

Brandon Pride

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & FRIENDS AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Upcoming Events

February 7th
Ski Trip for level 3+ students

February 16-20
school vacation

In February
Basketball Hall of Fame

March 1st, 4:00
Parent Advisory Council meeting

Weekly Residential Activities typically include:
Basketball games, YMCA, roller skating, movies, etc.

Teachers' Wish List



If you can help, please donate the following items to the box in the lobby. They are being used for upcoming art projects:

- Ivory Soap bars
- Magazines
- Cookie cutters (old ones are fine)
- Plastic containers (ex. old deli containers)

Brandon Bulldogs

As the calendar turns to February, both Brandon Bulldogs basketball squads are looking to the home-stretch to finish great seasons. The junior varsity team, grades 2-8, currently carries a 3-2 record and looks forward to continued hard work and tremendous teamwork. The youngsters just pulled off a monumental upset by defeating a varsity aged team last week, Farr Academy 27-26. The varsity team, grade 9-12, is currently 6-1 and coming off of a heartbreaking overtime loss to Newton North Pilot High School. The team has displayed great heart and refuses to quit on the court even during prac-



...tice. Thus far, both teams have impressed all those who have watched them. They have represented Brandon with the utmost respect and character. Coaches Pat, Kareem, Akil and Jon encourage spectators at the games to enjoy the atmosphere, and most importantly to support the young men. Feel free to call Brandon to confirm the game is happening as scheduled. The following is the upcoming February schedule for JV and Varsity (**Bold** = Home, *Italics* = Away):

Varsity Schedule	Junior Varsity Schedule
Feb. 2 nd : Dearborn vs. Brandon 11:30 AM	Feb. 5 th : <i>Brandon @ Longview 11:30 AM</i>
Feb. 4 th : <i>Brandon @ Compass 11:30 AM</i>	Feb. 9 th : Manville vs. Brandon 11:30 AM
Feb. 10 th : Newton North vs. Brandon 11:30 AM	Feb. 11 th : McKinley vs. Brandon 11:30 AM
Feb. 12 th : Harbor School vs. Brandon 11:30 AM	Feb. 25 th : RFK vs. Brandon 11:00 AM
Feb. 24th : Campus vs. Brandon 10:30 AM	Feb. 26 th : LABBB vs. Brandon 11:30 AM

Parent Advisory Council

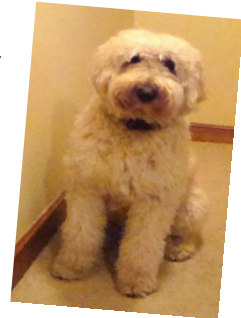
Purpose:

- To give parents/guardians a place to express views about the school programs, policies, and activities
- To collaborate and form a network of parents and staff to understand, respect and support appropriate education and services for all children with special needs at Brandon.
- Opportunity to share experiences and information to recognize program strengths and areas in need of improvement.

Next Meeting is Sunday, March 1st at 4:00 pm in the Administrative Conference Room. Join us!!

Our newest furry friend...

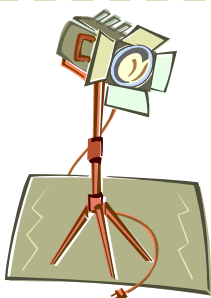
Meet the four legged friends of the clinical department! We are thankful for Therapy Dogs International and their referrals to us. Students use the dogs for different things, some practice patience by teaching new tricks, others nonverbal communication and some boys just want to savor the relationship.



Toby is a Shitzu whom has been with us for just over a year. He and his owner Jane come weekly and he just might be the smartest dog any of us have ever met.

Ruby is a Goldendoodle and she and her owner Dan have just joined us this winter. She is sweet and very playful. Welcome Dan and Ruby!





Student Spotlight

Written by a student whom staff recognize as having made tremendous gains despite incredible adversity.

Circumstances of time have led me to placement at Brandon Residential Treatment Center. I have been here since August of 2007 and during that time I have progressed and matured both psychologically and physically. The transition was a very positive one for me and I have reformed myself completely. Educationally speaking I received a diploma from Framingham public schools and made the big leap to acquire some college education as I am currently enrolled in a few college courses. My ambition would lead me to transfer to a four-year program and hopefully fulfill my

dream of being a psychologist. In addition to my education, I have conducted myself in a respectful manner which has allowed me increased privileges in the program. I work with the maintenance crew and acquire talents vital for the labor force. To best describe me, my employer calls me, "inquisitive and analytical...the turtle from Aesop's fable". In my opinion Brandon Residential Treatment Center has provided a lot of emotional support and instilled a desire to succeed in this very short life.

*"Mistakes
are our
teachers,
they help us
to learn."*

*-John
Bradshaw*

Brandon
27 Winter St.
Natick, MA 01760
Main #: 508.655.6400

Case Managers:

House 1:

Gillian Ahern x256

House 2:

Joanna Hastry

x279

House 3:

Sanmarie Gordon

x211

House 4:

Nicole Lambert

X223

Pinegrove:

Maritza Colon

X210

Cedarbrook:

Besorene Best

X261

Nobscot:

Dan Riley

x232



December Staff of the Month: *Lindsey Spector*

Lindsey has been a wonderful addition to the medical department and the larger Brandon community. She has been a huge help taking on some liaison work between Brandon and out-of-state insurance companies. Lindsey established new lines of communication and has played a large role in recouping medical expenses. She has proven to be very goal-oriented and has handled the sometimes complicated insurance issues with self confidence and competence. Additionally, her warm and professional demeanor is truly appreciated by both staff and students.



**No School
Feb 16th-20th**

As snow continues to pile up outside the boys are anticipating some time off from school for February Vacation. As is the case every Friday, on February 13th there will be a half a day of school. In the afternoon while treatment teams and staff trainings occur, students will have time to make up classwork or participate in an activity (typically in the gym or watching a movie). Over the weekend the staffing will be the same but, come Monday morning, instead of waking up and transitioning to school, the boys will get to sleep late. During the 8 am until 3 pm time block the houses will have some day school staff supervising students. Brunch is served in the cafeteria, although

February Vacation

some of the off-campus houses choose not to come for in for it. Kids play games (board and video), build snow forts (House 2 tends to have the most elaborate), and recuperate from school stresses. This can be a great time to add in extra visits just be sure to call your case manager as soon as possible so that the plans can be added to the visit schedule (this will help to ensure that the student is on-grounds when you arrive).



Together We Can Achieve