Hallway Happenings

Thank you to all the faculty and staff who participated in this year’s Early Childhood Nature Night. It was a magical fall evening. If the smiles on our families’ faces were any indication, it is evident that this event is a special memory-maker for EC families and their children. As shared by nature expert and volunteer Chris Robie “As I was packing up my car in the parking lot I heard a little girl crying. I turned to see that it was the grandmother and little girl who had asked if they could start enjoying the centers early at 5:50 pm. So they were the first to come and last to leave. She said her granddaughter was crying because she didn’t want it to be over.”

54321 Challenge - Eating right and being active, it’s as easy as 54321 GO! Join us as teachers, students, and families work together to help kids be healthy.

At the beginning of October, we introduced the 54321 GO! campaign to students through an assembly. Our challenge this month is to have 100% participation in each grade level with the monthly 54321 checklist. Checklists were sent home on Friday, October 2. Students are asked to have 5 servings of fruit and vegetables a day, 4 servings of water, 3 servings of low-fat dairy, 2 hour or less of screen time, and 1 or more hours of physical activity a day. As they make their way through the checklist, we know that not every challenge will be met every day, but that’s okay! We will continue to encourage them to participate and as an incentive, students will be earning 54321 squeeze balls for November’s operation shoebox project for Completely Kids.

Green Apple Day of Service

It was a beautiful morning as 24 students and 27 parents and faculty came together to celebrate Brownell-Talbot’s Green Apple Day of Service project. Students and their families partnered with Keep Omaha Beautiful to clean up the campus and Memorial Park. This project allowed the BT family to work together to beautify our campus, to understand the importance of sustainability and recycling, and to let the community know we care and respect our shared neighborhood.

Counselor’s Corner

BT’s second point of pride is ethical decision-making. Guidance activities will focus on ways to show good character and make decisions that are kind, compassionate, loving, and considerate. During chapel on Tuesday, Father Jason shared that an ethical decision helps someone else and makes you feel good about yourself. At home, share ways to make good choices and help others. Next week’s safety month theme is respect for yourself and others, which aligns nicely with our point of pride.

Serenading Raiders

The Serenading Raiders Choir will begin rehearsals next week. All 3rd & 4th grade students are welcome to sing in this group. Each grade level will have a separate afternoon for rehearsal after school from 3-3:45 p.m. in the Lower School music room. Fourth grade will rehearse on Tuesdays and third grade will rehearse on Thursdays.

Sign up on the information that went home on Monday the 5th or just come! Email Mrs. Robson with any questions nancy.robson@brownell.edu.

LS Parent Teacher Conference Online Registration

Parent teacher conferences are coming up. Please click Online Registration to schedule your time with your student’s teacher. Conferences are held in the classroom on Thursday, October 29 from 4:30-7:30 pm and Friday, October 30 from 8 am - noon.

Raider Zone Modifications

Thursday, October 29, Raider Zone will run until 6pm. Friday, October 30, Raider Zone will run from 7am - 5pm. Monday, November 2, Raider Zone will run again from 7am - 5pm. Students must bring their lunch on Friday and Monday. Snacks will be provided.
BTYSO Photo Day

All students on a BTYSO team will have their picture taken on Monday, October 12. Picture packets will go home this Friday, October 9, and need to be returned the day of photos with payment if you plan to purchase pictures. Even if you do not plan to purchase photos, please plan to have your child present and in uniform for the team photo shoot.

The schedule is as follows:
3:30 pm - Mighty Kickers Soccer
3:45 pm - Kindergarten Soccer
4:00 pm - 1st and 2nd Grade Girls Soccer
4:15 pm - 1st and 2nd Grade Boys Soccer
4:30 pm - 3rd and 4th Grade Volleyball

Soccer pictures will take place on the Lower School soccer field, weather permitting, while volleyball will be in the Upper School gym. Please report about 15 minutes ahead of time as we would like to move the pictures along if possible.

LS Chapel Recognition

There were five first grade students recognized in Chapel this week as Responsible Citizens of our school, community and country. These student are Lily Sewell, and Cole Delashmutt from Mrs. Baker’s class, and Owen Ohnoutka, Isabella Soto Tighe, and Camila Valdivia in Mrs. Dudley’s Class.

Great New Change for Long Raider Zone and Gold Zone

Beginning Monday, October 12, sign out for LS Long Zone and MS Gold Zone (after school program) will be located in the hallway outside Ms. Maynard’s office from 3:30-6pm. If you are not familiar with the location of her office, we are placing signage in key locations for this purpose.

An assigned staff member - Zone Receptionist - will be there to greet you and will assist in locating your child once your child has been signed out. You can either pick up your child at their location (designated by colored cones for LS) or the zone receptionist will call the location and have your child meet you at the sign-out station. We are now able to offer a call-in feature for parents of Middle School students. You may call the zone receptionist using Ms. Maynard’s extension and your student will be sent directly to your vehicle.

Short Zone (3:15-4pm) sign-out will remain in the dining hall as it is now.

Our communication/emergency number for LS Long Zone and MS Gold Zone is Ms. Maynard’s BT phone number and extension, 402-556-3772 ext. 1023.

We are making this change as a convenience for our parents. We hope you will find this new arrangement pleasant and easy.

Halloween Costume Guidelines

Brownell-Talbot School has a long tradition of celebrating Halloween with special activities. We encourage students, faculty, and staff to come in costume on a designated day during the week of Halloween. These events are designed to share in the fun and mystique of the holiday.

One of the special events Lower School families are invited to attend is a Halloween parade of all LS students sharing their costumes. While there are many options for parents when choosing costumes for your child, we ask that you refrain from choices that include violent themes or weapons.

If your child is going to portray a character like vampire or zombie, please keep the make-up to a minimum for school, and save the more dramatic effects (blood etc.) for your evening out.

Your support of these suggested guidelines are appreciated as this can be very concerning to our youngest students and their families.
Proudly Announcing Gala 2016 Honorary Chairs - Charlotte Conner and Bill Dana

We are pleased to announce that Bill Dana and Charlotte Conner are Gala 2016 Honorary Chairs. Bill and Charlotte are longtime supporters of the BT community and proud parents of Conner, '07, Carly, '09, and Chloe, '14. They served as Gala chairs in 2007 and Bill is a current Trustee. We are grateful for their continued support of Brownell-Talbot.

Co-chairs Michelle Randolph and Anna Castner Wightman have chosen A Night in Rio for the Gala theme this year. This theme reflects the excitement and pageantry of the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Steering committee members include the following parents:

- Suzanne Kotula – Arrangements
- Frank Kubat and Casie Schlueter – Decorations
- Amy Stevens – Display
- Sheila Christ and Wende Kotouc – Live Auction
- Amy Wiechmann – Mailings
- Steph Gould – Online Auction
- Bindy Beavers and Laura Crosby – Exceptional Events
- Juliette Lisco – Advertising
- Drew Davies – Design
- Carol Lim, Sabrina Gill and Emily Lischer – Family Baskets
- Michelle Massey – Silent Auction.

Thank you for your support and dedication!

Our thanks to BT parent, Drew Davies of Oxide Design Co. (oxidedesign.com) for the Gala logo design.

If you would like to assist or to find out more information, please contact Director of Constituent Relations Renae Mackender at renae.mackender@brownell.edu or Gala co-chairs Anna at acastner@fhni.com or Michelle at michelledrees@gmail.com. Mark your calendars and save the date of Friday, May 6, 2016 to help us celebrate BT at A Night in Rio!

Annual State of the School Update Meeting - Save The Date

On Tuesday, November 10 from 6-7pm in the James Upper School Library, hear from Board Chair Dean Hollis and Treasurer Chip Vrana who will discuss board goals, strategic plan, role of the trustees, and financial overview. Dr. Gibbs will also be discussing some key trends from her 1:1 parent meetings and small group meetings, as well as the outlook for the remainder of the year.

Nature Classroom Made Possible Through Kotula Family Donation

Nature play is a significant component of the Brownell-Talbot Early Childhood and Lower School Curriculum. Research supports the importance of outdoor play and exploration in a young child’s development. Our team of teachers is committed to fostering a love of the outdoors and all that nature has to offer through a robust project-based learning curriculum. Through the generosity of Dr. Rudy and Mrs. Suzanne Kotula, the Kotula Family-Adam and Anna Kotula Nature Classroom will provide the rich learning environment necessary to foster this important development in our youngest learners at Brownell-Talbot. We will have a dedication later this fall with LS students, faculty, and the Kotula Family. Please join us in thanking the Kotula Family!

Parent Pride - Giving With Meaning

Gifts to the Annual Sustaining Campaign allow BT to recruit and retain the best educators in the region to provide an outstanding education and nurture your children to learn, think, act and lead. We count on your generosity every year to support the essential operations of the School. Like all independent schools, our tuition does not meet the total cost of educating each student. The income shortfall or “gap” is $3,125 per student and is bridged each year by tax deductible gifts to the Annual Sustaining Campaign.

Please give to Parent Pride today! Click Tax Deductible Gift and donate online, or leave a check at the front office. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Constantino at anne.constantino@brownell.edu.