

## The Harrington Big Backyard Mantra

1. Welcome fellow scientists! Everyone here today is a scientist...has anyone ever called you that before? Scientists use their 5 senses to make observations and discoveries about the world around us. Did you know that there are over 400 Big Backyard scientists at Harrington?
2. Harrington BBY scientists only use 4 out of people's 5 senses. We NEVER use the sense of taste. The reasons for this are (1) we are not the only living thing outdoors at Harrington. We don't know *who* went to the bathroom *where* - and all living things do you know! (2) There are many plants which are called look-a-likes; for example, you may think it is a blueberry bush but it is really buckberry. (3) People often use chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides outdoors. We must never put any type of a chemical in our mouth.
3. Scientists love to talk - that is how we share what we know with others. However, we want to use our *inside voice* even though we are outside. This way we can hear each other AND the other living things around us. Also, quiet voices won't disturb anyone in the buildings.
4. The only thing we take away from our BBY walks are our observations and our notes - No sampling please. We must respect our environment by leaving it as we find it. Otherwise, the next group or class of BBY scientists will not have the same experience as you. This includes not picking-up trash, sticking a pencil thru a spider's web, tearing leaves off a bush or petals off a flower. It is also not fair to move an animal away from its habitat and not return it (for example, a salamander can not be released onto the playground and survive).
5. Freeze frame! If the Harrington BBY scientists are lucky enough, sometimes we may come across an animal or something very unusual. If everyone rushed toward it at the same time, then it may be startled and leave or the object may be stepped on. Therefore, whenever the group leader says to freeze, BBY scientists should stop in their tracks and be very quiet.
6. Practicing for the Patriot's Day parade! There will be times when our BBY scientists should walk in single file, so as not to disturb a discovery.