



Brandon Pride

A Newsletter for Parents/Guardians and Friends of Brandon at the suggestion of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Upcoming Events

May 31st- No School for Memorial Day

Room 2 quotes

About:

Jungle

Encounter

"Awesome"

"Cute, awesome and fantastic, especially the thing at the end!"

"I thought there was going to be more but my favorite was the monkey."



Softball Season Opener

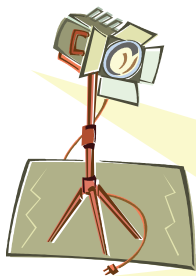


The Brandon softball team opened their season versus RFK . The team ended up in a tie 9-9 due to time constraints which prevented super exciting extra innings . With Adam BH pounding the strike zone, the RFK boys took advantage of some shaky Brandon defense to start the game and took a quick lead. This trend continued, and going into the 7th inning (equivalent to the 9th in normal baseball), the Brandon boys decided to wake up the bats and start producing. Starting the inning down by 5 runs, our boys put up a 5 spot with timely hits from Ernesto M., Saul M, Sage C, and others. In order to preserve the tie, Brandon still had to get 3 outs with RFK getting their last at bat. After a lead off walk, a single, and a pop out, the boys produced a Sportscenter type highlight. A hard ground ball that bounced off the third base bag was snagged by Bobby Abreu (Saul M.), and he tagged the bag for the force out and threw to second base for a jaw dropping double play to PRESERVE THE TIE. The boys were extremely happy with this ability to stay in the game and produce such a large come back, and will certainly look to build off of this game for the rest of the season. If you see any of the boys that went, please be sure to congratulate them on a great game. Stay tuned for more scouting reports and game previews to come.

Chill Time Contest Winners- Jaren and AJ

CHILL TIME has officially replaced quiet time at Brandon. It stands for Chill out, Homework happens, Individual activities, Listen to music/talk quietly, and Learn something new. In honor of this change there was a contest encouraging students to brainstorm as many things to do during CHILL TIME as they possibly could. AJ and Jaren won with an astounding list that totaled more than 300 ideas! Here is a small sample:

Play cards: Crazy Eights, Rummy, Spades, Hearts, Freecell, Texas Hold Em, Poker, 5 card, Kings in the corner, Spit, Solitaire, black jack, go fish, etc. etc. Play Games: Tic Tac Toe, Charades, Eye Spy, Uno, Lines & Squares, Jeopardy, Trivial Pursuit, operation, BINGO, Chutes & Ladders, Pictionary, Monopoly, SpongeBob Life, Chinese Checkers, etc. etc. Creative Play: Drawing, Painting, Clay, Play-doh, Gimp, Beading items, crocheting, knitting, Origami, popsicle sticks, braiding string, braiding hair, make a puppet, coloring book, tissue paper flowers, sew a pillow, decorate your room, make a mobile, make a bead/string bracelet. Music: Listen to music, singing, writing songs and raps, playing a musical instrument, making a musical instrument out of recycled things, make a scrapbook, Listen to IPOD, CDs Puzzles: Jigsaw, crossword, Sudoku, mad libs, make your own puzzle, word-search, fill in a US or World map, etc. Reading & Writing: Write a story, write a letter to a friend or relative, , compose a song, make a greeting card, make up a recipe, finish homework, keep a diary, finish restitution, Read a book, comic book. Exercise: Push-ups, sit-ups, crunches, Yoga, deep breathing, martial arts, balancing exercises, read book on meditation and yoga. Household helpful chillers: Plant and maintain a garden, create a recipe and help cook a new and exciting breakfast, lunch or dinner, dust every piece of furniture in the house, wash the inside of the windows, clean all the sinks in the house, ask staff for extra chore, vacuum floors, sweep driveway, plant an herb garden. Clean Up: Reorganize your room, clean out your closets, clean your dresser drawers and refold your clothing, polish your shoes, clean your sneakers, iron your clothes, dust and polish your furniture, wash the inside of your windows, decorate your room.



Student Spotlight

My name is Ryan and I'm a 14 year old kid at the Brandon program. I got here a few months ago. I didn't really feel anything when they said I was going to come to Brandon except nervous and worried. I didn't know anyone here and I didn't know if I was going to meet anyone that I'd known from my last program. When I first got here it was kind of weird until I got into the routine, started knowing people and getting used to the other kids. In the beginning I didn't know what they were going to be doing for treatment with me. Now I know what I'm going to do and what my goals are. I've gotten used to Brandon and the school. Some of my goals are to do well, treat others how I want to be treated, respect elders and peers, and to do the stages so that I can leave. I would like to go home some day.

I like to play video games, watch movies and play outdoors with my peers. School here is not that bad because I get help on things I need to do and talk to kids. The food here is really good compared to my last place. My teacher and aid are really nice and are really helpful and precise with what I need to do in class. They help me a lot when times are tough. My therapist helps me too with a lot of things.

I would like to go back to public school after Brandon and be able to be with my friends. I know it's going to take time and effort for me to get there including stage work and school work. I can do anything that I put my mind up to. And if I can do it so can you!



Community Service

Congratulations to the House 2 and House 4 boys who participated in April's community service project. They painted flower pots, filled them with flowers and delivered them to a local nursing home. The House 2 boys even prepared a singing number to share. They did a great job. Look forward to hearing more about the monthly community service opportunities in the future.



March Staff of the Month— Lynne Fish

Lynne is an asset to Brandon and the House 2 program. She is extremely organized and does an excellent job communicating information to her team and other departments as needed. Lynne has been instrumental in implementing the new stage system at House 2 and she serves as an excellent advocate for the House 2 clients. She works with her team to ensure the house is clean, organized, and always presentable, which ultimately helps to create a safe and comfortable environment for the clients. Lynne also did an excellent job of representing Brandon this past year by participating in interviews with both DESE and DEEC as part of our licensing reviews. We are lucky to have Lynne at Brandon and are thankful for her hard work and efforts!

