I hope that you all have settled into your routines and are enjoying the school year thus far.

As a teacher, it makes me so happy to see that you all recognize the importance of our annual Book Fair, and the significance reading has in a child’s life. My commendations to all who invested in this literary event. I would also like to extend a special thank you to our Chair, Lynn Doyle, Beth Clark, Carolyn Bannon, Paula DeSisto, Amy Curti and all of our volunteers for making our Book Fair such a tremendous success! Ladies, your perseverance and professionalism exceeded my expectations, you are all truly the best!

Open House was also sensational! Wasn’t it a wonderful thing to have had the opportunity to walk in your children’s shoes for a night? Having gone to BMS myself, it also brought back many wonderful memories to my husband and me on that special evening! I am confident you all as well, had a great time. Thank you Mr. Wheeler for being such a gracious host!

Our PTO Membership Drive is still underway. It costs just $10.00 to join, and scholarships are also available through the Main Office. As you know, ALL proceeds benefit our children. If interested, Joy Hearn, Lori Finan, or Rosemaria Cowden are always available to answer any questions or concerns you may have. You are welcomed to mail in your membership donations per their attention, BMS, 261 Middle Highway, Barrington, RI 02806.

Additionally, our BMS Logo Clothing is now on sale. For those of you that may have not seen them on display during Open House, we are offering new items this year. Feel free to browse the items in the display case outside the Guidance Office. Wouldn’t plaid pajama bottoms be perfect on a brisk afternoon or evening? We also are offering shorts, jackets, vests, T-shirts, and sweatshirts. What fantastic holiday gifts they would make! Order forms are available in Kidscope and on our web site.

Our annual Cookie Dough Extravaganza will also be kicking off shortly! We will be offering many different cookie dough varieties that will appeal to all! There is nothing like the aroma of freshly baked gourmet cookies on a chilly afternoon, and especially during the holiday season!

You are always welcomed to contact me with questions, concerns, or if you would like to become involved with the PTO. Please email me at frederick12@cox.net. I hope to see you all at our next PTO meeting scheduled for Monday October the15th at 7:00 in the school library.

Sincerely,
Donna Frederick
Dear Parents,

The Mission of the Barrington Middle School Advisory Program is to provide each student with a concerned professional who acts as an advocate and advisor helping to improve his/her educational experience.

The objectives of the program are:
1. Provide a safe and caring environment and activities that will foster bonding with an advisory group so that students will feel accepted and valued by teachers and peers.
2. Help students cope with academic concerns and set goals that will facilitate positive school experiences.
3. Give students avenues to discover their uniqueness so that they might come to appreciate differences among people.
4. Help students develop positive relationships through experiences that utilize group dynamics.
5. Promote critical thinking skills through discussion and problem-solving activities so that students can learn to make responsible choices.
6. Develop listening skills and an understanding of the roadblocks that hinder effective communication.
7. Foster self-esteem in students so that they might become competent, capable young people who accept responsibility for their own actions.
8. Heighten student awareness of good citizenship through providing opportunities for meaningful contributions to their school and community.
9. Provide opportunities for extensive student involvement through shared decision making.
10. Improve home-school relationships.

Initially, advisory will take place each Wednesday during mid-morning for approximately 35 minutes. Time for this program will be made by reducing each of our existing seven periods by five minutes.

Each advisor will be responsible for:

- Setting limits/problem solving.
- Structuring group experiences.
- Providing for incidental learning – holidays/current events.
- Following curriculum scope and sequence.
- Utilizing support and referral systems.
- Developing interpersonal relationships.
- Understanding students and tune into feelings.
- Exploring ideas and feelings – questioning.
- Clarifying and summarizing student perceptions.
- Providing feedback – complimenting and confronting.

- Richard K. Wheeler, Jr.
  Principal

School Telephone 401/247.3160  wheelerr@bpsmail.org
PC Pointers

1. If you or your kids are receiving attachments that won't open correctly, chances are the sender is using some version of Microsoft Office 2007. Staples offering Microsoft Office Home & Student 2007 Full Version for $129.00. This is not Vista, but a refreshed version of our old friends Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. This is the software platform the kids and teachers are using throughout BPS. While it doesn't have Publisher, it is easy to install and saves headache of trying to convert the doc back to the the older Win 97 Platform.

2. If you have an older Sony computer that might need some attention, the Sony Style store at Providence Place Mall offering a new service. For around $100, they upgraded my overtaxed hard drive on my ailing Viao laptop. For additional fee, they ran a thorough check up and clean up too. Well worth the $, and the Sony Style staff could not have been more pleasant or helpful. Store phone is 369 7300.

3. For PC-platform computers (not Macs), be sure to regularly run your Defrag and Disk Cleanup Functions (go to Accessories then System Tools). Close all other applications when you do this to maximize the effort, and run these one at a time. You don't have to monitor the entire process, but stay close by - you'll need to answer a couple of prompts. While this doesn't solve all computer quirks, it does help the computer re-organize itself - kind of like the kitchen counter....

   - Donna Williams
giocondari@yahoo.com

Apple Advice

ALERT! Where there once was the (almost) seamless ability to open WORD (.doc) on Macs regardless of what platform they were created on, for those Mac users receiving files for PC’ers utilizing Word 2007, it has just become a very moribund world. Those files, with the extension .docx, CANNOT be opened on any version of Word running on a Mac or with older versions of Microsoft Word running on PC. There are a number of free converter software programs out there to remedy this problem - which is a big one since the Barrington Public Schools recently upgraded to Word 2007 so your child’s homework available so conveniently on the BMS website is now stuck in cyberspace unless you’ve got Word 2007, too. Try http://docx-converter.com/. The programs, alas, DO NOT convert documents to Word but to html, then you must cut and paste into a Word doc. Unfortunately, the results are hit and miss. I managed to convert some files from my own hard drive but could not convert any of the files my son downloaded this weekend to complete homework assignments. Look for more info - and hopefully a solution - in next month’s Kidscope after I consult with the district’s technology office. What was Bill Gates thinking!

   - Ann Strong
apstrong@mailcan.com

E-mail your technology questions for this periodic column to either of the e-mails above!
From the Library/Media Center

From the first day of school, the BMS Library has been bustling. Students are coming for library orientation, introduction to our databases, iSafe training, our internet safety curriculum, and simply researching and checking-out books. Thanks to a generous grant from Barrington Education Foundation, for the first time “graphic novels,” books written in a comic book format, are now available. These books are flying off the shelves.

The library is looking better than ever. I want to especially thank our new library volunteer, Laurie Nies, who moved here from California where she was an elementary school librarian. Laurie put together three outstanding displays in the library which I hope all of you have seen. Two highlight our new graphic novels and the pièce de résistance features The Lightning Thief, one of the summer reading favorites. In addition, a new carpet and the bookcase purchased with funds from last year’s Box Top drive was installed over the summer.

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Kellner, our new library assistant. Our former assistant, Mrs. Hearn, is now the library assistant at the high school. We will miss her, but are very fortunate to have Mrs. Kellner in her place. Mrs. Kellner has been a library volunteer for years and is working on her Masters in Library Science. I know she will be an excellent addition.

Book Fair has just ended and I want to thank Lynn Doyle, Beth Clark, and all the volunteers who made this another successful year. As I helped cash out during Open House, I was again reminded of the generous and dedicated support our community gives to reading. It is one of the many reasons that Barrington Public Schools are successful.

In case you missed it in the last Kidscope, I encourage you to take a few minutes to explore the BMS Library Media Center website at: http://www.barringtonmiddle.org/C1/Library%20Media%20Center/default.aspx.

To the right is the name, description, and login information for each subscription database available to BMS students. Make sure to cut out the list and put it next to your computer.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at the email address below.

- Mrs. Nancy Maddocks
  BMS Library Media Specialist
  maddocksn@bpsmail.org

Databases

eLibrary
A general information source with information from news reports, magazines, books, maps, pictures, audio/video, and transcripts.
User name and Password: bmsonline

eLibrary Science
As the title suggests, this database offers the same media as those listed above but is specific to science related topics.
User name and Password: bmsonline

Facts on File American History
Specific to American History, this database has biographies, information on specific events and topics, primary sources, timelines, photographs, maps, and charts.
User name and Password: bmsonline

Facts on File Ancient & Medieval History
As the title suggests this database is specific the history of ancient and medieval times and has the same resources as those described above.
User name and Password: bmsonline

World Book Online Reference Center
This familiar title provides all the information of the familiar print encyclopedia and much more. Please note that this database is the only one with a different username and password.
User name: rlink
Password: stars
News from the Nurse

Thank you to all the seventh grade parents who have already forwarded the requirements for 7th graders. Seventh Grade Physicals are due along with updated immunizations which include: TD Booster, three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, Chicken pox Vaccine or documented disease. This is required by the Rhode Island Dept. of Health who will review the health records on November 1st. Thank you for forwarding all the necessary information by then.

A reminder to parents all medication, prescribed and over the counter must be supplied by parents in the original properly labeled pharmacy container. A medication authorization form must be completed by the physician and signed by the parent. There have been occasions when students have complaints where Tylenol or Ibuprofen would assist the student. All efforts are made to contact the parent to get verbal permission to give a one time dose. At that point in time the student is given a parental permission form to be signed and returned for the remainder of the school year. Please ask your child if she/he has one. Many students have been given them and they have not been returned.

All parents please contact me if there are any new medical concerns for your child or new medication that would influence his/her daily activities in school. It is imperative that the school nurse been notified of food and environmental allergies that are significant to your child’s daily health.

MOSQUITO ALERT, please remember mosquito activity during September and October. It is important for students and family members who participate in outdoor activities to continue practicing self protection to prevent mosquito bites.

Have a safe and healthy October.

-Sally E. Lockhart
LICSW  Barrington School Social Worker

ADHD Parent Support Group Announces 2007/2008 Meeting Schedule

The ADHD Parent Support Group for the parents of students in the Middle School and High School who have this diagnosis is scheduled to meet the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30 - 8:00 in the BMS Library.

The specific dates of our meetings will be:
- October 18th
- November 15th
- December - no meeting
- January 17th
- February 21st
- March 20th
- April 17th

The May - June meeting is a dinner meeting with the parents of students with ADHD in the Elementary schools. Dinner is provided and a speaker on a subject of interest to the group will be scheduled.

You are welcome to come to one or all of the meetings this year.

-Sally E. Lockhart,
LICSW  Barrington School Social Worker

After-School Enrichment Begins October 15!
SIGN UP TODAY!

Want to speak Chinese or invest in the stock market? You can! Simply sign-up for the upcoming sessions of the After-School Enrichment program.

Classes run from October 15 through December 14 and cost $75 each. Late bus transportation is available.

For more information, consult the flyer enclosed with this edition of Kidscope or contact Enrichment Program Coordinator Julia Texeira at texeiraj@bpsmail.org.
FOR THE PRICE OF TWO GRANDE LATTES™
YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BMS PTO

For just $10.00 that’s right, JUST $10 - you can help support the Barrington Middle School Parent Teacher Organization.

THESE DOLLARS HELP FUND THE BULK OF THE PTO BUDGET!
Membership funds directly help all the individual clusters with field trip financing, purchasing of materials and other miscellaneous expenses as well helping the PTO maintain and enrich the Middle School’s Courtyard, the expense of Career Day, helping to fund the end of the year gift to the school as well as all the communication expenses-printing and mailing of the monthly newsletters as well as the free directory.

IT IS A BARGAIN!!!!!!

MEMBERSHIP INFO
We’ll skip coffee today and join the PTO instead! Enclosed is a check payable to the BMS PTO for $10. Because the membership fees fund so much, any donation beyond this amount is greatly appreciated – scholarships are also available - please contact the office.

PARENTS’
NAME________________________________________________________

ADDRESS____________________________________________________

PHONE_________________E-MAIL__________________________________

STUDENT(S)
NAME________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

DIRECTORY
The BMS PTO Membership Committee is again publishing a BMS Student Directory available free of charge and mailed out to every student in the school. The information contained within the directory is meant only to improve communication between BMS parents and students. Use of this information for any other purposes will not be allowed. We will be using student information on hand to compile the directory. Deadline for opting OUT of the directory is Friday, October 5, 2007. Otherwise your child’s information will automatically be included in the 2007/2008 BMS directory.

IF YOU WOULD NOT LIKE YOUR CHILD’S INFORMATION LISTED IN THE DIRECTORY
PLEASE CHECK THE BOX AND SIGN AND RETURN FORM TO BMS OFFICE.

Student Name:____________________________________________________

Parent Signature:_________________________________________________

Date:______________________________________________________________

Friday, October 5, 2007 is the deadline for declining. Please return form to the BMS Office or mail to BMS, 261 Middle Hwy., Barrington, RI 02806 Attn: PTO Membership

Any questions? Please call Joy Hearn at 247-9867.
BOOK FAIR 2007 RECAP:

Nets Library $3,000 in Books and Cash Profits

Thanks to the untiring efforts of many individuals, this year’s total Book Fair sales were close to $10,000, with about $3,000 worth of books and cash profits for the BMS Library. Special thanks to Principal Richard Wheeler for his support and encouragement, and for promoting the Book Fair to the students and parents. A number of parents made book donations to support BMS teachers, as well as cash donations for the library’s wish list. The office staff, Beverly Chittim and Sally Collins, as well as Everett Rogers and all the custodial staff offered their cheerful assistance, often helping with last-minute details. We extend our appreciation to our enthusiastic librarian, Nancy Maddocks, for her cheerful support, her bookmark creations and her timely advice. We appreciate the teachers who took time to make personal recommendations for the parents and students. Thanks to Silver Cluster teacher Traci Parsons for inviting book illustrator, Elicia Castaldi, for the book signing at Open House.

Thanks also to Kristin Winoker, last year’s chairperson, whose expertise helped pave the way for a productive event.


Special appreciation goes to Deb Deese of the Barrington High School Interact Club, who recruited several students to help on our busiest day of Open House: Thank you Rebecca Viens, Julie Moss, Laura Bilotti, Cailin Clements, Sara Slye, Helen Palmer, Emily Cooper, Caroline Robertson, Eric Tainsh, Will Raleigh, Ross Provolo, Brenna Franco, Molly Malinowski, Molly Voigt, Amy Rasmussen, Andrea Weber, Hannah Rosen, Camille Mangiaratti, Megan Hoyt, Kelsey Hoyt, Kerstin Caesar, Ben Caesar, Emily Caesar, Margaret Ramsden, and Meg Daly.

We salute each parent, teacher and student who contributed immeasurably to this multi-faceted event. Not only did the Book Fair bring about an increase of rich and stimulating books for the library (and all our customers!), but it also provided an opportunity for parents, teachers and students to make some enjoyable connections. We can all be proud of our library’s resources and look forward to many hours of happy reading.

- The BMS PTO Book Fair Committee
  Lynn Doyle  Paula DeSisto
  Beth Clark  Amy Curti
  Carolyn Bannon
THE COOKIES ARE COMING!!!

Save up those calories! Watch for info on the PTO’s annual Cookie Dough Sale! With scrumptious varities like oatmeal raisin, sugar, and - of course - gold ole’ chocolate chip, it’s hard to say, “NO!” to a tub (or two)! Information with arrive in homes mid-October and dough will be delivered on around November 12.

For questions or to volunteer to help, please contact Amy Curti at 246-0821!

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT!

The PTO is offering a sensational selection of apparel with the Barrington Eagles logo!

These high quality items will have the Barrington Eagles logo either printed or embroidered on them, as noted on the order form attached. Note that the Long Sleeve Tee Shirts have the Barrington Middle School logo on them, and all other items will have Barrington Eagles.

To order, please complete and return order form to the School Office by Friday, October 26th, with a check payable to Barrington Middle School PTO. These items make great gifts for birthdays and holidays. Need more info? Call Ruth at 245-7025 or Patty Schwartz at 247-7572.

Orders will be available in November.

I’d like to pitch in!

Name ________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
Telephone_____________________________________
e-mail________________________________________

I’m most interested in:
__ Book Fair
__ PAGE/PASE Liaison
__ Publicity
__ Membership
__ Cookie Dough
__ School Committee Liaison
__ Substance Abuse Liaison
__ Gardens
__ Hospitality
__ One Amazing Night
__ I’ll do anything!!

We know you meant to return this form! Volunteering is a great way to share the BMS experience with your child. To those who’ve already signed-up to “pitch-in” - THANKS!

Lockers day was a big success! There was a great turnout of excited incoming sixth graders (and parents) who had a chance to become acquainted with their lockers and peek at the school.

Thanks to the following parents and high school students who gave up one of their last summer mornings to help us out: Meg Ramsden, Jill Heterick, Gay Egan, Carolyn Nolan, Robin Wheeler, Elizabeth Wheeler, Hannah Zoll and Maddy Butts.

Also, the following middle school student volunteers were such a big help with their locker expertise: Max Wheeler, Mack Ramsden, Danielle Butts, Maria Stadelman, Andrew Jones, Matt Marra, Cameron Voigt, Miller Heterick, Charlie Ionata, Caitlyn Nolan, Taylor Nolan, Michelle and Allison Suriani.

We couldn’t have done it without your help. Thanks again!

- Maria Marra and Nancy Voigt

Armchair Fundraiser: Nothing to sell, nothing to buy! It’s the easiest way to support BMS PTO, tax-exempt 501©3/not-for-profit organization whose goal is to support and enhance the student experience at BMS. Donations, payable to BMS PTO, can be dropped in the PTO box at the BMS Office. For more information contact: Donna Frederick/PTO President at 246-0734 / frederick12@cox.net or Donna Williams/PTO VP at 245-4864 / dsw0111@yahoo.com

If you are employed by a business that will match your donation to non-profits, please be sure to locate a copy of your company’s matching form.
When do you outgrow Trick-or-Treating?

Halloween is one of those holidays that’s enjoyed by most of us. Adults delight in young ones in costume and occasionally don their own to greet trick-or-treaters at the door. In the past few years, it seems those cute little goblins ringing the doorbell are getting taller. So what is the cut-off for tasteful trick-or-treating?

That’s a tough question for parents and an even tougher one for your middle-schooler who’s trying so hard to grow up but still wants to do “kid things” like trick-or-treating. Here are a few ideas to help navigate Halloween: Older kids should go out later but not after 8:30 pm. They should travel in group of about 5 to 7 and use good manners - be respectful of younger children and property. Another option? Offer your child and his friends the opportunity to be in charge of the festivities at your house. Let them set up a haunted house in the front yard or some other activity for trick-or-treaters. They might find that on Halloween, the best treat are at home!