WINTER 2026

Fireside

A magazine for alumni and friends of Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School

Building Together: Nearing the Finish Line
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Gala 2026 is Going to be Out of This World
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BT's Legacy Students
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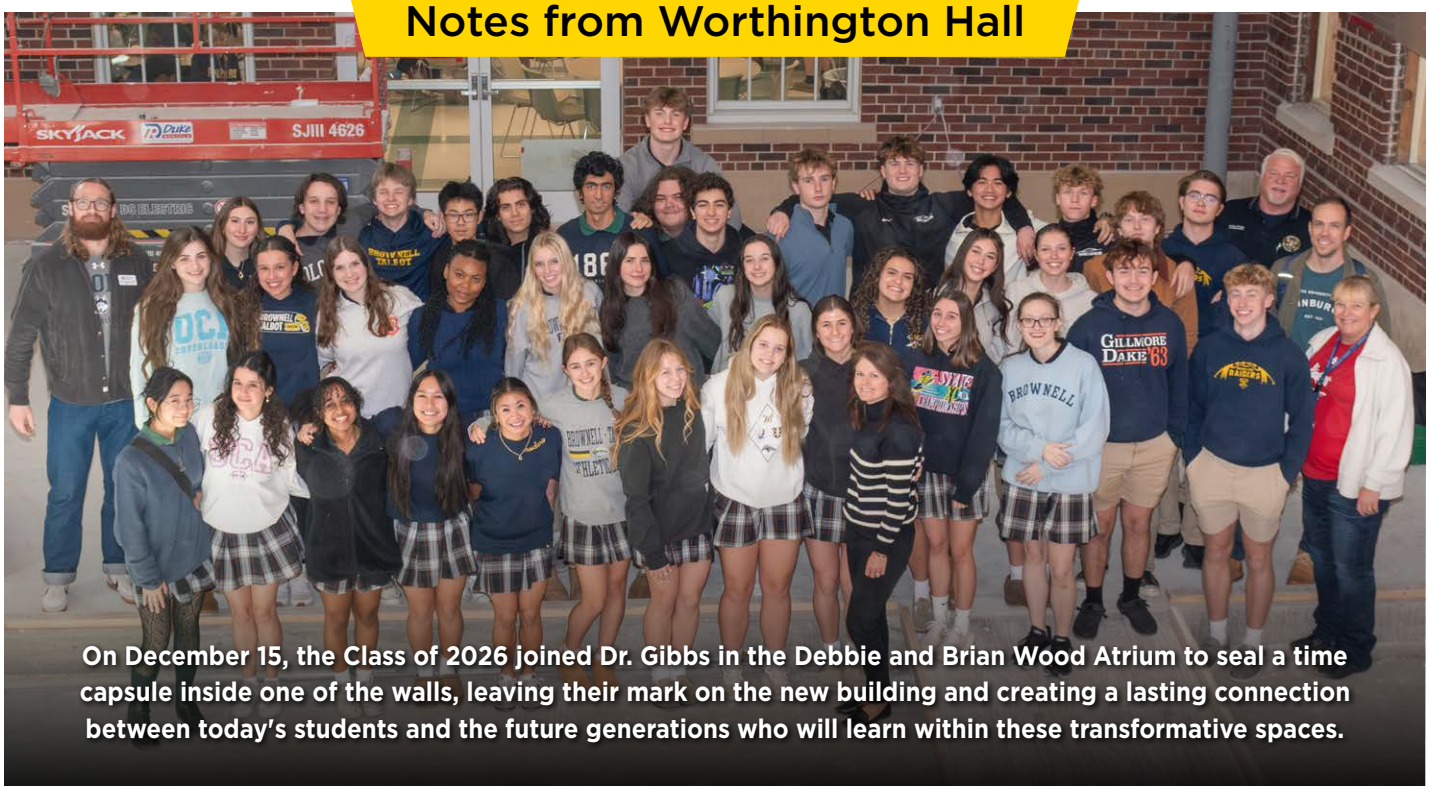
Notes from Worthington Hall



On December 15, the Class of 2026 joined Dr. Gibbs in the Debbie and Brian Wood Atrium to seal a time capsule inside one of the walls, leaving their mark on the new building and creating a lasting connection between today's students and the future generations who will learn within these transformative spaces.

Dear BT Community,

As we reach the midpoint of another exceptional year at Brownell Talbot, I cannot help but reflect on how well placed we are for the future.

In early December, we introduced BT Forward, our new strategic plan that will guide the school's decision-making and priorities. for the next seven years. This ambitious roadmap builds on the success of our previous strategic plan, which strengthened our students' global competencies and prepared them for an increasingly interconnected world. Today we stand ready to continue to build BT's academic legacy and to provide an education and experiences for our students that will enable them to lead, not just tomorrow, but now as valued members of our school community. One of our goals will be to ensure that our students are prepared to lead in an AI influenced world. We will be ahead of the curve in defining artificial intelligence for K-12 independent schools and how we teach its ethics across all disciplines (page 7).

The physical spaces where this learning happens matter profoundly, which is why our Building Together campus transformation project represents such a pivotal investment in our students' futures. This bold initiative ensures a learning environment that prioritizes safety and empowers innovation (read the latest project update on page 9). As construction nears completion, these remarkable new spaces stand as a testament to what we can achieve when we commit to excellence. And, they mark just the beginning of our vision for campus enhancements noted in BT Forward.

This spirit of looking ahead with bold ambition makes this year's gala theme particularly fitting. *Out of This World* invites us to look to the stars as our next frontier, where our students' potential knows no bounds (page 12). I hope you'll join us for Gala 2026 on May 9, held in our brand new Debbie and Brian Wood Atrium and the new Lower School gymnasium. You'll experience firsthand the future of Brownell Talbot, from the transformative spaces we've created to the strategic vision that will carry us forward.

This success is not just the school's but all of ours. For generations, alumni, families, and friends of Brownell Talbot have invested in our future through generous financial support, the volunteering of their time and talent, and unwavering commitment to our community. This legacy of dedication shows our students what's possible when you give yourself fully to a mission and values that truly matter.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kristi N. Gibbs

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

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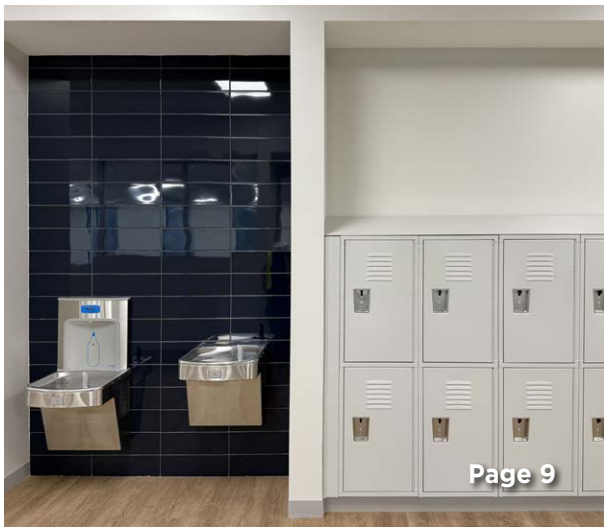
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Fireside is published for alumni, families, and friends of Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School. Send story ideas and comments to:

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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS?

1. BT Honored as Premier Theatre Community

Brownell Talbot was honored as a Premier Community for Theatre Education at the International Thespian Festival in July, recognizing the school's commitment to providing students and teachers with the resources needed to exceed the National Core Arts Standards in Theatre.

2. Gibbs, '26, Commits to the Jackrabbits

Abbi Gibbs, '26, signed her letter of intent to continue her academic and athletic career playing Division 1 soccer at South Dakota State University.

3. Making a Difference at Open Door Mission

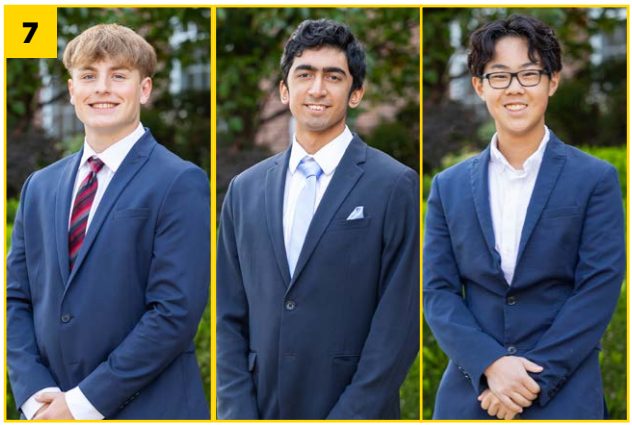
Middle and Upper School kicked off the school year with a day of service at Open Door Mission, completing high-impact volunteer projects throughout the facility. Raiders made sack lunches for those in need, organized clothing, and stocked shelves at the outreach center.

4. Lanum, '26, Wins Conference, Places 8th at State

Corbett Lanum '26 dominated the Frontier Conference cross country championship, taking first place overall in the Varsity Division girls race. She continued her impressive season with an 8th place finish at the Class C State Cross Country Championships.

5. Raiders Deliver Homecoming Victory

The Raiders beat Louisville in overtime, winning BT's Homecoming football game with a score of 20 to 14.



6. Pfeffer, ’27, Reaches Finals at State Tennis Championship

Ivan Pfeffer, ’27, delivered an exceptional performance at the NSAA Boys State Tennis Championship, advancing to the finals and earning State Runner-up honors in #2 Singles.

7. National Merit Recognition

Aaron Adkins, ’26, Ahaan Gulati, ’26, and Eric Zhou, ’26, were recognized as National Merit Commended Students, placing among the top 50,000 highest-scoring participants out of over 1.3 million program entrants nationwide on the PSAT/NMSQT exam.

8. Math Team Excels at UNL Competition

Eight members of Brownell Talbot’s Upper School Math Team competed at University of Nebraska-Lincoln Math Day on November 13, with two teams of four demonstrating exceptional problem-solving skills and teamwork in the Math Bowl competition. The team of Jameson Conner-Carlisle, ’28, Jimmy Chen, ’27, Han Jiang, ’26, and Eric Zhou, ’26, captured 1st place in Class C, while Owen Ohnoutka, ’27, Ben Militsakh, ’27, Claire Xue, ’28, and Sonu Saxena, ’27, advanced to the semifinals in Class D before falling in a close buzzer-beater finish.

9. BT Volleyball Dominates

Brownell Talbot volleyball teams swept championships across all levels as the season came to a close. The varsity squad captured the Frontier Conference Championship Tournament title, while the seventh and eighth grade, sixth grade, and third and fourth grade teams each claimed PAL tournament championships, showcasing the depth and excellence of BT’s volleyball program from the youngest players to the varsity level.

Millie Knudson, ’29, Is Making Waves

in BT’s pool and the swim world

While just a freshman, Knudson swam the 50-meter freestyle (her favorite event to swim) in 25.72 seconds at the U.S. Open in early December, which is not only her fastest time, it is the quickest time recorded in her age group across the country and ranks her 14th all-time in the 13-14 girls age group.

“Millie is a laidback kid who likes to have fun with her teammates on the deck and in the lane,” shared Brownell Talbot’s swim coach Jimmy Parmenter. “But when it comes time to get on the starting block to race, a focused, competitive mindset takes over.”

This past fall, Knudson was invited to go to the USA Swimming Select Camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado where she trained with swimmers across the country. She learned new techniques and was impressed by the quality of both the competition and the hospitality. “The food was great, everyone was really nice, and it was a unique challenge to swim at such a high altitude.”

Knudson has been swimming since first grade and attributes a lot of her growth as a swimmer to Parmenter, “He’s a good coach who knows what he’s doing. He definitely balances fun and being tough.”

Parmenter says Knudson’s abilities are all her own. “I began coaching Millie in 2018. At age 10, she showed natural talent and a real feel for the water. Feel for the water is something you can’t teach.”

It’s not all pure talent, Knudson does a lot of practicing. Her weekly routine involves practice every day after school, every Tuesday and Thursday morning before school, and Saturday practices. Outside the pool, she embodies the BT spirit both as a student and swimmer, balancing academic excellence with an active social life and her love of all things athletic.

“The school provides a strong academic foundation with personalized support for Millie, while our aquatics program is built on discipline, a strong work ethic, and daily focus on stroke technique. Together, we’ve established Millie’s stable routine, boosting her confidence in both the pool and the classroom and preparing her for life beyond school and sports,” said Parmenter.

With that support behind her, Knudson has set her sights high. “My goal is to continue building off my current times and make Olympic trial times.”

2025-2032 Strategic Plan
BT FORWARD

Brownell Talbot introduced *BT Forward*, its new strategic plan designed to guide the school through 2032 and prepare students to lead in an increasingly complex world, at the State of the School meeting in December 2025. The plan, developed through an extensive community-driven process involving students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, Board members, and independent consultants, builds on the strong foundation of BT's previous strategic work while pioneering new pathways for growth and excellence.

"One of the most important governing activities of Brownell Talbot's Board of Trustees is to lead the school in establishing a strategic plan every five to seven years in alignment with the ISACS accreditation process," Head of School Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D. shared. "Our new strategic plan builds on the strong foundation established in our previous work, where we defined clear global education competencies and strengthened our curriculum to prepare students for an interconnected world."

BT Forward centers on three interconnected pillars that will shape the school's direction: Experience, Community, and Sustainability. The Experience pillar focuses on equipping students with a forward-thinking approach to AI and technology while developing uniquely human capacities like critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and creativity. The Community pillar commits to building an intentional culture anchored in BT's core values, ensuring every member feels valued and connected. The Sustainability pillar emphasizes thoughtfully transforming spaces and platforms to empower learning, ensure safety, and unleash innovation.

"Implementation of *BT Forward* strengthens our school overall, sets a long-term sustainable course to thrive, and most importantly, ensures every student receives the very best education possible," said Gibbs. "Together, we will ensure that BT continues to prepare students who can think deeply, connect authentically, and create boldly as responsible citizens ready to tackle the challenges of the 21st century."

PILLAR 1: EXPERIENCE

Priority 1: Elevate Academic Distinction

Why: Academic excellence is BT's core strength and the top reason families enroll. We will preserve our edge and evolve our programs for a changing world.

Key Strategies:

- Identify and launch **signature programs** in emerging disciplines.
- Define and refine **our comprehensive academic approach** in light of the increased importance of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and human creativity in an AI-dominated universe.
- Build a **Portrait of a BT Teacher** to serve as the backbone and compass for teacher professional development, mentoring, and hiring.
- **Report and celebrate academic outcomes** (college acceptances, test scores, signature projects).
- **Engage BT community connections** including parents, as guest speakers and mentors, particularly for signature programs.

Priority 2: Strengthen the Student Experience

Why: We will create an environment where every student feels valued as a contributor, developing stronger connections to learning and greater confidence as a leader.

Key Strategies:

- Build a **student life framework** that integrates academics, athletics, arts, activities, service, wellness, and leadership, and is informed by student voices.
- Define and formalize how BT will **amplify student voices** to directly contribute to decision-making and culture-building.
- Build a **school-wide leadership program** that develops student leadership capacity through organic teachable moments and designed experiences for each grade, anchored in the know-how of at least one teacher at each division.
- Develop an **athletics-specific strategic plan** that clearly delineates the purpose and goals of athletics within the BT ecosystem.

PILLAR 2: COMMUNITY

Priority 1: BT CommUNITY

Why: To protect and deepen belonging and connection at BT, we will bring our core values to life through intentional individual and institutional culture-shaping actions.

Key Strategies:

- Build a BT CommUNITY culture anchored by a **critical few behaviors** in order to infuse BT's core values across campus.
- Engage faculty, staff, students, families, and trustees as champions and culture leaders. **Embed shared expectations** into classrooms, protocols, programs, rituals, and communications.
- Develop a **BT employer value proposition** that aligns recruiting, onboarding, and support systems to attract and retain outstanding faculty and staff.
- Strengthen **alumni engagement and legacy enrollment** by creating meaningful touchpoints that keep graduates connected to BT and inspire them to choose our school for their own children.

> In order to move BT forward, we call on our community to join us in deepening our academic legacy, reimagining what school can feel like, and charting a vibrant course for the next generation of leaders.

PILLAR 3: SUSTAINABILITY

Priority 1: Build for the Future

Why: We will evolve BT's physical and digital environments to empower learning, safety, and creativity.

Key Strategies:

- Refine and launch a **campus infrastructure plan**, including updating the current facilities master plan.
- Expand **IT capacity, methodology, and approach**, including AI readiness, cybersecurity, and equitable tech access.

Priority 2: Ensure Sustainability and Strategic Growth

Why: We will ensure BT's long-term strength through bold investments, a growing endowment, and clear alignment of mission and market.

Key Strategies:

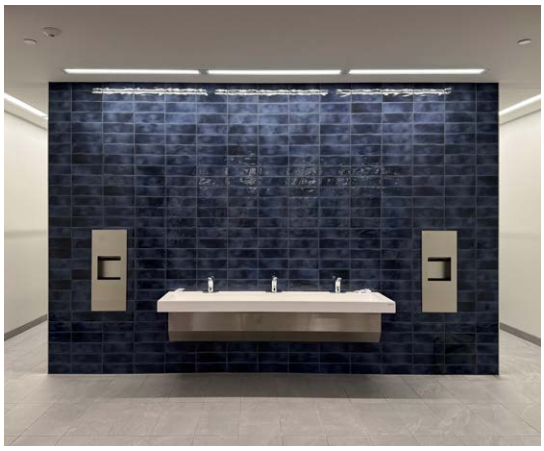
- At the conclusion of the current Capital Campaign, **initiate a campaign** that focuses on people (faculty, staff, and students), programs (signature academic offerings), and places (campus improvements).
- Enhance our **revenue model to ensure a unified, sustainable approach** to independent school fundraising, strategic enrollment management, and value proposition marketing.
- **Diversify revenue**: expand summer programs, partnerships, rentals, and alumni giving pipelines.
- Position **BT as a major community resource** in order to strengthen relationships with top tier Omaha business and civic leaders.

Building Together:
Nearing the Finish Line

As winter gives way to spring, Brownell Talbot's Building Together capital campaign is approaching two major milestones: the completion of our fundraising goal and the opening of our transformative new facilities.

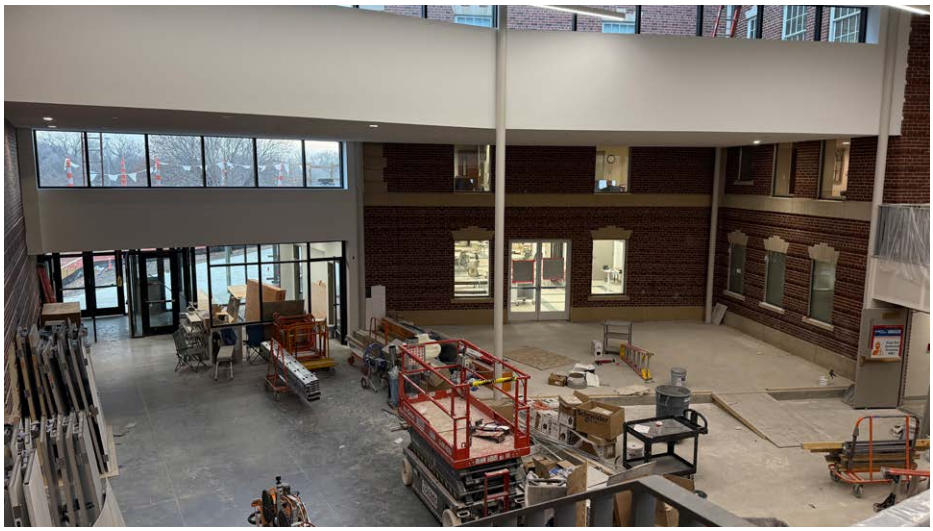
Fundraising Success

We are thrilled to announce that we have secured 90% of our fundraising goal for the Building Together project. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, we anticipate having the project completely funded before our new facilities officially open in August 2026. This remarkable achievement reflects the deep commitment our community has to providing exceptional educational opportunities for current and future Raiders.



A Playground for All

While construction continues throughout campus, our biggest celebration to date has been the early completion of the playground and its separation from the construction site. Students of every age, from our youngest learners to our oldest, have been able to enjoy this vibrant new outdoor space, bringing immediate joy to our campus. Watching Raiders of all ages explore, play, and connect on the new playground has been a wonderful preview of how these facilities will enhance daily life at BT for years to come.



Construction Progress

As we move through the winter months, the Building Together project continues to take shape with impressive momentum. The building is now fully enclosed with permanent heat running, allowing work to progress efficiently regardless of weather conditions.

During winter break, the construction team made critical connections between new and existing buildings, including AV and low-voltage systems, fire alarm upgrades, and aesthetic improvements to the Worthington stair tower. Windows connecting Worthington Hall to the new spaces have been replaced with fire-rated frames and glass, seamlessly integrating old and new.

The education wing is rapidly nearing completion. All three floors now have doors hung and casework installed. Flooring is complete on the second and third floors and underway on the first floor. Final paint application has begun throughout the building, transforming construction spaces into welcoming learning environments.

The equipment and wood flooring have been installed in the new gymnasium. Exterior light poles have been set, and the open lobby area features completed acoustical sprayed ceilings that will create an inviting central gathering space for our community.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who has made Building Together possible. Your generosity, patience, and enthusiasm have brought us to this exciting moment. These new facilities, designed to support innovative teaching, foster community, and provide state-of-the-art resources, represent our commitment to educational excellence and our investment in the future of Brownell Talbot for generations to come.

SAVE THE DATE

We are excited to announce that we will celebrate this transformative project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 18, 2026, followed by the official opening of our new facilities in August 2026. We look forward to welcoming our entire community to mark this historic moment for Brownell Talbot.

The BT Fund's Sweet Success

MORE GINGERBREAD FOR BT!

On December 11, the BT community came together for the second annual Gingerbread for BT, a festive celebration of generosity supporting The BT Fund. The day brought holiday spirit to campus as students, faculty, staff, and parents donned their favorite holiday attire, competed in gingerbread house decorating contests, enjoyed gingerbread-inspired activities, and savored fresh gingerbread cookies courtesy of Flik, our dining services team.

The sweetest result of all: during Gingerbread for BT, our generous community contributed 150 donations totaling $78,580 for BT!

Watching our community come together for Gingerbread for BT was truly heartwarming: from the parents who volunteered throughout the day, to grandparents who made gifts in honor of their "smart cookies," to families who made BT their giving priority this holiday season. Every contribution made a difference.

Thank you!

The BT Fund is our school's most important source of annual support, providing immediate resources that directly benefit students during the current year. As an independent school, we operate without government or religious funding and while tuition provides a strong foundation for our school's operations, it does not fully cover the cost of delivering the outstanding education students receive. Educating each student at BT costs $4,500 above what they pay in tuition.

When you give to The BT Fund:

- You allow the school to enroll the most promising students, regardless of their family's finances.
- You help the school maintain the spaces where we learn, compete, perform, grow, and lead.
- You help the school attract and retain the most talented faculty and staff.

More than financial support, The BT Fund is a shared investment in the experiences that make BT extraordinary.

> The BT Fund provides the additional investment needed to inspire students to reach their fullest potential.

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S BT FUND CHAIRS!

Early Years
Lacey and Peter Hudnut, parents of Jack (Early Years 1) and Penny (grade 3)

Joanna and Jorge Sotolongo, '06, parents of Rafael (Early Years 2) and Valentina (kindergarten)

Lower School
Kyla and Michael Stutzman, parents of Mary (kindergarten)

Monica and Todd Zimbelman, parents of Zehv (grade 4)

Middle School
Kristi and Shawn Sanger, parents of Sierra (grade 8) and Savannah (grade 10)

Charanya Ram Kumar & Ram Kumar Subramanyan, parents of Vivash (grade 8) and Adrishya (grade 10)

Upper School
Tania Harris, parent of Kenzo (grade 10)

Tsui Ling Toomer, parent of Elliot (grade 12)

Faculty and Staff
Pam Kirkpatrick, receptionist and administrative assistant

Tami Petrulis, grade 4 teacher

Get Ready for Lift Off! Gala 2026 is Going to be *Out of This World*

This year, Brownell Talbot is aiming for the stars! Gala 2026 will embark on an *Out of This World* journey — one that celebrates curiosity, discovery, and the limitless potential of the community.

At Brownell Talbot, our mission is to know, inspire, and challenge each student to reach their full potential. *Out of This World* reflects that mission in action, because education at BT isn't just about learning facts or reaching milestones. It's about sparking wonder, nurturing imagination, and empowering students to chart their own paths among the stars. Just as explorers and innovators look to the skies for new frontiers, BT is boldly looking toward the future.

Under the leadership of Ashley and Marc DuBois (parents to Vivienne, '34, and Gemma, '36) and Karla and Michael Stack (parents to Matthew, '34, and Andrew, '36), the steering committee is working hard to make gala a truly memorable evening.

This year's gala will honor the many contributions of Debbie and Brian Wood, parents to Colesun, '19. Long time and enthusiastic supporters of Brownell Talbot, the Woods have exemplified extraordinary leadership, generosity, and dedication to the school community.

Throughout their many years of involvement, Debbie and Brian have contributed their time and talents in countless ways. They served as Gala Co-Chairs in 2012, and Debbie has also served as BTPA Co-President (2014) and Booster Club Co-President (2016), while Brian continues to serve on BT's Board of Trustees. Brian is the president and CEO of TransWood, Inc., and Debbie remains deeply engaged in the Omaha community through her leadership and volunteer work with numerous nonprofit organizations.

In recognition of their enduring commitment to BT, Debbie and Brian are the first couple in school history to be named Gala Honorary Chairs twice, having previously been honored with this distinction in 2021. Their profound generosity is reflected in their support of the Building Together campus transformation project, most notably through the Debbie and Brian Wood Atrium. This stunning new space will serve as a centerpiece for community connection, beginning with Gala 2026, which will take place in the atrium and new gymnasium!

Out of This World will be more than a celebration. It's a launchpad for the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and changemakers. And with your support, we will all help them lift off - save the date for Saturday, May 9, an evening of cosmic proportions! More information about gala can be found at **brownell.edu/gala** or follow **@bt.gala** on Instagram for event updates.

OUT OF THIS WORLD
SATURDAY, MAY 9
BROWNELL TALBOT GALA 2026

Gala 2026 Leadership

HONORARY CHAIRS
Debbie and Brian Wood

GALA CHAIRS
Ashley and Marc DuBois
Karla and Michael Stack

STEERING COMMITTEE

Advertising
Jolene Loetscher, Nate Burdine, and Kenley Sturdivant-Wilson

Decorations
Kaleena Biggerstaff, Patra Pakieser, and Casie Schlueter

Display
Natalia Atchley

Exceptional Events
Harin Greer, Lacey Hudnut, and Angeline Larson

Family Baskets
Shannon Antonson, Julie Roy, and Venny Vakhidov

Live Auction
Annie Linberg, '04, and Shivani Sharma, '04

Mailings & Promotions
Samantha Buchanan, Daniela Croda, and Priscilla Citrowske

Raffle
Roberta Borg and Marion Dawber

Silent Auction
Becky Dougherty, Valerie Garrigan, and Kristi Sanger

Social Media
Julie Roy

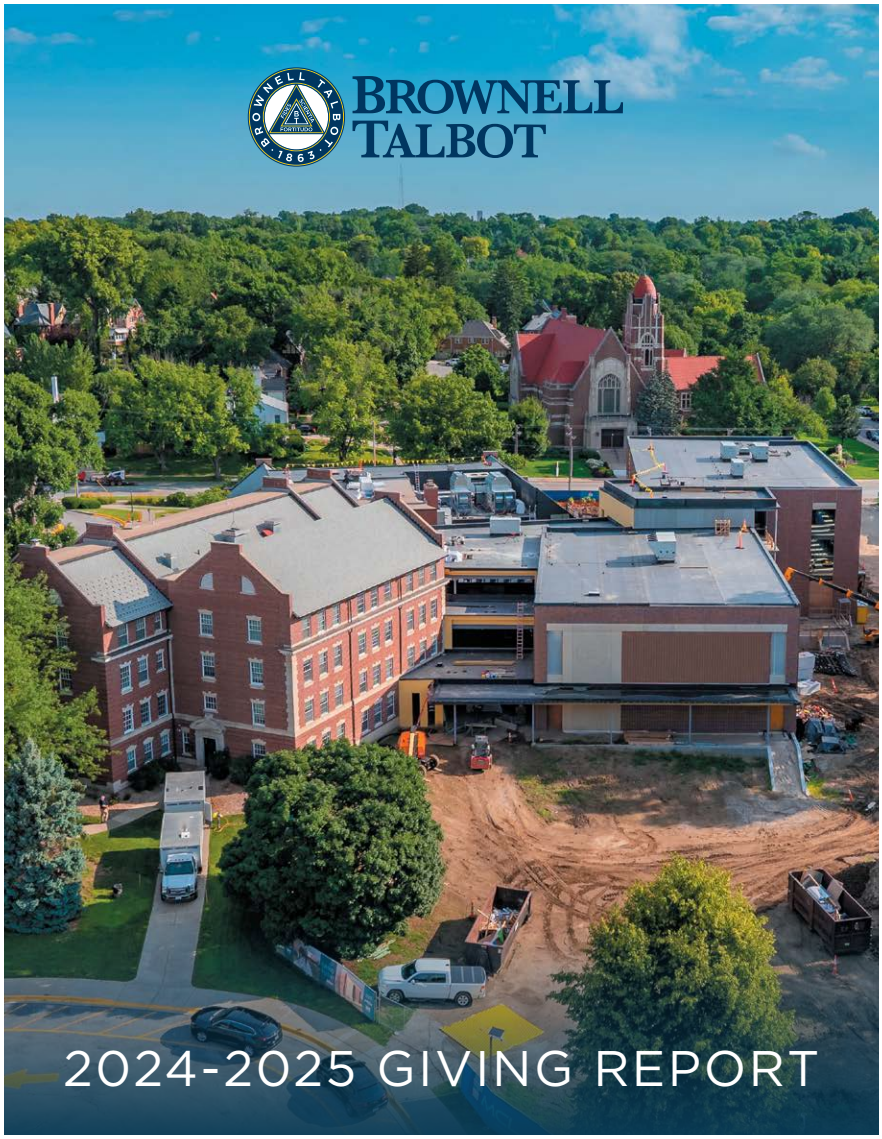
Sponsorships & Underwriting
Jeff Beckmann, Gale Etherton, and Brenda Khoury

Student Projects
Katie Wudel

Celebrating a Year of Generous Support

Our 2024-2025 Giving Report highlights the incredible impact of our BT community!

In December, BT published its 2024-2025 Giving Report. It serves as a tribute to the donors, volunteers, and community members who make Brownell Talbot's mission possible. This comprehensive report celebrates every gift, large and small, that supported our students, faculty and staff, and programs throughout the 2024-2025 school year.



A Few Highlights from 2024-2025:

Reached 80% of our Building Together Capital Campaign goal.

More than $5 million in total giving for the year.

100% faculty and staff participation in The BT Fund.

Scan to access the complete 2024-2025 Giving Report

Prefer a printed copy? Contact Chief Communications Officer Megan Hunter at megan.hunter@brownell.edu to request a hardcopy.

Alumni Spotlight

Brett Fowler, 2002

After serving 21 years as a cyber warfare operator in the U.S. Air Force, I am now CEO of STAG, a rapidly growing cybersecurity and artificial intelligence firm with offices in six regions around the world. Today, I have the privilege of protecting critical infrastructure like the U.S. election system and Texas power grid, advising decision makers at the Congressional and Senatorial levels, and transforming complex cybersecurity frameworks into AI applications that everyday users can access. I currently live in the Texas hill country with my wife and two daughters.

What's a challenge you've faced in your career or life that your BT experience helped you navigate?

Brownell instilled a philosophy of lifelong learning. Later in life as a cyber mission commander in the military, the targets we would go after each night would be very different so mental agility was key. We would assess a target, cracking its network through the understanding of its centers of gravity, and eventually finding its "why." I was able to build centrality models of adversary networks through algorithms I learned at BT (even though Carrie Rise might question how much I learned in class and how much I had to catch up on later in life). The foundation of looking at a problem set and not being afraid to learn not just one but many things completely outside of your comfort zone is a priceless skill. It transitions any form of profession from running a bakery to a Fortune 500 company. Never stop learning.

Is there a BT memory or moment that still makes you smile?

In 2001, the vendors raised the price of soda and snacks in the vending machines in the Commons. In response I started stocking my locker with soda and snacks and offering them at discounted prices, undercutting their markup by 20% but maintaining the vendor 42% upcharge. Soon I had more soda and snacks in my locker than academic books and found my love of entrepreneurship.

The Head of Upper School pulled me into the office inquiring of my version of "Hy-Vee at BT." I explained the rise in prices and that the students preferred my options. I was informed I was not allowed to undercut the vendors. I responded with "this is very contradictory to what I was just taught in third period about the success of free market economy." That comment got me three weeks detention.

What's something you wish you'd known as a BT student that you know now?

I wish I would have read the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling, at an earlier age.

"Time is the currency of the universe. Invest it wisely. If spent poorly, at least have a good story behind it. If spent wisely, remember to pay it forward."

If you could have dinner with any BT alumni from any era, who would it be and why?

Brett Beavers, '82, Mike Skinner, '82, David Peebler, '80, Tom Skutt, '80, Joe Christ, '82, John Sunderland, '85, - just to know if the stories are true!

What's a cause or issue you're passionate about, and how did you get involved?

My wife and I support many veteran and wounded warrior programs through equine therapy. She and our daughters are avid riders and horse enthusiasts. The foundations we support provide our nation's warriors a special form of therapy that has shown so much benefit to those who are working through PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and many other issues.

BT'S LEGACY STUDENTS

FRONT ROW

Stella Millard-Jones, '38 (Jennifer Jones, '06, and Alicia Millard)

Rafael Sotolongo, '40 (Jorge, '06, and Joanna Sotolongo)

Valentina Sotolongo, '38 (Jorge, '06, and Joanna Sotolongo)

Atticus Giese-Zaysoff, '39 (Natalie Zaysoff, '06, & George Giese, x'03)

Cameron Lombardi, '40 (Lauren Lombardi, '01)

Rowan Sharma, '41 (Neil Sharma, '06, and Sri Korrapti)

Alaya Sharma, '39 (Neil Sharma, '06, and Sri Korrapti)

Hennes Csandi-Schwartz, '36 (Sarah [Knoepfler], x'95, & Hartmuth Csandi-Schwartz)

SECOND ROW

Gustavo Correa, '25 (Christian, '04, and Lauren Correa)

Isabella Molai, '35 (Annie Linberg, '04, and Nabil Molai)

Victoria Molai, '33 (Annie Linberg, '04, and Nabil Molai)

Lia Saxena, '33 (Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena)

Kimbo Hawkins, '34 (Kim, x'98, and Amy Hawkins)

Isaiah Bradford, '34 (Erica [Aaron], '97, and Steffon Bradford)

Jojo Bleicher, '34 (Jake Bleicher, '05)

LillyAnna Dingman, ’34 (Heidi Venteicher Dingman, ’94, and Richard Dingman)

Ansel Marsh, ’35 (Krystin [Filipi], x’96, and Joel Marsh)

Fenton Schafer, ’35 (Edwin, x’02, and Kathryn Thompson)

THIRD ROW

Ava Witherspoon, ’26 (Pat Witherspoon, ’79)

Kooper Menin, ’29 (Robyn Kooper, x’92)

Ben Lanum, ’31 (Nicole [Rossi], ’98, and Wade Lanum)

Jerome Bleicher, ’30 (Jake Bleicher, ’05)

Sai Saxena, ’31 (Shikhar, x’99, and Kristin Saxena)

Corbett Lanum, ’26 (Nicole [Rossi], ’98, and Wade Lanum)

Ella Anderson (Julie Adams Anderson, ’89)

Miranda Clark, ’29 (David, x’74, and Kate Clark)

BACK ROW

Eva Cohen, ’26 (Mike, ’87, and Karen Cohen)

Olivia Bradford, ’31 (Erica (Aaron), ’97, and Steffon Bradford)

Greyson Filewicz, ’31 (Stacy Witt, ’96, & Keith Filewicz)

Shaan Saxena, ’29 (Shikhar, x’99, and Kristin Saxena)

Sonu Saxena, ’27 (Shikhar, x’99, and Kristin Saxena)

Charlie Menin, ’30 (Robyn Kooper, x’92)

Addison Hawkins, ’27 (Kim, x’98, and Amy Hawkins)

NOT PICTURED

Noli Marsh, ’28 (Krystin [Filipi], x’96, and Joel Marsh)

Sanaya, ’36, and Zayden, ’38, Pomerleau
(Shivani Sharma, ’04, and Chris Pomerleau)

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
Homecoming Tailgate

Brownell Talbot's Annual Alumni and Friends Homecoming Tailgate on October 3, 2025, welcomed alumni and friends back to campus for an evening of celebration, reminiscing, and connection. Guests toured the construction site of BT's new facilities, with many expressing excitement to return for the ribbon cutting ceremony when the project is complete. The Class of 2015 kicked off their 10-year reunion celebration by joining fellow alumni at the tour and tailgate, marking a special milestone in their BT journey.

1 **Jan Torrey Leonard, '71, Stan Baumann, '71, and Lucy Shirley, '71**

2 **JB Davis, '13, Will Calderon, '15, and Mark Smith (BT history teacher)**

3 **Chris Kjeldgaard, '18, Jessi Ryan (BT math teacher), and Colesun Wood, '19**

4 **Madison Whitmore, '21, and Betsy Peterson (BT Middle School teacher)**

5 **Retired BT art teachers, Leanne Goeschel and Linda Duda**

6 **Will Calderon, '15, and his fiance Kiley Junker, Mark Smith, Tenley Propst, '15, Maddie Klinger Atterberry, '15, and Natalie Kuhn, '15.**

7 **Megan Fowler Wiebelhaus, '11, Rachel Fowler Sullivan, '11, Bryce Fowler, '10, Brett Fowler, '02, Jackie Byers (retired BT English teacher), Tim Fowler, Sr, '82, Tim Fowler, Jr., '06**

8 **Colesun Wood, '19, Tommy Pugsley, '21, and Lily Teunissen, '21**

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Alumni News and Notes

The Alumni News and Notes section of *Fireside* celebrates your recent accomplishments and those of your fellow alums. Share your news of births, weddings, career moves, and any life-changing events. We publish alumni submissions and any other news we receive from friends, employers, and media sources.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

Nan (Engler) Ray, '51, D. November 8, 2025
Nan was active in choir/voice during her high school years, including serving as vice president of the choir her senior year.

Tom Keig, '87, D. October 24, 2025
Tom was on both the yearbook and literary magazine staff, served as darkroom manager, and participated in the science fair.

Constance (Dorman) Heiden Kammandel, '65, D. October 8, 2025
Constance was a very active student participating in a variety of clubs and activities. Her four years in the Service League Club prepared her well for a life of philanthropic and community endeavors in the Omaha area as well as serving on the school's Board of Trustees. She and her late husband, Geof Heiden, were recognized for their devoted years of service to BT as the Gala Honorary Chairs in 2000.

Bryan Carmody, '85, D. August 27, 2025

Jane (Burbank) Wollaston, '55, D. February 24, 2025

Judith (Henry) Thompson, x'61, D. January 17, 2025

Donna (Krause) Hansen, '51, D. January 1, 2025
Among Donna's survivors is her sister, Thea (Krause) Kissler, '53. Donna was at Brownell for high school and was talented in the arts, especially dancing.

Amy (Razaghifar) Trickey, '05, D. October 3, 2025
Among Amy's survivors are her sister, Lauren (Razaghifar) Lombardi, '01, and niece, Cameron Rose Lombardi, '40. Amy passed away peacefully at home after a three-year battle with triple negative cancer. Lauren Lombardi shared this lovely tribute.

"Amy was a proud BT lifer. She was involved in many activities while at BT, including cheerleading, volleyball, tennis, and the National Honor Society. Amy would often say her proudest achievement was being awarded the middle school technology award at Honor's Day when she was in the eighth grade! Amy went on to study nursing at San Diego State University and loved her career as a surgical nurse and a medical professional. She was previously acknowledged in *Fireside* for her role in helping save lives during the COVID-19 epidemic. She was a devoted mother, wife, sister, and a dear friend to many. She is survived by her husband, Beau Trickey Sr., and their two children, Kendall and Beau Jr. She was dearly loved, and will forever be with us."

FRIENDS

Jane Cohen, D. September 3, 2025
Among Jane's survivors are children Toba Cohen-Dunning, '84, and Michael Cohen, '87, and grandchildren Lillian Cohen, '19, Jack Cohen, '23, and Eva Cohen, '26.
Toba and Michael shared that their mom, Jane, embodied what it means to be a devoted Brownell Talbot parent. She took immense pride in raising BT students. Jane's appreciation for the school was evident in her generous volunteerism. She directed theatre productions, assisted with stage makeup, coached speech and debate, and chaperoned countless dances. Each holiday season, Jane created a beloved tradition, baking hundreds of pounds of desserts and candy to deliver to BT faculty and staff. Her presence enriched the BT community in ways both seen and deeply felt.

Ray Vondrak, D. October 11, 2025
Ray taught Upper School math in the 1970s.

Paul Stoupa, D. August 27, 2025
Among Paul's survivors is daughter, Melissa (Stoupa) Krejci, '10.

Laura O'Connor-Pierce, D. August 8, 2025
Laura served as BT's Director of Alumni Relations from January 2000 to September 2002.

Elena Rubio, D. August 4, 2025
Elena was a Spanish teacher at BT in the 1970s.

Jose Martinez, M.D., D. July 24, 2025
Among Jose's survivors are his children Beth Cohen, '77, and Lawrence Martinez, '80.

Robert Recker, D. July 14, 2025
Among Robert's survivors are grandchildren Laura Recker, '23, and Ted Recker, x'28, and son, Mike Recker, BT French teacher.

June Friedmeyer, D. July 10, 2025
June was BT's receptionist and administrative assistant to the Head of Lower School from 1995 through 2004.

Chad Menin D. June 5, 2025
Among Chad's survivors are his sons, Kooper, '29, and Charlie, '30, and ex-wife Robyn Kooper, x'92.

NEWS

Nick Serrault, '98, was recently appointed U.S. chief operating officer at Lockton, the world's largest privately held insurance brokerage.

Angela and John D. Haskell, '08, celebrated the birth of Clyde DeForest Haskell on April 18, 2025.

Linda Liu, '13, shared the great news of earning her MBA, her marriage, and her beautiful baby!

Lydia Schieuer, '13, married William Robertson on July 13, 2025.

Jessie (Curry) Worden, '14, received the National AACTFest Outstanding Achievement in a Featured Role for her role as Bradley in the show "Men on Boats" at the Des Moines Playhouse.

Charlotte Hedican, '15, was in this year's Omaha Community Playhouse production of "A Christmas Carol." She portrayed the role of Martha Cratchit.

Jordan Proby, '15, married Sydney Pratt on September 27, 2025.

Katie Zheng, '15, graduated from NYU Silver School of Social Work, passed her Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) exam, and began working as a community wellness coordinator at the Chinese-American Planning Council in New York City. Katie received the NYU Silver Award: Global Social Work Impact Award. This award honors a student who demonstrates a strong commitment to enhancing social work practice within the context of global interdependence, social work engagement abroad, and/or practice with diverse globally connected populations in the United States.

Jake Gibbs, '21, graduated from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and is working for Kiewit Foundations.

Josh Randolph, '21, following in his grandfathers' footsteps, serves as squadron commander in Air Force ROTC at MIT, where he's earned multiple military honors including the Field Training Superior Performance Award. As director of professional development for MIT Emergency Medical Services, he has responded to over 100 emergency calls while training future EMTs, and he's never missed running the annual Tough Ruck race (26.2 miles with a 50-lb backpack) to honor fallen service members and first responders. He is now pursuing medical school to become an Air Force doctor, combining his mechanical engineering background with his passion for compassionate patient care.

This past summer, **Maya Savory, '22**, combined cutting-edge research with world exploration - conducting air quality research at the National University of Singapore while making the most of her weekends exploring Southeast Asia. From the bustling streets of Singapore to adventures in Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand!

Andrew Vinci, '22, was a custom research intern at Navigate, a sports consulting firm, this past fall. Among his many activities, he serves as director of spirit, pride, and tradition for the Arizona State University Undergraduate Student Government and is a member of Sports Business Scholars, an exclusive program for top sports business students.

Claire Cenovic, '23, a student at Barnard College of Columbia University has accepted an offer to join L'Oréal as a 2026 commercial strategy summer intern.

AJ Puskar, '25, auditioned for, and was selected to be a member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's University Singers, the "premiere and historic flagship choral ensemble... presenting the finest and most versatile choral singers..."

Katie Picard, '25, is leading on and off the court! Katie was the only freshman captain selected for Doane volleyball's Council of Captains. She was also selected as a dorm hall representative, is supporting Relay for Life as a member of the marketing committee, and is a member of the Doane campus The Kindness Project. She was also selected for the Doane President's Leadership Council.

Liam Garrigan, '25, is one of 13 talented singers joining the Heinz Chapel Choir this year at University of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Brianna Vander Vorst, director of college counseling and guidance, caught up with **Bill Du, '25**, and **Bethany Haas, '23**, at Grinnell College. Bill is a first year physics major pursuing an engineering track, and Bethany is a third year double major in English and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies.

LET'S CONNECT!

Feeling social? Follow us on Instagram @BrownellTalbotSchool and on Facebook @BrownellTalbotAlumni and @BrownellTalbotSchool

New contact information? Is your mail going to your parents' address? It's time to update the school at brownell.edu/hello.

ALUMNI *on Campus*

As an alum, you are always welcome to drop by and say hi! Contact the BT team at hello@brownell.edu to schedule a visit!

1 Congratulations to Forrest Selvey, ’12, and Hannah Poth. Selvey came to BT to shoot hoops with his groomsmen on his wedding day. Pictured left to right: Josh Cohen, ’12, Paul Harding, ’11, Forrest Selvey, ’12, Saif Shah, ’12, Jonny Trinh, ’12, Gage Dicus, ’11, and Zach Ehresman, ’12.

2 Brett Fowler, ’02, came for a visit with his sister, Megan Fowler Wiebelhaus, ’11, and her daughters, Charlotte and Haley.

3 Marisa (Ortega) Mayhan, ’70, stopped by to share memories and see how much our school has grown.

4 Caroline Larose, ’07, stopped by to say hello and catch up with former teachers, including Mrs. Carrie Rise.

5 Powers Dicus, ’15, and Heather Lillystone were married in St. Matthias Chapel in June.

6 Medora (Elliott) Harper, ’52, took a stroll down memory lane and shared some incredible and fun stories from her years at Brownell Hall.

7 Jorge Sotolongo, ’06, with his son, Rafael Sotolongo, ’40, and Lauren (Razaghifar) Lombardi, ’01, with her daughter, Cameron Rose Lombardi, ’40, at the Early Years Family Feast.

8 Alumni laced up their sneakers and hit the court for the annual Hardwood Hustle on November 26! Pictured: Tommy Pugsley, ’21, Jake Gibbs, ’21, Oliver Weitong, ’24, Matt Schinzel, ’24, Simon Lim, ’25, Geoff Sproat, ’93, Tim Fowler, ’06, John D. Haskell, ’08, Charley Pugsley, ’20, Ben Porter, ’18, and Sy Lim, ’19.

CAMP DISCOVERY
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Register Now for Camp Discovery

Act fast - last year, summer camps sold out!

Secure your child's spot in BT's immersive day camp experience!

With programs focused on STEM, fine arts, leadership, sports, and future readiness, we have something for every camper, preschool - grade 8.

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Private School - Elementary School
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9 YEARS IN A ROW!

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3 YEARS IN A ROW!

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5 YEARS IN A ROW!

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