

Upcoming Events

September 2nd-

Six Flags

September 9th-

First Day of School

More activities to be scheduled as school gets back in session!

Brandon Pride

A Newsletter for Parents/Guardians and friends of Brandon at the suggestion of the parent advisory council

Brandon Olympics

By Staff Pat C.

Team Results

The sun beat down on the Olympic student-athletes of Brandon all afternoon. The water stations were running low, yet the seven teams of the first Brandon Olympiad stood strong as they awaited the final event. Excitement had been the main emotion experienced all day by the student-athletes, but after the team relay race, the results would be announced and the day would end. The young men gathered up their strength, raced without



fear, and in the end House 2 came out as the 2009 Brandon Olympic champions. Right behind them were the hard working House 4/5 athletes, followed in third place by Nobscot & House 1 in a dead heat. It began with a delicious pre-event meal from Jamie, Janice, and the kitchen staff and ended with an award ceremony brought to the young men by Coach Dan K. Overall, The Brandon Olympics were an event that each student-athlete enjoyed and participated in with their full effort. Congratulations to all.

Individual Results

Long Run: Genaro M./Andre D.,

50M: Andre D.

100M: Andre D.

Shot-put: Steve S.

Frisbee Toss: Ruben C.

Sit-up/Pull-up: Hector D-R./Robert H.

3-pt. Shootout: Mike S.



Rock Climbing Adventures

By Staff Ryan K.

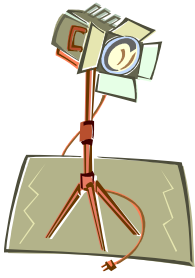
This summer our Brandon boys have had the opportunity to try their hand at rock climbing. The guys climbed at several locations both on man-made walls and on real cliff faces. By the end of the summer semester, our most invested individuals have learned the details of all that is required to climb safely. Through practice, repetition, and hard work, they learned how to: set up climbing anchors, how to tie a variety of knots specific to climbing, how to put on a climbing harness, safety checks before climbing, verbal communication before climbing, how to belay each other, and how to climb.

Many students learned the ins and outs of equipment used for climbing, (ropes, carabiners, belay devices), how it works, why it works and why we use it.

By our last session together, many of the boys approached staff with interest in becoming climbing/belay certified through Brandon's merit program. They were tested and passed, earning the 'Climbing Merit Badge'!

The overall themes throughout this semester were safety and accountability, as well as trust and communication. These guys were literally responsible for each others well-being, including staff that were also belayed. They took these responsibilities and ran with them, succeeded, and were recognized! The Outdoor Ed Crew continues to be very proud of the participants' hard work and dedication.





Student Spotlight

My name is Devon. I am small, smart, funny and I can make a lot of friends on my first try. I am proud of the fact that I am helpful and like to share with others.

I feel that Brandon has been a good place for me to be. I have gotten a lot of help here learning how to build relationships, deal with difficult emotions and to be a better person.

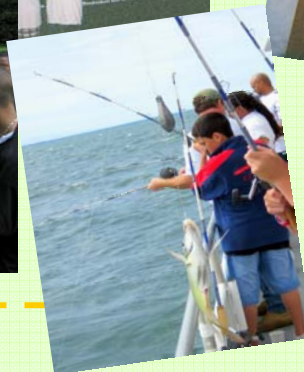
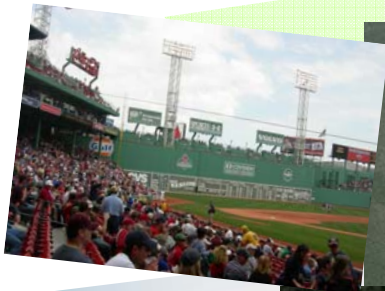
While at Brandon, I have made huge improvements in school. I admit to not really liking school in the past but now feel excited about school. I am happy to be learning subjects I had never learned before. Before coming to Brandon, I was a very quiet kid and now I am friends with almost everyone at Brandon. I used to keep my anger and frustration to myself and I have learned to talk to people more and ask for help.

I have gotten the chance to do some really neat things at Brandon, like meet with the therapy dog. If I was having a bad day, I always felt a lot

better after meeting with Toby. I have experienced so many different things here. This past summer I went rock climbing. I was a little scared but it was a lot of fun. I also went whale watching and it was crazy. When the boat went over the big waves, I almost fell out! The best trip of all was deep sea fishing. I caught 29 fish and fed the seagulls.

Of all the things I have experienced and worked on while at Brandon, I am most proud of changing my behavior. The biggest reason I got in trouble in the past was due to always keeping my feelings to myself. It was hard to trust people at first but the more I shared the more respect I got from everyone. I also got more help. I have been on RTL once and was moved to a new house due to having good behaviors. I have lived in four different houses at Brandon. I am still working on being less sarcastic, but it is fun so this is a hard one for me.

As much as I love Brandon, I am looking forward to leaving and moving to a group home. I will definitely stay in contact with people from Brandon and would like to come back to visit. I plan to keep doing all the things I have learned here. I hope I get another chance to go deep sea fishing again.



Community Service

Throughout the summer, Brandon students participated in community service projects both on and off-campus in an effort to “give back”. These activities provide a sense of empowerment as students recognize the positive effects they can have on others. Middle and high school students spent substantial time working in a Victory over Hunger Garden nearby. All of the fruits and vegetables grown were donated to local food pantries and there was quite a harvest! Students received a thank you note for their hard work and efforts in making the garden such a huge success. Additional community service opportunities included painting and sanding projects. After community service projects early in the week students enjoyed field trip days, going to various museums, parks, swimming and fishing holes. The summer provided ample opportunities for learning, growth and fun!