

"The Woods"

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POW WOW



BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

BRENTWOOD NY 11717

NOVEMBER 2008

VOLUME 40

ISSUE II

WATCH WHERE YOU STEP

BHS is a very large school with hundreds of faculty members and thousands of students. It's no surprise that it also has a large custodial and building and grounds staff. They are responsible for keeping the school looking its best.

However, on November 12th, an anonymous teacher said that there was a broken water drain in front of the school. The water drain was broken and the dirt around it was loose. The anonymous teacher was walking and almost tripped. Anyone who stepped on it could have fallen in and injured him/herself badly.

After this Pow Wow reporter showed pictures to Ms. Pappert, she wanted to see the broken water drain for herself. She was shocked to know that something like this had gone on unreported until now. She told the head of the custodial staff to fix it immediately, and in a matter of minutes, the problem was addressed.

Before B & G was informed



BHS VS. NORTH BABYLON

by Elisabeth Scheffel

On November 13, 2008, four students from the Mentathalon competed in the Power to Learn Long Island Challenge. Arely Clavel, Amy Varghese, Fatima Hamrani, and Norman Cao battled their smarts against the team from North Babylon High School. These excited contestants, and people who wanted to cheer for the team, left Brentwood High School at 11:00 am for Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City. *cont'd on page 6*



"We are like a community," Ms. Pappert said, "we have to help each other." She went on to further say that if they had known of the broken water drain it would have been fixed earlier; this did not need to go on for so long. The custodial staff would have fixed the problem before anyone could have gotten injured. Who knows how long the water drain was broken? It could have been broken for days, weeks, or even months.

All that matters now is that it is finally fixed. The best way to stop these things from happening is to report it to someone. So if you see something dangerous, it is your job as a member of this school to report it. It will make the jobs and lives of all of here at Brentwood High School a little easier, so things like a broken water drain don't get out of hand.

by Cleona Smith

After B & G was informed



Think Once, Think Twice, Think Three Times

by Gilberto Martines

Behind Sonderling High lies a place where students go for refuge, to trigger mischief, and to escape the stress of school life. "The Woods," which most students call it, is a place where Mother Nature expresses her beauty and is also just south of the Sonderling Center. The trees are a barrier separating the school and the rest of Brentwood.

There have been countless rumors about this place, which people look at with pride and appreciation for nature, but not everything is as it seems. "Basically, it's a place to go and chill," stated Kacy Frey, a student at Sonderling High School. "The Woods" have turned into a mecca where chronic cutters migrate in order to escape the school life.

However, on October 30th, school wasn't the only thing from which students were trying to escape. During 4th and 8th period, New York State Park Police and Brentwood Security entered The Woods in order to evacuate all of the trespassers. Students ran in order to evade the officials.

Apparently, students are not the only people entering The Woods. Most students who go to The Woods are oblivious to the fact that it is a state park. That's right; it belongs to the state. There are also signs posted in The Woods reminding people of this fact. Students who were caught in The Woods were not disciplined by the school; they were handled by Park Officials.

If anyone was caught with something illegal in his or her possession, the State Park Police had the right to fine and/or arrest him or her because it was a criminal offense. As of now, anyone who is caught in The Woods will be given a summons, or a ticket, for trespassing in The Woods. School security guards are doing all they can to prevent students from entering The Woods, but the security guards are confined to the school grounds.

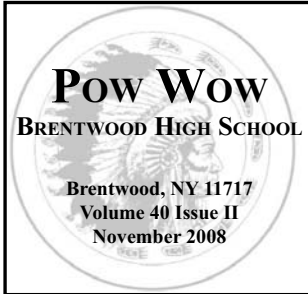
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The POW WOW has an EMAIL!!!!

Write to powwow@bufsd.org with comments, ads, contributions, or announcements!



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Editor's Page

Dear Students of Brentwood High School,

Alright, we're somewhere around the end of autumn and winter is approaching. Let's hope for some major snow and hopefully some days off from school. (Sorry, teachers, we have no intentions of offending you, but admit it: don't you want to take at least one day off from teaching?) Anyway, the year is coming to a rapid close, (time is going way too fast) but it doesn't really matter. If you find that time is going very slowly for you, then find something to do!

All we're trying to do is motivate you to do your best. That's what we really want. It's fun to fool around but the message behind this madness is that we care about your future. That's the bottom line. That's what it all comes down to. Don't you feel special?

So, as you read this paper, learn about the school that will help you graduate and lead you toward the future for which you strive. Listen to the facts, because this stuff was researched and edited like CRAZY! Don't believe the rumors that you hear in the hallways (even if your BFF is telling you that she DEFINITELY heard it from her cousin who heard it from a teacher who heard it from another student that heard it from the smartest student in her first period class, and it just goes on and on...) Honestly people, we don't waste our time; we're handing the truth to you on a gold-plated platter, filled with juicy information that will just delight your taste buds. So, what are you waiting for? GET TO READING!! :)

Seniors, have fun with college applications (if you're applying for early action/decision). Juniors, just focus on the grades (BUT DON'T STRESS OUT!!!). Sophomores, we're sure that by now you're very accustomed to the school. Enjoy your youth (for now...). By the way, do you like happy bunny? Because as of right now, it's our official mascot!!!

Your Editors-in-Chiefs,

Denise Rivera & Elisabeth Scheffel



Letter to the Editor

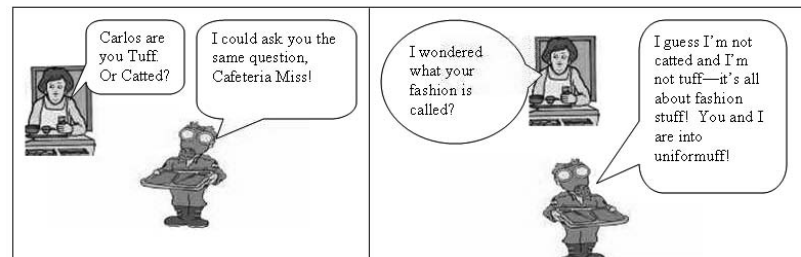
Dear Editors/readers,

I would like to correct a statement that was included in my profile in the last issue. It stated that my responsibility here at BHS was to prepare students for the Air Force or other military positions. This statement could not be farther from the truth and unfortunately perpetuates the many misconceptions about JROTC. My responsibility here at BHS is to educate high school students in citizenship, promote community service, instill responsibility, character, and self-discipline, and provide instruction of air and space fundamentals. Our curriculum includes academic studies, character education, life skills education, leadership opportunities, team-building experiences, intramural competition and field trips. AFJROTC also encourages its cadets to get involved in their local communities. This is one of the most interesting and fun aspects of the AFJROTC experience. The number, type and size of cadet community projects are limited only by their imagination. Last year, our cadets performed over 750 hours of community service! Cadets were involved with everything from candy sales to kindergarten bus runs to performing flag ceremonies for the New York Knicks basketball games. Many cadets also volunteer their time to support local non-profit events. Some of these organizations include the Adopt-a-Highway Program and canned food drives for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Cadets also routinely visit homes for the aged, hospitals, veterans groups and many other agencies to demonstrate their resolve to help their community and their country. Last year, we had an all-time high enrollment of 251 cadets. Out of 39 seniors enrolled, 24 of them received Brentwood sponsored scholarships, an alumni grant for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and an appointment to Hofstra's Military Academy program- the site of the last 2008 Presidential debate. Our underclassmen were also honorably recognized last year. One of our junior cadets was selected to attend the American Legion Leadership Summer Camp, and one of our sophomore cadets received a prestigious Congressional Page Assignment. Only one graduate, out of our 39 seniors, decided on joining the military. AFJROTC helps to open the doors to so many opportunities, and this is what really makes our program shine so brightly. As for myself, a graduate from Park West HS in mid-town Manhattan, I remember all too well all the obstacles and distractions that young people face growing up in the city. I can only hope that I can become an outstanding mentor for all of the cadets here, and perhaps positively influence all the students at BHS.

Respectfully,

Armando R. Perez, MSgt, USAF (ret)

Aerospace Science Instructor

Cafeteria Carlos**ATTENTION ALL LOYAL POW WOW READERS:**

The Pow Wow is always looking for dedicated members! All are welcome to join and voice their ideas. We are looking for individuals interested in the layout process, poets, reporters, cartoonists, and anyone else who wants to contribute school news or views. We meet every Monday in room 1402 - the Sonderling Computer Lab!

Think Once, Think Twice, and Think Three Times

cont'd from front cover

Andrew Jean-Baptiste, a student of Sonderling High School, stated, "If they [security guards] can't touch us, what's the point of stopping us?" Is this true? Is one of our sources for safety truly defenseless? When hearing about "The Woods", students and faculty have rumors of their own to share. Some of the rumors circulating the school are preposterous, such as a 300,000-dollar bulletproof camera, rituals, and an abandoned house. The creations of rumors are inevitable, but be assured: predominantly, they are false.

One of the reasons for the event that happened on October 30th was because of the pollution that has been gathering in The Woods. The Brentwood Community and park department like to maintain the cleanliness of those grounds. It is one of the last of the Oak Brush Plains on Long Island.

Mike Mercer, another student of Sonderling High School, commented, "Security doesn't make an attempt to stop students from leaving the school." The best defense in keeping the natural habitat of the woods, and preventing illegal activities from happening behind our school, is to stop it at the source.



by Gilberto Martinez

One security measure that is in effect is the use of a metal detector. Classes will be randomly chosen for a screening in order to prevent students from considering bringing weapons to school. Students who are caught with a weapon will be sent to a Superintendent's Hearing. Mr. O'Brien, Principal of Brentwood High School, stated, "We are going to continue to have a class taken at random for a walk through the metal detectors." The metal detector was purchased three years ago as matters of security for social events, such as basketball games, that are open to the public.

The Woods have turned into a kind of a clubhouse where students enter with their friends to play hackey sack, talk about their troubles, and, of course, in some cases conduct illegal activities. Now that nature is doing its normal cycle—the cold is beginning to settle and the trees are withering—what are these people going to do? Actually, go to class? Or is there going to be a repeat of bad choices already made by some? Let's hope people follow Mr. O'Brien's advice: Think once, think twice, think three times before you make a decision like this.

Brentwood High School...Open Campus?

by Wendy Melendez



Open Campus is a privilege some schools have, but this privilege has not had many positive effects. It has actually brought more negative effects than positive. A school that has an open campus is Northport High School, but even they are now debating if having an open campus is the best thing for the school.

The open campus policy in many cases has increased the number of accidents amongst high school students. This is one of the main concerns two administrators, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Richardson, and two School Board members, Mr. Sgroi and Mrs. Kirkham, have about such a policy. Mr. Sgroi did say, however, that he would love Brentwood to become an open campus because it would benefit the "good kids." Mrs. Kirkham's opinion was different because of this specific concern. She said that she likes Brentwood being a closed campus because an open campus would increase the number of accidents and deaths. Mr. O'Brien says an open campus is, "The craziest thing he has heard in years. An open campus would increase the dangers students face."

Out of twenty random students questioned, eleven agreed with having an open campus, six disagreed, and three were uncertain. These same students were also asked if Brentwood was an open campus, would they return on time or take more time to get back to school? Sixteen answered they would return on time and the other four said they would probably take more time. Even though Brentwood is not an open campus, would they still leave school grounds? Thirteen replied that they do leave school grounds knowing they're not supposed to. Those thirteen admitted that the only reason they leave school is to go buy some food. Only two answered that they leave the campus because they do not feel like being in school. Twelve students said an open campus would benefit them and six said it would have no effect on them, and two were unsure. Should all students have the privilege of an open campus? Two students supported this idea, fourteen opposed it, and four were uncertain. These fourteen students said that this privilege should be based on a student's attendance, grades, and should only be a senior privilege. The final question asked was if whether they thought an open campus would bring more positive or negative effects? Two students answered that an open campus would bring negative effects, five said it would have a positive effect, and the majority answered that they were uncertain on what kind of effect an open campus would bring.

Mr. O'Brien said that with an open campus, "Students would have greater potential to extend their lunch period because students would have more temptation." He also believes that a negative effect an open campus would bring is more injury to students. Although he knows students leave the campus now, the school is trying to do what they can to prevent these students from doing so. The main concern Mr. O'Brien has is that the more students that go off campus, the bigger the threat to their safety. For these reasons, "An open campus would never be permitted in Brentwood High School. The school board would never even consider having an open campus." Mr. O'Brien explains how it would be difficult for Brentwood to be an open campus because it's such a large school with a lot of students. There would be no control of the number of cars that would be entering the campus, and it would take up a lot more than a lunch period to keep this kind of control.

Mr. Richardson said he does not want Brentwood to be an open campus because there would be too many kids out in the neighborhood, and students have a lack of experience in driving. He goes on to explain that students would be rushing to get their things and that would need to be done within the time that is given to them. Just a month ago, a former student crashed into a tree going 40 mph. "Students are better off being in the building rather than out because it is a more controlled atmosphere," Richardson says. He also sees no positive aspects in Brentwood being an open campus. Mr. Richardson believes that the negatives like violence, car crash, and more problems in the surrounding neighborhood would increase. Although Richardson does not want an open campus he says, "If an open campus were to happen, it would only be open for privileged students. Students would need parental consent, and only students with good attendance, who work hard, and have good character would have the privilege of an open campus."

Mr. Sgroi, a member of the Board of Education, would love to have an open campus, but this is his personal opinion as a parent. Although he would like Brentwood to become an open campus, he knows this will not happen because of the "few bad apples" that ruin it for everyone else. A fast food place that the majority of students eat at during school hours is McDonald's, but a big riot occurred there and now students are only allowed to go buy their food and leave. They aren't able to sit down and eat their food. It is because of these actions and lack of self-control that a few students show that make it difficult for other students to get privileges, like an open campus. He thinks an open campus will benefit students because there would be a lot of walkers, so students would get more exercise, and kids would have the choice of what they want to eat unlike school lunches that are just given to them. Sgroi also sees the negative effects an open campus could bring like vandalism and violence which is his biggest concern. When asked if this policy were to happen would he include any exceptions, Mr. Sgroi answered, "It should be all or nothing, but school should also take into consideration how many students come back after their free period is over so they don't take advantage of their privilege."

Another Board of Education member, Mrs. Kirkham, said she likes Brentwood being a closed campus. She explains that an open campus would only increase the amount of car accidents because the roads are too busy and people no longer follow the driving laws like before. Mrs. Kirkham says that now drivers go by this new law made by them: "Green light Go, Red light Stop, and Yellow light go Faster." Mrs. Kirkham also sees the potential positive effects of an open campus. She believes that children would learn to be more responsible and would learn to use time management better. She thinks that if an open campus were instituted and students did not learn time management and abused this privilege, they should be punished for it. Mrs. Kirkham also believes that only students who have a minimum "2.5 grade point average, and show up to school on time should get this privilege, and if students don't follow these rules, then they lose their privilege." Ultimately, Mrs. Kirkham believes the negative effects an open campus would bring outweigh the positive.

The concept of an open campus obviously has both positive and negative issues surrounding it. Fortunately, or unfortunately, it sounds like it won't be coming to Brentwood High School any time soon.



Fright Fest - Senior Trip '08

by Brenda Salinas

Were you looking for a great scare to get you ready for Halloween? Many Brentwood High School students got just that on Friday, October 17th during the senior trip to Six Flags Fright Fest. Though some Brentwood athletes were not able to join in on the fun since there was a very important football game that night, the majority of the senior class had a great time.

Overall, it was a great success. The trip to Fright Fest was a way to help raise money for the senior class so that prom will cost less. It was reported that \$2,000 was raised which was a great accomplishment for the seniors. "Fright Fest was a lot of fun, and there were many things to look forward to, like the rides and the scary people that popped out," said senior Alexzia Alvarenga Haynes. "It is a great trip for family and friends to attend around Halloween time to get into the spirit of things."

Seniors departed from the school on coach buses during 8th period and were back to school at around 2:00 am. They



were able to walk around the theme park and have a good time. Rides were a thrill to go on at night. There was a band playing for some of the night, and the people dressed up in costumes were sure to cause a fright. Many feared that the trip would be cancelled due to the unfortunate fighting that had occurred the previous day. It would not have been fair to the students that had been looking forward to the trip, but had nothing to do with the fights. The administration recognized this and the trip went on.

With the success of the trip to Six Flags, there are chances of more senior trips to look forward to. There was a senior laser tag trip planned for November, but sadly, it had to be cancelled because not enough students were interested in it. Senior class ended up losing \$150, which was the down payment for the trip that they will not be able to have reimbursed.

As seniors, we should take the opportunities given by our senior class advisors to participate in these activities to have fun and to raise money. If we do not, who will? This is our year to have fun and take advantage of everything we can.



Safe Halloween

by Helen Morales

On October 30th 2008, the night before Halloween, Brentwood High School held its annual Safe Halloween night. Safe Halloween is a special event that takes place at Brentwood High School. At this event, students help to create a safe environment for little kids who love to go trick-or-treating. It keeps children in a safe area, while allowing them to have fun and get in the Halloween spirit.

Many clubs were involved on this night, including Student Council, Drama Club, Honor Society, Tri-M, and more. Little kids of all ages came to the High School dressed up in all sorts of costumes. The school clubs all did an amazing job at decorating the empty classrooms and transforming them into their own unique haunted houses. The themes ranged from Candyland, to Alice in Wonderland, even a mad scientist's demented laboratory. However, just like every Halloween, the treats were the best part!

This year's Safe Halloween was a great success. Kids arrived, screamed, laughed, and left with their bags full of candy. Hopefully, next year will be just as good.

Think Giving This Holiday Season!

by Ashley Fortin

It's holiday time and you need money. So, what do you do to get that money with the economy in such a rut? Well, first off, YOU DON'T NEED TO SPEND ALL OF YOUR MONEY!! In fact, there are plenty of options for you without busting your butt trying to get money this season. Here are some tips to get you through the holidays:

1) Don't overdo it on the gift buying! Make a list of what you can afford and what your friends and family want most. Then go out and get only those items (don't fall for all the sales traps!) 2) Get creative! Instead of purchasing gifts and items that are possibly not going to be used or worn, make the gifts. You can make scrapbooks, cards, and even cook them their favorite meal. Your loved ones will appreciate it and you don't have to spend your whole life's savings. 3) Bargain hunt. If you insist on purchasing a gift because you lack the time or creativity needed to make one, then bargain hunting is for you. You can find great deals at clearance stores or even in the clearance section of stores. This will help you find cheaper items, allowing you to spend less and keep positive numbers in your bank account.

These are a few quick tips for this coming holiday season. Good luck with finding deals and getting all of your Christmas shopping done!

COLLEGE FAIR TURNOUT

by Elisabeth Scheffel

On October 27, 2008 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM, Brentwood High School hosted The College and Career Night in the Sonderling Gym. College-bound juniors and seniors were able to receive more information on the colleges in which they are interested, or find colleges that have their majors. Colleges like Hofstra, C.W. Post, and Amherst were eager to tell the students about their class sizes, religious affiliations, majors, study-abroad programs, and extracurricular activities.

Groups other than colleges had a lot to offer as well. According to Ms. Shervington, a guidance counselor from Sonderling, representatives from the military, financial aid workshops, historically black colleges, colleges for students with learning disabilities, and bilingual workshops were also there. Gilberto Martines, a graduating junior from Sonderling, went to this event to get more information on Queens College, Dowling, Hofstra, and New Paltz. He liked Queens College the best, because it offered low tuition, financial aid, and his majors, English and Education. Though he didn't like how crowded the tables were, he liked the fact that he "got to interact with the other colleges." Students like Gilberto could receive an application and fee waivers for the colleges that he or she likes. Ms. Shervington also comments that a student could make an appointment with representatives from colleges that are coming to visit the school. Listen to the morning announcements and see if a college of interest is coming to the school. Brentwood High School and Central Islip High School are alternating hosts of the College and Career Night. If you are interested in going to this event next year, it will be at Central Islip High School. Don't miss out on this productive, life-changing experience!



Tinker Auto Parts

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
AUTOPARTS STORE SINCE 1962

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Bay Shore 665-0700

Bohemia 567-1991

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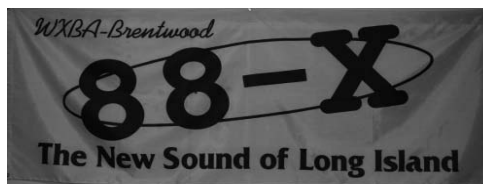
Let's Go Radio!

by Maria Sgroi

Did you hear? We have a radio station! That's right, students, here in our Brentwood High School building we have an entire radio studio! Brentwood's radio station, WXBA, broadcasts at 88.1fm. Anyone that is interested in listening to something different would be the perfect type of listener for our radio station. Russell Skadl, the radio station supervisor, loves the fact that students can walk into the studio without any experience and be ready to learn. Mr. Skadl states, "Our station has a lot of personality that a lot of other radio stations don't have." He also said, "It's all about the listeners for the radio station."

An ideal member for the radio station would be an individual that is willing to be committed and participate. Any student from either, Ross, Sonderling, or the Freshman Center can get involved. On a weekly basis, there are over fifty members involved in the radio station. Last year, there were sixty-five licensed DJs and many more are coming. If you're a student that would like to get involved with the radio station, simply "come on down" and express an interest. You will receive a tour around the studio, and no one will be chased away. John Anthony Lopes Jr., the radio station's program director, says that to become a DJ you need, "Heart and dedication. Any person can be a DJ, but it takes heart and dedication to be a true DJ."

The jobs of a DJ include many things such as operating the studio, keeping music on the air, presenting required public service announcements, taking phone calls, playing requests, and having topics to talk about on air. Also, DJs need to know broadcasting regulations, and DJs have to be good entertainers and communicators. The radio station is on 24/7 and has live DJs on air from 4th period until 5pm. To become one of our radio station DJs, a training course is required. Broadcast rules and regulations that are set forth by the federal Government will be learned as well as the policies of the radio station and basic technological knowledge. A written exam will be given. This exam is challenging, however, individuals can retake the exam if they perform below the accepted grade. When all of this is



completed, the individual will then receive a temporary license that is valid for two academic quarters. After that, an audition is required which will demonstrate that one is competent to operate station equipment and a Radio DJ license will then be given.

Training to become a radio DJ can vary from seven days to seven months, it all depends on the individual. On Long Island, there are only four other high schools that have a radio station: Sachem, Plainview, Old Bethpage, and Syosset, which all have fm broadcast stations. Sayville has an internet-based radio station. John David Santos, the radio station's operations manager said that our radio station represents "the coming together of all sectors of the school." Any individual can get involved and have their music heard. From hip-hop to rock, all genres of music are played. John David Santos also states, "If you

get a chance, you should listen. You can learn a lot and we play pretty good music."

Our radio station has been involved in many of our high school events such as football games, the homecoming parade, the varsity boys and girls basketball games, concerts,

safe halloween, brentwood idol, the career fair, meet the teacher night, the pancake run, and the 24-hour broadcast marathon. Are you thinking about joining the radio station? Express your interest and see Mr. Skadl in room 1601. To call the radio station and request a song, dial (631) 434-2581. The radio station also has a website you can visit, www.88x.net. If you'd like to listen to the music that your fellow peers play, tune into WXBA 88.1fm!

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS

by Christina Tejada

STUDENT COUNCIL

Advisor: Ms. Lewis, Ms. Ambrosio, Ms. Papos, Ms. Stein

The Student Council is responsible for coordinating many school activities and fundraising events. Participants will be involved in local, state, and national level leadership conferences. Help make our school a better place.

THE EMERALD ECHO- BHS LITERARY MAGAZINE

Advisor: Ms. Opisso and Ms. Payano- Alvarez

Want to have your work published in our magazine? Come join Emerald Echo. This club offers students an opportunity to publish their creativity, writing, and artwork. We also teach members of the club layout and publishing. We meet every Thursday from 2:00 - 2:45 pm in the Sonderling Computer lab. You can also email us at emerald@bufsd.org.

ASIAN AWARENESS CLUB

Advisor: Ms. Ortlieb

Asian culture is celebrated through food, gatherings, activities and trips. Students participate in fundraising and activities which promotes pride and awareness of the Asian culture. They meet the last two TUESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH IN ROOM 1133.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

Advisor: Mrs. Ortlieb and Ms. Littman

They provide opportunities for students to learn about and meet healthcare professionals. Students are exposed to professions in the medical and science fields. The Medical Society meets every other Thursday in room 1133. Come by any time.

GLSA (GAY, LESBIAN, STRAIGHT ALLIANCE)

Advisor: Ms. Fuentes

The GLSA was created to create safer schools for all students, especially LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) students. They are trying to stop all discrimination in our school and harassment, whether it be verbal or physical. They meet on Mondays from 2:00 - 2:45 pm in room 1163.

SENIOR CLASS

Advisor: Ms. Paris and Ms. Keller

The Senior Class is involved in planning activities to fundraise and provide a variety of events to improve the senior year.

BODY IMAGE GROUP

Advisor: Ms. Reide- Combs and Ms. Buechner

Members in this club will explore issues of nutrition, fitness, eating patterns and body image in relation to popular culture. Students are encouraged to identify and define their own positive images and solicit criteria from fellow students. They will also conduct fundraisers, attend walkathons, and look to create a healthy body image video by BHS students. They meet every Wednesday after school in room 2202.

CROCHET/ KNITTING CLUB

Advisor: Ms. Hanan

This club focuses on learning the art of knitting to create fun and useful items. Hats, scarves, bookmarks, accessories, handbags, and blankets are just a few of the projects they will complete. Members also make items which are donated to shelters, hospitals, and children's centers. They meet on Thursdays in room 2512.

NYS Math League

Advisor: Mr. Kiedaisch Qualifications: 11th & 12th graders

The Math League has been involved in the NYS Math league contests for years. Once a month for 6 months, students from each participating high school across New York gather on a particular Tuesday decided by the State Math League in order to spend 30 minutes trying to answer 6 math puzzles. All students are welcome.

THE STRATEGY GAMING CLUB

Advisor: Mr. DeVita

Every week they get together to play board games and card games. Most of the games have an historical theme. The games they play cover a broad range of interests. There is no better way to learn history and geography than by experiencing it. If you are interested in history, then this is the club for you! They meet most Fridays from 2:00 - 5:00 pm in room 2710.

DRAMA CLUB

Advisor: Mr. Jackson, Mr. Felician, Mr. Smith

The drama club is more than an activity for aspiring young actors, it also serves to teach students the technical aspects that go into putting together a show. Students design and build the sets as well as the sound and lights for every production. Throughout the course of the year, students develop a sense of responsibility as they work to bring their show to the stage. The club meets everyday from 2:00- 5:00 pm in the Sonderling Auditorium.

This is just a small list of the clubs and activities here at Brentwood High School. There are many more interesting and fun clubs that can be found in the BHS Activities Booklet. The booklet also includes BHS music clubs and sports. You can find the BHS Activities booklet in the Ross and Sonderling Guidance office or Front office. Get involved and join a club!

We Took The Challenge!

cont'd from front cover

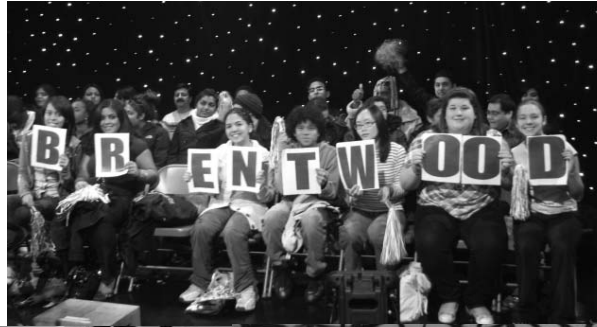
by Elisabeth Scheffel

On November 13, 2008, four students from the Mentathalon competed in the Power to Learn Long Island Challenge. Arely Clavel, Amy Varghese, Fatima Hamrani, and Norman Cao battled their smarts against the team from North Babylon High School. These excited contestants, and people who wanted to cheer for the team, left Brentwood High School at 11 am for Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City. To encourage her players, Ms. Gelardi, the coach of the Mentathalon, commented on the bus, "The greatest risk is not taking one." With her positive words ringing in their ears, the contestants entered the set of the LI Challenge.

The game consisted of four rounds. The first round was multiple choice, worth five points each. Whichever team buzzed in first answered the question, and if the team answered incorrectly, the opposing team got the chance to answer. The second

round was the lightning round, where only one team could answer at a time. The host, Scott Feldman, described a thing that fell under a certain category. The team had to answer ten questions in one minute. The third round was free response, where the team had to answer questions without multiple-choice answers. The final round was called "Complete 180," where the losing team had an opportunity to "turn it all around." 180 points were up for grabs; if the team got all 180 points, they could have gotten free tickets to a Knicks Game.

To find out how Brentwood did against North Babylon High School, tune in to Channel 12 on January 18, 2009 at either 6:30 pm or 9:30 pm. There is also a pod cast at www.powertolearn.com.



Can you answer some of these questions?

- Who is the orphan boy from Dickens' famous novel?
- Name one of the two U.S. state capitals whose names begin with the chemical symbol for gold.
- Simplify the tangent of 360 degrees plus the sine of 360 degrees.
- Which author created the Finch family (Atticus, Scout, and Jem)?
- Name the chief villain in Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The Fight For Cancer

by Denise Rivera

On Sunday, October 19th, members from the Interact Club, the National Honor Society, JV Cheerleaders and ROTC headed to Jones Beach to be a part of the Breast Cancer Walk. They raised a total of \$1,800. Despite the cold weather that occurred during the day, the participants still had the strength to walk three miles along the boardwalk. "It's wonderful to see how many students have participated for a great cause," Ms. Kellar comments. "Even though it's mind-boggling to see how many families had survivors of this disease, it's great to see them participate in a motivating event." Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is an organization that contributes their time and commitment in helping to raise money and accept donations for the American Cancer Society in researching more about breast cancer. The walk is noncompetitive and registration is free. "It was very inspirational," Fatima Hamrani stated. The Fight for Breast Cancer Walk is more than just a way to receive community service hours; it's motivating, and invigorating to see how many people are active in the fight for preventing this terrible disease. This walk symbolizes the power of people's faith by getting one step closer for a cure.



RESURRECTING THE AMERICAN DREAM

by Joan De Jesus

HE SPROUTED FROM HELLISH PITS, BORE THE SIGN OF THE APOCALYPSE AND SEDUCED AN ENTIRE NATION WITH AN INCRIMINATING GRIN. GOD HIMSELF SHUNNED AT THE VERY THOUGHT, THE HUMAN INCARNATION OF THE ANTI CHRIST! WHAT OUTRAGE! THE "OBAMANATION" OF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE...



This is the picture some McCain supporters would paint of President Elect, Barack Obama. Fortunately, for the rest of us level-headed Americans, we believed differently. In a landslide victory-- 349 for Obama and 147 for Republican John McCain-- Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States of America on November 4, 2008, a title he proudly proclaimed in the early hours of the following morning.

Around the country, his victory is a victory for all. Regardless of political affiliation, a sigh of relief and indescribable pride seems to be the attitude of most Americans. Up until this year's election, many Americans felt as if they had in some way been disenfranchised. That even in this democratic nation, their voice was only a minor, dull cry among the voices of political elites. This election proved different. People who had not voted in previous years, young and old, waited hours to cast their ballots. Gilberto Martinez, a Sonderling senior recalls waiting half an hour to vote. Ms. Macrae, a Ross English teacher, waited an hour at six am. She commented, "I never thought waiting an hour on a line would be so inspirational."

Here in the state of New York, and in Brentwood High School, the majority's response is loud and clear. Maggie Sgroi, at a loss of words, voiced her enthusiasm with one word: "Awesome." Philip Martell, a Ross senior, stated that although McCain would have also been a good president, Barack Obama would make it easier for him to go to college. Others like Morolayo Olfafe stated that the race for the White House was "history in the

making."

To some extent, for many years young minorities could aspire to be doctors, lawyers and other growing professions. Up until this year, however, the idea of an African American president, the highest position in the land, seemed unattainable, a standard of achievement not yet accessible to America in its entirety. Obama's acceptance speech was nothing less than this - history making. Surrounded by a sea of diverse supporters he stated, "If there is anyone out there that doubts that America is a land of opportunity... tonight is your answer." Since the founding of this nation, a bi-racial president in office was unheard of, to some extent a myth in our society. However, this president proved to be the exception due the rule. This election also removed demographic voter barriers by eradicating the long-standing voting trends of the country.

Many do not see Obama's ethnicity as a major issue but rely more on his capabilities as a unifying leader. Moving away from the last eight years of legislation Obama stated, "Because of what we did on this day, this defining moment, **change** is coming to America."

Consequently, the election of Barack Obama not only affected people here on American soil but those abroad. Coverage of the road to 270 electoral votes was intensely monitored and anticipated across the world from London to China, and even to Obama's former elementary school in Indonesia. Family members of the President Elect in Kenya also joined in Barack Obama's victory.

Now, the barrier of race no longer dominates the White House because of one daring individual and the supporting millions of voices who were heard. Those who joined in this *defining moment* will forever be remembered as an unyielding generation who voted and advocated for change. Centuries ago an African American president was an impossibility, now the world can only look at the United States with amazement and awe, wondering what other racial, ethnic, and gender barriers will be broken in this young democracy.

HEARD IN THE HALLS

by Eileen Rivera



Now that first quarter is over, a lot of you should be taking time to realize what you lacked in, want to improve, and find out what's ahead for the next few months. Take college applications for example. Most seniors at this point are running around practically headless because deadlines are kicking in. Dealing with the latest news lurking around Brentwood HS is usually of interest. This school has been chatting away about certain issues like "Should we have an open campus?" or "Which college is right for me?" or even "Is college right for me?" In reality, it seems the hottest news spoken about lately has been about this past election. Congratulations America, you have made history. A senior in Sonderling, Jennifer Aderis, is one student who felt very excited about the election and its outcome. "I think this election was very historic in that Americans were more united. 63% of those who could vote, voted which is amazing. Change was really brought to America because Obama broke a cycle. Not only is the outcome of the election exciting, many of us are hoping for the best to come. Knowing that we are capable of making some kind of dent in our society and country could definitely makes a difference. After all, WE are the future. Many of you may be wondering, "What now?" Hopefully the GOOD for our nation is yet to come.

There are also many other real-time obsessions and headaches like, the Common Application, it might seem that the future is something too removed to bring it up, right? The future of our country is clearly important but so is our individual and immediate future... life after high school. Fellow seniors know exactly which deadlines and essays are so overwhelming and time is flying by making us feel even more rushed and concerned! Here are some of the things students have been saying about this aspect of our futures: "It's taken up most of my social life," says Sonderling senior Santiago Valero. Since the last SAT you should take before admissions is in December, pressure is real. Our lives are basically at a point where the choices we make now will directly impact our future. Nothing should be at risk at this point. Schedule guidance appointments. Check out some open houses for universities. Time shouldn't be wasted. In other news, open campus talk has been heard a lot lately. Pow Wow member and Ross senior, Wendy Melendez, has recently investigated this rumor about whether or not Brentwood H.S. will become an open campus after all. "I believe there should be an open campus because some students should deserve the privilege." How many of you would agree? Should we all have this privilege or should the opportunity be given to those who deserve it? It's little things like these where we should have our voices heard. Whether or not this issue is a good idea after all is left to the District. Time is quickly passing by. Our nation will hopefully improve its flaws here and there and WE, as the future, should be acting on how to make a better tomorrow for our country and for ourselves.



BEST DRESSED OF NOVEMBER

by Ramon Bueno

Sondo Boys

Santiago Valero

Now that most guys in school dress alike with plaid shirts, skinny jeans and some kind of sb dunks or jordans, it's hard to find individuals who are different and try not to follow everyone else. It's like everybody has been cloned, so it's getting harder to find those who pop out and have an original style. This is the reason why Santiago Valero was chosen as the best dressed guy in SONDERLING for the month of September.

Santiago's versatile style and ability to combine different categories of fashion and make them into his own, automatically got him the spot as best dressed male. Some of his favorite name brands and stores to shop at are Hollister, H&M, Armani Exchange, Gap, and Guess. He feels all of these stores helped him accomplish the look he has achieved. With the arrival of fall, Santiago prefers wearing earth tone and neutral colors and tries to



stay away from bright ones that attract unnecessary attention. His choice of footwear ranges from Nikes to Adidas and Converse;

basically anything comfortable and stylish. A big part of his appearance is influenced by his country of origin: Colombia. Every time he visits Colombia, he incorporates their preppy/clubber style clothing into his apparel, which clearly gives his look more of an edge. Even with his regular Nikes and t-shirts, he always wears a vintage type jacket with a matching hat to complete the look. Santiago's look can be classified as preppy meets urban and it's a look he pulls off effortlessly. "Wear what you think is cool, not what is considered cool by other people," were some words of advice from Santiago. He represents many styles mixed into one and is a person that comes to many people's minds when they think well-dressed.

Ross Boys

Darius Allison

Even though we have a lot of original individuals at Brentwood High School, there is one person who always makes a statement everywhere he goes. Besides being known as one of the star

football players for the Brentwood Indians, Darius Allison is also recognized for his unique style. From the latest urban wear to sharp tuxedos, he always has the proper attire for any occasion. This is the reason why he won best dressed male in ROSS for the month of November. What separates him from everyone else is the simple fact that he's not afraid to step out of the box. You never see him with something someone else has on and even his haircuts are far from simple. He is the only person in school to rock a 2-sided mohawk, showing that regardless of what people think of him, he stays true to himself. Some of his favorite stores to shop at are H&M, Michael Kors,

and Urban Outfitters. The apparel in these stores contribute to the already urban/retro style he has going on. When asked who his inspiration was regarding style he replied, "Ramon Bueno." I also asked

him what his favorite name brands were and he said, "I don't have one. I try to pull off anything I can." This proves that he defines what he wears and what he wears doesn't define him. You can catch him in anything from graphic tee shirts, polos, colored pants, to plain jeans, Nikes, Italian shoes and even designer watches. His style ranges but never falls out. He is one of the few people who stays consistent when it comes to style. Fashion is more than the clothes you wear, it's having confidence in yourself and Darius Allison clearly shows that. "No matter the influences around you, go with the style you feel is proper," were some words of advice from Darius. This is the reason he won Best Dressed Male of Ross for the month of November.



Sondo Girls

Briana Yarborough

Sonderling's urban princess, Briana Yarborough, has been proving so far this year why she is one of the best dressed girls of November. Her style is just whatever her skin is most comfortable in. She combines high-end items with a more affordable price. Fashion has been something that she has always favored. She remembers being into all name brand clothing such as Rock-a-wear, Baby Phat, and Echo. Nowadays, she's into more of a classy look. She shops at stores such as Forever 21, H&M and Juicy Couture. Briana believes that every girl should have accessories such as pearls and purses. Comfort, while still looking good, is her main point. Her advice for everyone is, "You don't have to wear name brands to look good." The message that she's trying to get across shows that looking good does not have to be expensive.



Ross Girls

Ivette Rivera

Ivette Rivera is probably best known for that beautiful, long, black curly hair. However, today she is going to be singled out for "impeccable" style. She does not like to stick to just one style because every day it changes. Mixing and matching colors is something Ivette likes to incorporate in her daily appearance. When Ivette shops, she looks for different types of clothes. Plain and simple colors do not interest her. She looks to stand out, not to blend in. Kimora Lee Simmons and Rihanna inspire her flashy style. She enjoys watching shows that have to do with the fashion industry, such as Project Runway and What Not to Wear. Her favorite quote to go by is, "I don't design clothes; I design dreams." -Ralph Lauren.



Fashion Do's and Don'ts

by Esther Defournoy

If you told your parents or your close group of friends that you were discouraged about your wardrobe, they'd probably say something like this: "So what if the kids pick on you and think you wear the same jeans every day? Let them talk because it's what's inside that counts." WRONG! If I had a dime for every time I heard that I'd have a lot of money, but you get my point. Self worth and prosperity is not measured by expensive clothes BUT it has a tremendous amount to do with how you present yourself. One needs to look decent to get to places in life and gain respect, if not, others can have negative pre-conceived notions about you. When the rapper 50 cent said, "Go ahead and switch the style up and if they hate, then let them hate and watch the money pile up," he could have been referring to fashion. Since I'm Esther, this is how I chooses to interpret it. Think about it. Go ahead and switch the style up. Say everyone wears Jordans with a plain shirt, switch it up! Make your outfit cool by adding a vest, if they hate, so what! With that said, READY SET GO and we're off to the TUFF and CATTED for November/ December

BOYS

"Marco Polo"

Tuff: Polos are very cute! Colors like black, white, gray, green and brown are always fun to wear anyway you want. It's a great way to give an outfit substance.

Catted: Do not do pink and purple polos. That is so Elton John status. Whoever said real men wear pink, wanted boys to get locked up by the fashion police.

GIRLS

"The Plaid Fad" (Something far from a picnic blanket!)

Tuff: A plaid scarf (I stress the scarf heavily because everyone and their mom thinks it is cute to fling on a Harlem scarf on any outfit and call it "fresh." Wrong, dudes, keep it simple and classy! Other things can be cute like baby doll tops, a button up, or a hoodie. Also, a knee length dress in any color is fine. From black and white to fuchsia or multi-colored plaid, you know what I mean - nothing tacky!

Catted: Plaid, ripped sleeveless button ups. (Eww, that makes me wanna to rip the entire shirt off). Also outdated summer wedged heels, Ugg boots, and dare I say, cowboys boots.



Standing out from the Rest!

When I asked 16 year old 11th grader Matthew Ponceau what makes him wake up in the morning and put effort into what he wears, he shot me a look of surprise and replied without an ounce of conceit, "Effort! What I wear is effortless." All of sudden I had an epiphany: The reason there are Do's and Don'ts and Tuff and Catted is because there are lost souls out there who try wayyy too hard! Matthew is an exception.

Esther: How would you describe your style?

Matt: Urban style finessed with a casual twist.

E: What do you like to purchase more, sneakers or clothes?

M: Sneakers, I'm a fanatic so are my brothers. True story - when I see a shoe I have to cop it, before someone else gets it.

E: Where do you shop?

M: Places like H&M, XXI forever, and occasionally the Gap. If I do get a chance to go to the city, it has to be an exclusive spot like Uniuo, etc., in downtown Manhattan

E: Who inspires your attire and why?

M: My brother Nick (graduated 2008 won best kicks). You see, it began when I was in 7th grade, Chris was the first to change it up, he had more of an URBAN style, then Nick started and was considered the freshest in the house with his CASUAL style. I started to wear their clothes and soon enough I was buying my own and creating my own style which was simply combining the two.

E: Beside shopping what else can you be seen doing?

M: Hanging with friends, playing tennis, listening to music, or chilling with my close friends, Darius and Anya.

E: What pet peeve about fashion do you have, you know, things you see others do and are just appalled by?

M: Baggy jeans, I used to wear them a lot, until I learned how to dress. I prefer the look I have now but you never know clothing styles change.



Arts & Entertainment

The Kite Runner

by Ashley Fortin



Have you ever wanted to travel and learn more about other cultures? Well now you can, vicariously, just stop by your local Barnes and Noble or Borders bookstores and purchase a copy of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. In this fictional novel you will learn of the inside views and traditions of the Afghan people. Also, you will learn of the main character, Amir, who is tormented by his guilty childhood while the country he was born and raised in is torn apart and destroyed by war. He tries to escape this overwhelming guilt by moving to the United States and creating a better life for himself. However, twenty years later his past comes back to haunt him in one simple phone call and he is forced to face his fears. All these events combined make for a twentieth century, riveting novel that is *The Kite Runner*. I have read this book myself and have found it to be a very interesting experience. With pleasure I recommend people of our age and older to take it upon themselves to read this book. So, please go out and buy one today!



Twilight

by Cleona Smith

The movie *Twilight* is based on the best selling book by Stephanie Meyers. The story of *Twilight* revolves around a normal girl named Isabella Swan, or Bella, as she is known throughout the novel as well as the movie. In both the movie and book, she moves to Forks, Washington to live with her estranged father. There she meets a very aloof boy named Edward. He is a boy of extraordinary beauty (though the movie did not have him appear as such). As the movie progresses Bella finds out that Edward is a Vampire, a Vampire that does not drink human blood or incinerates in the day light. Instead he glitters and sparkles. Yes, this is not your typical vampire movie, so if you're expecting to see gore and intense fighting scenes you might as well rent the Blade series. This is not even a good depiction of the best selling book, more of a decapitation of it. So if you're an intense *Twilight* fan you might be angered by how some of the scenes play out and how the director cut some things out and threw some things in. In conclusion, if you're a *Twilight* fan expect to have this movie NOT live up to your expectations but if you're new to *Twilight* and have never read one single book, you may find this movie to be a beautiful love story. From 1-10...I rate this movie a 6.

Upcoming Movies

This year is almost over, and a lot of brand spanking new movies will be hitting the theaters. Do you even know if you're going to like them? Well here's a little teaser of some movies that will be coming to a theater near you sooner than you think.

Twilight 2?

Whether you loved *Twilight* or detested it, you have a second chance to believe that maybe this movie wasn't trying to make a total mockery of the book. New Moon is rumored to be coming out soon in the year 2009... last time I checked that wasn't so far away.

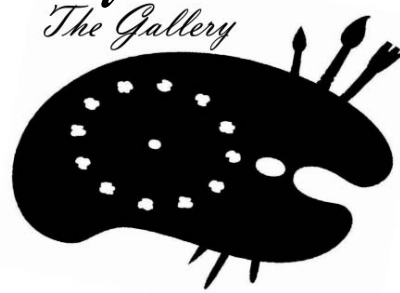


ASTRO BOY

Astroboy was created by the "god of manga" in the 1950's. Since then Astroboy has gained immense popularity around the world. Now he is coming to the big screens. The release date is October 23, 2009. Keep a lookout!

The Gallery

Welcome to The Gallery! This page is dedicated to the art and literature of Brentwood High School students. This page is open to every student who wants to submit hi/her art. Don't be shy! If you think your work is good and want acknowledgement, this is the place you want to start. The work on this page is just an example of how creative students are at our school. You can submit your work via email to powwow@bufsd.org. If it's a poem, you're submitting, please make sure it is appropriate. If it's a painting or picture please give a brief description. Please include your name and grad as we do not print anonymous work in the Pow Wow.



These masks are also on display in the Ross art wing, each individual mask has its own style and form, which demonstrates the creativity of our Brentwood High School classmates.



Nathalie Cerrato, a Junior at Brentwood High School, created this decorative pot. It started out as a simple balloon, then she glued old newspaper around the balloon and then went to work with her colors. Believe it or not, she put the final finishing touches on with a sharpie marker.



These are just a few of the paintings that are on display in the Ross art wing. With their vibrant colors and detail, passersby can't help but look at the wonderful works of art and the massive mural on display. You, too, can have your art displayed here. Again, this was all made by the talented students of Brentwood High School.

by Gilberto Martinez

Poetry

Exist

by Cleona Smith

How can you breath when
no air is left? Walk with no
legs to step?
How can you live when
there is no life?
Grow when there is no
light?
How can you exist?

Dear Frank

What's going on?
Got something to say?
You've been locked up in
there
haven't seen the day
surrounded by cobwebs
I'm not suprised you're
bored
speak to me with another
dream
tell me what you want to
scream
What would you say if you
were one of us?
You can't be -
if you were, then there
would be none of us.
It's me and you
I supply the body
you supply the thoughts
but I know what you would
say
every minute of every day -
I love being human.

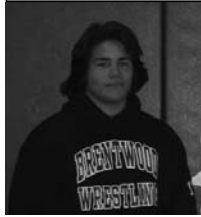
Gilberto Martinez

SPORTS

Winter Season Preview

by Wendy Melendez

Wrestling



"Hard work and Sacrifice" is the motto that wrestling Coach Napolitano and his team will be following in order to achieve their goals this season. Brentwood is known for having one of the best wrestling teams, and this year will be no different. Coach Napolitano is planning to push his team to work hard, practice even harder, and win all of their matches. Brentwood wrestlers are known for giving their very best every time they set foot on a mat. All the success our wrestlers have had in the past only pushes them to be the best! Our wrestlers need to give up a few things in order to achieve their goal of being number one. These sacrifices consist of staying late to work on techniques, conditioning, and outworking their opponents. Some of their toughest opponents in the league this year are Longwood and Schem East.

Wrestling takes a lot of determination, dedication, and passion. A wrestler who exemplifies all of these characteristics and more is Josue Mendez. Last year Mendez was one of the three All State Wrestlers. This year he and Alex Gomez are the two returning All County Champions. This year Mendez is captain of our wrestling team. "Josue Mendez is captain because he epitomizes all that a Brentwood wrestler should be, which is great in the classroom, a leader on and off the Wrestling mats, and a good citizen," says Coach Napolitano. Our wrestling team seems to have all of the right assets to be two-time County Champions, and to show everyone the best of what they can be. Come and show support to our wrestling team on Wednesday, December 12, 2008. On this day, they will have an invitational in the Ross Gym at 7:00 pm. They will have their first match on Wednesday, January 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm against William Floyd. Join us to show your support for our wrestlers!

Boys Basketball

"Preparation, Effort, and Attitude." Coach Jimenez always reminds his team to focus on these three things so they can reach their goals. Last year, they became League Champions with a streak of 16-4. This year is a new year, full of high expectations and hope. There are new promising players this year, and some of your favorite returning varsity players who will be competing against the best. Coach Jimenez stated, "The league we are playing in is, in general, tougher this year than ever before." Brentwood's biggest competitors this year are Longwood, Lindenhurst, and Patchogue-Medford. Brentwood's Basketball team is going to have a very tough and exciting non-league schedule. Some schools Brentwood will be challenging to help prepare them for the playoffs are Bay Shore, Copiague, and Schem North. Our basketball team is determined to repeat as League Champions. To achieve this title once more they need a lot of hard work, preparation, and luck. This year's team needs to put themselves in the position to be the best in the county. Come and support our boys on December 29th and 30th here in the Sonderling Gym when they will be hosting a Holiday Tournament. On December 16th they will have their first league game against league rival Lindenhurst, away at 6:00 pm. On Friday, December 19th, Brentwood will have their first home game against Schem East at 6:00 pm. Come and show your support to our boys.



Girls Basketball

"Hard Work, Determination, and Perseverance" are the words that the Brentwood Girls Basketball Team will be following this season to achieve their goals. This year's girls varsity basketball team mainly consist of everyone's favorite returning varsity players. This year our team will have All Leagues players Amanda Jimenez who is a returning fifth year senior, and Ruth Vargas. Coach Riggio is, "hoping that the returning players can have a huge positive impact on the younger girls." The Brentwood Girls Basketball team is reaching to "be more successful than last year, and become more of a team and family rather than 14 girls on the court playing for themselves," stated Riggio. Last year Brentwood's Girls Basketball team ended the season 3rd in their league. Brentwood is up against a lot of tough teams and this year is going to be no different. They will be going against teams like Schem-East, who have been League Champions consecutively for the past three years. It is a goal for the Brentwood girls to defeat Schem-East this year. A victory can only be achieved by the hard work the girls put in. Maybe this year will be the year that Schem-East will be defeated. Come and watch the girls play in their first game on December 2nd. Follow their journey from the beginning and see if Brentwood will be the school to defeat Schem-East and to accomplish a successful season.

Boys Track

This year will be full of challenges for our boys track team. A significant number of athletes graduated last year. This year the track team is full of new and upcoming runners which will be a challenge but is exciting and encouraging for the future. Besides having such a new team, two of the top athletes Francisco Jimenez and Mario Eguarte, will be two of the key athletes in the county in the 55 meter and 600 meter races. They are also two sets of legs that are very important in the 4 by 2 relay. It is, however, questionable where the Brentwood Track Team stands because these two athletes are still recovering from previous injuries from Football and Soccer. Although Jimenez is recovering from an injury, he and Christopher Ocasion are this year's captains. This year the track team will put in a lot of hard work and practice on technique to achieve their goals. Brentwood will be facing a lot of tough schools, Middle County is one of their competitors this season. Their first meet will be on December 2nd at Suffolk Community College. Come support them and see the progress our boys will be making meet after meet.



Girls Track

"Focus, Form, and Finish" are the three F's Coach Daniels and his girls track team focus on. Coach Daniels says his team needs to be mentally strong, have a strong outlook, great form, and they need to finish what they started in order to be victorious. The biggest goal for this season is to win the championship. Seniors Essence Felder, Vereisha Corbett, Charlene Wade, Jessica Beltran, and Jessica Oquenda will be big contributing factors to winning the championship. Last year Felder was County Champion in the Long Jump. Wade and Corbett have made a big difference in Shot Put and will show everyone how far they have come since last year. Beltran is a distance runner, Wade started running track last year and has shown great improvement and is a big part of the team. Along side the seniors are juniors Andrea Aberdeen, Stephanie Laureano, and Donna Jeanty. Last year Jeanty was County Champion in the 400 meter. This year our track team is confident because they only had two seniors last year, while most of this year's team is made up of returning varsity players. Being cautious and confident will be good attributes when Brentwood goes against competitors like Bay Shore, Mt. Sinai, and Kings Park. Although Coach Daniels has yet to pick captains, he says seniors who demonstrate leadership and earn the position become captains. Last year Brentwood's Girls Track Team ended the season ranked 22nd in the State but expect a drastic increase this year. The first girls' meet will be held on December 7th at Suffolk Community College. Come show our girls support!

SPORTS

#1 IN THE NATION!!!

by Wendy Melendez

The Brentwood Soccer Team has another undefeated season. They have been undefeated for the last six seasons having a 77 record winning streak. They are now the 2008 State Champions. The Brentwood Boy's Soccer team is ranked No. 1 by ESPN RISE FAB 50, and No. 1 in NSCAA/Adidas. It has been almost two decades since they have been called Champions. In 1989, Brentwood's Soccer team was State Co-Champions with Guilderland. Nearly two decades later, Brentwood Soccer players are able to see themselves as State Champions once again and this time it belongs all to them!

Our Class AA soccer team, which is the highest division, is full of dedication. They practice for hours every day and all of their hard work has paid off. Brentwood Soccer is undefeated and are State Champions. Their coach has pushed the team to the limit because he knows the capability that each player has and he knew how far they could go. Coach Eden says, "To get to the place the boys are in now they had to work very hard. It also helps that they have a team of good players who have been playing with each other for a long time." This is a good thing because they know how each player plays and how



each player reacts under pressure. As the coach pushed his team harder, the more the team worked, they never gave up. The teammates stuck through all the sweat, pain, and yelling but never gave up. They knew that after all the harsh practices they would get something that would be all worth it.

Oneonta was the place that their dream came true.

This was the place that they had to prove themselves and show everyone that they were the best, not only as soccer players but as respectful players because they also show a lot of respect toward the teams they play for that reason they won the sportsmanship award. It was a long journey to get to this point; they played teams like Massapequa, North Babylon, Bay Shore, West Islip, and Connetquot. They had the support of the school and it was shown during their home games. Most of the students and faculty waited with anticipation for it to be the end of a school day so they could go out to the field and watch the boys play. Brentwood boys always put on a good show for their spectators when they play. Many of Brentwood High School's students came to the games to support their team. Even students from other schools would come and watch them play. Our fans were students from



different "clicks" but they stood next to each other cheering our boys on while they played. Soccer brought everyone together. As our team scored everyone would jump up and down and yell and show how proud they were, knowing that each goal scored was another step closer to becoming champions. When you sit and watch a soccer game, you can see the unity that each player has with each other. The boys always give 100% when they play.



They have all worked so hard to get to the place that they are now. All of the players would play with their all and leave their hearts out on the field in each and every game. A player who got recognition for playing with his all is junior Joseph Lopez. He now has the school record of 25 goals. Lopez beat the score of former 1990 student Chris Paladinos whose record was 22 goals. Now Lopez holds the record to beat for any upcoming soccer players. When Joseph plays he shows people how much he loves the game because he gets hurt but gets right back up, he fights for the ball until he gets it, he runs with all his might until he gets a chance to score, he shoots and every time all he wants is to see the ball go into that net. Joseph is a huge asset to the team but Coach Eden says, "All of the players are important and key players, you can't be National Champions without all players, managers, and coaches." In Oneonta, as the seconds passed on the clock and Brentwood was in the lead 2-1 against Clarence, they knew that their long awaited dream of becoming State Champions was actually coming true.

As the clock struck 0:00, the Brentwood Boys Soccer team became the official best of the best and all of the hard work paid off. The coaches, fans, and especially the players were filled with joy and

pride. Our boys came back to our school as #1 and have filled us all with pride.

GOODBYE TO THE 08' FOOTBALL SEASON

by Brenda Salinas

The Brentwood Varsity Football team defeated Walt Whitman 27-13 and were looking forward to a win in the first long awaited playoff game. They made it, but disappointingly they came up short in the end. The Indians were the sixth seed in their division so they were set to go up against the Connetquot Thunderbirds who were standing at a strong number three. Connetquot had previously defeated Brentwood in the regular season on October 4, 2008, a game that could have been won if played differently. Despite the fact that the Indians had already lost against the Thunderbirds, they were looking forward to a win. The Indians first playoff game against Connetquot was on November 8, 2008. The day awoke with clouds and drizzle. Dedicated fans attended the game despite the awful weather. The Thunderbirds led in the first quarter and were also up in the second quarter 35-19. Brentwood's Manzueta, Allison, and Corporan had managed to score making the score 18 plus an extra point by Saavedera but it was not enough to diminish the 16 point lead that Connetquot held. Hard rain began to fall and umbrellas came up along with the sound of thunder. Soon the lightning began and the referees were forced to suspend the game due to lightning. According to the Section XI rule, if there is lightning at any outdoor sports game then the game must cease and all attending fans must leave for shelter in their cars. With 30 seconds left in the second quarter, the football players left the field leaving the Indians without the chance to go for their extra point. The game was scheduled to resume the following day at 10:00 am, starting where it had left off. Sunday, November 9th, was a beautiful, sunny day. The Brentwood cheerleaders, led by Emma Sotto and Samantha Siccarì, unfortunately were not present to lead the crowd in chants and cheers. Due to the game being rescheduled for Sunday, they were not able to organize a bus to take them to Connetquot. Some dedicated cheerleaders were present though in the audience, bringing on the spirit. The Indians started the game going for the kick but they missed it and resumed the game 19-35. If Brentwood would have played on Saturday the way they played on Sunday, then the outcome might have been different. Corporan was the first to score, running for the Indian touchdown. A last touchdown catch made by Kevin Kuhlmeier at the end of the fourth quarter ended the game: Connetquot 42 Brentwood 32. The senior Indians showed their pride and heart for their last game they would have in their high school career. For some it was the last time playing football while for others it may be the beginning of their football careers at higher levels. Some players will seek to play on the next level - at college. Overall, football is not only a game, it is a tradition; one that may grow from the stem of a family member or from pure personal enjoyment. While playing throughout the season, the Brentwood Football team grew to become a family; from the summer practices, to joking around in the locker room, to the blood, sweat and tears that were



shared on the gridiron, the games under the Friday night lights and the Saturday games with the parents out on the fields yelling for them to preserve. The football players are a group of students who learned about hard work and dedication with the help of each other. They became friends and family and will never forget their senior year playing ball. Ending their regular season with a record of 4-4, they did a great job and there will never be another season like the 2008 season. To the senior Indians, good luck in your future careers and remember, you will always be a part of the Brentwood tradition and you will always be a part of the varsity Brentwood football family. "First there are those who are winners, and know they are winners. Then there are the losers who know they are losers. Then there are those who are not winners, but don't know it. They're the ones for me, they never quit trying, they're the soul of our game." - Paul William Bryant

