

THE PAW PRINT



"BY THE STUDENTS, FOR THE STUDENTS"

2023-2024

REMEMBERING GRIFFIN

On November 23, 2023, the BHS Print Journalism family lost a loved one. Griffin Mangum, the managing editor of The Paw Print and Bully's Buzz, passed unexpectedly early Thanksgiving morning, leaving everyone who knew him devastated. Most people spent Thanksgiving mourning his loss with their families and lifting up Griffin's loved ones in prayer. Griffin had just turned 18 and was looking forward to attending Mississippi State University.

Griffin was involved in an abundance of different activities during his time at Brandon High School. Alongside his role as the managing editor at The Paw Print and Bully's Buzz, he was a crucial member of BHS' show choir, Brio, where he worked day in and day out as a choreography leader. He was a proud member of B-19, Brandon High School's a cappella group as well as DECA and Dog Pack, here he served the school and his classmates in countless ways. Griffin was a part of everything he could be. Him and his joyous spirit reached so many people even beyond the walls of BHS. Griffin's loss left many people devastated and searching for answers.

However, peace fell upon those who knew him well as they remembered where he now resides. Griffin was a born-again Christian believer who had accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. He believed that all who call upon the name of the Lord would be saved and, therefore, would one day spend eternity in heaven with Jesus. Those who knew him saw Jesus through him- through his joy, his laughter, his love, and his dancing!

As mentioned before, Griffin was an incredibly important member of Brio. He served Brio in the esteemed role of choreography leader during his junior and senior years. Griffin was always a people person, so it should be no surprise that he befriended seemingly every single show choir in Mississippi (and even beyond) during his time in Brio. Most show choir students would say that Griffin was the reason most of the show choirs in the region got along.

The connections Griffin has made throughout his life were spotlighted on the eve of November 26, 2023, when people from all over the state braved the cold weather and freezing gusts to stand in the BHS parking lot and honor Griffin's life.



*In Loving Memory of
Griffin Micheal Mangum*



The night was student-led and was the perfect way to remember Griffin. People shared memories, bible verses, and prayers to remember Griffin. They ended with a balloon release that filled the sky with Griffin's favorite colors: purple and blue.

Griffin's passing changed the lives of many, but it had a unique impact on the BHS Print Journalism family. Griffin was a crucial member of the Print Journalism staff in his junior and senior years, and he served with a passion for journalism and communications. He took pride in the work that he did for this paper, but more than that, Griffin took pride in the people whom he worked alongside. Griffin was a big brother to all of the staff, and he left a hole that will never be filled.

We love you G, we always will. - Yours, from Print Journalism



FRIENDSGIVING

Written by Destiny Barnes and Edited by Griffin Mangum

Autumn, also known as Fall, officially marks the beginning of the holiday season! The arrival of the holiday season means commemorating time with loved ones by spending time with family and friends and, most of all, having fun! With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, hosting a Friendsgiving is a great way to get everyone in the spirit! Friendsgiving

has grown in popularity up to this point. With the help of this new custom, one may continue the celebrations and get together with friends to enjoy delicious cuisine and each other's companionship.



BRANDON'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Written by Juarnyi Denson and Josie Saujon

It's that time of year again! December is here, and to ring in the start of the Christmas season, Brandon held its annual Christmas parade on December 1, 2023. Family, friends, and the general public kicked off this cheerful month with a unique march composed of local businesses, trailer contest participants, and groups of kids from every Brandon school. Everyone made unforgettable memories by witnessing Brandon come together and enjoy this year's holiday season! There is love in the streets of this community that never goes away. The town was thrilled to see the beautifully decorated floats each group had built and the joy on the children's faces with handfuls of candy. To close out the night, a very special guest, Santa Claus himself, wished us a very merry Christmas and, to all, a good night!

HANUKKAH

Written by Lauryn Lewis and Angela Jiang

Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, is a Jewish holiday lasting eight nights. This holiday always begins on the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar. The tradition of Hanukkah first started in 164 BCE when the Jews successfully revolted against the Seleucid monarchy. As part of Hanukkah, families light a candle of a menorah and receive presents each of the eight nights. During the rededication of the second temple, the Jews believed they had witnessed a miracle

when the oil they meant to last one night instead lasted eight days. Since oil was a central part of the Hanukkah miracle, eating fried foods in oil has become a tradition. Hanukkah is one of the most significant holidays in the Jewish community and is celebrated by many. So, as the Jewish would say, "Hanukkah sameach!" or "Happy Hanukkah!"



THANKSGIVING VS. CHRISTMAS

Written by Kaelynn Keller

Why is the holiday of expressing thanks to family and friends concealed by expensive, made-up Santa Claus? Has love for Christmas spun so out of control that Thanksgiving has been forgotten? When Halloween ends, we're left with two major holidays on November 1- Thanksgiving and Christmas. The controversial debate of when to start Christmas arises as soon as jack-o-lanterns are thrown away. Some agree that those infamous holiday carols should be shouted to the rooftop. Although Christmas is such a beloved and enticing holiday, Thanksgiving is important.

Thanksgiving has values and traditions that are different from Christmas. Thanksgiving consists of a plethora of food being set on the table for you and your family to enjoy, with those memories and traditions that hold much value. I have a dear memory of my grandmother around this time of year: Every. Single. Year. She would ask me to make leaves with various fall-colored construction paper and write our names along with the leaves, a paper turkey, a fall wreath, and other table arrangements. At the same time, she taught me about the traditions and culture of our ancestors. Afterward, we would watch Charlie Brown. We did it together and didn't have to spend hundreds of dollars to enjoy the holiday. On the night before Thanksgiving, I would see her and my mom take turns cooking all kinds of unique dishes: potato salad, upside-down pineapple cake, dressing, and the stars of the show, turkey and ham. After we ate, they would save it all and bring it to those who did not have food the next day. Those traditions and memories taught me to be genuinely thankful for what I had and, when I could, give to others. Thanksgiving deserves its time to be celebrated by itself. People deserve time to make and celebrate traditions that represent their appreciation for one another. We should celebrate Thanksgiving in honor of its history and the values instilled in us for being thankful without presents.

Thanksgiving beats out Christmas any day of the week. Because the spirit of giving thanks and being thankful, no matter the case, is always there. Christmas is only beloved because of superficial reasons and misplaced values. Christmas is supposed to celebrate the higher power you serve and the giving spirit. However, that spirit has been lost over the years. So many problems result from Christmas, financial woes, family arguments, and other issues that could easily be avoided. The pressure that Christmas places on families is out of place for such a beautiful holiday. Though it's nice to receive presents, many people have put those presents over the intended meaning of family. Thanksgiving's got to come back. Just maybe, if we put more emphasis on the holiday, some of the real Christmas spirit would return because of it.

Feel free to disagree, but the true values of Christmas have been lost, even to the point of running into and taking over Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a beautiful holiday with even more beautiful traditions; we cannot risk losing it.

art, theatre, and music

BHS THEATRE PRESENTS: "UP THE DOWN STAIRCASE"

Written by Madelyn Hayes

Brandon High School Theater held its first performance on November 14th. "Up the Down Staircase" was acted out by many students who had never been on stage before, as Mark Lunsford-Brandon's theater teacher, mentioned. "Up the Down Staircase" centered around a young, ambitious teacher named Sylvia Barrett. When faced with a somewhat rowdy class, she was disheartened.



Throughout the play, Barrett becomes attached to a

corrupted student, Joe Ferone. She believed that making a difference in his life gave her purpose as a teacher. When talking to a friend, Ellen, on the phone, Sylvia is told, "You're not there to fight for them. You're a teacher." Up the Down Staircase brought the trials and tribulations of education into discussion. I found it interesting when the class discussed Macbeth, and Jose, the quiet kid in her class, spoke up and said too much ambition could bring trouble. Throughout the play, Sylvia's purpose regarding her style is apparent. She insists on changing their futures yet does not see the change she is making. The suggestion box on her desk allowed her students to communicate her impact. They'd come up individually and confess their emotions surrounding her. Sylvia Barrett brought purpose to her students and motivated them to strive for success. When the lights dimmed at the end of the play, the audience burst into hoots and hollers. Up the Down Staircase was a beautiful way to honor the impact of education, and we are so proud of the Theatre 3 students!

BHS COMPETITION THEATRE

Written by William Hammack and Case Farnham

On November 29th, the Brandon Theater program had the pleasure of hosting the "Night of One-Acts," where they performed their show "A Monster Calls" for family and friends before they took it to Southern Miss for the Drama Fest competition! The story follows Connor (Ethan Young), a teenage boy who is being bullied at school; the main

target point for his bullies is Connor's mom (Carsen Flowers), who is fighting a losing battle with cancer. A sense of hope is brought about by a yew tree that is revealed to be a Monster (Luke Switzer) Who comes to Connor every night to tell him stories in order to cope with his Mothers illness and his constant harassment at school.



Each year, the Mississippi Theatre Association (MTA) holds two regional Drama Festivals- the North DramaFest, typically at Mississippi State University, and the South DramaFest, which takes place at the University of Southern Mississippi. All actors at these competitions aim to advance to the MTA statewide theater festival, an honor awarded only to the top-performing groups. As our theater Dogs traveled to Hattiesburg, their expectations were high; their one-act play- "A Monster Calls". With their performance, our dogs brought home the Distinguished Play Award, advancing for the first time in a decade. An All-Star Cast Award(award given to up to three performers who were given best in the show) was given to Luke Switzer for his role of Monster and Carsen Flowers for her role as Mom. We're so proud of our theater department and wish them the best of luck in January at the MTA statewide festival in Gulfport.

BHS A CAPPELLA

Written by Griffin Mangun

Brandon High School's two acapella groups, B-1-9 and Brilliance, went to Pearl River Community College's accafest! Getting on a bus at 6:30 in the morning, they made their way to PRCC to attend their first workshop! There were two workshops where both groups could develop their songs and make adjustments that helped the overall quality of each piece! The groups would have a chance to reach out and meet other groups and chat about all things



acapella! Both groups attended their sound checks and prepared for the upcoming night, where they would perform! It is safe to say that Accafest was a success as the night ended with two spectacular performances from each group!

BRANDON SHOW CHOIR'S "PREMIERE"

Written by Wyatt Eaton

Premiere is here! December 7th, 8th, and 9th, the BHS Show Choir held its annual showcase of everything each group under its umbrella has worked on all year. The night began with a moment of silence for Griffin Mangum, a beloved member and extremely important leader of the group who passed away recently. Our show choirs chose to decorate a Christmas tree in Griffin's honor, filled with ornaments that were representative of the special memories they



shared with Griffin. Each night would be dedicated to him, with students performing their hearts out exactly the way Griffin would have wanted. Brio, the high school's mixed group, and Bella's, the high school all-girl group, opened up the night with their fall set. After that, the two middle school groups, Blitz and Boom, would perform their competition sets. Soloist performances were on full display throughout the weekend with special performances from Case Farnham, Camden and Carsen Flowers, Kylie Pitts, and more. Bella's and Brio would close out each night by performing their competition shows. Premiere was a big success and a great start to the season, but more importantly, it was the perfect way to honor Griffin, doing what he loved. We can't wait to see what the BHS Show Choir will accomplish during this competition season.



MHSAA DANCE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Written by Josie Saujon

Congratulations to the BHS Dance team on being the back-to-back MHSAA 6A-7A Gameday State Champions! On December 9th, these dancers competed at the state-wide championship, where all twenty-nine participants left everything on the mat. The Dance Team endured early mornings and long practice hours to experience this special moment and bring the gold back to B-Town! After competing in regionals and state, they are now on to Nationals! Go Dogs!



MHSAA CHEER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Written by Destiny Barnes

This week was the MHSAA Cheerleading State Championship, and they fought hard, leaving the Brandon Community with a perfect zero deduction routine and claiming first runner-up! These ladies gave us an excellent performance, leaving everything they had worked hard for on the mat. Despite not getting the desired results, they will continue to grow as a team in preparation for the national competition! Go dogs!

GO VOTE!

Written by Wyatt Eaton

Earlier this November, Mississippi held its general election, where we had a loaded ballot. The polls were busy on Tuesday, November 7th, with nearly 800,000 votes counted. Here at the Paw Print, we're proud to announce that a few of our writers were also a part of the election. Kaelynn Keller, Will Hammack, and Wyatt Eaton were all volunteers stationed at Brandon City Hall, helping people access, understand, and submit their ballots.



The Governor's race between incumbent Tate Reeves (R) and challenger Brandon Presley (D) was undoubtedly the most consequential choice voters were tasked with on election day. The race was expected to be a close one, and it was; 51.6 percent of the vote was enough for Reeves to win the election without triggering a runoff, which would have been the state's first in history. Some other notable positions up for election were Lieutenant Governor, won by Delbert Hoseman; Attorney General, won by Lynn Finch; Secretary of State, won by Micheal Watson; and several seats in the MS House of Representatives.

Thank you to those who assisted in the voting process, and we are so excited to see what the future holds for Mississippi and its governing bodies!

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Written by Taylor Howerton

Here in Brandon, Christmas is undoubtedly our favorite holiday. We line the streets with trees, flags, and reefs; we even host a parade right through downtown. However, we never really consider what Christmas looks like in other countries. Here at The Paw Print, we wanted to allow the students to see a bit of what Christmas looks like to other cultures around the world.

In Italy, Nativity scenes are a staple of the season. Most Italians have at least one in their home and they appear frequently around towns. Beginning after World War II, Christmas trees swept through Italy like a storm. They started showing up in everyone's homes.

Eventually, every nativity scene, even the ones in town squares, would always have a Christmas tree beside them. One tradition that the children in Italy do is going out together and caroling around their hometowns. They sing and play songs on shepherd



pipes, wearing shepherds' sandals and hats. One tradition unique to Italy, which stems from the country's primarily catholic faith, is family's abstaining from red meat and dairy on Christmas Eve. Instead, most people eat a light seafood meal and attend what's called a "Midnight Mass". Epiphany is also very important in Italy. On Epiphany night, children are told that an old lady named "Befana", their version of a character similar to Santa in the US, brings presents for them. Children even put stockings up by the fireplace for Befana to fill. This wife's tale isn't universal though, in parts of northern Italy, the Three Kings might bring you presents at Epiphany rather than Befana. Babbo Natale, a translation of Santa Claus or Father Christmas also brings presents on Christmas day!

Just like in Italy, Christmas trees play a vital role in holiday festivities for Austrian families. A traditional Christmas tree is decorated with ornaments of gold and silver, stars made out of straw, sweets, candy wrapped in tin foil, gilded nuts, and decorated gingerbread cookies. Unlike the other Christmas traditions in Austria that might seem very familiar to Americans, Santa does not bring gifts to children. Christkind, or Christ Child, brings gifts to children instead! These gifts are not opened on December 25th but rather on Christmas Eve. And on Christmas Day, Austrians celebrate Krampuslauf, when people dress up as Krampus, quite a scary figure who's feared and eagerly anticipated by Austrian children. Krampus costumes typically include suits of sheepskin and masks adorned with carved goat horns. Throughout all of Christmas Day, these dressed as Krampus run rampant in the streets of Austria hoping to scare children into being on their best behavior.

In Poland, caroling is the nation's must-see tradition. It is extremely popular in Poland, with 80% of the population saying they sing Christmas carols at least at the dinner table during Christmas. At dinner, the Poles have multiple classic Christmas dishes like the herring, pierogi, and poppy seed cake. On Christmas Eve, they choose to enjoy "Christmas Eve Carp." Also, many Polish families attend Pasterka, a midnight mass celebrated by the Roman Catholics.

Up next: Japan! In Japan, Christmas is known as Kurisumasu. The main event in Japan is Christmas Eve. Christmas in Japan is much less family focused; the holiday is mostly celebrated by going on dates and hosting Christmas parties. In Japan, chicken is the main dish in meals when celebrating Kurisumasu. However, on Christmas Eve, they serve Christmas cake, similar to a strawberry shortcake as well as a Japanese dumpling made of rice flour. Like most countries, giving gifts is still a major hallmark of Christmas in Japan.

In Greece, Christougenna, is celebrated on December 25th and is a time for families to unite. Popular traditions include decorating the Christmas boat, or Karavaki, Greek Christmas carols, and baking Saint Basil's Cake, also known as vasilopita, representing good luck for the upcoming year. Aside from Saint Basil's Cake, other traditional features of Christougenna are delicacies like melomakarona (honey cookies), Kourabiedes (butter cookies), and diples, a Greek pastry. Greece's Saint Basil, who brings gifts and fashions a white beard paired with a red cape, is very similar to our very own Santa Claus.



One place where Christmas is not widely celebrated is Israel. That's because Israel is Jewish, and they celebrate Hanukkah. Christmas Day is the same as an ordinary work day for most people. The Jewish festival of Hanukkah is celebrated around the same time as Christmas. This year, Hanukkah started on the evening of Thursday, December 7th, and ended on the evening of Friday, December 15th. (There are no public holidays in Israel for Hanukkah either!) The largest Christian population in Israel is located in Nazareth, where Christmas lights are strung high and low throughout the city's streets and markets to celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah. There is a Christmas Eve parade which ends at the Church of the Annunciation. Then, there's an extensive display of fireworks and the Midnight Mass Service. The parade represents the journey that Mary and Joseph took in the Christmas story when they traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Many different groups participate in the parade, including Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Maronites, and even local Jews.

Every nation around the world has their own unique ways of celebrating this special time of year. Even if they look nothing like our traditions, that's okay! Our differences are what make us unique and allow us to all mix and blend the best parts of our culture. To the reader, whoever you may be, I hope you had just as much fun learning about Christmas around the world as we did.

And of course, Merry Christmas!



Written by Destiny Barnes

Our Brandon High School football players showed up and showed out in the MHSAA 7A playoffs with a leading win against Harrison Central. The Bulldogs battled hard and managed a comeback to win their district championship title, which granted them this opportunity following a season-opening split of two losses to Madison Central and Picayune. The Bulldogs started the game with two excellent scores in the 1st quarter, leading to 13-6. As Harrison Central attempted to make a comeback in the second quarter, our offensive and defensive line worked



hard to remain strong. The Bulldogs ended the night victorious with a big win, leaving the score 41-13. Go Dogs!

In the second round of the MHSAA 7A playoffs, the bulldogs gave Pearl another chance to eat dirt. With an intense fight against the Pirates, our football team fought to defend their title as the Rankin County Super Bowl Champions. The Bulldogs struck as the leading scorer in the first quarter with a rushing touchdown, leaving the opening score 7-0. The score at halftime was 28-10, but Pearl put up an intense fight in the second half to win the game in the last quarter. Ultimately, the Bulldogs defeated the Pearl Pirates with a final score of 42-25. This big win over the Pirates led to the Bulldogs hosting Oak Grove in the South State Championship. #EatDirtPurl

BRANDON HIGH BASKETBALL STUDENT SECTION THEMES

DATE	THEME
NOVEMBER 7	USA
NOVEMBER 14	SWAMP PEOPLE
DECEMBER 8	COWBOYS
DECEMBER 12	BLACK OUT
DECEMBER 22	CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 12	NEW YEAR'S EVE
JANUARY 19	EAT DIRT PURL
JANUARY 23	WHITE OUT
JANUARY 26	RED OUT
FEBRUARY 2	NEON

BASKETBALL SEASON

Written by Lauryn Lewis

The 2023-2024 basketball season is starting up! So, let's cover the details of upcoming games! Our ladies and men's teams defeated Brookhaven at their first home game on November 7th. And the 9th-grade girls won over Terry. We're thrilled to see our teams' momentum as the season is off to a tremendous start. Remember! There is a \$1 admission fee if you wear your school badge to any game (football excluded).

SOCCER SEASON

Written by Josie Saujon

Our Soccer Teams have begun their season! Even though it's just the beginning, our dogs are on fire! We are so proud of the hard work and dedication all members of their respective teams have put forth this season. On November 8th, the Lady Bulldogs had their annual signing day. Jordan Robinson and McKenzie Conner signed with Jones Community College, and Baileah Wilson, Jacie Rouse, and Rivers Gilreath signed with Holmes Community College. The boys' soccer team also had signing day. Preston Churchwell signed with Pearl River Community College, Jeison Ramos and Ty Loftin signed with Hinds Community College, and Hudson McIntyre signed with Co-Lin Community College. We can not wait to see them strive and represent Bulldog Athletics at the next level!



SOCCER: BRANDON VS. OAK GROVE

Written by Lauryn Lewis

The highly anticipated and challenging match between the Brandon soccer squad and Oak Grove's teams occurred on November 28. Our teams have had a track record of losing on the Oak Grove fields. The scores in both games were extremely tight, making for some intense matches. Both of our teams won on Oak Grove's home field this season. Our Ladies won 3-2, and the Men won 2-1. We wish them the best season yet, as they have plenty of long, chilly games ahead of them!

CROSS COUNTRY: STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Written by Lauryn Lewis

On November 4, 2023, the Brandon High School Cross Country attended the State Championship at the Cross Country Course at Choctaw Trails. The team worked hard for this day; overall, the boys got 11th place, and the girls earned 15th place in the whole state.

Also, on November 11, Our Cross Country team had seven boys who qualified for the Southeastern Cross Country All-Star Race: Jacob Armstrong, Thomas Beck, Carter Biswell, Taylor Lindsey, Clay Phillips, Rowen Powell, and Asher Purvisnce. Four girls also qualified: Aurora Latimer, Madalynn Pitts, Addison West, and Victoria Jones. In addition, Clayton Phillips, a senior, got special recognition for placing 6th place overall. They all put their blood, sweat, and tears into this, and we are so proud of our Cross Country team!

RANKIN COUNTY CHAMBER TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Written by Taylor Howerton

Our very own Mrs. Morgan Peagler received the Rankin County Chamber Teacher of the Year award. Morgan Peagler is one of Brandon High School's Self-Contained Special Education teachers. This year marks her 12th year in education and her 4th year at Brandon. She spent four years at Brandon teaching Special Education and her previous four years as an Academic Interventionist at Starkville High School. Married to Dane Peagler, a physics teacher, they have a two-year-old named Luka and an energetic and lovable terrier mix named Gus! You may be wondering what this award is for. This award is given



to someone who presents the superior ability to inspire students, possesses leadership on campus, and has the respect of their students and other faculty members. Mrs. Peagler undoubtedly expresses these qualities. Mrs. Peagler would like to thank her husband, who constantly reminds her that she is an excellent teacher to her students, even when she feels like she is failing; her little boy, Luka, is her greatest motivation. She stated, "I always want to make him proud by trying the best at everything I do, and my wonderful assistants, Shauna Williams and Christian Pearson, without whom my job would be almost impossible." Brandon High School highly appreciates you, Mrs. Peagler!

NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Written by Josie Saujon



Skylar Andrews was awarded the title of Brandon High School's New Teacher of the Year for the 2023-2024 School Year. Ms. Andrews began her time at BHS in the Spring of 2023 as a student teacher to Zach Roberts. As a Rankin County Native, Andrews always knew she wanted to teach in her early adolescence. She began the journey towards her position as a 9th and 10th grade English teacher by attending Delta State University and receiving a Bachelor of Science in English Education and an Associate of Arts Degree

from Jones College. This award recognizes Ms. Andrews' immense dedication to improving her students' education and enthusiasm for her job.

When asked for a word of advice she would give to aspiring teachers, she responded, "Everyone possesses the skills of being a teacher, but one must believe in it first... It only takes one teacher to make a difference."

BRANDON HIGHSCHOOL'S "DIRECTORS" OF THE YEAR

Written by Camden Flowers

Brandon High School recently announced their 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year, Charlie Woodward! Mr. Woodward is the director of Brandon High School's championship-winning Show Choirs Brio and Bellas and teaches Dual Credit Music Appreciation. In addition to his role in school, Mr. Woodward serves as the Worship Pastor at Eastside Baptist Church. His dedication to faith shows in the fruits of his leadership to his students. Mr. Woodward's hard work and dedication shine through the success of the Brandon Show choir. In the last four years alone, Brio and Bellas have had record-breaking seasons, competing with show choirs nationwide. However, Mr. Woodward's real impact at BHS has been on his students.

Mr. Woodward teaches his students to be excellent musicians by providing them with the tools to be successful. Even though Mr. Woodward's job is to teach music, he goes above and beyond by teaching his students to be excellent people. Mr. Woodward ensures that every student in his programs or classes knows they

are loved, cherished, and worthy of life. He encourages his students to cultivate positivity and pushes them to live lives they are proud of. Many of his students have gone on to study music education to shape young minds, just as Mr. Woodward did for them. Despite the success associated with Mr. Woodward, he claims that nothing would be possible without the constant support of his family, especially his wife, Mrs. Lauren Woodward. BHS proudly honors Mr. Woodward as the 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year! If you see Mr. Woodward, congratulate him on this outstanding achievement!

Working closely with Mr. Woodward is Mr. Butzin, the new Blitz and Boom director at Brandon Middle! This year he got an award of his own, BMS's "New Teacher of the Year". Hailing all the way from Ohio, he has come down to Brandon with the hopes of reinvigorating BMS show choir's winning spirit. Though the competition season hasn't started yet, it's clear to see Mr. Butzin's effect on the students and people around him. He works closely with the highschool show choirs as the band director and assistant director to Brio and Bellas. We congratulate Mr. Butzin on what he's accomplished this year and hope to see him and his groups succeed this competition season!



RANKING MOVIES

CHRISTMAS EDITION



"EVERY YEAR DURING CHRISTMAS, BECAUSE OF ELF, MY FAMILY ALWAYS WHISPER SHOUTS, "YOU'RE NOT SANTA!!" WHEN WE SEE A MALL SANTA."- JOSIE SAUJON



"EVERY CHRISTMAS EVE MY FAMILY AND I SIT ON THE COUCH AND I WATCH HOME ALONE 1&2, WHILE DRINKING HOT CHOCOLATE"- JAURNYI DENSON



"THE GRINCH WAS A BOOK I READ AS A CHILD AND THE ADAPTATION MADE CHRISTMAS MAGICAL AND HEARTWARMING THANKS TO JIM CARREY." - KAELYNN KELLER



"IT'S NOT GOING IN YOUR YARD, RUSS. IT'S GOING IN OUR LIVING ROOM."- CLARK GRISWOLD
"I SAY THIS PARTICULAR LINE TO MY HUSBAND EVERY YEAR AS WE ARGUE OVER THE SIZE OF OUR FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE. WE HAVE 16 FOOT CEILINGS, BUT ACCORDING TO MY HUSBAND, I CLEARLY DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE THE HEIGHT DOESN'T MEAN THE WIDTH WORKS FOR THE TREE OF MY DREAMS."- MRS. ELKINS



"EVERY-YEAR ON CHRISTMAS EVE, ME AND MY FAMILY WATCH IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CHANCE TO REFLECT ON LIFE AND APPRECIATE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH!" - CARSEN FLOWERS



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

-  THE SANTA CLAUSE (1-3)
-  THE POLAR EXPRESS
-  ORIGINAL RUDOLPH

-  CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRANKS
-  MICKEY'S ONCE AND TWICE UPON A CHRISTMAS



THIS OR THAT

THANKSGIVING EDITION



OR



Ham



Egg Bowl

OR



Iron Bowl



Friendsgiving

OR



Family Thanksgiving



In Town

OR



Road Trip



Pumpkin Pie

OR



Pecan Pie

**THIS MONTH
WE POLLED
YOU GUYS ON
YOUR
THANKSGIVING
FAVORITES.
HERE ARE THE
RESULTS!**

SENIOR PEP RALLY— TOGO DAY

Written by Zachary Perkins and Edited by Griffin Mangum

Brandon High School recently celebrated the Class of 2024 with the annual Senior Pep Rally. As part of a yearly tradition, Seniors began the day dressed in toga-styled attire, followed by performances from Senior Parents and the Class of 2025. Aside from the Make-a-Wish Pep Rally in the Spring and the First Day Pep Rally, this celebrates Bulldog Spirit and, most importantly, fights the cause of hunger in the yearly canned food drive competition against rival Northwest Rankin High School.

Brandon defeated Northwest in the canned food drive and the Football Game as anticipated! Overall, we would definitely call this a Bulldog win!



CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Written by Olivia Pettit

Brandon Bulldogs successfully canned the Cougars in the annual canned food drive! Students were motivated to help people in need by donating canned foods throughout the week-long event. At the end of the week, BHS held a pep rally to help raise more cans, requiring students to donate two dollars or two cans to attend. BHS is so proud of students for their hard work defeating NWR in this year's canned food drive!



DECA DISTRICT COMPETITION

Written by Zachary Perkins

Brandon High School's DECA team recently traveled to Brandon Municipal Complex to begin their season at the District Competition. BHS competed against nearby schools in the district, including Richland, McLaurin, Northwest Rankin, and Florence, ranging in events from Business Management, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Hospitality and Tourism, and marketing. All twenty-four competitors from Brandon High School qualified to compete at the state-level competition in Vicksburg, MS, in February of 2024, with nine placing first in their competitive division! In addition to their overall placements, Brandon High School's Griffin Mangum won a special award for his high test score on the Hospitality and Tourism Career Test. Congratulations to our DECA Bulldogs on their recent accomplishment!



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Written by Juarnyi Denson

In 1990, Congress passed a joint resolution signed into law by President George W. Bush, designating November as the first National American Indian Heritage Month (also known as Native American Indian Month). During Native American Heritage Month, we should honor not only the Indigenous history makers who've left a lasting legacy but also those who continue to shape our culture, govern their communities, and uphold our society. Native Americans communicate their dance, music, crafts, and customs with others in several ways. Later this month, the Multicultural Club will present dream catchers to teachers to thank you for supporting Native American Month. The Native Americans believed the nighttime air was full of pleasant and sour dreams, so dream catchers were essential for protecting sleepers, especially young ones, from bad dreams, nightmares, and evil spirits. Native American culture has a plethora of customs and traditions that are both complex and unique. Brandon High will continue to explore these customs that make up the culture. As a school, we will continue to support all cultures that have shaped us.



WORD OF THE MONTH

Written by Brogan Puckett

The word of the month for November is gratitude! Oxford Dictionary defines gratitude as "the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness." To me, gratitude means appreciating the little things people do for you and getting over your pride to say "thank you." This month is marked by the Thanksgiving holiday, a time for giving thanks and eating too much food with your family; regardless of your traditions, make it a point to show your gratitude to the friends and family who have positively affected you.



The December word of the month is generosity! The Oxford Dictionary defines generosity as "the quality of being kind and generous." This Christmas season, we can embrace generosity by being kind to one another. Giving gifts or performing acts of service are perfect ways to be generous and show your loved ones that you care! Merry Christmas, Brandon High School! Spread cheer, and draw near to those special people in your life!



"BY THE STUDENTS, FOR THE STUDENTS"

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