earned All-State Seventh Team and Tyler earned All-State Twelfth Team for basketball. They led the team to an 18-5 record, had the most wins in the past 8 seasons and reached the Section Finals! What an incredible accomplishment for the athletes, their coaches and Blind Brook Athletics!



STATE CHAMPION VOLLEYBALL TEAM CELEBRATES WITH SPECIAL RING CEREMONY



The Girls Volleyball State Champions had one more reason to celebrate, when they received their championship rings on Thursday night! The team gathered in the BBHS gym for a special ceremony and one more celebration of their hard work and championship season. Congratulations once again to our amazing volleyball team and Coach of the Year Gina Carlone!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 20. ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION, 7 A.M.TO 9 P.M., BMPRSS OLD GYM

MAY 21. BBHS SCIENCE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, BBHS, 7 P.M.

MAY 23-26. NO SCHOOL, SNOW DAY GIVE BACK AND MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 30-31. BBMS MUSICAL

JUNE 4. CELEBRATION OF LEARNING AND SENIOR OPTIONS SHOWCASE, 630 P.M.

JUNE 4. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, 730 P.M.

JUNE 5. SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY, 7 P.M., BBHS AUDITORIUM

JUNE 6. SENIOR PROM, 7 P.M.

JUNE 9. 6TH-7TH BAND CONCERT, BBMS/HS AUDITORIUM, 630 P.M.

JUNE 10. SELECT BAND AND JAZZ CONCERT, BBMS/HS AUDITORIUM, 630 P.M.

JUNE 17. ' CELEBRATION OF TEACHING,' BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, 7 P.M.

JUNE 19. JUNETEENTH, NO SCHOOL

JUNE 24. BMPRSS 5TH GRADE MOVING UP CEREMONY, 11 A.M., SUNY PURCHASE

JUNE 24. BBMS MOVING UP CEREMONY, 2 P.M.,SUNY PURCHASE

JUNE 24. BBHS GRADUATION, 6 P.M., SUNY PURCHASE

JUNE 25. LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



During the Middle School Chorus Concert Music Teacher Jessica Cerasoli, led performers through a selection of songs performed by several middle school groups from Hollywood favorites during the "Let's Go to the Movies" performance. The show concluded with a rousing rendition of "Salve Regina" from the movie 'Sister Act,' which was sung with a combined choir from BBMS and Blind Brook High School, consisting of 150 students!