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POW WOW

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BRENTWOOD NY 11717 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 1



BRENTWOOD GREEN MACHINE STATE CHAMPIONS!!!

The Green Machine Marching Band performed at the NYS Field Band Conference Championship Competition on October 31, 2010. They won the coveted Governor's Cup Award for its Large School 2 Division Championship performance at the Syracuse University Carrier Dome.



BHS SAYS WELCOME BACK, MR. LOESCHNER!

by Yasmeen Mohammad



Many changes are occurring here at Brentwood High School for the 2010-2011 school year. Most notably is the return of Mr. Richard Loeschner in the role of High School Principal. Mr. Loeschner is not new to the Brentwood School District; receiving his undergrad and graduate degree from Stony Brook in Mathematics, he was the Math department head here eleven years ago. He also earned his masters from Dowling College in Education Administration. Mr. Loeschner's administrative career began as Assistant Principal at North Middle School. From there, he went on to become the Associate Principal here at the High School for a number of years. Mr. Loeschner would then leave the high school for the last time, before returning, to become principal at South Middle School.

Last year we said goodbye to Mr. O'Brien, BHS Principal for the last 15 years, and dear friend of Mr. Loeschner. With this shift in leadership, there have been several interesting changes. Many members of the BHS community have welcomed some of the new school rules, one which includes the abolishment of 'Late Hall' and the other which includes the removal of the 'levels' system. Mr. Loeschner thought a great deal about these changes before implementing them for this school year. "Late hall essentially had a negative impact on students. Students would roam the building, leave the campus, and in many cases opt not to return for multiple periods in the day. Think of it this way...if a student were late to his or her class, the teacher would shut the door, and the student would be sent to Late Hall. Keep in mind, Late Hall was recorded as a cut. When this would happen three or four times, in the levels system, the student would receive disciplinary action." This was the reason Mr. Loeschner opted to drop the levels system and Late Hall in order to increase students' opportunities to make a change for the better.

To some, Mr. Loeschner seems like a fairly liberal principal and those individuals may question the sudden shift in policies. Mr. Loeschner believes that his policies aren't liberal, but in the philosophy that when given the opportunity, students will always do the right thing. "Long term punishment is negative on a student's achievement. It's funny that you call me a 'liberal principal,' I'm really not. I believe in the goodness of kids. Punishment will not benefit students in the long run." Setting high expectations and promoting a positive environment are the goals of this year. Obviously there are still consequences to actions but the hope is that more students will rise to these expectations than not.

Mr. Loeschner is passionate about being in the hallways and classrooms and interacting with students on a regular basis. When he speaks with them he likes to remind them about the importance of their education and of all of the opportunities available to them here at the High School. He had this message for the underclassmen, "Take advantage of all we offer academically. Many subjects taught here are not offered to other schools. Even our after school organizations, most schools don't come close! Most of all, enjoy yourselves! I love nothing more than students in class and in the hallways having fun. Remember, you're only kids once!" This message obviously applies to the graduating class of 2011 as well, however, to the seniors Mr. Loeschner also adds this advice, "This is a memorable, milestone year, and a year I hope you can look back on with fondness. It is a huge responsibility, but you are still a kid. Although you may be looking towards the future, always remember to enjoy the moment!"

There are many goals for Brentwood High School, some that have always existed and some that Mr. Loeschner has brought with him into this new school year. "Academically, I believe we can be an outstanding school on Long Island, where a large majority of students can succeed and continue onto technical school and four year universities. In short, I want to raise academic success in the High School to ensure success later on in life. It is truly an honor and a privilege to work for such an outstanding community. Not a day goes by that I do not feel fortunate to be principal here. This school is filled with outstanding students and staff. I definitely believe we can be one of the most outstanding schools in New York State. I love it here. I mean, I love the kids. I think they're wonderful. The faculty is terrific and I am so glad to be back here." Clearly, we have a positive new leader taking the reigns as our high school principal. Mr. O'Brien will surely be missed, but Mr. Loeschner is being welcomed as the principal of a new generation - a new generation of Brentwood High School students.

Mr. Loeschner is being welcomed as the principal of a new generation - a new generation of Brentwood High School students.



The Pow Wow has an EMAIL!!!!

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



Pow Wow
BRENTWOOD HIGH
SCHOOL
 Brentwood, NY 11717
 Volume 42 Issue I
 September/October 2010

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Letter from the Editors

Welcome back to school! Summer was great for a lot of us but now it's back to the grind again. For those of you who are returning, we look forward to another highly productive and exciting year. Seniors...YOU MADE IT!!! CLASS OF 2011! Make this year your best and continue doing better than you've ever done. All of us are looking forward to June and the day when it is our turn to walk across that stage and hold those diplomas in our hands. Now go and get them! Your future is in your hands!

What comes with this excitement is the responsibility for your future. College is right around the corner for most of us and December 31st is the day of judgment. At that point, you're either in or you're out. Don't get caught up in the hype of being a senior and catch what we know as "Senioritis." Get all of your stuff done early and sit back for the month of December while everyone else around you is pulling their hair out. Apply to your college early and you'll be better off. Good luck to all of you! Graduation day is going to roll in faster than you



could ever imagine. Good luck to all of you! Word of advice: pull through with your homework assignments and projects. Colleges are evaluating these particular years in your high school career, and, in our generation, it's getting increasingly hard to find a steady job without some college degree. Consider that. Consider that you might regret not going to class just because you can't stand a teacher. Consider you might regret not handing in homework because you were watching your favorite tv show. Make smart choices so that you don't have any regrets in the long run. Applying for colleges

and getting ready to step out of your comfort zone definitely will not hit most until diploma day because let's face it, most of us don't take the time to sit down and think about these things. You may hear it a lot from your teachers, "You have a tremendous amount of potential," but tell me, how many of you will actually do something about it? Juniors and sophomores, it's not too late. There's still plenty of time for self-improvement, don't wait!

ATTENTION SENIORS, SOPHOMORES, AND JUNIORS:

Write about your friends! Show off your work to your parents! Make your English teachers love you! (Not necessarily a guarantee.) The Pow Wow is always looking for new, dedicated members! All are welcome to join and voice their ideas. We are looking for individuals interested in the layout process, poets, reporters, cartoonists, sports reporters, artists, photographers, and anyone else who wants to contribute school news! This paper is ours, let's keep it that way! Ask yourself - What are you going to do to make a difference this year?



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Seniors Go to Fright Night at Dorney Park

by Alexander Hayden

On October 22, the Senior Class decided to go to Dorney Park for their annual "Senior Trip and Fundraiser." Typically, going there means having a fun-filled day with friends on rides and attractions. However, the park had something more to offer than it normally does. This year Dorney Park did something completely unprecedented. They developed their own version of Frightfest and it was a spectacular sight for all who saw it.

When the seniors got there, it was still light out and many people were saying, "Oh this isn't really any fun. It's too light out to have anything scary here." However, as the light faded, and the full moon rose, the mood became ominous. Hundreds of outsiders flocked to the park for the experience. The lights on the pathway were dimmed to a bare minimum which allowed the moonlight to provide the major source of light. Fog machines spewed their contents on the side walk and costumed actors creepily approached all who en-



in hopes of being left scared and shivering. Although some of these areas left line-waiters disappointed, others completely felt the "WOW!" factor. Unanimously, people agreed that one of the best "haunted attractions" was The Asylum. Upon entering, a guard warned you of the disturbing images that you would encounter while inside. It was not a lie—the inmates came at you from all angles with frightening yelps and bloody clothing. The props inside were also designed in excellent fashion, with chains hanging and torture equipment strewn across tables, covered in blood. Girls put their heads down and grabbed the arm of the nearest guy, and there was at least one case where a guy screamed upon entering.

Outside of the rides and attractions, there was always the greasy amusement park food that everyone loved. The fried dough with powdered sugar was a crowd favorite, and the countless amounts purchased left a scent in the air that raised even the lowest of moods. There were also lots of hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken fingers, and everything else that you could possibly want. Vendors even sold ice cream, but no



then let you freefall drop back down the rail and into the starting station with a feeling of a huge adrenaline rush. From that point, many seniors went to the haunted attractions that the park had set up. People crowded into lines to wait for these attractions

tered their domain.

From ghouls and ghosts to haunted mansions and a scary corn maze, the park really brought out the best of the Halloween spirit.

In addition to the usual rides that everyone knew, there was the new ride called Possessed that everyone was amazed with. It seated you in a hanging harness and sent you at lightning speed forward, up a corkscrew spiral and

and everything else that you could possibly want. one bought any, considering the arctic temperatures that greeted the students that night. More appealing at that point was the hot chocolate and s'mores that had been made, which warmed the hearts and stomachs of those who ate them.

To most, the weather was freezing cold but it was a great night to be out, and considering that we got home at 2:30am, it couldn't have been more exciting and fun. Nearly everyone slept on the ride home, exhausted from all the thrills and chills they had gotten throughout the night. Overall, it was a great trip for the Seniors, and at the end, it was obvious it had been a great day.



BRENTWOOD OWNS SIEMENS COMPETITION 2010

by Vivian Vuong

According to the Siemens Foundation website, "The Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology recognizes remarkable talent early on... Through this competition, students have an opportunity to achieve national recognition for science research projects that they complete in high school." It is a competition composed of scholars nationwide that allows for the advancing of research in these subjects from a student's perspective. Complex projects and papers are created and rigorously tested and then submitted to a national review board. Out of over 1,300 project entries nationwide, three hundred semifinalists were selected. Of the three hundred was a research team from our very own high school: Vivian Vuong and Samantha Garvey, both in eleventh grade. They produced a practical experiment under the supervision of Rebecca Grella, Laurie Perino and Dianna Padilla over the course of last summer at Stony Brook University. The main focus of their research was relevant to lessening the damages of recent disasters such as the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and Hurricane Katrina, but of course on a smaller scale, analyzing the core of these problems. The benefits of research such as this is endless, as it allows scientists to advance their methods of creating a solution to the drastic problems that are created during natural and human-made disasters. Both Vivian and Samantha were nationally accredited in the *USA TODAY* newspaper and also received a complimentary gift package. Without a doubt, these two young women have promising futures lying ahead.



AFJROTC Welcomes MSgt. Richard Lochren

by Alexander Hayden

When the Class of 2010 graduated, so did TSgt. Burgess. The veteran of the Air Force and beloved AFJROTC instructor for fourteen years at Brentwood High School, finally decided to retire. He had been talking about it for quite some time, but always found a way to make an excuse and stay for that one extra year. This time, however, he meant it.

When TSgt Burgess left, there was a vacancy at the desk and the position of ASI, or Aerospace Instructor, needed to be filled. Several candidates stepped forward and interviewed for the position, but in the end, it was given to MSgt. Richard Lochren. MSgt. Lochren had served in the US Air Force for a good portion of his life and, until recently, was still an active member of the Air National Guard. Like MSgt. Perez, MSgt. Lochren was also a recruiter and spent his time enlisting young men and women. However, he changed his career and is now Brentwood's new AFJROTC instructor.

This change in instructors has been well-received by the cadets in the program, all of whom welcomed him warmly and gave him advice and direction in the areas of JROTC instruction. He takes over the teaching position of leadership and future development, inspiring cadets and informing them on both civilian and military careers. A positive addition that he brings to the table is that since he is fresh out of the Air Force, he understands the most current regulations followed there and brings them to a JROTC level. More importantly, he has taken to the cadets in the program, and them to him. As a result, he has become a most welcomed addition to the program at the High School.

How to Prepare for College

by Julio Villarman

College is an experience like no other; advancing your knowledge in something you love to do. That may seem really simple to do but it isn't an easy path to get there.

For starters, do well in all your classes and get on your teachers' good side. Respectfully ask for letters of recommendation; at least three letters from subject teachers and two from extracurricular or elective classes is good. You should also build a strong relationship with your guidance counselor. They are here to help answer any questions, and if used properly, the guidance office is sure to point you in the right direction.

Secondly, study and learn strategies for the SAT's. Getting a really good SAT score may boost your GPA, even if your GPA at the time isn't up to par. SAT scores are seen differently by each college, and where one score may be acceptable for one college, it might not be acceptable for another.

Try and sign up for SAT subject tests as well, especially the



ones in which you believe you will do well. Do not over-stress yourself with a multitude of these tests and barely pass them; just do your best on the ones you know you need.

Similar to the testing, do not overwhelm yourself with AP classes unless you are completely sure you can do well in them. Just because it is an AP class doesn't mean colleges will be attracted to you if you are failing that course for the entire year.

Lastly, to graduate with an advanced regents diploma you must complete the following...

- 3 years of a language followed by the regents
- 4 years of gym
- 3 years of math (leading up to trigonometry)
- 4 years of science (with each a passing regents grade)
- 3 years of English.

Good luck to all of you - it's an exciting time!

College Rankings

by Alexander Hayden

Best Classroom Experience

1. Mount Holyoke College
2. Reed College
3. Stanford University
4. United States Military Academy
5. Franklin Olin College of Engineering
6. Wellesley College
7. Williams College
8. Sweet Briar College
9. Pomona College
10. Princeton University



Most Accessible Professors

1. United States Air Force Academy
2. United States Naval Academy
3. Sweet Briar College
4. United States Military Academy
5. Williams College
6. Webb Institute
7. Wabash College
8. Hampton-Sydney College
9. Colgate University
10. Stonehill College



Best Campus Food

1. Bowdoin College
2. Virginia Tech
3. James Madison University
4. Wheaton College
5. Cornell University
6. St. Olaf College
7. University of Georgia
8. Bryn Mawr College
9. University of Notre Dame
10. Washington University in St. Louis

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Boo! The Origins of Halloween

by Jordan Lurie

Earla halena maessadae everyone! No, that is not a typo, it's actually the old English way to say happy Halloween. The celebration of candy, pumpkins, and all things spooky has been around longer than most people realize. How long ago? Try the mid-16th Century! Most of the holiday's various activities -- and its name -- were invented on the Emerald Isles, also known as Ireland.

"While some folklorists have detected its origins in the Roman feast of Pomona, the goddess of fruits and seeds, or in the festival of the dead called Parentalia," says Historian Nicholas Rogers author of *Halloween: From Pagan Ritual to Party Night*, "it is more typically linked to the Celtic festival of Samhain." The name is taken from the Old Irish saying which means "Summer's End". The festival of Samhain celebrates the closing of the "lighter half" of the year, and the beginning of the "darker half" of the year. Most people regard this as the Celtic New Year.

In mythology and in popular culture, Samhain is shown as the spirit of Halloween. Think Santa Clause or the Easter Bunny -- just more mischievous and vicious. His job is simple, enforce the rules of the holiday and punish those who ignore or defy them. Punishments include: wrapping the victim's house in cloth (also known as T.P. -ing), defiling the harvest (in this case egging) and scaring the person...sometimes to death! Over the years, he has appeared in various films, television shows, and music.

Michael Doherty, writer and director of the 2008 horror film, *Trick r' Treat*, portrays the wicked wisep as a young child humorously known as "Sam". In a documentary on the movie entitled *The Lore and Legends of Halloween*, Doherty describes Sam's appearance as "a cross between a pumpkin and an embryo." On the hit T.V. series, *Supernatural*, Samhain is depicted as an evil demon that was worshipped by the ancient Celts. Glen Danzig, author, musician, and a progenitor of the horror punk subgenre of music, founded the group Samhain. The band's musical style was a dark, gritty, and experimental combination of punk, gothic rock, and on their last album, heavy metal. When one thinks of Halloween, the first image that pops up is that of a round orange orb happily smiling at passing trick-or-treaters; the Celts called them ignis fatuus...we call them jack-o-lanterns. While they look positively wonderful on the front porch on a cold October night, they serve a higher purpose. They are used as an offering in a religious ritual called souling. The hollow pumpkin serves as a retreat for the spirits, and the glowing candle serves as a beacon in the dark. Throughout Europe, there is a long tradition of carving vegetables -- and not just pumpkins either -- but also turnips, rutabagas, and various rooted plants.

In the United States, the carving of pumpkins was first associated with the celebration of the harvest before it became the symbol of Halloween that it is today. The poet John Greenleaf Whittier wrote *The Pumpkin* in 1850:

"Oh!—fruit loved of boyhood!—the old days recalling,
When wood-grapes were purpling and brown nuts were falling!
When wild, ugly faces we carved in its skin,
Glaring out through the dark with a candle within!"
The term jack-o-lantern wasn't used until 1837; the name comes from the old



Faustian tale about the experiences of a lazy drunk named Stingy Jack -- who one night rubbed elbows with the Devil himself! To punish Jack for his sinful ways, Satan denies him entry through the Gates of St. Peter. Instead, the inebriated Jack tries to sneak into the Underworld, where at least it's warm. The Devil rejects his pleas and forces him to wander between the realms...with only an ember inside a hollow turnip to light his way.

Competitive pumpkin growing has become a major competition, and is quite popular around this time of year. *The Guinness Book of World Records* lists the largest pumpkin was grown by Scott Cully of Northern Cambria, Pennsylvania in 2005. It weighed 1,469 pounds (666.33kg). That would make one heck of a pie!

When a costume is donned, the person inside changes. They start to personify the character they are wearing -- whether it be a comical circus clown or the frightening Freddy Krueger. That's what make this holiday so great! For an entire day, we get to shed our normal mundane skin in favor for a new, colorful and exciting one. On any other day it would be considered an act of insanity...but not on Halloween.

They aren't just for show either, as author John Campbell explains, "Costumes and masks were also worn at the festivals in an attempt to copy the evil spirits or placate them." This activity (also known as guising) became prevalent in both Scotland and Ireland by the 19th century. By the early 1900's, costuming was a popular holiday event in North America, both for children and adults. The first massed produced Halloween costume didn't appear in stores until the 1930's.

So what was your costume this year, dear reader?

"Trick-or-treat!" Ah, what a beautiful phrase. Instant cavity causing gratification is given to those who speak these words on Halloween night. Thus has it always been a tradition since the past, to the present, and the unwritten future. The practice of trick-or-treating dates back to the Middle Ages where children would go door to door and receive small cakes from neighbors. If the person denied them a treat...that's where the trick would come in. In 19th century and early 20th century Ireland, the tricks were often a bit alarming--for example, slates were placed over the chimney-pots of houses filling the rooms with smoke and field gates were lifted off their hinges and hung from high tree branches.

As time went on, it turned into a popular activity, as historian Ruth Kelley, author of *The Book of Halloween* explains, "The taste in Hallowe'en festivities now is to study old traditions, and hold a Scotch party, using Burn's poem *Hallowe'en* as a guide; or to go a-souling as the English used. In short, no custom that was once honored at Hallowe'en is out of fashion now." The actual saying didn't show up until the 1940's where it spread eastward, but was halted by the Second World War due to sugar rationing, it then returned in 1947 and has been used since.

Overseas, the phrase was hardly known and when introduced was regarded as an unusual and unwelcoming import. Since the 1980's it has become more widespread, but it still viewed as exotic and unwanted. Go figure!

Isn't Halloween just fantastic? It's nice to have traditions that anyone, both young and old, can participate in. Many of our reader's were out there on Halloween night, traipsing around in there gleefully ghoulish outfits. See your ghoulish faces again next year!



Monroe College Trip

On October 20th, high school guidance counselors took Brentwood students to tour Monroe College in New Rochelle.

It was a great experience for all!

Contact the guidance office for upcoming college trips and information.



HOMECOMING 2010

by Julio E. Villarman

Flashing lights, cameras, and paparazzi were everywhere. This was the experience of the Homecoming Dance on October 8th. The Red Carpet was the theme of the amazing night, and thanks to Student Council and faculty members, the celebration of Brentwood's spirited Homecoming was a success. Non-stop dancing and blasting music were the source of everyone's entertainment. Decorations of stars were hanging everywhere and it gave participants the feeling of truly being star-struck; conversations amongst friends and sharing dance moves filled the floor with terrific sights and sounds. However, the real fun began when everything was brought to a halt to announce the Homecoming Kings and Queens. The winners were Devine Daniels and Joana Flores for Sonderling and Jared Hudson and Milena Sandoval for Ross. It was a great night for all and congratulations to everyone, once again.



HOMECOMING PARADE

WITH THEIR CLEVER STATEMENT OF PROTEST AGAINST HOMECOMING BEING PLANNED FOR THE SAME DAY AS SAT'S, SENIOR CLASS WINS AGAIN!



HOMECOMING GAME 2010

*photographs by Karen K. Robles, Jessica Velasquez,
and Mr. Seth Rochester*



CLUBS!!!

Looking for something to do after school?
Take a look at some of the clubs offered here at Brentwood High School.

by Leigh-Ann Ramsey, Julio Villarman, and Alexander Hayden

Pow Wow

With meetings every Monday, the school newspaper is always looking for new and creative talent to provide articles, photographs, and more! The school newspaper is an excellent way to become connected with your classmates (and be informed about what's going on in school!).

Math League

Got a quick mind? Meeting once a month, math leaguers answer math questions and compete for the highest score in both the school and regional districts.

Academic Team – Mentathalon

Mental prowess and fast-paced buzzing. Members participate in local and regional events that work around a Jeopardy-style buzzer game of answering trivia questions.



Science Olympiad

Work around your schedule! Choose from tech or book events, and attend the days you're free. Work toward the regional and state competitions in the spring!

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Although you can't become an official member until the induction in June, you can work toward that goal. Contact a music teacher or one of your friends in the society to find out how you can get an application and find out about the good, music-related happenings!

National Honor Society

Like Tri-M, it's too late to become a member for this school year, but obtain as much information you can, so you, too, can become a part of this prestigious group of academic scholars!

Mock Trial Team

Students meet five days a week to discuss, argue, and act out fictitious court cases. Students also participate in regional and national competitions.



Nubians United

Curious about African American culture? Come and find out how cultural unity amongst all cultures can promote social well-being and bring people of all races closer together.

SADD

These members are not a group of depressed children. Students Against Destructive Decisions is a fun and interactive club of our generation's philanthropists working to make people more aware of their life choices.

Yearbook

At yearbook there are dedicated people who take time to go to the many different events that the school has to offer and capture the memories. Compiling the photos and information of the year's graduating class are just a couple of the aspects that help make the memories of Brentwood last.

Robotics

At Robotics, Brentwood's engineers come together to build a robot that will reach the requirements for that year's competition against other high schools to see who's 'bot' can beat the other in a series of obstacles or challenges.



Interact

Interact Club is a joining of people who will fundraise and help others. This organization just completed the Breast Cancer Walk and raised over 1,000 dollars! Plus, they will participate in food drives for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Student Council

This membership enhances the school life of a student. At Brentwood High School, they host events to make the experience a little bit better. They try to represent the school with events including the Homecoming Dance, the talent show, and more.

Drama Club

This group strives to prepare students who are interested in the creative arts and theatre productions. This club produces the school's two (fall/winter) plays that are based on popular stories.



Italian Club

Ciao! Have an interest in all things Italian? This club is for you! Members develop an appreciation for the culture, traditions, and foods of the Italian Peninsula.

Computer Club

Want to learn more about Office '07? Scrapbook with Photoshop Elements? Be technical support to the Pow Wow? Make an iMovie? Become a member and help drive the focus of the club. Monday meetings!

Emerald Echo

Brentwood High School's annually published literary magazine is a forum for students to submit and publish their creative writing pieces for others to read.

The Annual Club Fair was held on October 21st and was a great success! Hopefully, many of you received a lot of information about the clubs offered at BHS and have found at least one you are interested in. Look in your agenda or pick up a purple book from the office to see a complete listing of all the extracurricular activities.

S.A.D.D. CLUB EDITORIAL

by Samantha Garvey

Recently reported were two major hate crime incidents against students because of their sexuality. Studies show that gay teen suicides are four times greater than that of heterosexual teens. This statistic was heightened by the tragic death of a student who was secretly taped when he was in private with another student, which is believed to have been the cause of his suicide. Moreover, there's the story of the boy being assaulted on a Nassau BOCES bus. What escalated into a horrible ride for this boy began with anti-gay and horrid remarks towards what the offenders believed was his sexual orientation. The general consensus of S.A.D.D members is that students should learn now that what you say and do could really hurt another person and making unethical decisions against someone because of biased opinion on sexual orientation, race, religion, disability, or ethnicity is wrong. S.A.D.D. is about combating all destructive decisions, those that effect you and those that effect others. Think before you act.

The Yearbook of 2011 Editorial

by Julio Villarman

Capturing the memories of the 2011 seniors, the yearbook club is a fun organization of your peers lead by two wonderful staff members, Mr. Sikorsky and Ms. Marcolla. Taking pictures at events and running school wide votes on the major topics of the year is an overall great experience. Information on purchasing the yearbook is on the Brentwood School District website, http://www.brentwood.k12.ny.us/Index_docs/yearbook_sale_info.html. Senior Pictures are to be taken in the Sonderling Auditorium. Just ask at your front office about making an appointment for the pictures. In addition, any pictures taken after November 4th will not be in the 2011 yearbook.

Cadets Fly High on Aviation/Engineering Trip

by Alexander Hayden

There were planes, helicopters, engineers, and even virtual reality rides when the cadets from AFJROTC arrived at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, NY on September 23rd. On this day, a select group of students and cadets from the high school attended an aviation and engineering career fair that was a great experience for all who went.

Waiting for them when they arrived was a spokesman from NASA who had a very cliché, yet important, message. "Do your best in school. Even if your best is an 85, achieve at that level." He presented us with an informational slideshow that outlined all of the different careers that one can find in science and engineering, and how one could even work at NASA. Followed by this was an outdoor tour of the entire flight deck of Republic Airport, where over a dozen aircraft lay waiting to be observed. P-47s from World War II and jets from Vietnam were intermingled with newer "trainer" aircraft and helicopters from news corporations such as News 12 and ABC. Since it was self-guided, everyone split up and headed to the different exhibits, searching eagerly for some new information on what they thought was interesting. However, it was clear which planes and aircraft received the most attention. Peaking everyone's interest was the MH-60 Pave Hawk used by the 106th Rescue Wing (pictured right), as the pilots and crew all told stories of their training



and let us tour the chopper inside and out. They even had tactical gear for spectators to try on that simulated the weight of the garb Search and Rescue crewmembers wear.

After the excitement of the guided tour died down, everyone went inside the nearby hanger to meet with various engineers and representatives from aviation and aeronautical companies. There were spokespersons from Northrop Grumman, flight programs, engineering corporations, colleges, and military branches—all there to answer any questions that people had for them. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions regarding how to enter a career in aviation or engineering and then where one could go from there. Once again, the military scene dominated the popularity contest, as recruiters and representatives from the Navy had people competing for prizes by doing push-ups. It was a "manly-man's" paradise, as they got to show off a bit and gain the favor of their friends.

Overall, it was an excellent day for all who went, and especially for those who want to enter careers in aviation, aeronautics, engineering, or any scientific career. It gave students a glimpse into their futures, and for those who were unsure of what they wanted, a survey of the careers in this field. The AFJROTC cadets couldn't have asked for a better trip, as it encompassed several areas that they learn about in class and included real life perspective from experts in the field.

Cadets Lend a Helping Hand

by Alexander Hayden

From September 15th to September 24th, a handful of cadets from AFJROTC donated their time after school at the local kindergartens in Brentwood.

School had begun and the schools of East Kindergarten, Pine Park, and Southwest Elementary were in need of help. To give a brief description of what the cadets did, they divided into groups of two or three and assisted the kindergartners onto their appropriate busses and then rode to the children's bus stops to ensure that the kids would get off at the appropriate stop. This assistance went until approximately 4 p.m. every day, and the effects showed. As a result of the cadets' presence on the buses, the young children began to behave better, sat in their assigned seats automatically, and eased the job of the bus driver. In essence, the buses had a third and a fourth set of eyes that would allow the bus drivers to spend more time concentrating on the road and less time on the behavior of their passengers. And when the children got off, there were many smiles and hugs given to their parents, many of whom thanked the cadets repeatedly for their service.

This is not the first year that the cadets from the AFJROTC program have shown their faces on the kindergarten buses. Many who were present this year were present prior years as well. The program has grown and developed over the past few years, and more well-rounded cadets are now present not only in our school, but in the community as well. As for those who saw the cadets helping out, it was demonstrated that there are still those individuals in the community who are not only trustworthy, but also dedicated to enlightening our future generations.



AFJROTC Remembers Those We Lost

by Giovanni Oliveros

AFJROTC cadets arrived at the high school early on the morning of September 17th, to form an honor guard detail and conduct a flag ceremony at the Sonderling flag pole, honoring the victims and surviving family members of 9/11.

On September 11, 2001, four US planes were hijacked by terrorists and crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville Pennsylvania, killing nearly 3,000 people in a matter of hours. Behind the staggering number of deaths are the individuals, each of whom left behind family, friends, and co-workers who continue to feel the national tragedy on a personal level. It is these people who the AFJROTC cadets honored this day.

Chief Taylor addressed the small crowd that had assembled with brief remarks to explain the significance of the ceremony. MSgt Perez rang the ceremony bell three times to pay respect to each location. Cadets Ricardo Barba, Hope Amos, Pedro Ventura, Kevin Gonzalez, Alex Hayden, Elizabeth Flores, Luis Segovia and Tracie Alveranga formed the detail to attach the American flag to the flag pole and raised the flag to full staff, and then lowered the flag to half staff signifying national mourning. Roland Ramkissoon played taps on the trumpet and Emmanuel Vaughns played the drums during the raising and lowering of the flag while cadets and instructors in attendance saluted. It was a real tribute to our fallen Americans.



photo by Kristen Hittel

AFJROTC Fights Against Breast Cancer

by Kevin Gonzalez

Breast Cancer is the most common and second deadliest form of cancer in women. Every year, the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk is held at Jones Beach, raising money and showing support for the cause of finding a cure. Brentwood High School's AFJROTC

program took action that early Sunday morning. Despite gathering at seven in the morning, the strong spirit and excitement amongst the cadets made the freezing cold and bone-chilling weather barely noticeable. And though the weather was not the best, those sixty cadets who were present truly embodied the significance of that five mile walk. Their energy for the two hours never ceased or gave way. This year was especially important for the senior cadets of 2011, as they led the corps in a unified uproar, walking that boardwalk for the final time.

In total, the NY-773 Fighting Falcons raised over \$1,800 in donations, an astounding amount for the program. As they came to the end of the walk, the Fighting Falcons made sure to leave their mark. They performed their chant in front of a News12 cameraman, leaving an unparalleled and resounding "HOORAH!" to show support for those at the walk, as well as for those whose memory was being

honored. It was a great beginning to the day, and the AFJROTC cadets were more than amped to get out and make their presence known to the thousands of pink-clad people on that boardwalk.



BRENTWOOD'S FASHION ICONS by Vivian Vuong



MARC GONZALEZ

- Q: Who is your influence for fashion trends?
 A: I really don't have an influence I just have always been the type to stand out.
 Q: What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
 A: The most expensive item I have bought would have to be a pair of sneakers (Nike Sb Ray Guns) \$280.
 Q: Where would we most likely find you shopping?
 A: You would most likely find me shopping at H&M & Hollister.
 Q: How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
 A: Most of my outfits are already ready for the next day, so around 30 to 45 minutes.
 Q: How would you describe your style?
 A: I would describe my style as nothing new but nothing old.

ENYER PLATA

- Q: Who is your influence for fashion trends?
 A: I don't really have a specific person. I just do me.
 Q: What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
 A: Most expensive thing I bought was a \$180 pair of shoes that I really, really liked.
 Q: Where would we most likely find you shopping?
 A: Most likely H&M, it's kind of fancy yet edgy.
 Q: How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
 A: Half an hour because I mostly spend time to get my hair to look right.
 Q: How would you describe your style?
 A: Classy with an edge.



CRYSTAL GONZALEZ

- Q: Who is your influence for fashion trends?
 A: I'd have to say Lights because of her motorcycle, loose clothes kinda rocker look. Selena Gomez for incorporating the new vintage style that is really coming out now and she dresses down great too!
 Q: What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
 A: It was probably this leather jacket. It was about \$100 I think from Express.
 Q: Where would we most likely find you shopping?
 A: You would most likely find me shopping at Forever 21, American Eagle, Mande's, believe it or not they have good stuff, and Pac Sun.
 Q: How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
 A: It takes me about an hour and a half, sometimes less.
 Q: How would you describe your style?
 A: I'm actually working on pulling off the whole vintage look, since it looks so nice nowadays. So, basically, if you add tights under anything, its going to look vintage. So, yeah, floral skirts are a big part of it. Also just casual--a nice top with jeans and vans usually gets it done!



DIANA LOPEZ

- Q: Who is your influence for fashion trends?
 A: Audrey Hepburn! I have to say I love the 60's and vintage fashions. Things that stand out but still feel elegant are what I love. Hepburn's style is unique and very edgy, yet wearable.
 Q: What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
 A: The most expensive thing I've ever bought were my Steve Madden combat boots. \$175 to be exact, but they were completely worth it! I've had them for two years now and they're still in great shape, can wear them with practically anything.
 Q: Where would we most likely find you shopping?
 A: My favorite places to shop would have to be Urban Outfitters, American Apparel, Forever 21 and H&M. They have a great variety and their clothes are pretty affordable!
 Q: How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
 A: To be honest, it doesn't take me quite a long time in the morning. I'm not much of a matching person, so I throw on whatever feels right and walk out the door. Having something that fits well and looks good on you is what I think really matters.
 Q: How would you describe your style?
 A: Vintage! It's classic and timeless. Sometimes on the edgy side, but always something elegant and quirky.



GABRIEL BRENES

- Q: Who is your influence for fashion trends?
 A: The person who influenced me the most was my sister. She actually showed me how to match back in 4th grade.
 Q: What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
 A: The most expensive thing I've ever bought was a pair of Nike SB shoes--best \$400 and they were worth every penny.
 Q: Where would we most likely find you shopping?
 A: You would mostly find me at Pac Sun, Hollister, H&M and of course Footlocker.
 Q: How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
 A: It takes me about an hour and 15 minutes to get ready for school.
 Q: How would you describe your style?
 A: If I could describe my style in a word, it would be unique; one in a million.



ANGELIA MADRAMUTHU

- Q: Who is your influence for fashion trends?
 A: I really don't have an influence for my fashion style I just go with the style.
 Q: What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
 A: The most expensive thing was a Coach bag for \$210.
 Q: Where would we most likely find you shopping?
 A: I like shopping at preppy places like Hollister, Abercrombie & Fitch, American Eagle, and Wet Seal.
 Q: How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
 A: It takes about an hour to an hour and a half.
 Q: How would you describe your style?
 A: My style is preppy yet conservative and neat.



JENNIFER MIRANDA

- Q: Who is your influence for fashion trends?
 A: My influence for fashion trends really comes from magazines and what I see on other people. Also, my mommy because she taught me everything I know.
 Q: What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
 A: The most expensive thing that I've probably brought is a pair of shoes for \$180.
 Q: Where would we most likely find you shopping?
 A: You would most likely find me shopping at Forever 21 or urban outfitters.
 Q: How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
 A: On a good day, it usually takes me an hour.
 Q: How would you describe your style?
 A: I describe my style as cute and girly but also classy.



STUDENT VOICES

-A PAGE OF EXPRESSION-

TODAY IS NOT TOMORROW

Ladies and gentlemen, parents and teachers, students and staff members - welcome back! Back to school, 2010-2011. This year might be the best school year ever. This is the time for you to stand up for yourself and say, "Yes, I want to graduate." Look in the mirror and say, "No, I won't mess around any more." Think about your future and start making plans.



Life is not easy, but today is not tomorrow. If you are suffering today, if your name is not on the graduation list, if you

have personal problems, if you can't find a job, remember that today is not the same as tomorrow, and one day your dream will come true. Do not just sit and complain but fight so you can survive. Use what you are going through today as an example. Then, tomorrow, when your dreams become reality, you can be proud. Do not leave what you have to do today for tomorrow. Day after day life is getting harder, but no matter what, do not give up. Never let go, hold tight until you reach your goal. You see today but you don't know what tomorrow might bring you. Today you might be suffering but believe me when I tell you that your life can change if you work harder. It's not always easy, you might have a lot of work to do, but it needs to be done, if you want to go further with your life. One thing you have to know is that tomorrow will not be the same as today. My dad used to tell

me a story, about a man that went to school at the age of 23 years old and by the time he was 50 years old,

he became one of the greatest doctors in his community. I also knew a blind lady in Haiti who had no husband and two kids. She raised them alone; one became a doctor and the other one a lawyer. Jesus was crucified, Martin Luther King had a dream for which he had to die, Cesar Chavez said si se puede (yes we can). You, too, can do it. What is your dream?

Be generous, attentive, and respectful. Everybody has talent. Back in the old good days, they used to say it's all about what you know but now it's all about who you know. Money talks, that's what they say. It's not how much knowledge you have in your head but it's how much

money you have in your pocket. Is that true? It might help but your money has to be made in a good way. Knowledge creates money and money helps gain power. You'd be amazed at how often knowledge is also power in its own right.

There is a huge number of students in our school. Five corners is overcrowded, people are bumping into each other as always. Don't let this get in your way. If you are a senior, do your thing and stay out of trouble so you can graduate. Take the PSAT and the SAT test, think about college. Do not waste your time today and regret it tomorrow. Today is the big deal. I know so many kids last year that thought they were 'the man.' They were the ones who always started the fights. To me, they were cool and had many girlfriends. I wanted to be just like them but now my eyes are open. I want to stay as far away as I can from them. They got kicked out of school. They got their girls pregnant. Having a baby, when you cannot even take care of yourself, is more difficult than

you can imagine. Well, people make mistakes. Take opportunities from mistakes, every time you make an error try to find a way to correct yourself. The key to success is to try and when you fail, to try again.

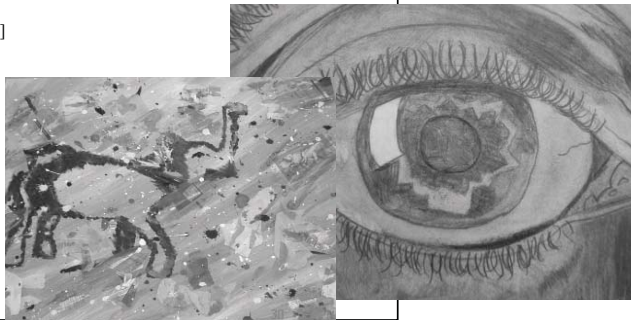
When one door closes there will be ten others that will open for you. Do not forget that when it gets darker, there will be daylight again. Ask for help. By experiencing things today, that is the only way you will understand life. Never back down; keep your head straight up on your shoulders. DO not give up, two words you should erase from your vocabulary--I QUIT. Au contraire--rise, change your style, get rid of your negative status if you want to have a better living conditions. Today is not tomorrow people. Tomorrow is a new day, a new beginning. What is your dream and how are you planning on achieving it? It's within your reach. It's worth thinking about, trust me.

- Jean Dorilus

Chasing Serenity

Bullets are flying back and forth in between-
Opposing sides, guerrilla lines, and different ideologies
Missiles whirring like metal birds in the air
All for what? All for 'peace'? Great job getting there.
The whole world is trapped in no man's land
Wielding swords, wielding hate instead of stretching hands
We're up to our ankles in the blood of yesterday
Browning in the heavy tides of all our mistakes
Bullets are flying back and forth in between
Cutting deeper into the hearts of Humanity
Don't pull the pin on that grenade
Ashes, Oil, sweat will taint your angel face
Raise your fist with a new kind of gun
With a flower, with a song, with a heart to make us one
Screams are soaring back and forth all around
Filling children's minds with hate-
We're mass producing thorny crowns
Placing them on all of our enemies,
Just because they think differently than you and me.
Since the dawn of time mankind has fought for what he wants to be his
Doesn't care who will die, who will cry, only if he'll live
Screams are soaring back and forth all around
We've got to coexist, relinquish, to find some common ground
Don't pull the pin on that grenade
Ashes, Oil, sweat will taint your angel face
Raise your fist with a new kind of gun
With a flower, with a song, with a heart to make us one
We need serenity
[We need to release]
To find serenity
[We are seeking peace]
Eternally,
Chasing serenity.

-Yasmeen Mohammad



Any student wishing to submit poetry, stories, or artwork to "Student Voices" should email Powwow@bufsd.org.

Interview With Girls Soccer Coach Anthony Nuara

by Brittany Holloway

Q: Who has been your top goal scorer at this point in the season?

A: Edasia, she plays central midfielder.

Q: How many saves has your goalie made this far?

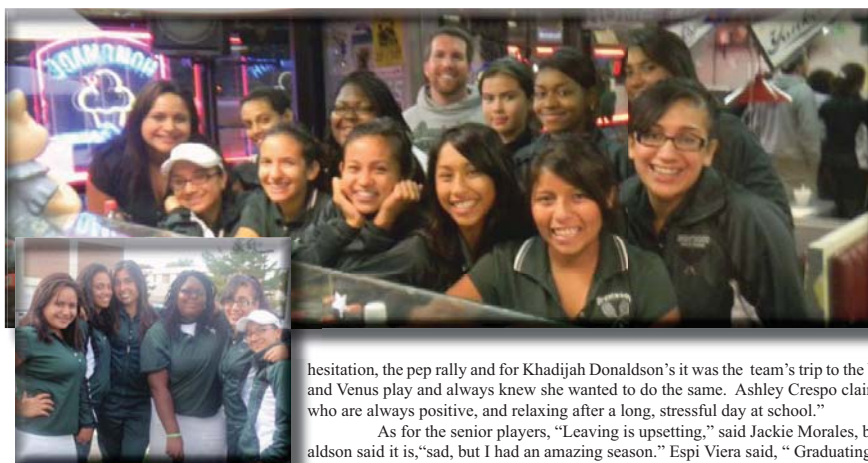
A: Over a 100. Other schools like to try and score on us a lot.

Q: What do you think is the hardest challenge you face in soccer?

A: Motivating the team and getting them in the mood to play strong and confidently.

Q: Do you have any advice for any girls, especially those wanting to try out next season?

A: Work hard, be determined, and love what you do. It's not hard if you love playing. Also, know the fundamentals of the game, and be open-minded, because it is hard work.



Girls Tennis

by Jasmin Curtiss & Merissa Bhimsingh

Girls varsity and JV teams have finished their seasons and under direction of Coaches Rooney and Finn, the year proved successful. Coach Rooney said, "It was a great year, one of the most enjoyable I have coached."

Players, Jackie Galdamez and Khadijah Donaldson, shared the *Pow Wow* their most memorable moment. Galdamez said without hesitation, the pep rally and for Khadijah Donaldson's it was the team's trip to the US Open. Ever since she was little, she watched Serena and Venus play and always knew she wanted to do the same. Ashley Crespo claimed she, "Enjoyed the experience of playing with girls who are always positive, and relaxing after a long, stressful day at school."

As for the senior players, "Leaving is upsetting," said Jackie Morales, but she is "filled with happy memories." Khadijah Donaldson said it is, "sad, but I had an amazing season." Espi Viera said, "Graduating is exciting, but I don't want to leave my family."

JV finished the season undefeated. If tennis seems like something you're interested in, start picking up a racquet

now. The girls' season starts in August and the boys' start in the Spring.

Interview With Varsity Volleyball Player Danielle Bekas

by Jasmin Curtiss & Merissa Bhimsingh

Q: How did the team do this season?

A: Our overall record is 6 wins and 11 losses, including non-league games.

Q: What is your favorite part of volleyball?

A: My favorite part about volleyball is my team. Although we do not have the best team out there, the girls are all amazing. Each person on the team has expanded her playing skills since the beginning of the season and many have become unstoppable, especially in practice.



Q: What is your favorite memory?

A: My favorite memory was the game against Commack. Although we lost, it was the first time the entire team played with heart and passion. It was the first time where we could all be proud of ourselves playing-wise.

Q: Your team seems to be a strong support of the fight against breast cancer, could you tell us about that?

A: In supporting breast cancer awareness, the volleyball team plays in two dig pink games. During the games we wear something that is pink to show our support. All of the food that is sold at the concession stand goes directly to the Breast Cancer Organization. This year, the team decided to make pink shirts to show their support and five girls (including myself) decided to donate \$10 to breast cancer by getting a strip of pink in our hair.

