



Brandon Pride

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

Upcoming Events

October 5th-

Soccer vs. Longview
at Brandon 11:30

October 7th

Soccer at Willow Hill
at 12:45

October 12th-No
School

October 13th Football
at Longview 11:30

October 15th Football
at Campus 11:30

October 19th Soccer
at Willow Hill 12:45

October 26th Soccer
at RFK 11:30

October 29th Football
at Gifford 11:30

***Please call ahead
to confirm game is
still occurring if you
like to watch a game



Soccer Season KICKS Off

Brandon's soccer season has started off considerably well. So far this season, Brandon has faced Lighthouse, Longview, and RFK, winning 2 out of the 3 games to date. We are seeing an incredible leap in teamwork, skill, and sportsmanship on the field this year from last year, as our young men take their wins and losses equally with pride.

The coaching staff has been working with the players to improve communication on the field, and control over power during possession of the ball. Our leading goal scorers so far include Genaro, Kyle, and Mike, but we have had contributions from many others. In goal Shawn has been working hard to keep our winning season going, with help from Mario. Dayshawn continues to be reliable fixture on our defense, along with Adam and Sage. Our forwards include Genaro, Mike, John, Kyle, AJ, Saul to name a few- and have contributed immensely to the growth of the team, providing not only goals but assists and great passing.

We have a long way to go both in season and as a team, but we have a lot of potential and are very proud of the hard work being put forth from these guys. Upcoming match ups include, Willow Hill and Gifford, and we will face Longview and RFK once again. This year Brandon will host several home games, so be sure to check us out! Many thanks to all for the continued support.



Flag Football Season is Here!

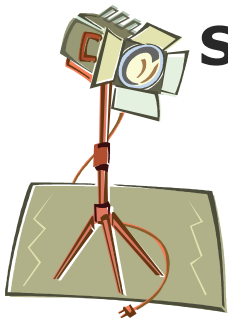
Football season is here! Along with our New England Patriots, the Brandon Bulldogs flag football team has started their season as well. The Bulldogs have faced Campus Academy and Longview, and will face Gifford in the upcoming weeks.

Although the Bulldogs have started off the season 0-2 with a couple of tough losses, the team has played with class and enthusiasm throughout. Our boys are learning many football skills, such as how to run routes on offense and how to use zone coverage on defense, but the skills they learn off the field are the ones that really stand out. The coaches preach patience, enthusiasm, and

arguably the most important skill of learning how to deal with adversity. We have seen many good things come from the losses, not only from a football standpoint, but from a life skills standpoint as well.

While there are many players that have contributed to the season so far, the Bulldogs look to their quarterbacks Kyle and Adam to lead their offense to the end zone in future games. The ground game gets contributions from many, while Jon has taken a majority of the snaps at running back. The offense also looks for receivers Andres and Anthony to haul in some passes. On defense, middle linebacker Justin has control over the zone defense, while corners John and Sean try to break up passes. On the lines, Mike, Saul, and Mario work offensively to block and defensively to get to the QB.

The Bulldogs have unlimited potential because of the athletic ability of the group of boys, and will get better each week both in practice and in games. The boys are very proud of the sweat and hard work they have put into this season so far, and will continue to do so over the upcoming weeks. The team will play Campus, Longview, and Gifford in the upcoming weeks, and do have home games left on the schedule, so be sure to come check them out and support our team. Thanks to all who have supported our team so far!

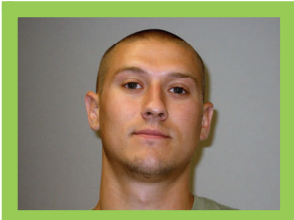


Student Spotlight

My name is AJ. I've been a part of the Brandon community for almost a year. I am twelve turning thirteen in a few days. I feel as if Brandon is the right place for me; it is a lot better than my last programs. I love to play sports especially football and basketball but I also love to go fishing. Sometimes I am shy but for the most part, I make friends very easily. I am from Melrose, MA and I am the youngest and only boy in a house full of women. Coming to Brandon, my first thought was "what a weird place". It was in the middle of no where, turkeys and deer would wonder everywhere, and I had a big six foot seven inch, goofy looking teacher that looks like Shrek when he gets upset. After a while, I started to become more comfortable with the community as I realized how much Brandon had to offer me. Growing up was not easy for me. I moved a lot when I was younger which made it very hard to make friends. After moving around a couple times, I finally settled in Melrose where I currently live now. I ended up at Brandon by being at the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people. Because of Brandon, I have come to accept why I am here and

the fact that I could have been seriously hurt or even hurt someone else. I strongly believe that because of Brandon, I can make stronger and better decisions next time. The staff is the best part of Brandon. They are every nice and helpful. I take a total of seven classes and I like them all. My favorite one is Math class. I have always been good with numbers so I look forward to going to class. My other favorite class would be social studies. We are learning about Egypt. I think the coolest thing about Egypt was all the pyramids. It is amazing how people would build these things with their bare hands. So to copy the ancient Egyptians, Pat has us building our own pyramids using cardboard boxes, paper mache and egg cartons. I am on the soccer team and the football team and I love every minute of it. Brandon is definitely the right place for me to learn life goals and to better myself. Although I love Brandon, I still can't wait to go home. With only a few months left here at Brandon, when I return home, I am determined to start school and start fresh and hopefully get to play on a varsity basketball team.

July Staff of the Month-*Ryan Kibbee*



Ryan continues to be a reliable and calming presence at the middle school quiet room. His ability to work with our students, communicate effectively with his team, and utilize all the tools at his disposal make him extremely valuable to the day school team. He has helped create and support a functional space that is often empty due to how well it is used. He has also done a wonderful job incorporating the sensory material into the school's daily program.

This summer Ryan was primarily responsible for the outdoor education program. Ryan was able to adapt the program used in previous years to support our changing population. He was able to coordinate some incredible programming with the Boy Scouts that allowed for the boys to participate in activities never attempted here during a summer session. For all the wonderful work Ryan has done this summer we would like to recognize him as July's staff of the month.

August Staff of the Month-*Priestly Bisong*

Priestly began his employment at Brandon in a quiet and respectful manner—so much so that it was a wonder if he would be able to manage the clients and survive in the Brandon environment! Priestly has clearly shown us that he has what it takes with the Brandon students, as well as among the Brandon staff. Priestly is dedicated to the work he does with our clients, regardless of the behavioral issues he has to address. Most impressive is the fact that he deals with all situations with a calm voice and a soft smile. As a Relief Staff Priestly has been a valuable player to many of the teams: he always shows up on time for the shifts he signs up for; he fills in when there is nobody else available; and is open minded about working in any or all of the programs. Priestly has been a tremendous asset to the Brandon community and we appreciate what he offers both the staff and students. Thank you Priestly!

