

The Brighton Star

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Bonfires for Brighton!

Anna Goodman
Reporter

Think of a beautiful, brisk fall evening with an incredible sunset. Think of a fun night with friends and classmates. Think of a really huge bonfire, a hayride and more. If you are thinking of these things, then you are probably thinking about the 2009 Brighton Fall Kickoff Party.

The party was held on Saturday, October 3, on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Miller. This is the second year that the Millers have graciously offered to host the party at their home in Gardner, Kansas. This year, over sixty students were able to attend and enjoy a night of fun, fellowship, laughter, games, hayrides, s'mores, and more.

After the opening prayer, students formed lines for playing paintball, and everyone—from pros to those who had never held a paintball gun before—had an entertaining and humorous time as they attempted to shoot at the enormous “Wall of Balloons” that had been set up for them. As soon as the paintball began to wind down, it was time to eat. With grilled hot dogs and a delicious variety of chips and desserts, there was something for everyone to enjoy. While everyone munched and talked, a number of students enjoyed playing Frisbee and football.

The bonfire was lit shortly before dark. The roaring fire towered up at least ten feet, and everyone appreciated its warmth. Later, students were able to take a much-anticipated hayride. They ambled through the countryside



Photograph by Sarah Wacker

in three flatbed trailers, chatting, star-gazing, and at points, being serenaded by a few of their musical classmates.

Overall, the annual school kick-off was very successful and the perfect way to celebrate the beginning of the fall season. A special “thank-you” to the Millers for the wonderful evening. Be sure to mark your calendars now for next fall! ▲

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Pig Pandemic?

Emma Pell
Reporter

Today, there is a lot of talk about H1N1, better known as the swine flu. Some people are concerned about whether or not they should get a vaccine for H1N1. With vaccines now available in Kansas, it is a good time to think about getting one—or not.

There are two types of vaccines available: the traditional shot, and a nasal spray, called FluMists. Kathleen Sebelius, Health and Human Services Secretary, recommends that everyone, especially children, get the new vaccine. But is it really necessary?

Sources say, even though there have been 600 deaths related to H1N1 in the U.S., 1 in 5 parents don't consider swine flu a serious disease. Other polls show that more than a third of parents don't want their kids vaccinated. It is also said that younger people have a better chance of catching H1N1 than the portion of the population 65 and older. Sebelius comments, "This flu is a younger person's flu. Kids have no immunity." Others are concerned that the vaccine is too new, and that the swine flu doesn't really differ that much from the regular flu.

So, how can you stay healthy without getting the swine flu vaccine? Simple ways are best. Here are a few ways to stay healthy and keep others healthy too:

- Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough
- Wash your hands before you eat, with warm water and soap
- Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth so that germs can get in
- Keep hand sanitizer in your pocket
- And of course, don't hang around with sick people! ▲



Ask Annie....

Anna Goodman
Columnist

Dear Annie,

Brighton is a very interesting place to observe people. When I am there, it's easy to see all kinds of friendships around me. Some are obviously very deep while many seem more casual. This has made me think a lot about what it means to be a really good friend to someone. Got any thoughts?

Good Friend Wannabe

A: Dear Wannabe,

What a great question!!! It is wonderful that you want to be a better friend, and I think a lot of other students probably feel the same way. So, let's talk about some ways that we can improve our friendship skills. When people talk about someone being a really good friend, the traits that they often mention are loyalty and empathy. To be a good friend means that you'll stand by your friends through thick and thin. Of course, we need friends to laugh with too, but we need our friends even more when life gets rough. We all have difficult times in our life, and sometimes having a faithful friend by your side can make all the difference during those periods.

The Bible says, "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble" (Ecclesiastes 6:9-10, NLT). The true test of friendship is whether someone will come along side you when things in your life get messy. A true friend will listen to your woes and really try to understand what you are going through. At the same time, though, true friends will be the first ones to celebrate with you when you succeed and your life is going great. We all need this type of friend, and we all need to be this kind of friend to others.

So, how do we become a really, truly great friend? Let's start with one of the simplest yet most important ways to develop better relationship skills: learn to listen. In a world and culture that is increasingly ME-centric, it is very important that we don't get so caught up in our own opinions, troubles, joys, etc., that we are always the talker when we are with others. People who only talk about themselves don't have *friends*; they have *audiences*. We need to

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remember that our friends have just as many ideas and experiences as we do, and there is a lot we can learn from them, if we just stop and listen. True friendship is give and take, and we cannot treat our friends as if they exist only to listen to what we have to say.

Another important aspect of being a good friend is to really get to know your friend. Sometimes, we can spend hours and hours hanging out with people, and yet, we never really get to know them. Start making the extra effort to learn about your friends. What are their likes and dislikes? How about their favorite type of candy? What's their favorite sports team, and why that team? If you set out to really get to know your friends inside out, you may be pleasantly surprised by what you learn about them.

Friendship skills will be important to you for your entire life and making the effort to develop them now will make developing relationships much easier down the road. I hope this gives you some helpful tips on ways to become a better friend. Friends are a gift. Cherish them, and you'll never regret it.

Dear Readers: In this issue, we have a question for YOU! This was submitted by a reader who wondered how many people could solve it. Here is the question: There are 7 girls who get on a bus. Each girl is carrying 7 backpacks. Each backpack contains 7 mother cats, and each mother cat has 7 baby cats. How many legs are on the bus? Do you know? Submit your answers to askannieatbrighton@gmail.com. Answers will be published in next month's issue. ▲

Have a comment on this month's column? Would you like to see your question in an upcoming issue of the Brighton Star?? Submit your opinions and questions to Ask Annie @ askannieatbrighton@gmail.com

BRIGHTLY LIT(erature)

Spotlighting Student Writers & Literary Critics

The Lost Books

A Book Review

Timothy Meigs
Columnist

Continuing with our Ted Dekker theme...

I stand in the arena amidst the hundreds upon hundreds of others from the other forests. The best of the new

forest guard recruits stand in the playing field, half of them on one side, half of them on the other. Thomas of Hunter, or Thomas Hunter, as he prefers, stands in the center. Today we will witness a game from Thomas Hunter's dreams between the two groups of new forest guard recruits. He calls it football. He explains the rules: there is a ball of Horde hair in the middle of the arena. The first team to get the ball across to the other team's end zone will win. Each recruit is armed with a wooden club.

Thomas Hunter steps off the field and gives the command to begin the game. The eager players rush to the center, each attempting to gain the Horde ball before the others. The first one to arrive grabs it and attempts to run, but is immediately tackled and an all-out brawl ensues. The Horde ball rolls free toward the side of the arena where my father and I stand. I pick it up. I don't know why. I hide it in my shirt. The warriors are searching frantically for the ball.

"Where is it?" Thomas Hunter yells. "Find my ball! And whoever stole it, make them never want to do it again!"

And then he turns. He turns and looks straight at me. And he winks at me.

He knows.

The Lost Books series, by Ted Dekker. Comprised of Chosen, Infidel, Renegade, Chaos, Lunatic, and Elyon, this series intertwines with the Circle trilogy (Black, Red, White, and Green) to tell the story of a boy named Johnis. Johnis lives in Elyon's forests with Thomas Hunter and the rest of the Forest Dwellers. Short, scrawny, and timid, this unlikely warrior finds he is chosen by Elyon for a special purpose. But why did Elyon choose him? He cannot fight. Indeed, he is better with the pen than with the sword. As Johnis tries to follow Elyon's mission he is forced to question everything that he's ever believed in, from the Roush and Shataiki to Teela and the Horde, and even to the very nature of Elyon Himself.

Through desert, black forest, rotten caves, ancient libraries, and a town called Paradise Johnis finds that to follow Elyon means making sacrifices that he's not sure he can make, and a trust that this Unseen Power will, in the end, enable him to fight for the Truth in ways he never thought possible. Even if he dies in the process. ▲

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Samantha's World (part 2 of 4)

Anna Ireland
Junior Columnist

Last month we left Samantha on the floor of the barn with her ankle twisted beneath her...

Just then, a boy, maybe around twelve years old, ran into the barn. He had a look of amazement on his face, but seemed to understand what had happened, and stooped down to help me up.

"Can you stand?" he questioned with a worried tone.

"I don't think so," I told him.

"Are your folks home?" he asked.

"No," I muttered.

"Well then, you'd better come to my house for a while. Come on, I'll help you outside."

We got outside all right and he helped me onto his horse.

"Steady there, Princess." He spoke to his horse softly while he helped me mount. Then he swung up in the saddle, said, "Gidap!" and we were off. While we rode, he told me that he lived in a medium-sized brick house about a mile away. He had been taking his horse Princess for a canter when he heard me scream and came to help.

By that time, we had reached his house. He dismounted and led the horse to the stable. Then he helped me get off, but even with his careful help, I had to muffle a scream. He carried me to the house and into the kitchen, which smelled of cinnamon, peppermint, and apple pie. In fact, there were too many good smells to tell you! His mother was there, she was as small and plump as he was tall and slim. She was taking an apple pie out of the oven.

She turned around and exclaimed, "Deary me! What have you brought home now?"

"Well, Mother, this girl has a hurt ankle, and her folks weren't there so I brought her home."

"Oh, deary me! Oh, deary me! We will have to get you to bed at once! Now, what is your name, dear?"

I answered, "Samantha, ma'am."

"Well, I will have to take a look at that ankle, and then we will get you to bed."

Then the boy carried me upstairs and laid me down on a large, comfortable bed. A few minutes later his mother came in with a pretty little nightgown, and said, "This was mine when I was your age, and tonight you will wear it."

In answer to that I exclaimed, "Oh thank you, ma'am!"

That night, when I was in bed, I heard a noise. I glanced at the clock. It was ten thirty. Was someone out there creeping around my door this late at night?

To Be Continued Next Month....▲

TEACHER FEATURE

★ Judy Logan ★

Lydia DeWolf
Reporter

If Brighton had a Most-Adored Teacher Award, Mrs. Logan would *definitely* in the running for it! She's best known as the nicest speech teacher anyone's ever had, and for making expanding your speaking skills into an enjoyable experience. In this Teacher Feature, you'll find Mrs. Logan's answers to a few interview questions.

- Mrs. Logan's favorite teacher was her 7th Grade science teacher, because she made every class exciting, and she loved her students.
- She has taught for three years at Brighton Academy, including Public Speaking, American History, World History, and American Government.
- Her hobbies include swimming, working out, and watching old movies.
- Her favorite food is pizza.
- She has two sons: Alex, age 21, and Austin, age 17
- Her first car was a Chevy Nova—in her words, "awful!"
- Her travels have taken her to the Bahamas, Europe, Spain, Mexico, and all over the U.S.
- She is originally from Chicago.
- At present, she doesn't have a worst fear!
- In college, she started out in nursing, switched to mission work, and finally settled on education.
- She recently witnessed a burglary of her neighbors' house, and her sharp memory and quick thinking helped the police to catch the thief! She gives the glory to God, and says that His hand was evident in the entire incident.

It was great to get to know Mrs. Logan a little better. Her advice to students is, "Try to intern in whatever you're interested in long before college. Picture yourself in the job you think you want to pursue." Thanks, Mrs. Logan! ▲

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Photograph by Emma Pell



Photograph by Emma Pell

Special Feature:

★ Brighton Halloween Pumpkin-Decorating Contest! ★

Lydia DeWolf
Reporter

In celebration of Halloween, Brighton students worked hard to create a whole slew of fantastic pumpkins. On Wednesday, Oct. 28th, students voted on their favorites during the lunch period. All the entries looked great, especially during the moments of darkness, when they glowed with candles or flashlights from inside.

The winner of the elementary division was...

★ Charity Smith! ★

The winner of the junior and senior high division was...

★ Caleb DeWolf! ★

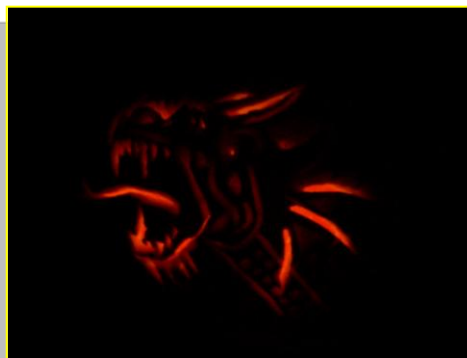


Photograph by Hannah DeWolf

EXTRA! EXTRA!



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