

WINTER 2018



Fireside

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BROWNELL TALBOT SCHOOL





Notes from Worthington Hall

When I accepted the position of Head of School in December 2014, the reception I received from the Brownell Talbot community was warmer and more genuine than I could have hoped for. As I adjusted to life at BT, I knew I needed to connect with one of the school's most ardent supporters, former headmaster and this year's Gala Honorary Chair Dianne Desler. (read more about gala on pg. 13). Since then, Dianne and I have shared many calls, lunches, meetings, galas, and other special events. I count Dianne as a friend and the most important mentor I've had in my professional career. Her commitment to the success of our school and our students is enduring.

Dianne's support of the school during the past 42 years has come in several forms and demonstrates the many ways in which alumni, current parents, faculty and staff, and friends of BT can engage with the school in order to create opportunities for current and future students. Consider these options:

Refer Prospective Students. Share your positive experiences with families of non-BT students. As an alumni, you are uniquely equipped to give a firsthand account of life at BT. Things may have changed a bit since you graduated - our Director of Admissions Kim Schinzel (kim.schinzel@brownell.edu) can support your efforts in many ways like keeping you informed of admissions events, helping answer any questions that arise, and coordinating tours.

The BT Fund. On pg. 11 we offer a means for making a gift to The BT Fund. Supporting the school's annual fundraising movement with a gift makes a big impact on our ability to offer

a breadth of academic experiences and extracurriculars to prepare students for college and life. As Director of Constituent Relations Renae Mackender notes on pg. 22, there is power in participation. It is not the size of the gift that matters - more it's your acknowledgment of the value of the education you received and your desire to share that benefit with current students.

Volunteer. If you live in the Omaha area, we'd love your help at on-campus events. Many teachers are interested in connecting current students with alumni to enhance curriculum, as Mrs. Vetter did with her eighth grade class (read more about the Alumni Interviews project on pg. 14!).

Visiting Omaha for a short period of time? Connect with a member of the administration team or a beloved teacher to volunteer to speak to a class or club. Our students love hearing from our alumni. You never know how your story might inspire someone!

I hope you consider re-investing in BT in order to enhance the future for the next generation of alumni. There is power in participation.

Sincerely,

Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D.
Head of School

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Fireside is published for alumni, parents, and friends of Brownell Talbot School. Send story ideas and comments to Brownell Talbot School, attn: Renae Mackender, 400 N. Happy Hollow Blvd., Omaha, NE 68132; email renae.mackender@brownell.edu.

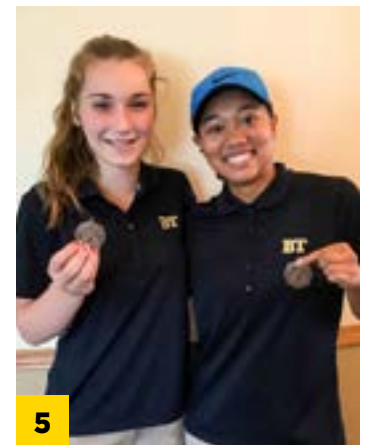
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WHAT'S HAPPENING — ON CAMPUS? —



1. Lower School Earns Best of Omaha Award

In November, Omaha Magazine named Brownell Talbot's Lower School best private elementary school in Omaha!

2. First Grade Celebrates Thanksgiving with Pilgrim and Wampanoag Museum

Students spoke to visitors about pilgrim and Wampanoag dress, hobbies of young pilgrim and Wampanoag boys and girls, and farming and hunting techniques of both groups.

3. Middle School Spellers Advance to County Competition

Eighth grader Nathan Ramachandran won BT's spelling bee in December and seventh grader Vikram Menon came in second, securing their spots at Douglas County's Spelling Bee in February. Fourth grader Addy Haynes beat out six Middle School students to take home third place!

4. Quiz Bowl Remains Dominant

As of this publication, a BT Middle School Quiz Bowl team has won first place in every competition they have competed in this school year.

5. Two Golfers Place in Top 20 at State

Rena Ikeda-Hayes, '20, and Cecan Porter, '20, placed 16th and 18th, respectively, out of 97 players in the Class C State Golf Championships.

6. Theatre Department Brings It

BT's thespians delivered three outstanding, high energy performances of the Broadway hit, *Bring It On!* to packed audiences on November 10, 11, and 12.



6



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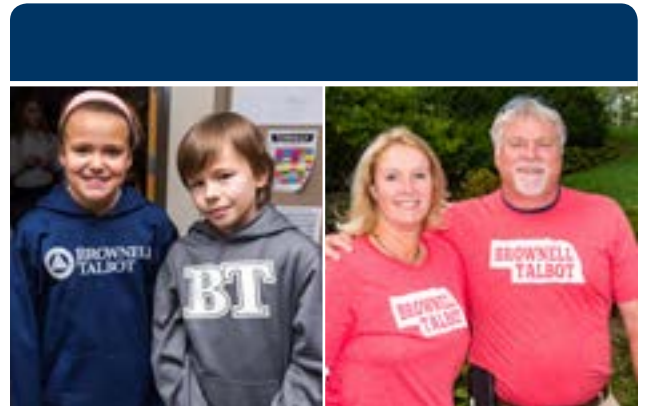
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7. House System Welcomes the Class of 2021, New Upper School Students

On the first day of school, Upper School held its House Induction ceremony, and incoming freshmen and students new to BT found out which House they will be a part of for the rest of their BT career.

8. Powerlifting on a National Platform

Michael Bartz, '19, earned second place in his age and weight class at the USAPL Raw National Powerlifting Championships in Orlando in August. Bartz will represent the United States in the IPF World Powerlifting Championships in Calgary, Canada in June.

9. Lower School Shows Their Raider Pride

BT's youngest students surprised Upper School football players and cheerleaders with a unity walk to kick off this year's Homecoming game.

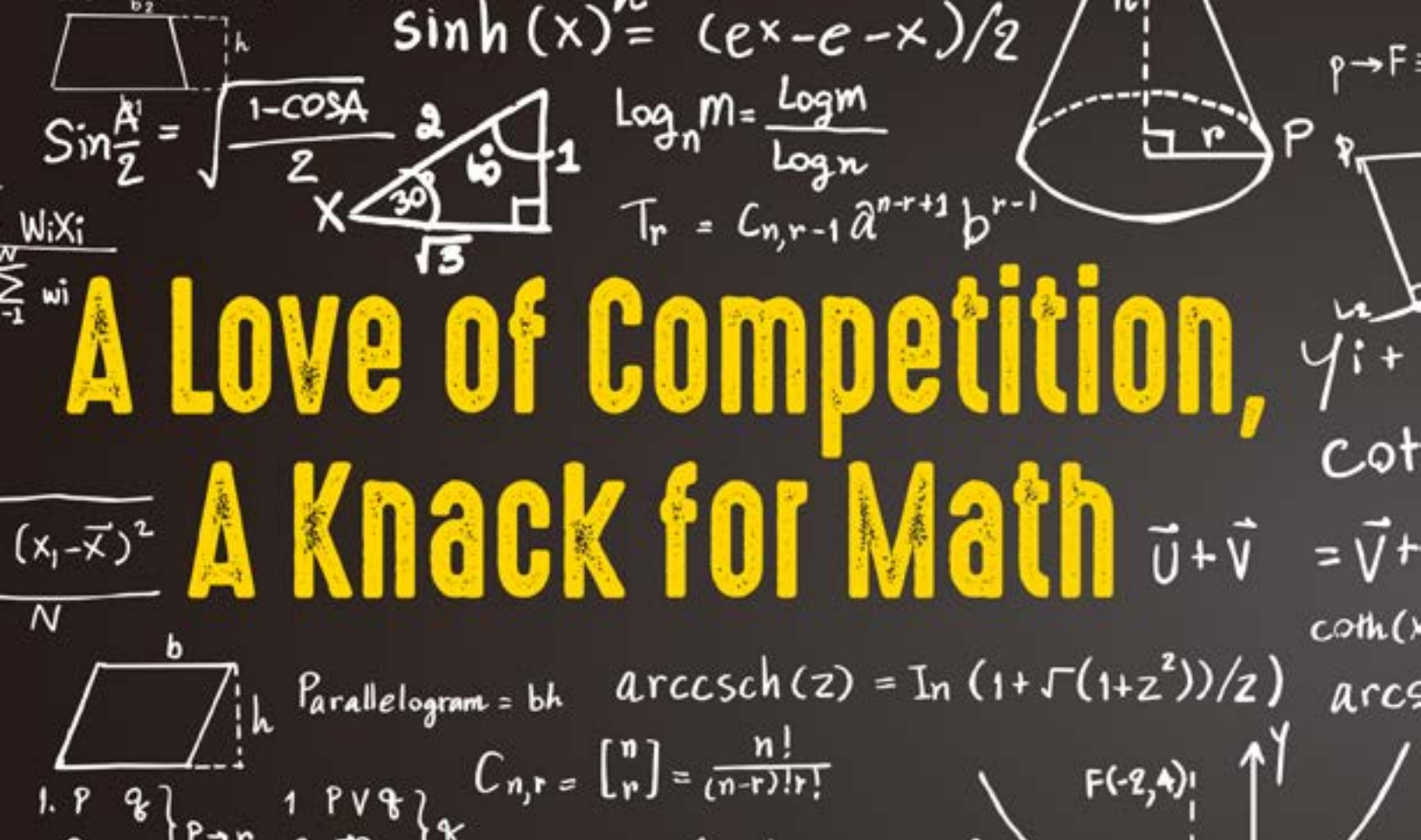
10. All Eyes on the Sun

Campus was buzzing on August 21 as administrators, faculty, and staff checked out the eclipse from Skutt Field.

Shop the Raider Market

This fall BT launched the Raider Market, an online shop for BT apparel and merchandise. The bookstore in the main office was also converted to a mini Raider Market, making BT swag available 24/7.

Shop today at brownell.edu/shop or visit campus during school hours.



At University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Math Day held in Lincoln in November, more than 1,400 students from 99 Nebraska high schools competed for scholarships, individual and team titles, and street cred in the world of competition math. Brownell Talbot traditionally gets first place in its division at this competition, which is equivalent to a state tournament, but this year BT bested 98 other schools by placing first overall.

In addition to taking the top spot, BT had five students place in the top 40 in the individual competition portion of the day, with Sara Jiang, '18, placing eighth overall and winning a \$2,000 scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

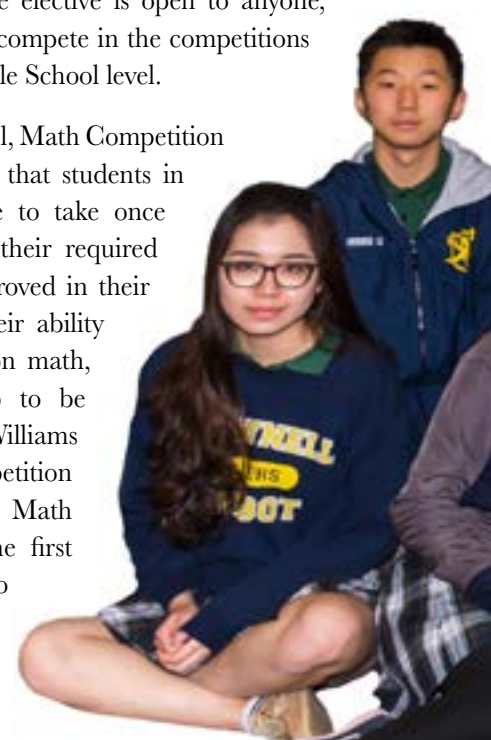
Jiang’s eighth place finish is exciting for her and the school, but stings a bit for fellow senior and teammate Vincent Tang.

“Our math skill level is really close and our rankings are usually within five places of each other at any competition. It inspires competition between us, but it’s friendly. We still help each other,” says Tang.

Jiang adds, “having Vincent on the team motivates me to do better each time.”

Both Jiang and Tang say they love competing and acknowledge they have a natural aptitude for doing well at math. Most students who join competition math share those same two traits. Students’ first exposure to competition math comes in Middle School, when students with exceptional math scores are selected to compete at BT’s Fifth and Sixth Grade Math Competition. Seventh and eighth graders can then choose to take Math Counts as an elective. While the elective is open to anyone, students must qualify to compete in the competitions that are held at the Middle School level.

Similarly in Upper School, Math Competition is offered as an elective that students in grades 9-12 can choose to take once a week, in addition to their required math courses. Having proved in their Middle School years their ability to do well at competition math, many students sign up to be part of teachers Bob Williams and Jessi Ryan’s competition math elective and team. Math Competition is often the first time freshmen, who



have historically felt they are very good at math, get the first dose of how difficult it can be to compete at the Upper School level.

“The key is to help them understand they are not always going to get everything right, which is a first for many of these students. But it’s a great learning opportunity because it really forces them to expand on knowledge they already have,” says Ryan, who also serves as BT’s Math Department chair.

While the natural aptitude may initially entice students to sign up for Math Competition, it is the boost it offers to their problem-solving skills that keeps them interested.

“It is such a confidence builder to realize they know how to evaluate a problem from several different perspectives and strategize to come up with the answer,” added Ryan.

Students spend class either preparing for upcoming competitions or studying topics that expand on the regular math curriculum they are learning in other math

classes. Students also take in-class tests that are used by colleges to make admissions decisions about students who apply to math programs at top universities like MIT.

As a culminating project for the elective, seniors are tasked with teaching a lesson to the rest of the class. The only parameters Ryan and Williams set are that the math lessons focus on something the student loves and is competent in. These lessons highlight Ryan’s favorite aspect of Math Competition.

“There’s an excitement that is palpable when the students are successful. You see a lot of growth and character-building throughout the year, and it’s so rewarding to see the students realize how doable this type of math is if you are dedicated and work hard.”

To learn more about Math Competition and math curriculum at BT, contact Director of Admissions Kim Schinzel at kim.schinzel@brownell.edu.





Stage presence is referred to by many names: “the x-factor,” “star power,” “charisma,” having “it.” It’s that quality in a performer that’s hard to define, but makes audiences buy into a performance and connect with the story they are being told. As difficult as it may be to define, Brownell Talbot’s Fine Arts Department believes stage presence can be taught. And BT’s performing arts curriculum, beginning in preschool, works with students toward that goal.

“Students naturally want to participate in creative play and performances. It’s only as they mature that they are at risk of being hesitant to perform,” says Fine Arts Department Chair J.R. Gould.

Recognizing this, BT offers early and frequent opportunities for students to be on stage. Preschoolers perform for a large audience on the Swanson Auditorium stage during their first semester at school. All Lower School students

participate in shows like the Holiday Program and Grandparents and Special Friends Day. Because of BT’s size and the Fine Arts Department’s focus on offering multiple chances to perform, students are not able to hide in the back of the crowd and avoid earning this valuable experience. Music Teacher Nancy Robson incorporates solos and duets, dances, and orph instruments into Lower School programs so that students build confidence in their abilities.

To add to these early music-focused opportunities, BT works with Omaha’s Rose Theater to offer theatre programming for students in preschool through grade 8. The experiences range from seeing shows at the Rose, to acting, writing, directing, designing, and marketing plays.

Middle School curriculum works on enabling students to feel comfortable to take risks in front of other people. This school year BT introduced theatre as a required course, with students having a semester of theatre each year from grades 5 through 8. Theatre Teacher Aileen Zeigler works with students to help them articulate and project their voice, learn to make smart physical choices with their character, develop quick thinking on stage, and understand the motivations of characters.

“I love working with students at all performance levels. From teaching the shyest student how to project or the class clown how to self-edit and pick the funniest joke.



ng the AGE



It's about helping them understand the power their performance can have," says Zeigler.

Middle School students also hone their stage presence through required participation in choir, which normalizes singing. As Gould points out, having chorus built into their world and it being an accepted part of BT culture has a lot to do with students' ability to feel comfortable.

"With comfort comes poise, which is that polished look that people expect to see from a seasoned performer," says Gould.

Another thing BT's Fine Arts Department strives to normalize through the instrumental program is requiring solos, whether the student is participating in big band, jazz band, or orchestra. By making it integral to the program, students perform solos before they reach an age where the majority of people avoid that kind of spotlight.

When students reach Upper School and try out for the fall musical or sing a capella with Pirate Radio, perform a one-act play at State, stand for a jazz solo at Jazz on the Green, or deliver a speech in front of a large audience, their mark on stage feels natural and familiar. And the confidence Upper School students demonstrate is observed and mimicked by their Lower and Middle School counterparts, adding to the culture

of acceptance and encouragement for performing.

The Fine Arts Department's philosophy that everyone can learn these skills and be successful at a high level manifests itself in each performance. The opportunities at BT are abundant and varied, and the result is a student body poised to take the stage in any situation.

**Catch one of these upcoming
Fine Arts Department
performances:**

Great Plains Jazz Festival
UNO, February 23

The Frogs, BT's spring play
Swanson Auditorium, March 23-25

Serenading Raiders Spring Fling
Swanson Auditorium, April 24

Making a Splash

Introducing Coach Jimmy Parmenter



In 1972 American swimmer Mark Spitz competed in the Summer Olympics in Munich, West Germany, winning seven gold medals and setting seven world records. Because of the six-hour time difference, seven-year-old Jimmy Parmenter had his dad wake him up at 1:00 am to watch from his living room in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, as Spitz competed. It was a defining moment for Brownell Talbot's new swim coach and aquatics director.

It marked the beginning of a lifelong swim career for Parmenter. First as a swimmer: he went to college on a full swimming scholarship and eventually qualified for the Olympic time trials in the 100-m breaststroke in 1989. And later as a coach: Parmenter is in his 28th year of coaching, having led Plantation Swim Team in Florida to 10 state championship titles and coached more than 100 national top 16 swimmers.

If you haven't been paying attention to BT swimming, now is a good time to start. Parmenter has big long-term goals that include getting swimmers to a level that earns them scholarships for continuing their swim careers beyond their time at Brownell Talbot. From Parmenter's assessment of BT's swimmers, the program is on the right path to making that happen.

"I'm really impressed with BT as an entire program. I was pleased with how many kids can swim and swim well. Even kids who I only see in PE swim have advanced swim skills," said Parmenter.

In addition to coaching the Upper School co-op swim team with Mercy, Roncalli, and Concordia High Schools and BT's kindergarten through eighth grade club team, Parmenter is responsible for setting the PE swim curriculum. He runs all three programs fairly similarly, with warm-ups, kicking sets, drills, and main sets for improving speed. For the Middle and Upper School swimmers, Parmenter introduced dry land bodyweight exercises this year. The Upper School swimmers also spend part of practice in the weight room, lifting to improve strength and speed through workouts created by BT's strength and conditioning coach, Mike Mancuso.



Parmenter and his coaching staff are also putting the school's technology to good use in order to help swimmers improve. The coaches routinely record swimmers' strokes and turns on iPads and watch them on the tvs that are poolside to give swimmers real-time feedback.

BT swimmers have adapted well to the new practice structure and added physical demands.

"Coach Jimmy is good with building up stamina, and he and Coach Jeff Nelson are really good at helping improve our strokes," said fourth grade swimmer Carter Hiley.

As for Parmenter's short-term goals, he wants every swimmer to have a personal best swim time by the end of this season. At the Midwestern Snowball Dash Meet in December, 15 BT swimmers competed and

all 15 earned personal best times, some in multiple events. The club team has 66 BT students on its roster, so there are plenty of personal bests to be achieved this year, but as Parmenter says, "the key is to consistently compete and have a willingness to put in the work - that will generate results."

Above everything else, Parmenter wants the swimmers to have fun and grow their love of swimming.

"I love getting together with my friends and competing with the team. And Coach Jimmy is really funny. He has a sense of humor. He makes swimming fun and not just a workout," said Hiley.

To sign a swimmer up for the club team, contact Coach Parmenter at jimmy.parmenter@brownell.edu.

THE POWER OF



The BT Fund is the name of the school's annual giving program. It is the most important fundraising effort at Brownell Talbot. Making a gift to The BT Fund means supporting students, programs, and faculty and staff enrichment. The BT Fund is designed to cover the difference in tuition and the actual cost to educate a student at Brownell Talbot. This "gap" at BT is \$3,500 per student.

brownell.edu/btfund

WAYS TO GIVE



Check



Credit Card



Cash

Something special happens when people band together and work as a team toward a common goal. Whether it is on the court or at an academic competition, Brownell Talbot students show us everyday how teamwork builds community in a unique and special way.

The objective for The BT Fund is quite similar to that of our teams. With all of our charitable giving programs, we work to find a path to victory. Because you're important members of the BT team, we want to share a page out of The BT Fund playbook with you:

1. We set our goal. This year's: \$250,000 raised with 100% participation from our Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, and current parents.
2. We rally the crowd. We invite all alumni and friends of BT to participate in this annual giving movement.
3. We organize and train our players. The BT Fund leadership comprises supporters who are willing to publicly lend their name and help make requests for support.
4. We provide the equipment needed for success. We want to keep you informed and make participating easy, so we work to ensure we have an updated database (verify your contact information today at brownell.edu/hello).
5. We work together to achieve our goal! Every gift matters.

For the second year in a row, The BT Fund and its objective to cover the difference in tuition and the actual cost to educate a student at Brownell Talbot has been embraced by our community. And because of the support of generous teammates like you, we are close to reaching our goal.

But we aren't there yet. As alumni and friends of the school, you hold the power to make a significant difference. Your giving has a direct impact on current BT students and your generosity sends a message that BT alumni and friends are working as a team toward a common goal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Gilroy".

Shannon Gilroy
Executive Director of Advancement

PARTICIPATION



Financial Aid

1 in every 5 students receives financial aid.



Academics

Program costs represent **79%** of operating expenses.



Athletics

10 sports
16 teams
102 athletes



Activities

17 clubs and teams



Arts

130 students participate in theatre, band, orchestra, and choir.



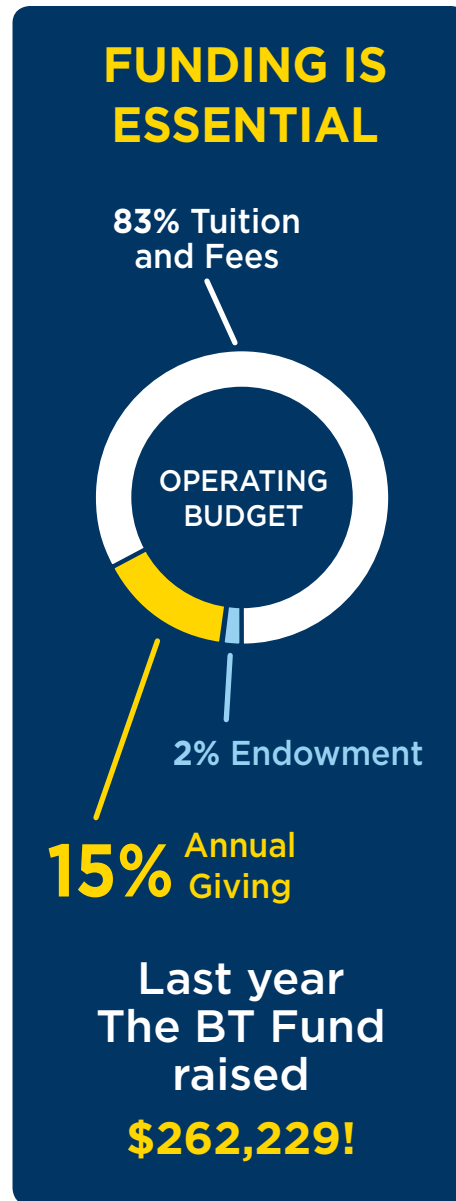
Technology

1:1 iPad program ensures every Middle School student has a device.



Faculty and Staff

More than **\$42,000** awarded in professional development.



SAVE THE DATE

— PORTRAITS OF —

Excellence

2018 GALA

Friday, May 11

Every May, Brownell Talbot alumni, parents, and friends of the school gather to raise money at BT's largest fundraising event. Dollars raised at gala have a direct impact on our student scholarship program, academic programs, the fine arts, athletics, student activities, and faculty and staff enrichment. The evening is also an opportunity to honor those individuals who have made a significant impact on the BT community.



Bethany Graves, '86, Dianne Desler, and Belinda Beavers, '87

Guided by the leadership of co-chairs Belinda Beavers, '87, and her husband Shelby Bell (parents to Amelia, '25) and Bethany (Beavers) Graves, '86, and her husband Todd (parents to Brett, '17, and Audrey, '18), the gala steering committee is beginning to prepare another amazing gala. Bindy and Bethany are the daughters of Bill and the late Mary Ann Beavers. Bill served as a member of the Brownell Talbot Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1991 and was Board President from 1982 to 1987.

This year's gala will honor the work of Miss Dianne Desler. Dianne began her teaching career at Brownell Talbot as a mathematics instructor in 1970. During her 42 years at the school, she worked in various capacities including math department chair, head of Upper School, activities director, director of admissions and public relations, and assistant headmaster. In 1988, Dianne became the school's first female headmaster and served in this role for 24 years until her retirement in 2012.

Dianne oversaw numerous capital projects at BT including the construction of the fine arts wing, Worthington Hall and Middle School additions, reconstruction of Swanson Auditorium, extensive renovation of the science wing, and construction of the new fitness center. Enrollment nearly doubled during her years as headmaster, and innovative

curriculum including lifeTRACKS and Points of Pride were developed. May will mark five years since Dianne's retirement and her involvement at BT remains strong.

On May 11 BT's campus will transform into a beautiful space for an evening of cocktails, dinner, and merriment. Members and friends of the BT community will be able to bid on amazing live auction packages such as an unforgettable dive trip for two to St. Lucia, a chance to stock your cellar with 99 bottles of wine, or a one-of-a-kind oil portrait of your family painted by BT's own Mr. Cody Wheelock. Learn more at brownell.edu/gala.

2018 Steering Committee



Live Auction

Melody Pugsley
Niki Theophilus

Silent Auction

Deb Dodd
Jacki Henery

Exceptional Events

Danielle Brown
Katie Sewell

Family Baskets

Emily Lischer
Tammy Wagner

Arrangements

Suzanne Kotula

Decorations

Casie Schlueter
Amy Stevens

Display

Natalia Atchley
Juliette Lisco

Raffle

Fatima Basith
Debbie Wood

Mailings/Publicity

Chloe Firestone
Alli Summers

Corporate Sponsorships & Underwriting

Sheila Christ
Laura Crosby

Student Projects

Jeanne Smith

Advertising

Christine Connolly

Eighth Grade Alumni Interviews



Students look through yearbooks to research their assigned alumni.

As part of their English curriculum, the eighth grade class partnered with Brownell Talbot alumni to learn about how they are impacting the world or culture around them. The theme of the project was Exploring Success, Failure, and Resilience. Students were tasked with preparing for and conducting interviews with alumni and then writing newspaper-style articles about their interviewees.



Meg Wightman with Emily Kerr, '07

Thanks to the overwhelming response from our alumni, students were able to write about a wide range of interests and careers including the military, music, acting, writing, business, education, volunteering, banking, and more.

On behalf of the eighth grade students and their teacher, Angie Vetter, we are grateful for your support and assistance with this project. If you are interested in being contacted for future projects, please email or call Director of Constituent Relations Renae Mackender at renae.mackender@brownell.edu or 402.556.3772 ext. 1015.



Elise Nieves, Julie Smith, '06, and Riley Hawkins



Sammy Asaad, Cameron Nath, '07, Nathan Ramachandran



Rachel Fowler Sullivan, '11, and Katelyn Schindler Laflin, '08, enjoyed catching up while on campus for their interviews.



Jim Adams, '72, and Henrik Nelson



Katelyn Schindler Laflin, '08, and Flora Griffith

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

You can read up on fellow alumni, told from the perspective of the eighth grade class by visiting brownell.edu/eighth-edition

BT's Entrepreneurial Spirit

Entrepreneurs are a unique breed. They often must take major financial risks with no guarantees that they'll see their money returned to them. They work an excessive amount, whether they're baking bread in the early morning hours for their specialty sandwich shop or researching the competition well past midnight to ensure their value added is relevant to their customers. Before any success is actually realized, they must win mental battles over and over again, reassuring themselves, potential investors, family, and friends that they can and will succeed. Brownell Talbot graduates have no shortage of discipline, drive, and passion, so it's not surprising that so many go on to found startups and own their own businesses. We asked some of BT's entrepreneuring alumni what inspired them to venture out on their own.

Sandeep Ayyappan, '03

Wiser

Founder and CEO | New York, New York

The Business

Ayyappan helped found Wiser in 2012. Wiser is a social newsreader platform that provides professionals content curated using a combination of the software's recommendation engine and recommendations provided by the user's co-workers. Wiser's goal is to make it easier for professionals who depend on timely, relevant, high-quality information to do their jobs.

The Drive

"I moved to Omaha from Hyderabad, India when I was 10. Making that huge shift at that early of an age taught me how to throw myself headfirst into new places, people, and ideas. I learned how to open my eyes wide and soak in all the information I could. By doing that over and over at a young age, I built up a lot of confidence that, when presented with a new situation, I knew I could find a way to figure it out. Being unafraid to jump off a cliff and then figuring out how to fly on the way down is basically what life at a startup is."

The Advice

"Startups are a team sport, and the score is not revenue or profit, but learning. Teams that learn the most about their market, their customers, and their own strengths and weaknesses will almost always win in their respective markets. Surround yourself with people who are great listeners and hungry learners, point them toward the right questions, and let them loose."





Emily Kerr, '07
Freelance Writer | Omaha, Nebraska

The Business

Kerr has had a passion for writing since her days at BT, but it wasn't until after college that she considered pursuing it as a career. After stints writing product descriptions for online retailers like Hayneedle and Wayfair, she decided to put her professional network to use and established a list of local and regional publishers for whom she could write on a consistent freelance basis. Her bylines have appeared in Women's Edition, Omaha Magazine, and Omaha World-Herald, to name a few.

The Drive

"I love working for myself because my schedule is flexible I make my own hours, and I am in charge of my own destiny. That also makes it a bit scary but all the more rewarding!"

The Advice

Going out on her own has really proven to Kerr the value of networking. She cites her professional contacts as having helped her navigate the ins and outs of being a freelance writer and build a quality client base.



Chloe Tran, '14
The Banh Mi Shop
Owner | Bellevue, Nebraska

The Business

When Tran moved to Nebraska from Vietnam to attend BT, one of the things she missed most was the banh mi carts that were on nearly every corner of her hometown. Banh mi is a Vietnamese-style sandwich served on a baguette roll, often made with different kinds of meats, cilantro, cucumbers, radishes, and pickled carrots. Tran opened The Banh Mi Shop in December, where she serves the specialty sandwiches and Taiwanese-style bubble teas.

The Drive

"Through all the chaos of opening a business, I can't help but take a step back sometimes and look at my shop from a consumer standpoint - I see the value that my business is bringing to the community. Watching the business come to life, piece by piece, and serving the community is the best part about working for myself!"

The Advice

"Never give up! If you fail, which more than likely you will, just stand up and keep going. Remember that every journey has ups and downs. Don't let the challenges take away your dream. Learn from your failures and make your tomorrow better than today."

ALUMNI ON CAMPUS

HOMECOMING TAILGATE

- 1** Hannah Emery, '14, and Megan Fowler, '11
- 2** Friends from the Class of 2013: J.B. Davis, Lauren Tims, Chris Mathews, Arielle Bloemer, and Dustin Waggoner
- 3** Several members of the Class of 2017 returned for the Homecoming football game.
- 4** Bryce Fowler, '10, former coach Dave Brown, Head of School Kristi Gibbs, Tim Fowler, '82, and his wife, Teresa.

BRING IT ON FALL MUSICAL

- 5** Grace Bydalek, '14, former BT cheerleader, helped students prepare for the fall musical, *Bring It On!*

CLASS OF 1962 REUNION

- 6** Members of the Class of 1962 gathered in the Fireside Room with Director of Constituent Relations Renae Mackender and Head of School Kristi Gibbs.



DROPPING IN

7 Alex Tran, '12, stopped by campus to see his former teachers including French teacher Mike Recker.

SENIOR CHAPEL

8 Lori, Madison, '18, and David Scott, '81, attended the annual Senior Chapel.

COLLEGE SEND OFF

9 Members of the Class of 2017 gathered for a send off in August before heading to college.

DIWALI

10 Sonal Saxena Patel, '95, and her family visited the third grade to share Diwali traditions with the students.



ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Mary Mallory Rice, '43, survived by sister Ann Mallory Teal, '52
D. September 9, 2017

Patricia Loucks Carlson, '47, survived by family members Cory Cook Loucks, '50, John Loucks, x'73, Susan Loucks, x'76, and Whitney Loucks, '79
D. July 6, 2017

Harriet "Ann" Moores, '51
D. June 25, 2017

Friends of BT

Sydney Cate, father to Christopher Cate, '76 and Brownell Talbot School Board of Trustee, 1970-1978
D. July 18, 2017

Harlan "Lanny" Desler, brother of Dianne Desler, former headmaster
D. October 1, 2017

Lewis Hays, father to Josh Hays, '98
D. August 15, 2017

Dee Heller, mother to Tim Heller, '82, Mike Heller, '84, and grandmother to Ian Heller, '08
D. November 16, 2017

Hyla Hill, Director of Food Services, Brownell Talbot School, 2013-2016
D. September 13, 2017

Joseph Kuo, father to Ingrid Kuo, '92, Ellen Kuo, '96, and Esther Kuo, '03
D. November 20, 2017

Bill Smith, Jr., father to Winthrop Smith, '77, and Stuart Smith, '78
D. March 4, 2017

Bruce Truesdell, father to Stacey Truesdell, '78, and Michelle Truesdell Marvin, '85
D. June 28, 2017

Jeanne Skutt, June 29, 1932 - July 19, 2017



Brownell Talbot School lost a dear friend when Jeanne Plunkett Skutt passed away on July 19, 2017. Jeanne and her husband, Thomas J. Skutt, were the parents of three BT alumni: Lissa Skutt Sutton, '74, Kim Skutt Davis, '76, and Tom Skutt, Jr. '80. In addition, eight of their grandchildren are BT alumni:

Jeanne Sutton, '08, Bradley Sutton, '05, Will Sutton, '08, J.B. Davis, '12, Laura Davis, x'14, Whitney Skutt, '11, Tripp Skutt, '14, and Connor Skutt, '17.

Jeanne was always active and present on campus while her children were at BT, serving as both a member and president of the Brownell Talbot Friends Association, the school's parent organization. She was also the founder and first chairperson of the school's annual benefit, originally the Wine-Seller, now gala. Tom was a member of the

school's foundation board and the Board of Trustees where he served on the executive committee.

In addition to the countless hours Jeanne and her husband spent on campus supporting their children and grandchildren, they also made significant financial contributions to the school. In 1992 at their annual recognition dinner, the Board of Trustees honored Jeanne and Tom for the difference they made in Omaha and the school. In 1995, the school's football field was dedicated as the Thomas J. and Jeanne C. Skutt Athletic Field, commonly known as Skutt Field, in recognition of their gift to the school's campaign for bond retirement. Every time the BT community gathers at Skutt Field, we celebrate their lives and legacy.

Through their involvement, leadership, and financial support, the Skutts strengthened Brownell Talbot paving the way for future generations of students and families to experience and benefit from all the school has to offer.

NEWS



Members of the Class of 2012 gathered in August 2017 for their five-year reunion.



Connor Skutt, '17, and Adam Hedican, '17, are members of the Macalester College football team. Other BT alumni on the team include Krishn Rapoor, '16, Josh Bartz, '16, and Harrison Runnels, '17.

Linda Liu, '13, graduated from Princeton University in June 2016. She is currently a Princeton in Asia fellow doing a teaching fellowship at Shihezi University in the city of Shihezi in Xinjiang province, China. Princeton in Asia is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting goodwill and understanding and facilitating the free interchange of ideas between East and West.

Let's Keep in Touch!

- 👂 Alumni, we want to hear from you! Share your updates - weddings, births, BT reunions and connections, retirements, career news, and other life happenings - with us!
- ❓ Are you receiving our alumni e-newsletter, BT News & Views in your inbox? Keep up to date with Brownell Talbot community and alumni news, events, and opportunities to get involved with this bimonthly email.
- ✓ To sign up for BT News & Views, update contact information, share alumni and friends news about yourself or others, or just to chat, contact Director of Constituent Relations Renae Mackender at renae.mackender@brownell.edu or 402.556.3772 ext. 1015.
- ! Don't forget, we're also on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Each offers a unique glimpse of everyday life at BT including sports updates, honors and accolades, photos, videos, throwback pictures, events, and so much more!



@brownelltalbotalumni
@brownelltalbotschool



@brownelltalbot
@BTraiders



@brownelltalbotschool

A Page in Time

In 1924, Worthington Hall opened as a dormitory for young women attending Brownell Hall. The Fireside Room, as it is known today, originally served as the living room for the young ladies in their home away from home.

Through the years, the decor of the room changed with the styles and trends of the decades. When the school transitioned to a day school and no longer had students living on campus, the purpose of the Fireside Room changed as well. Through the incredible generosity of the Kountze family, the Fireside Room was renovated in 1992 to be a more formal meeting space. Updates included new windows, paneled walls, built-in cabinetry, furniture, area rugs, and a refurbished floor. A dedication ceremony was held on October 7, 1992.

Today the Fireside Room is bustling with activity as the premier location on campus for meetings, reunions, and other special occasions.



If you are interested in helping the alumni office identify and organize photographs, please contact Renae Mackender at renae.mackender@brownell.edu or 402.556.3772 ext 1015.

FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE



In this edition of the *Fireside*, you read about several alumni who gave their time and talent to help the school with a special project in the English department. I am constantly impressed by the number of people willing to support Brownell Talbot, whether it's through gifts of time or talent or financial support. Brownell Talbot was built with these same gifts: the founding women and men worked together, sharing their resources, to create and build our school. Through the years, BT has continued to grow because of that spirit of community, giving back, and working together toward a common objective.

We remain grateful for the generosity of those who came before us to lay the foundation of Brownell Talbot. We are grateful for those who continue to support the school. It takes every contribution, from the 30 minutes it took for an eighth grader to interview an alumni, to the parents who donated set pieces for *Bring It On*, and the many BT community members who have given to The BT Fund. The power of participation is what allows BT to support our student body and inspire their successes!

I look forward to working with our alumni and friends to help BT grow and prosper in 2018 and years to come! If you would like to be a part of this exciting time, please contact me at renae.mackender@brownell.edu or 402.556.3772 ext. 1015.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renae Mackender".

Renae Mackender
Director of Constituent Relations

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



The BT community is home to many hidden talents - consider sharing yours with the school like current parent and professional photographer Jason Bartz does. Jason is regularly seen on the sidelines of BT sporting events. Not only does he take amazing photos that he offers for purchase on his website, 670photography.com, all profits from the sales are donated back to BT!

Jason's generosity of time and talent allows us to share special moments with a wider audience (like this issue's cover photo of our varsity volleyball team, who placed second in this year's Frontier Conference tournament).

Thanks, Jason!



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Omaha, NE 68132

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 23-25

The Frogs Spring Play

MAY 11

Gala

MAY 26

Commencement



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