

Upcoming Events

- Nov 9: Lower School field trip to Boston Museum of Science to discover Ancient Cultures



- Nov 11: 1st quarter grades close
- Nov 5: Early Dismissal (1:05 pm)
- Nov. 24: School-wide Thanksgiving celebration
- Nov 26 & 27: No School for Thanksgiving
- November: Program wide Winter Art Contest



Brandon Pride

A Newsletter for Parents/Guardians and Friends of Brandon at the suggestion of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Halloween Festivities

Halloween is always a fun time of year at Brandon and this year was no exception. Thanks to the generous donations of from Brandon friends, students who wanted to go and pick out their own costume were able to. Excitement was in the air on the Friday before Halloween as the younger students paraded around the school and Trick or Treated the offices in pursuit of candy. By afternoon all of the kids were ready to join in the festivities at a Halloween Party complete with mummy wrapping, face painting, and candy tossing activities and some scary punch. Staff members enjoyed seeing all of the smiling (and painted, masked and scary) faces!



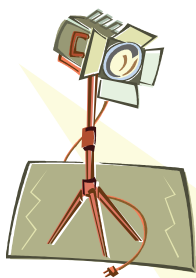
Flag Football

The Brandon flag football team has continued to plug away at their schedule through the cold weather over the past couple of weeks. The Bulldogs took a couple of hard fought losses on the road, staying committed and playing with character and class through their losses. Although the team was still winless in October, they showed their true colors and refused to give up, continuing to practice ambitiously and fight for every last inch on the field. Finally, the efforts of our boys were rewarded with a down-to-the-wire win at Gifford on 10/29. Playing on the road and against the Gifford crowd noise, the boys never gave up as they came from behind to win the game in the final minutes. Down by six with less than two minutes to go, the offense drove down the field with the two minute drill, capped by a goal line touchdown pass from Omar to John to tie the game. After missing the extra point, the Bulldogs defense took the spotlight. After Gifford put together what looked like it would be a game winning drive to Brandon's ten yard line, the final pass of the game was intercepted by Dayshawn and ran back the entire length of the field for the winning touchdown. The boys were ecstatic, and shook hands with class and character. The team has a bunch of home games coming up, highlighted by Newton North (11/3) and the rematch of Gifford (11/12). Please take some time to come to the field to support the team, and they'll be sure to reward you with an exciting game.

The Life and Times at House 2 this Fall

The Holidays are arriving soon and, here at House 2, we have been busy getting ready for the annual Brandon Multicultural Festival that happens in December. One House 2 staff has been teaching the kids songs and giving them some vocal lessons. They look forward to this once a week activity and often ask to practice singing daily. We are looking forward to decorating the house with Thanksgiving flare and hand-crafting decorations and gifts for our families and friends. Some of the kids are looking forward to the snow so they can go sledding and play football in the snow. Football is the big sport here in House 2. We are starting our baking class up again soon and teaching the kids how to cook. Everyone here at House 2 hopes everyone has a safe fall and a Happy Thanksgiving!!





Student Spotlight

My name is John and I am fourteen years old from Rhode Island. My life as a child was very difficult. I was a foster child whom was separated from my sibling at the age of three. I never met my biological parents. I was moved around from foster home to foster home and treatment center to treatment center quite a few times before I finally settled here. It was tough for me to make friends because I was always on the go. I have been at Brandon for a year and five months. When I first arrived, I went straight to Pinegrove. I thought Pinegrove was a pretty cool house because of the staff. During the weekends we did a lot of different activities. Living and going to school here brought out a competitive drive in me as I became extremely competitive in the sports programs, especially basketball. It was definitely a relief to come to Brandon. I have had more fun and met more people that are willing to go the extra mile for me. One of those people is Coach Kiser. He is always helping me improve my athletic skills but also makes sure that I do the right thing on and off the playing field. He has a funny sense of humor. I am glad I ended up here.

On the Forefront of Flu Shots

Brandon's nursing department was in the forefront this flu season, applying to the Department of Public Health for the H1N1 vaccine in September. The nurses were happy



to receive the first shipment of 100 doses in mid-October. The Brandon Medical Department was able to vaccinate most of the students and plan to vaccinate a majority of the Brandon staff as well. With predictions of a near epidemic of H1N1 flu this year, we are confident the children and staff will be well protected!



Middle School Lean-To Project

For the past week Brandon middle school groups have taken part in a special English project. We are reading Hatchet by Gary Paulsen in class. The book describes the experience of Brian Robeson who has just survived a plane crash and now has to make it on his own in the wilds of Canada. The book describes the different survival techniques Brian uses to survive his ordeal. The students were asked to plan, design and create a well constructed survival lean-to using only what they could find in the woods behind the school and what they learned in the book. The project went extremely well as the students were able take initiative, work together and, best of all, modulate

stress and frustration in a positive way. The largest of the three structures can hold more than five people comfortably. As a tie-in with the science curriculum, students placed paper cups under one of the structures to measure how permeable the structure was. The test showed that the structure is 100% weather proof, even withstanding the most recent sets of rain storms. If you see any of the middle school boys around school please congratulate them as they have done a great job. Thanks, Jerome Waldesbuhl, Middle School English Teacher

Soccer Summary

The Brandon Boys wrap up their soccer season with an admirable record. We have improved since last year and took home more wins, played more games, and have made huge strides in sportsmanship. Brandon maintained a winning record despite several game cancellations due to weather and other issues out of our control. All players deserve recognition for plenty of hard work and positivity, through wins *and* losses. Big thanks go out to the staff who have helped out so that we could have our practices, and games. Thanks to Jerome for donating goalie gloves and thanks to the boys who helped out by offering to wash jerseys and keep our equipment clean! Thanks to all for the continued support to our team. We'll see you next year.

