



Brandon Pride

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

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Nov. 10**
1st quarter grades close
- ⇒ **Nov 17**
Celtics/Wizards Game
- ⇒ **Nov. 23**
Community Thanksgiving
- ⇒ **Nov. 24**



Half Day

- ⇒ **Nov. 25 -26** No School
- ⇒ **Dec 24-31** School Vacation
- ⇒ **January** Monster Truck Show & Motocross Show



Brandon Multi-Cultural Festival

SAVE THE DATE:

Come enjoy the foods, traditions, history, and music of the many different cultures within the Brandon community. There will be plenty of food, though families are welcome to bring a favorite dish to share.

Festivities will be held
December 15, 2010 ✦ 5:00pm – 8:00pm

In the Brandon School Gymnasium | 27 Winter Street, Natick MA

Please RSVP to your Case Manager and include:
transportation needs & number of people attending.

*Transportation is available from Natick Commuter Rail or Riverside T.

Sen. Ross Awards Students at Thanksgiving Celebration



Five winners of Brandon's anti-bullying slogan, poster and essay contest received special recognition at Brandon's annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Dan M, Bobby T., Jimmy G, Jaren B. and Luis R. received official citations from State Senator Richard Ross. Winners of the first "Turkey Trivia" contest also received awards. Please read the newspaper article :

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/natick/news/education/x1617323395/Senator-s-visit-to-Brandon-School-highlights-students-progress?img=2>

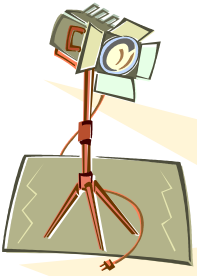


Halloween Excitement

For the past 4 years Brandon staff have recruited friends and family to make a donation that allows each Brandon student who is in-

terested to pick out their Halloween costume. Despite tough economic times, more people than ever contributed allowing every student who wanted to participate the chance. On Friday, October 29th the lower school students paraded around the school trick-or-treating, and showing off their disguises. In the afternoon all Brandon students had the opportunity to engage in Halloween themed activities including scary movies and crafts. Costumes emerged again for the official Sunday trick-or-treating. Check out some of the creative costumes!





Student Spotlight

My name is Henry and the reason I'm here at Brandon is because of some things that happened with my family members and I getting into some trouble. I came in with some problems I needed to work on like being responsible, handling my anger better, expressing myself better with adults and my mother. I've been going to school here, trying to do my work and learn how to read better (because I've had problems with that), follow staff directions. At the beginning it was hard because I'd get really frustrated, but now it's worked out really good. Speedo helps me out a lot, and lots of other people do too.

I like to dance and sing and I've gotten to take hip hop classes while I've been here. Sometimes it takes my an-

ger out when I dance and it's fun too at the same time. Some of the kids join in and it makes me feel good. I can't say I'm good at it but kids and staff tell me I am which makes me feel happy and special.

Recently I've moved to Nobscot which is great. I have a nice, pretty big room that's clean now. The kids are mature and I get to talk to them and stuff. I feel like I achieved something.

In the future I hope to get a job. I'd really like to become famous for singing. I want to say thanks to the Brandon school, for all the staff members who listened to me, helped me when I was down, and supported me in bad situations to help me out.

Suitcases4Kids (<http://suitcases4kids.org>)

Suitcases4Kids is an organization founded by Ron Nickerson in 2009 with the goal of providing kids in foster care and placements with suitcases so that when they have to move they can put their things in their very own suitcases. Suitcases4Kids recently partnered with the local Staples corporation. Brandon is the lucky recipient of their very successful suitcase drive. Several students

and staff drove over to the Staples office park for the pick up. On the drive over there was much speculation about the number of bags and suitcases that employees might have collected.

Guesses ranged from 25– 100 which turned out to be a huge underestimate. Upon arriving everyone was shocked and excited to find the 365 that had actually been collected. Every nook and cranny of the vehicles were filled with suitcases. It is the hope that any child moving on from Brandon can do so with pride by having something to carry their clothes and toys in.



September Staff of the Month: *Mike Lewis*



Mike Lewis has been an integral member of the House 2 Team for over a decade. He often times flies under the radar due to his not being on campus during the week. However the staff and kids at House 2 consider themselves lucky that they get to work with such a positive, energetic, hardworking person, who is good at what he does. Mike is dedicated to building a positive rapport with the kids. He is stern but fair and always takes the time to process emotions with the clients – regardless of whether they are in a good mood or a bad mood. The clients look up to Mike and respond to him because of his sincere interest in them and his amazing sense of humor! Fellow staff are still often surprised by Mike's impressive processing skills and the way he helps clients settle into a positive space. Brandon would like to thank Mike for dedicating his weekends to making a difference!