Hallway Happenings

I sometimes hear the most interesting conversations while walking the halls at Brownell-Talbot. A question posed by a prospective family triggered the memory of a recent discussion (some may have called it a debate) I witnessed. The question was, “What do you most enjoy about your job?” I replied that working with such amazing students gives me such hope for the future of our community and country. I shared a recent discussion between a group of senior boys who were “spitballing” ideas for various startup companies they may be interested in creating. An idea would be shared by one student and the others would quickly respond with an array of pros and cons to that potential business. There was talk of the need for start-up cash, how market saturation would affect success and multiple other questions that showed support or skepticism for a particular idea. I was impressed by the maturity of the conversation and recognized what was happening clearly speaks to what we hope to accomplish at BT. Our mission statement includes the phrase “preparing students for success in college and in life.” This student group was using skills and knowledge learned across multiple subjects. They were applying and synthesizing concepts at a higher level; ones that had nothing to do with an upcoming quiz or assignment in class. Unbeknownst to them, the students were demonstrating their preparedness for college and life. For that, I am hopeful for our future and enjoy every day I get to work with our students.

Upper School Students Receive National Latin Exam Honors

The following students performed with meritorious distinction on their most recent National Latin Exam. Congratulations to the following students:

Bailey DiNucci Level I Magna cum laude
Miranda Knofczynski Level I Maxima cum laude
Sy Lim Level II Cum laude
Jacob Clark Level II Maxima cum laude
Colesun Wood Level II Maxima cum laude
Ashton Reimer Level II Maxima cum laude
Claire Hickman Level II Maxima cum laude
Leo Monardo Level II Summa cum laude
Adam Hedican Level III Maxima cum laude
Joe Tunzer Level III Maxima cum laude
Nick Roush Level III Summa cum laude
David Breidhauer Level IV-Prose Maxima cum laude
Elise Siffring Level IV-Poetry Maxima cum laude

US Jazz Combos Have Outstanding Contest Season

In February, BT’s Raider-Blues and Gold-Tones jazz combos competed at UNO’s Great Plains Jazz Festival where both US bands received ratings of “Excellent,” the Midland University Festival of the Arts, where both groups earned Gold Awards (the highest possible), and the Omaha Performing Arts Jazz Combo competition, an all-class city-wide competition which the Raider-Blues won. On March 12, they competed at the Bellevue East Jazz Festival earning 1st and 2nd places respectively in the small-school division, and junior trombonist Gabi Basile was awarded the Outstanding Soloist Award for the entire contest.

Later that day, during the Raider-Blues’ masterclass with Grammy award winning jazz musicians Dee Dee Bridgewater and Irvin Mayfield, Gabi Basile made such an impression they invited her to sit in and be featured on a song with them that night. Click here to read the World-Herald story about that night’s concert.

The bands, along with the entire Upper School music program, will compete at the District Music Contest at Yutan HS on Friday, April 22. See them in concert in the Swanson Auditorium on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30pm.

A final feather in the cap of the Raider-Blues Jazz Combo is the invitation they recently received to be the opening group at Omaha’s legendary Jazz on the Green series on Thursday, August 11!
**Powerlifting Team Claims State Championship**

On March 19, the Scott Gymnasium was the site of the Class C State Powerlifting Championships. Over 125 athletes from across the state came to compete in the boys’, girls’ and coed divisions. Lifters competed in three lifting categories: Squat, Bench Press and Dead Lift to record a 3-Lift total score.

The BT Powerlifting Team, coached by Mr. Mike Mancuso walked away with the championship trophy in each of the three divisions. The boys’ team defended the state championship title they won in Humboldt, NE last year. This was the first year for BT to field a girls’ team and coed team.

Seven BT lifters earned individual titles: Sulagna Sensarma 114 lb. class, Alice Silberling 123 lb. class, Amanda Zhang 132 lb. class, Krishn Rapoor 148 lb. class, Josh Bartz 165 lb. class, Andrew Klinger 181 lb. class, and Harrison Runnels 198 lb. class. Krishn Rapoor set two state records in his weight class with a squat lift of 435 pounds and a 3-Lift total of 1135 pounds. Krishn was also awarded the “Male Lifter of the Meet.”

Other medalists on the championship teams included:
John Alli, Michael Bartz, Parker Gottsch, Cheyenne Hanson, Katherine Johnson, Miley Ketterson, Lindon Liu, Rory McCarthy, Sean O’Connell, Madison Scott, Connor Skutt, Alan Weedman and John Whittle.

**Latin Students Compete at State Convention**

The Latin students participated in the NeJCL State Convention at Bellevue West High School on April 16. Individually and by levels, BT students did extremely well often with odds stacked against them.

**Overall:**
BT placed 2nd in the academic category overall for Latin I (Lily Haas was the sole Latin I representative for BT at the convention and did all this by herself), III and IV (The fourth years were only 3 points behind the winners). BT won the Video Category and took 2nd overall in the artistic category.

**Certamen:**
The Latin II Certamen Dream Team (Claire Hickman, Connor Skutt, Ashton Reimer and Leo Monardo) are state champions! This is the second year in a row for Latin II taking state. The other Latin II team, Certamination Domination (Sy Lim, John McElderry, Colesun Wood and Jacob Clark) finished fourth. The Latin III (Joe Tunzer, Adam Hedican and Nick Roush) and Latin IV (Sean O’Connell, Rachel Hall and Tucker Curry) Certamen Teams took 2nd place.

**Individual Awards by test and level:**
- **Joe Tunzer** (Latin III) - 3rd place in Roman History/Culture; 3rd place in Latin Derivatives; 2nd place in Heptathlon
- **Sean O’Connell** (Latin IV) - 3rd place in Roman History/Culture; 3rd place in Advanced Reading Comprehension; 2nd place in Latin Derivatives
- **Tucker Curry** (Latin IV) - 2nd place in Roman History/Culture; 1st place in Mythology
- **Lily Haas** (Latin I) - 1st place in Latin Derivatives; 1st place in Sight Reading
- **Nick Roush** (Latin III) - 2nd place in Latin Derivatives; 2nd place in Latin Vocabulary
- **Adam Hedican** (Latin III) - 2nd place in Latin Derivatives
- **Angela Fader** (Latin IV) - 3rd place in Latin Derivatives; 2nd place in Latin Vocabulary
- **John Alli** (Latin IV) - 1st place in Latin Derivatives
- **Leo Monardo** (Latin II) - 1st place in Sight Reading

Gratulationes! Macte!

**Cheerleading Tryouts**

The 2016-2017 Cheerleading and Mascot tryouts will be the week of April 25. Information and application packets have been shared with all eligible students in grades 8-12. Applications are due Monday, April 25. Tryout packets can be accessed through the link provided by Coach Rohrig. Follow us on Twitter @BTCheerleading for tips and material preview!

Coach Rohrig held an informational meeting for all interested ladies on Thursday, April 7 to share details regarding tryout requirements as well as the upcoming season.

**Cheerleading Clinic Schedule:**
- 7:00-7:45am - Scott Gymnasium
  - Mon April 25 Dance Clinic
  - Tues April 26 Cheer Clinic
  - Wed April 27 Chant and Jump Clinic
  - Thu April 28 Review All Material
  - Fri April 29 Mascot Material and Tryouts

**College Counseling Corner**

Senior families, your final college counseling newsletter is here. Junior families, your April newsletter is here.
Annual Walk/Run In Memory of Madelyn Shumaker

The Walk/Run to raise awareness and research funding for DIPG in memory of Madelyn Shumaker is Friday, April 29. The event will begin in the Scott Gymnasium with a short pep rally at 9:30am prior to heading out to the course. In the event of inclement weather we will hold the event indoors. If your family participated in collecting pledges to The Cure Starts Now Foundation for DIPG research, these are due on Tuesday, April 26, and can be turned in at the main office or to your student’s classroom teacher. You can also donate online.

Students will be given a T-shirt to wear the day of the event and should also plan to dress accordingly, with shorts or sweats and tennis shoes. Be sure and apply sunscreen. If it is cool in the morning, you may want to provide a light jacket. Water will be available on the running course and HyVee has generously donated bottled water for all participants once they complete the course.

Parents are encouraged to attend and participate with their student and must register through the main office by 4:30pm Thursday, April 28. Following morning drop-off there will be no parking in the Happy Hollow lot until pick-up in the afternoon.

Students in PS-K will walk/run around BT’s football field. Grades 1-2 will make one loop around Memorial Park with pacers to guide grade-level groups. Grade 3 will also make one loop, but will be self-pacing. Grade 4 will also be self-pacing, but making two loops. Third and fourth graders will have designated classroom check-ins when finished. Middle and Upper School students will walk/run two loops and will check-in upon crossing the finish line.

Some safety items to note:
• Guides will be set up along the course to monitor the walkers/runners.
• Two mobile medics, with radios, will be making several loops to keep a watchful eye on our runners and walkers.
• A First-Aid station will be set-up on campus.
• A drink station will be set up at the half-way point.
• An Omaha police officer will be stationed at the half-way point.
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Earth Day Project

BT partnered with Whole Foods and Earth Day Omaha Coalition to raise environmental awareness by participating in the National Grocery Project.

Every BT student decorated a Whole Foods bag with an Earth Day image and/or slogan. The bags will be used for groceries at Whole Foods on Friday, April 22. For each bag used, one dime will be donated to Earth Day Omaha Coalition. Customers can reuse the bags through the month of June, and for each bag reused a dime will be donated.

Earth Day Project

The Class of 2016 has earned over $2.3M as of 4.20.16
Secure your spot at one of these Exceptional Events:

**Chic Bouquets:** New this year! A floral arranging extravaganza for a group of 15 at Aaron Carlson’s new studio. The fun and florals will blossom with friends, champagne, desserts and the artistry of a master. Take your floral arrangements home with you!

**Chocolate Cooking Class and 5-Course Dinner at Provisions:** Tasty truffles, mouthwatering fudge and rich ganache. Join friends over fine wine as you create delicious, confections and dinner with the Grey Plume’s Executive Pastry Chef, Greg Taske.

**Drive-in Movie:** Treat your student to this opportunity to enjoy the “Drive-In” Movie experience in the Kotula Family Nature Classroom. Students in grades 2-4 will decorate “cars” and watch Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

**Hollywood Bollywood:** Back by popular demand! A night of east meets west with Indian foods, California wine, an array of Bollywood music and entertainment.

**Pitch Perfect:** Enjoy an evening of entertainment from BT’s choir & acappella group, Pirate Radio. Pitch Pizzeria and Jams Bar & Grill will prepare specialties. After the sun goes down and the students go home, it’s open mic night under the stars!

**Father/Daughter Valentines Dance:** Your Preschool through sixth grade daughter will enjoy a special night with Dad, live music, dancing, punch, crafts, decorations and friends.

**Wild Life Safari Park Camp Out:** Enjoy “glamping” in the Safari Park’s tents. Including breakfast, admission to Wildlife Safari Park for the following day, and a visit from an animal ambassador.

**Wine Cellar Dinner:** Enjoy appetizer selections and a gourmet three-course dinner in Happy Hollow Club’s private Wine Cellar.

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**RSVPs due Monday, April 25**

Don’t forget to reserve your seat in *Rio!*

- Visit brownell.edu/gala2016
- Contact Renae Mackender (renae.mackender@brownell.edu)