



# BLIND BROOK EXCHANGE

WWW.BLINDBROOK.ORG

SUMMER 2006

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2006!!

As the number of graduating seniors continues to increase, both at Blind Brook and nationally, the college admissions process has become even more competitive each year. As in past years, Blind Brook again will be represented at some of the most selective colleges in the country. This year's students will attend over 50 different schools. All graduates of the BBHS class of 2006 were accepted into a four-year college or university. We are proud of all of our 77 graduating seniors, their accomplishments, and the wide variety of opportunities they will explore as they move forward toward their futures.



### New Homes for the Class of 2006

Allegheny College, American University, Bentley College, Brandeis University, Bucknell University, Colgate University, Cornell University, Emerson College, Emory University, Eugene Lang College, Fairfield University, George Washington University, Indiana University, Ithaca College, Lafayette University, Lehigh University, Lynn University, Muhlenberg College, Providence College, Purdue University, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer Polytechnic, Rochester Institute of Technology, Sacred Heart University, Seton Hall University, Skidmore College, SUNY Alfred, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Oneonta, Syracuse University, Temple University, Trinity College, Tufts University, University of Arizona, University of Central Florida, University of Colorado, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Maryland College Park, University of Miami, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Scranton, University of Sussex (UK), University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Villanova University, Washington University St Louis, Wellesley College, Westchester Community College, Williams College.

*(more about our seniors on page 4)*

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Dear Residents,

As we "ring out" the old school year and "ring in" the new, let's focus on some major initiatives taken and new ventures to come.

### Global Language Task Force

The steady rise of China and India as the new economic powers of the 21st century has prompted many school districts to investigate the possible integration of global languages into their curriculum. Three years ago Blind Brook acted wisely by introducing Foreign Language Elementary Spanish (FLES) into our Kindergarten through Grade 3 program. Next year we will expand to Grade 4.

Our Global Language Task Force has met twice during the Spring 2006 semester and will be meeting through next Fall. They are preparing a report and set of recommendations for December 2006. This will allow us to integrate their proposals into the 2007-2008 school budget.

### New K-12 Director

We are very pleased James Spano has accepted our offer to become our new K-12 Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics. Jim had been a full time Athletic Director on a 10-month teacher line. With his July 1st appointment Jim will become a 12-month administrator supervising, coordinating and evaluating K-12 Health and Physical Education as well as Athletics.

Again, this is a first for Blind Brook...the first time one administrator is coordinating the health and physical education curriculum and instructional programs on a K-12 basis.

### Strategic Planning and Long Range Goals

The well-attended Community Forums I and II this past Spring provided a solid rationale for Blind Brook to embark on a multi-year Strategic Planning process. Strategic Planning invites the entire school community to play an active role in setting the school district's Vision, agreeing on Blind Brook's Mission and setting in place an Action

Plan that will be continually evaluated. Strategic Planning allows school communities the opportunity to reinvigorate and, at times, to reinvent themselves based on changing demographics, values, economic circumstances and competition dynamics.

We are preparing our students to lead in a world that goes well beyond the 10573 area code. We must ask, what are we not doing today that we are required to do if we are to prepare our students for the global community five, ten and fifteen years from now?

During 2006-07 we will enter the Pre-Planning phase with training and workshops for school officials, administrators and key stakeholders in the school community. We will also lay the groundwork for a more extensive refining of our community's core values which drives the process.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

Ronald D. Valenti Ph.D  
Superintendent of Schools

## THE NEW BLIND BROOK-RYE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Welcome to the start of a new school year. It should be a year of excitement and anticipation with a greatly improved physical plant with the addition of classrooms, laboratories, cafeteria facilities and the completion in the fall of our fields and track additions. Both the student body and the community should benefit from these additions. We are thankful for all the community support that made these additions possible.

Most importantly, the new school year offers the opportunity for a new beginning. It is an opportunity for all of us to view the start of the school year as a clean page and a chance to start afresh with improved attitudes, performance targets and a true desire to make the coming school year one in which all participants can perform with pride. There is something refreshing and hopeful about beginnings.

Our District is small which provides the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a true community. Reach out to your neighbors; reach out to those in the community who may have particular needs. Let us strive to truly make Blind Brook a community that cares and one that we all can be proud of.

I am excited about the start of a new school year. I hope you share my anticipation of all the wonderful possibilities this year will bring. We have much work to do and I expect we will, with commitment and good will meet with considerable success.

Monroe E. Haas, Board President

## MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Students and Friends:

By many accounts, this has been a year of success for Blind Brook students and their families. We have celebrated the efforts of team work which have resulted in Divisional, Regional and State recognition of our High School Tennis, Softball, Track and Mock Trial teams. We have, likewise, publicly celebrated individual academic and extra-curricular achievements of many students who have earned Certificates of Merit throughout the year. Without question, both team and individual accomplishments generate palpable school spirit and individual pride.

But success is not always a matter of winning or losing, or being the subject of a public display of appreciation. Sometimes success is more personally found in a new level of understanding of a subject matter; sometimes it's achieving a half grade higher than the semester before; sometimes it's an improved sense of self earned by the very fact that you tried your best in your individual reach for success. Sometimes, success is quietly acknowledged by a smiley face drawn on a returned test or essay, and some-

times it's an understanding hug from your parent.

It is not a platitude when I say that if you have strived to do your best, if you have set "your best" as a goal, if you have reached that goal, or if you have even taken a step toward that goal, then you, too, have succeeded. I tell my four children that it is their effort, their preparation, and how they handle themselves in public which matter most to me, not their grades, not whether or not they made it onto a team, and not whether or not they were selected for an honor.

Each day be proud of your effort, each day be proud of your deeds, each day be proud of your words, and each day you will have earned the respect and admiration of others for your good character.

I would like to share with you the words of President Theodore Roosevelt which are reflective of my values and my aspirations for all of the young men and women of Blind Brook.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is not effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

"Let those who have, keep, let those who have not, strive to attain, a high standard of cultivation and scholarship. Yet let us remember that these stand second to certain other things. There is need of a sound body, and even more of a sound mind. But above mind and above body stands character."

Congratulations, once again, on the successes each of you have earned this year. Enjoy your summer.

Lawrence D. Engle



## THE NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION (cont'd)

On Tuesday, May 16th, RyeBrook residents elected Dr. Richard Buzin and Mr. Steve Kaplan to the Board of Education. Dr. Buzin, a Mamaroneck dentist and 19-year resident of the district served on the Board of Education for two consecutive terms between 1997 and 2001. Mr. Kaplan, a CPA and forensic accountant, has been a Rye Brook resident for 11 years and an active parent member in the school. Mrs. Deborah M. Faust was appointed on July 24th to fill a vacancy left open by the resignation of Mrs. Rosemary Matthews. Ms. Faust has lived in the district for \_\_\_\_\_ years and her three children graduated from BBHS. An active member in the school community, Ms. Faust began her career with J.P. Morgan over 30 years ago as a trainee in branch operations. She is now a vice president and credit executive in the investment bank.

GROUP PHOTO OF THE BOARD

Names of Board Members

# The Future Is Looking Bright For The Class of 2006

The following awards were presented to members of the Class of 2006 at the Senior Awards Assembly on June 8th.

## Scholarship Awards

Steven J. Piccolo Memorial Award.....	Scott Weinberg
National Merit Scholarship Award.....	Harrison Foster Melissa Lumish
40/40 Club Scholarship.....	Lee Arvoy
PTA Scholarship Award for Character Development.....	Jonathan Simon
Port Chester FCU Award for Education.....	Stephanie Zverin
Charles R. Gevertz Human Relations Memorial Award.....	Jen Flaxman Samantha Kaplowitz
Port Chester/Rye Brook Rotary Club Individual Achievement Award.....	Drikenda Balidemaj Sandy Sanchez
Bruno Ponterio Award for Excellence & Creativity in Social Studies.....	Rebecca Baccioni
Bruno Ponterio Award for Excellence & in the Humanities.....	Gavin Romm
Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Nita M. Lowey.....	Ruthie Brown
Port Chester/Rye Brook Kiwanis Club College Scholarship.....	Gavin Romm
Blind Brook-Rye Federation of Teachers Mike Dockwiler Memorial Award.....	Nick DiCanio
Nicholas Peter Ciccone/CYP Memorial Scholarship Award.....	Allison Kulik John Magliano
Wilson-Starck Klein Scholarship Award.....	John Magliano
George Trautwein PTA Scholarship Award.....	Dana Fleishaker
Assoc., American University of Women Writing Award.....	Rebecca Blank Julie Ganz
Community Service Award in Memory of Mrs. Barbara Sitner.....	Lee Arvoy
State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Community Service.....	Gavin Romm
Sound Shore Community Fund, Inc., Award for Service Commitmen outside of School.....	Jeff Wiener
CIBA-Specialty Chemicals Education Foundation HS Science Award.....	Rebecca Bacchioni
Mel Sobel Microscopes Award.....	Scott Statman
Ceativity in Art Applications Award.....	Asuka Fukamachi Rachel Sherman
Excellence in Photography Award.....	Alison Bergman
Marketing and Finance Award.....	John Magliano
Valerie Weimar Memorial Award for Poetry.....	Hillary Mosner
Ted Reed Memorial Scholarship Award.....	Evan Alper Stephanie Zverin

State of NY Office of the Attorney General Triple "C" Award.....	Nicole Haber Arthur Ferrer
Recognition by the State of NY Office of the State Comptroller.....	Heidi Lumish
LHCOSS Achievement Award.....	Jeff Weiner Heidi Lumish
Principal's Leadership Scholarship Award.....	Jennifer Flaxman

## Faculty Awards

Participation.....	Dana Fleishaker Hilary Mosner Kimera Rosen
Leadership.....	Jeff Wiener Jennifer Flaxman Wanika Fisher
Service.....	Gavin Romm Nick DiCanio Alex Markowitz
Citizenship.....	Jennifer Flaxman

## Departmental Awards

Bridge-Building Award.....	Dontae Epps
American Choral Directors Association .....	Dana Fleishaker
Culinary Arts .....	Caitlin Grossman
Math .....	Heidi Lumish
Computer Education .....	Amit Pahway
English .....	Heidi Lumish
Creative Writing .....	Julie Ganz
Senior Science .....	Melissa Lumish Heidi Lumish
Social Studies.....	Melissa Lumish
French .....	Lumish
Spanish .....	Julie Ganz
Italian .....	Jordan Glazer
Dedication to Foreign Language .....	Allison Kulik
Spirit of Blind Brook High School Award.....	Jayne Lucarelli
Instrumental Music .....	Dana Fleishaker
Instrumental Music Participation .....	Jaclyn Azia Jonathan Tenenzapf Heidi Lumish Melissa Lumish Asuka Fukamachi

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction is in the final phases at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School and Blind Brook MS/HS campuses. At the BMPRSS, the new addition is nearly complete. By September 1, the completion of the new administrative areas will allow for the Superintendent's Office and Business Office to be relocated into this new space and the old areas will be converted into two classrooms. The electrical service upgrade, air conditioner and heating unit installations, and new windows in the 1965 wing are at the point of completion. The BMPRSS soccer field reconstruction is underway and is scheduled to be completed before winter.

At the MS/HS, construction of the new additions is proceeding as planned. Nearly all exterior work is complete and interior work is moving along smoothly. All building construction projects are expected to be completed and all instructional spaces operational by September 6, the first day of school. The baseball field will also be ready at the beginning of September. A design correction to the MS/HS field retaining walls has pushed back the completion of the football/soccer field and track to October 15. This will signal the successful conclusion of the capital construction project for 2006.



*Blind Brook Public Schools*

SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

**BLIND BROOK EXCHANGE**

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Dr. Ronald D. Valenti, Superintendent of Schools