

# Brandon Pride

A Newsletter for Parents/Guardians and friends of Brandon at the suggestion of the Parent Advisory Council

## Upcoming Events

- March 1st 4:00 pm Parent Advisory Council Meeting
- Tennis Lessons
- Harlem Globe Trotters

Weekly Residential Activities typically include:

Basketball games, YMCA, roller skating, movies, pet store, library, 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

- Magazines
- Ivory Soap

## Brandon Bulldogs

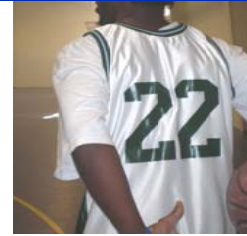
Around the home stretch they come! Both teams have enjoyed tremendous success this season and as a result they will be playing in the season culminating GBBL tournament in mid-March. The Junior Varsity team has continued to play older teams tough and has won their fair share of games

**"When I step onto the court I'm in my own world...anything can happen."**  
-Varsity S.D.

and outstanding hustle every minute of the game. They are currently 5-5. They will enjoy a very busy schedule as the sea-

against these teams. They have demonstrated continued teamwork

son winds down and will play in their first GBBL tournament on March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. The Varsity team has recently finished a gauntlet of games against difficult opponents that have tested their character, poise, and tenacity. The team is currently 9-5, but has lost heart-breakers at the buzzer to many of the tough teams they will face on March 16<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> in the GBBL tournament. Finally, the coaches would like to recognize all of the players for their dedication and hard work, it is sad to see the season coming to an end after all of the success and growth we have witnessed. Thank you everyone who has supported the young men this season!



## MCAS are coming...

As for most individuals who need to take a test, the MCAS can be an anxiety provoking experience for our students. Beginning in late February continuing through June various subject tests will be given to the grades assigned by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Students are reminded to get a good nights sleep the night before and residential staff encourage a hearty breakfast. In order to support each student with the accommodations written into their Individualized Education Plan numerous staff not usually on shift come in to be proctors, readers, writers, etc. Students are supplied with snacks in between tests and there is a collective sigh of relief when the whole thing is over.

(note-dates are the testing window)

### March 2nd-6th

ELA Composition, ELA Reading Comprehension, Mathematics for students in 11, 12 and 10th graders who have not earned a competency determination in ELA and are seeking a high school diploma

### February 23rd-March 20th

The MA English Language Assessment-Oral for LEP (Limited English Proficient) students

### March 9th-March 20th

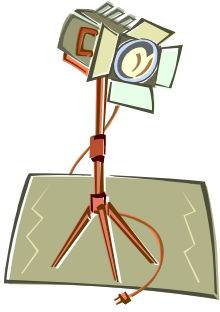
MA English Proficiency Assessment-Reading and Writing for LEP students

Varsity Schedule	Junior Varsity Schedule
March 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Brandon @ RFK 11AM	March. 2nd: Brandon @ Walker 1 PM
March 16th: GBBL Tourney @ UMASS-Lowell, 10 AM	March. 4th: KCC vs. Brandon 1 PM
March 20th : GBBL Tourney @ UMASS-Lowell, 10 AM	March 12 <sup>th</sup> : Brandon @ Lighthouse 11:30 AM
	March 18th: GBBL Tourney @ UMASS-Lowell
	March 19 <sup>th</sup> : GBBL Tourney @ Lexington HS

## Fire Station Visit



On Wednesday, February 11th, 6 kids were accompanied by staff on a trip to the Natick Fire Station. We interviewed Lt. Jim Arena who told us about how scary it can be in a fire and how tough it can be to be a firefighter because they are away from their families a lot. We also took a tour of the department where we got to see an actual procedure for the firefighters going out on a real call. It was really quick...they (the ambulance and fire trucks) were all out in under two minutes. After they left we got to tour the fire truck and hold the jaws of life. I even got to try on the gear which weighed around 60 pounds. The jacket was really heavy! It was a fun learning experience and I will remember if I ever need to call 911 how quickly they will be there to help.



# Student Spotlight

I'm a 14 year old boy who grew up outside of Boston. Growing up there were some good times and some bad times. When I was growing up I moved a lot...I'm not really sure why, maybe because my mom didn't like the house or what was around it. There were things that were fun about that, like I got to move stuff and it kept me busy so I wasn't bored. I was often getting put back and forth between moms; my real mom and my adoptive mom.

how to deal with loses. I've learned that sports are good for keeping me busy, relieving my mind of stuff and I can focus on making the basket or getting a touchdown.

At Brandon I've enjoyed going to Six Flags, swimming at the "Y", or sledding. I also go to a youth group and to church with Dave the PG weekend supervisor. It's important to me to be able to learn about God and about what he did and how he was.

In the near future I hope to leave Brandon and to have a good life out of here. I'd like to get new friends, rejoin the Y at home, and to do fun things with my family.

*"The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."*  
*-Chinese Proverb*

About a year ago I came to Brandon because I wasn't feeling safe. When I first came I was nervous because I had to get used to a new place and all the staff and kids. Being at Brandon has been a good experience I guess. People are helping me with my problems and

## January Staff of the Month:

### Caitlin Ahern



Caitlin has brought a resurgence of art therapy techniques and applications to the clinical department and the agency as a whole. She has worked with various staff to utilize these techniques; for example, she and Besorene worked with the boys at Cedarbrook and created beautiful artwork there. She has worked with the House 2 boys and has successfully run Open Art Studios for the past 2 summers. Her calm and nurturing manner encourages the boys to work on projects that they might otherwise feel too self-conscious to attempt. Caitlin continues to develop professionally, earning her LMHC and specific art therapy credentials. Caitlin is a valued team member to the Clinical Department, the ACC Project and the entire Brandon Community and we have all benefited from her contributions!



## Ground Breaking

You may have noticed some construction vehicles working between House 3 and the school and wondered what's going on?

Trees have been cleared to explore the possibility of building a new residence on campus. This is still in the preliminary stages as numerous permits need to be sought. A group of Brandon administrators and coordinators has been meeting to explore what would go into the "ideal residence." What would the layout be? How would rooms be arranged? Besides bedrooms and the basics what might other spaces be used for?

Brandon's executive director, Dr. Timothy Callahan has voiced that these plans do not involve major increases to the number of beds Brandon is presently licensed for. More information will be shared as it is decided.

### Make your online shopping work for Brandon!

In order to help raise money to support our students & programs, we have signed up with [igive.com](http://igive.com). It is online site that generates donations when you shop at 700+ of your favorite online stores. Sign up for FREE at [igive.com/brtc](http://igive.com/brtc) and 2-26% of your purchases supports our cause!

