

The Brighton Star

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2009

Orientation: A New Year at Brighton Academy!

Katie Wells
Reporter

Summer is now officially over and school has started with the kick-off of Orientation! It was great to see our old friends and meet all the new people. Mrs. Jarrett started us off by introducing Mrs. Logan who gave an excellent speech. Then we had all the teachers come up and be introduced. Most of the teachers are familiar from last year, but there are a couple new faces, including: Mr. Fortier, Ms. Hoskins, Mr. Knight, Ms. Kolins, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Schwabauer. These teachers have just come here, so let's give them a good impression.

Our school started out having only three teachers, but now has twenty-five! With the knowledge that our cool school is growing, let's start the new year with a jump! ▲



photograph by Hannah DeWolf

Announcements:

Congratulations to the 2009-2010 Brighton Student Council! After much deliberation over the applications, we are pleased to welcome the following students:

Evan Davis
Sarah Kanaga
Kasha Prinzing
Sarah Wacker
Joshua Yeoman

For students who applied and didn't make a position on the board, Brighton offers many other ways to serve. Students will be able to serve and volunteer under the leadership of the Student Council. Younger students may serve on the Junior Council (no application needed).

For information, email Mrs. Geither at kellgirl5@aol.com

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Barack Talk: Did It Rock?

Emma Pell
Reporter

On September 8, 2009, at 11:00 a.m., President Barack Obama addressed public school students, in their classrooms, nationwide. Students in grades K-12 were invited to listen to his speech. The overall point of the speech was to encourage kids to stay in school and get a good education. For the older students, pamphlets were handed out at the end of the speech so that they could further discuss Obama's speech. Teachers were directed to ask the children how they can be responsible to help President Obama and the government.

Before the speech was aired, some people said that the speech would be political, and that Obama didn't want parents listening in. Others said that the speech was merely to be addressed only to the budding young scholars. Quite a few parents elected to keep their kids at home. Others chose to opt out.

Even though there was controversy before the speech, afterward, all were in agreement that the speech proved to be inspirational.

If you viewed the speech on the internet, what did you think?

You can visit one of these websites to watch short videos from two different perspectives on the government and Obama. You can also watch Obama's speech to the students at the address below.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtGrp5MbzAI:

Obama Kids Music Video

www.timhawkins.net/ :The Government Can

To watch the full speech go to:

www.whitehouse.gov/mediaresources/ ▲



Ask Annie....

Anna Goodman
Columnist

Dear Annie,

It's time for school again, and I really want to try to get my grades up this year. I can usually understand most of the information in my textbooks, but I just can't seem to remember it all. Also, when I try to study for a test, it seems like I just read the material again and again, but when I actually take the exam, I still can't think of the information. Help! Do you have any tips on how to get better grades on assignments and tests?

Sincerely,

Worried in the Classroom

A: Dear *Worried*,

Almost everyone, even the best students, could improve their study habits, and it is great you are making the effort. Here are a few tips that may help you earn better grades:

1. The due date is not the do date. If you put off your work until the day before it is due, it is almost guaranteed that you will not do your absolute best on it. Give yourself plenty of time to complete a project. You'll be more relaxed, and your work quality will be better.
2. Environment can be everything. You need to have a quiet place where you can study without interruptions. If you study for 2 hours, but get distracted every few minutes, your studying will not be nearly as effective as if you sit down and study for an hour without any interruptions.
3. Music can make the mood. For many people, music is

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key to helping them study. It helps them think and retain more information. If you have found a quiet place to study, try putting on some slow, classical music. For fans of rockier music, it has its place, but it will rarely help you study.

4. Schedule it! If you have a big test coming up, make sure that you plan for time to study, and do not try to squeeze it in at the last minute. This is probably one of the simplest yet most important study tips EVER.
5. Go to bed. Most high school students tend to think that the later they can stay up, the better. When it comes to getting excellent scores on tests and assignments, however, this simply is not the case. Undoubtedly, you have heard the quote, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." (Benjamin Franklin) That quote is so true!! You'll study much better after a good night's sleep.

I hope these tips help you as you attempt to improve your study habits. Now, hit the books! ▲

Would you like to see your question in an upcoming issue of the Brighton Star?? Submit your questions to Ask Annie @ adoodlegirlo8@yahoo.com.

Don't Forget...

The Brighton Kick-Off Party (ages 12 and up) at the Miller Residence! Cost is \$5.00 if paid before Oct. 1st and \$7.00 at the gate.

October 3rd
6-9 p.m.

BRIGHTLY LIT(erature)

Spotlighting Student Writers & Literary Critics

The Circle Trilogy

A Book Review

Timothy Meigs
Columnist



"The figure of a man makes its way down the streets of the city. He takes a shortcut through an alley toward his home. A bullet strikes the brickwork beside his head. He ducks out of the way.

In several swiftly executed moves, he takes down the man who was trying to kill him. But he doesn't stick around; he runs. Several minutes later, he looks around. He's lost them. He doesn't see the next bullet. But he feels it. His head feels like it will explode! He drops like a stone.

...And wakes up in another world.

Welcome to the world of the Circle, a series written by Ted Dekker. Thomas Hunter goes to sleep in our world one day and wakes up many centuries in the future in a world of good and evil, where good holds evil at bay and the worshipers of the Elyon reside in happiness, apart from the evil of the dark forests. But the evil is not content to remain prisoner of their forest and their leader, Teelah, has a plan.

Meanwhile, back in our world, Thomas Hunter discovers a plot to use an airborne virus to blackmail the entire human race. Will anyone believe his tales of world takeover? And are his dreams merely that, dreams, or is this world the dream?

And what of God? Thomas has seen what God did to his father and he wants nothing to do with Him. Yet, in both worlds, spiritual powers refuse to leave Thomas Hunter alone. What will he find on his quest to stop the forces of evil in both worlds, and what do the powers of everything Good and True have to tell him?

In this trilogy of mystery, suspense, and drama by Ted Dekker the Biblical truths are told differently than ever before. Nonstop action, romance, and spiritual truths make this series a great read. The trilogy is comprised of Black, Red, and White, with Green: Book Zero having been released on September 1, 2009. For more information about Ted Dekker and his books, including the Circle Trilogy, visit www.TedDekker.com." ▲

Samantha's World

Anna Ireland
Junior Columnist

Hello! My name is Samantha. I live in a big white house in the country. My father got me a horse to comfort me when my mother died, and I named him Prince. I live with my father and my older sister, Julie. When I am awake, my father is at work and my sister is usually

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out, so I have learned to care for myself, even though I am just ten years old. I want to write a book and become a published author when I grow up, but for now I must content myself with the book part. Here is what I have written so far:

“I am a bird named Snowy. I live in a purple cage in Chicago. I hate the cat Tiger so much! Well not really, I'm just scared of him – really scared of – YIKES! Here he is now! Tweet! Tweet! Tweet! Twa-twa-twa-tweet!”

It's not very good, I know, but I suppose that since I'm only ten it will probably get better as I get older. This is my world.

* * *

Just then Julie shouted, “Samantha!”

“What?” I asked.

“Did you make that mess on the living room floor?” Julie said irritably.

“Yes.”

“Well, you'd better come in here and pick it up!” Julie called.

“Okay, Julie, I'll be right there.”

I reluctantly walked into the living room and began picking up the brightly colored craft supplies. After about five minutes, I picked up the light blue bin, which was now full, and put it away. I debated whether to go outside and ride Prince, read, or write. I decided to read. I walked over to the bookshelf and picked up a book called My Horse and Me. After an hour of reading, I looked up from my book and shut it. I was tired, so I decided to take a nap. Julie had gone to another party, and I soon fell asleep.

When I woke up, I decided to go ride Prince. I walked over to the stable and Prince greeted me with a whinny. I let Prince munch on an apple before I saddled and bridled him. I was mounting Prince when I lost my balance and fell. I hit the ground and screamed with pain....

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TEACHER FEATURE

★ Christi Gramling ★

Lydia DeWolf
Reporter

Mrs. Gramling has been teaching higher-level math courses and physics at Brighton Academy for four years. I sat down with her for a quick interview to get to know her....

She grew up in a small town called Onalaska in western Wisconsin. She attended the University of Wisconsin, where she caught the enthusiasm of her calculus teacher. Now she lives in Kansas and has been blessed with three sons: Daniel, age 17, David, age 15, and Matthew, age 12. In the spare time she can salvage from a busy schedule, she enjoys spending time with her family.

Some facts you might not know about Mrs. Gramling include: she is a breast-cancer survivor, she enjoys waterskiing, and has traveled to Alaska and the Bahamas. She is an amazing knitter, and if you keep an eye out in the halls and classroom, you might spot one of the gorgeous handbags she's created! Also an avid reader, she enjoys the Mark of the Lion series by Francine Rivers, as well as By the Light of the 1,000 Stars by Jamie Langston Turner.

I asked Mrs. Gramling what advice she might give to any students considering a career in her field. “Do what you enjoy and use the talents God has blessed you with,” she told me. Hopefully, these fun facts have helped you get to know our fantastic teacher a little better. ▲

Next Month's TEACHER FEATURE...

Meet Mrs. Logan!

Want to see *your* name in print?

Send us your articles, photographs, stories, poems, artwork, interviews, questions, and comments at

★brighton.star.news@gmail.com! ★

Also, visit us on the web at

★brightonstar.yolasite.com! ★