The 2016-2017 school year is shaping up to be a year of purposeful change that honors our school’s traditions while focusing on making improvements that enhance each student and parent’s Brownell Talbot experience. We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of the summer:

- We welcomed a new dining service provider, Flik, to campus. You can read more about them in this issue of Heads Up!
- We completed the process of refreshing the BT brand, which works to modernize the look and feel of who we are. You’ll see these changes throughout campus and on the materials your student brings home.
- We redesigned brownell.edu. The site is now live, and we hope that it greatly improves your ability to find the information most important to you, while outwardly projecting to potential new families the excellence that we continually strive for here at Brownell Talbot.

During this past school year, we focused on building relationships and listening to parents and the larger community about how we can strengthen the BT experience. Some of the changes I just detailed are a reflection of the insights we gained from you; so thank you for constantly being a willing partner in our quest for excellence. We have made some other organizational improvements this year that I want to ensure you are aware of as we move into the new school year.

**Administrative Team**

Within the administrative team, we have made organizational changes to create efficiencies and facilitate better communication.

Shannon Gilroy has been promoted to Executive Director of Advancement. Shannon’s expertise and leadership position her well to direct the following departments and personnel:

- Director of Admissions – Kim Schinzle
- Director of Communications and Marketing – Megan Hunter
- Director of Constituent Relations – Renae Mackender
- Director of Design and Branding – Tony McGowan
- Director of Events – Emily Moody

In June, we hired Shari Jensen to fulfill the role of Executive Director of Business and Finance. Shari has extensive experience in school business and finance, specifically with endowments, budget forecasting, scholarships, and financial education. This position now supervises the following departments and personnel because of the large financial impact each area has on operational and capital expenditures:

- Director of Facilities and Campus Safety – Joe Rotert
- Director of Technology – Rob Uchtman

Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the administrative team.

**Department Chairs**

Previously, department chairs focused on the curriculum specific to the Upper School. This did not fully align with Brownell Talbot’s goal of thinking holistically about each student’s education. Therefore, we have restructured department chairs so that the curriculum considers the educational development of a student from preschool through twelfth grade. To support this, the department chairs will now work directly with the Head of School to enhance cross-divisional oversight. Our 2016-2017 department chairs are:

- English – Kirsten Macdissi
- Math – Jessica Ryan
- Science – Micki Wayman
- History – Mike Dorsey
- World Language – Mike Recker
- Physical Education – Jeff Rohrig
- Visual and Performing Arts – J.R. Gould
- Technology - Rob Uchtman
- College Counseling and Guidance - Stacey Evert

Educational excellence is our main priority at Brownell Talbot, and I firmly believe we have taken many needed steps to align the way we operate with the expectations of our constituents in order to achieve this excellence. I’m very excited for the new school year, and I look forward to seeing you and your students on campus this week as we kick off the 2016-2017 school year. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your questions or concerns.

Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D.
Head of School
Back to School Open House and Tailgate

Please join us on Friday, August 26, for the Back to School Open House and Tailgate. During the Open House portion from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Lower School students can drop off their school supplies in their classrooms. Middle and Upper School students will pick up their books and locker assignments. There will be detailed signage around campus and several faculty and staff members on hand to help direct you where to go.

From 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, please join us on the playground for a complimentary tailgate hosted by Brownell Talbot and Flik. In addition to sampling what Flik will be cooking up during the school year, the tailgate will also feature games, music, and face painting to entertain the whole family.

At 7:00 pm the Raiders will take the field to kick off the football season. Come prepared to cheer on your BT Raiders!

Parent Curriculum and Information Night

Parents are encouraged to attend Parent Curriculum and Information Night on Tuesday, August 30. This is your opportunity to travel the campus, follow your student’s schedule, and meet his/her instructors.

All parents should sign in at the welcome tables in Swanson Lobby before proceeding to their designated areas.

Lower School parents will attend a 30-minute session with their student’s homeroom instructor. The instructor will present an overview of the grade’s program for the year and address the expectations of the grade level. There are two sessions, one from 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm and a second, from 5:15 pm to 5:45 pm. In between sessions, Flik will give a short presentation in Swanson Auditorium.

Middle School and Upper School parents begin their evening at 5:45 pm in the Swanson Auditorium with a presentation from Flik.

Dr. Gibbs, Head of School, Ms. Collins, Head of Middle School, and Mr. Harrell, Head of Upper School, will provide a welcome and instructions for the evening. Parents will follow their students’ schedules and meet their instructors. It is during these class visits that instructors will present an overview of their courses and the expectations of each.

The evening does not allow for extended conversations. However, if you desire more in-depth discussions, please feel free to schedule a separate time to meet with your student’s instructors. The School Heads will be available in the Swanson Lobby to answer any questions you may have. Instructors of classes not meeting on the given day that the schedule follows may be contacted to discuss course information.

Lower School Agenda
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm  First session - report to your LS classrooms
5:00 pm - 5:10 pm  Flik presentation in the Swanson Auditorium
5:15 pm - 5:45 pm  Second session - report to your LS classrooms

Upper and Middle School Agenda
5:45 pm - 5:55 pm  Flik presentation in Swanson Auditorium
6:00 pm - 6:20 pm  Welcome and overview in auditorium
6:25 pm - 8:20 pm  Classroom rotations

Read This Year’s Student/Parent Handbook

This year’s Student/Parent Handbook is now available. You can pick up your family’s hardcopy on Curriculum Night. This year, we organized the book so that general policies that affect all divisions are grouped together. Following, each school has a section of the handbook devoted to policies specific to its grades. Please note the following key updates from last year’s handbook:

• School Uniform policy
• Out-of-Uniform/Spirit Day (formerly Blue & Gold Day) guidelines

What’s Cooking? Check Out BT’s New Dining Provider

When students fill Worthington Dining Hall for lunch on August 29, they’ll be introduced to Brownell Talbot’s new dining provider, Flik. Flik will provide our students with made-from-scratch, nutritious, and creative meals prepared in our kitchen daily from fresh ingredients that support local vendors. The director of wellness and corporate executive chef will review menus and provide culinary and dietary expertise so that students explore diversity through foods and learn the importance of making healthful choices that influence a lifetime of smart eating. Our school will remain, as always, a nut safe campus.

Each issue of the Heads Up! newsletter will feature a column devoted to dining and nutrition news at BT, so be sure to click through to learn about what’s new and exciting in the dining hall. You can review the lunch menu by visiting myschooldining.com/bt.
Fun Facts about BT’s New and Improved Dining

- The food is prepared from whole fresh ingredients, limiting the use of processed foods and avoiding products containing artificial colors, flavorings, M.S.G., preservatives, and high levels of sodium.
- We will feature organic, local, and Fair Trade fruits and vegetables as availability and pricing allows.
- The milk is rBGH and antibiotic-free milk.
- All paper products in the dining hall are biodegradable.
- Our cleaning products are much less toxic to the environment than conventional chemicals and contain less packaging.

New Signage Near Playground

As you enter campus this fall you will notice a new sign near the playground area. In keeping with the Lower School principles of being respectful, responsible, and safe, this sign represents the expectations of students when playing outside. It was drafted after a great deal of discussion and reflection among instructors in an effort to create principles to guide student safety and interaction with each other and adults while using the play areas.

We encourage families to use the playground after school with their children to play and socialize with other families. We ask that parents hold their children to these same principles. It sends a great message to the students when the instructors and parents have the same expectations.

A similar approach has been used to write a set of dining principles that have been posted in Worthington Dining Hall. We feel it will be helpful to our students to have consistent expectations throughout their Lower School experience.

Join Us: BTPA Meeting on September 1

The Brownell Talbot Parents Association (BTPA) will meet Thursday, September 1, from 8:00 am - 9:00 am in Worthington Dining Hall. All parents are members of the BTPA and are invited to attend. Our featured speaker will be Head of School, Kristi Gibbs, Ed.D. BTPA meetings will be broadcast on The Cube.

Become a Booster and Support Your Raiders!

You’re invited to join the Brownell Talbot Booster Club! The purpose of the Booster Club is to create an atmosphere that supports students’ extracurricular endeavors in a manner that fosters good sportsmanship, teamwork, and school spirit. The Booster Club not only supports all athletics and cheerleading, but also speech, music, robotics, and theater.

Visit the Booster Club’s table at the Back to School tailgate to get signed up or fill out a form online!

Photo Day Reminder

Photo Day will be held throughout the day on Tuesday, August 30 on stage in Swanson Auditorium. Instructors will notify students or the class’s time slot. The order forms from Scholastic Photography will be given to the students to take home on the first day of school. (There are also extra copies at the front desk).

Parents, please fill out the order form and send it back with students on Tuesday, August 30 with payment. You may also order online at schphoto.net up to two days after picture day.

Two-Week Calendar

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