



# THE STUDENT VOICE

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**Briareus Society welcomes new students**  
By Ashleigh Sargent '09



Briareus members celebrate the opening of the new building with Mrs. Barker.  
Photo by Mrs. Abbott

Standard Brady polos, worn frequently by students, come in green, blue, white, and yellow. And now in black?

These polos are the signature of members of the Briareus Society, a select group of juniors who are chosen to aid the admissions office.

The society was named for a mythic Greek giant, Briareus, who had one hundred hands.

Members give tours and interviews to prospective eighth grade students and give their opinions of the students to Mrs. Abbott and Ms. Funo.

Briareus Society mem-

**Briareus** continued on p. 4

## In the Spirit of Christmas

By Tasha Giuda '08

Christmas time is here: time to get down to business for the Bishop Brady Rotary- Interact Club. The ninth annual Interact Children's Christmas Fair on December 8, 2007 was yet another great success.

Weeks of planning and preparation culminated as children under the age of twelve were helped by an enthusiastic group of students known as the Elves. Children could shop with the Elves, wrap their presents, and meet with Santa in the cafeteria after decorating their Christmas cookies.

This charity event is designed to offer children a chance to do their Christmas shopping without breaking the



David and Winsor Bean pick out a Christmas present for dad.  
Photo by Tasha Giuda

piggy bank.

Just ask David and his older brother Winsor, two of the Fair's best customers. Soon after the shy boys were dropped off by their parents, who were en route to the Craft Fair, David and Winsor enthusiastically embraced the Christmas spirit.

They immediately

found the gift they should be given, a Spiderman Water Bubbler. Though it took some holiday bribery to redirect their focus, the two did eventually find gifts for their parents, but after they made it to the checkout, they turned around and ran back to Spiderman. Back on task, they watched Elves wrap the presents as they spelled out names that would be written on the

tags.

For the members of the Interact Club, the reward for weeks of work was easy to see. It was in the smiles of children laden with presents as they tottered out of the room, thinking of where they would place the presents under the tree. ■

## Operation Santa brings presents to 140 children

By Katie Hayes '08

Operation Santa has had another successful year. Led by Mrs. Fairbanks and her four chair persons—Meg Kenney, Kim Therriault, Kirstie Goodwin, and Katie Hayes—the group helped give Christmas gifts to 140 children living in Concord, Portsmouth, and Laconia.

The organizers matched each child with a family or advisory that became his or her sponsor.

Bishop Brady has done



Operation Santa elves prepare to deliver the gifts.  
Photo by Mrs. Kimball

this program for over six years. This year was the second year in a row that Brady has sponsored 140 children, making Brady one of the largest contribu-

tors to the program.

The outpouring of generosity from the Bishop Brady community during this year's Operation Santa out did previous years. Each sponsor took his or her duty seriously and did it compassionately.

The gifts were stored in the trailers behind Brady. By the time all of the gifts were collected, the room was filled. Not only were

**Operation Santa** continued on p. 4

## Getting into the Christmas spirit By Katie Hayes and Megg Kenney '08

It's Christmas time again. The fire place in Admissions is roaring and the stockings in Guidance have been hung. Advisors have arranged Secret Santas. All of Brady has joined in the celebration.

Interact's annual Christmas Fair had another successful year, teaching children the value of giving to those they love. Our Operation Santa Christmas elves successfully delivered Christmas presents to 140 children. Student Council is selling Christmas canes, so students can send a candy cane to their friends or teachers. Mrs. Damour held her annual senior girl's ornament ex-



The Operation Santa Christmas elves rest after delivering gifts to 140 children. Photo by Mrs. Kimball

change. Her home is the consummate display of Christ-

mas spirit, with each wall, table and window deco-

rated. Everything is shaping up for a fabulous Brady Christmas.

However, in the excitement of an approaching vacation and the coming of Santa Claus, we must all remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Keep in mind the value of your family and friends who are close to you, and that a material object is not the only thing that you can give.

Have a very merry Brady Christmas this year. Happy Holidays from all of us at *The Student Voice*. ■

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A Christmas tradition that my family shares is putting an extra tree in my room.

When I was young, I would wake up at 4 or 5 a.m. on Christmas, then wake up my parents as well. This was not something they enjoyed, so they put another small tree in my room so when I woke up early I could open and play with three or four presents for a while and not have to wake them up.

They don't put presents under my tree anymore but the tradition of having one has stayed.

-Amber Valentyn '08

Dear Editor,

My family has had a lot of funny moments, especially during the Christmas season.

One year, when my brothers and I were young and still believed in Santa, we woke up super early like normal and opened all our presents.

After the gifts were opened and our meal was eaten, my mother suddenly got this horrified look on her face. She ran down to the shed and returned with a large bag of wrapped gifts. Smiling sheepishly, she

handed us the gifts she had forgotten.

The tags told us that they were from Santa. After that, we stopped believing in Santa, but we didn't care because we now knew where we could find our presents.

-Chelsea Duvernay '08

Dear Editor,

We try to do everything we can to make Christmas easy for Santa. That's why we make our living room into Santa's truck stop.

So, we turn off the heat and open a window, we shovel dirty snow into the fireplace, and we leave for Santa a plate of dry, reheated cookies and a glass of powdered milk. We tell Santa to use a little Christmas magic to reconstitute it himself. Santa says it's just like home.

-Anonymous

Dear Editor,

When I was seven, it was Christmas and we were all excited. My brother and sister and I were pumped about opening up presents.

On Christmas day we went downstairs and my parents forgot to put the presents out. They told us that Santa put our presents in their closet. It was funny now that I think about it.

-Jordan MacIntosh '08.

Dear Editor,

A cool family tradition that I have done for the past few years has been going down to Newton, M.A. to see my grandmother play the organ at Christmas Eve mass. It's a pretty good time, considering that my grandma shreds on the organ.

After that, we go back to her house with my family and uncle and eat some Chinese food. Then we hang out and talk.

-John McKenna '09

Dear Editor,

Every Christmas Eve, my brother and I are allowed to open one of the Christmas presents that we would open on Christmas Day. My parents choose which present we open. Every year, my parents choose presents that are ironically pajamas. When my brother and I were younger, we hated this tradition, but now we look forward to it and wear our Christmas pajamas every Christmas Eve night.

-Anonymous

Dear Editor,

Every Christmas, my entire family partakes in an annual Yankee Swap. We each bring a gift and sit in a circle in front of the fire. As we choose numbers and exchange the gifts, we laugh and enjoy the presence of one another. It is a fun and

bonding experience for us all.

-Kristen Pellerin '09

Dear Editor,

My whole family always puts up our tree the weekend after Thanksgiving. Every Christmas Eve we always put up our stockings and we always order Chinese food. We eat with our Bow friends and watch Christmas movies.

-John Freese '09

Dear Editor,

Every Christmas my Grandmother makes dozens of meat pies to give to everyone in the family. We have never had a Christmas without meat pie. When I was younger, my great-grandmother made them. Now that my grandmother is getting older, my sister and I want to learn the family recipe from my grandmother. After my Grandmother is gone, I want this tradition to continue.

-Kelly Mango '08

## Nate Berube: Average Teenager by Day, Polo Player by Night

By Tasha Giuda '08



Nate Berube dressed to play on his horse, Sterling.

Photo Courtesy of Nate Berube

Senior Nate Berube has the common characteristics of a Bishop Brady High School student. Not so common, however, is his athleticism in the unusual sport of polo.

Polo, a sport imported from Europe, is the pastime that sets Nate apart from his peers.

Nate's initial interest in Polo was coincidental. "I started four years ago when I couldn't play hockey anymore because of my knee," he said. Following his surgery, Nate's mom suggested he look into polo. Soon, he was playing for the Seacoast Polo Team. Practicing for the sport was easy thanks to his three horses: Sterling, Tina, and Ghost.

Nate plays both outdoor and indoor polo. He practices after school on

Fridays and on Sunday mornings, with games on weekend nights.

Polo has taken Nate on a tour of colleges, from games at Yale to indoor polo at the UConn, and to tournaments at Cornell.

Nate said that many colleges—namely UConn, Yale, Harvard, Cornell, and Skidmore—offer polo as a club sport, and he has been in contact with coaches from both UConn and Cornell, who look to attract polo players like Nate.

During the summer, Nate is able to devote substantial time to the sport. Last summer, he stayed at Brushy Creek in Texas for three weeks and also attended a

***Nate's future undoubtedly holds promise for more polo playing, so expect to see him featured in even more magazines.***

ball in Dallas held for the Triple Crown.

Nate loves the physicality of polo. "You can use the horses to check," he said. He explained that, like hockey, polo is fast and exciting; it was a smooth transition from the hockey rink to the polo field.

Just how big is a polo field? Nate says that it is typically the size of seven football fields, but indoor fields are smaller.

Few teens play polo in NH; luckily, polo teams are not very large. Outdoor polo is played 4 vs. 4, while indoor is limited to 3 vs. 3. The players' uniform consists of black riding boots, kneepads, white pants, brown belt, team jersey, helmet, and cage or safety glasses.

The fact that Nate plays such a unique sport surprised his friends at first, but they have grown accustomed to his unique pastime, and consider it to be a charming attribute of their friend.

Nate has appeared multiple times in the magazine *Polo Players' Edition*. He was recognized for participation in the ECatt Tournament in Brandywine, PA.

Since Nate will continue to play polo, expect to see him in print more often. ■

## Play Review: *The Werewolf's Curse*

By Travis LaCouter '09



Will Stackpole as Otto, one of his seven roles.

Photo by Star Smith

The Bishop Brady Players presented *The Werewolf's Curse or Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow* over the weekend of December 7th. The play, written by Billy St. John, was directed by Karen Braz, and produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

This "outrageous, supernatural comedy" is full of tongue and cheek humor, snappy dialogue, and zany characters. There were fifteen cast-members and four crew-members.

The play was well received by the public, who left the theater smiling. Attendance was decent, with the Saturday night performance attracting the largest crowd—mostly students and friends of the cast—while mostly parent and teacher attended Friday night

***Most every actor truly came into his or her character by performance time, and one could confidently say that the play was funny!***

and the Sunday matinee.

The production was helped by; Seth Head (a student from CHS) who worked lights; Mike Harmon and Gerry Brasley, who built the set; and Laura Naugle and Bianca Bird, who painted the set. Kelly Owen, Curly Vezina, Mrs. Barker, Suzanne Walsh, and Lonna Abbott also contributed.

As far as the acting went, every actor assumed his or her character by performance time, and one could con-

fidently say that the play was funny!

Kudos to Will Stackpole for playing seven different characters; one scene featured four of them in rapid succession!

Congratulations to the Brady Players for their successful rendition of a challenging play! ■



Ashley Sullivan (Madame Clara Voyant) divining the antidote to the potion.

Photo by Star Smith

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**Athlete of The Issue:**  
**Kathleen Grennan**

by Ashleigh Sargent '09



Kathleen Grennan is the captain of the Girls' Basketball and Cross Country teams. Kathleen has been captain for two years and a varsity player for four.

She is also a member of the Music Ministry, NHS, Briareus Society, and chorus. Always on the honor roll, Kathleen is a leader in the Brady community. Meredith Kalinski says, "She has a great sense of humor, is an inspiring leader, and adds a positive aspect to the team. ■"

In the first week of the Brady girls' basketball season, Mr. Billings gave each team member a sheet of paper titled, "We win together, and we lose together."

The article explained how the success and the failure of a team is the responsibility of the entire team. With so much raw talent and experience, the key to success will be teamwork.

The past few seasons have all ended the same way for the girls' basketball program. After amassing seven or eight wins in the regular season, each year the team has been handed a loss in the first round of the State tournament.

This year's team hopes to end the cycle. Starting the season with 3 wins and 2 losses, the team continues to grow and develop.

The starters—Emily Spain, Kathleen Grennan, Ashleigh Sargent, Chantel Ducharme, and Jordan Grant—will be aided by freshman Meghan Sargent and Captain Jillian Nem-



Jordan Grant lofts a shot over Kathleen Grennan and Chantel Ducharme. Staff Photo

follows Mr. Billings' advice: "Play hard, play smart, and play together."

After two losses to Coe-Brown and Bow at the beginning of the season, the team has rebounded with four wins, including a killer win against Plymouth—at Plymouth. Brady fans who attended said that it was a nail-biter to the end, and that it "sure felt good to come out with a win."

The team will play a tournament at home over the holidays. ■

*With so much raw talent and experience, the success of the team will depend on teamwork.*

covich. When needed, Mr. Billings will also be able to rely on juniors Carly David, Tricia Jobe, Bridget Butterworth, Meredith Kalinski, and Kelsea Marchand.

The Girls' Basketball Team is sure to improve as the season continues if the team



Coach Billings contemplates the team's recent victory. Staff photo

**Briareus** continued from p. 1  
 bers nominate sophomores, who will constitute the next year's class. To determine the membership, nominated students are tested on their basic knowledge of Brady and evaluated as leaders and role-models. The highest scoring nominees are inducted.

During their double studies, Members give tours to visitors and transfer students. They sit in on interviews with Mrs. Abbott and with Mrs. Funo.

Briareus members do not simply wear black polos

and give tours. They serve as leaders inside and outside the Brady community. Members are more than the best students or athletes. They are well-rounded and involved students who have a positive opinion of the school. Briareus members help at various events throughout the year.

Briareus is a society of leaders and students who share one goal—helping the Brady community to grow and expand. ■

*They are well-rounded and involved students who have a positive opinion of the school.*

**Operation Santa** continued from p. 1



Mrs. Fairbanks congratulates her elves. Photo by Mrs. Kimball

there 140 bags filled with presents, but alongside the bags were 12 new bicycles for the children who requested them.

The presents were delivered to the National Guard Armory Garage on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fourteen

Bishop Brady students, four of whom were dressed as elves—the rest wore Santa hats—loaded the buses at Bishop Brady and then delivered the presents. "Delivering all of the presents was unreal. I could not believe that all of the work that we put in had finally paid off and now our 140 children would celebrate Christmas. I felt just like Santa," said Megg Kenney.

Next year, Meredith Kalinsky, Anna Kenny, and Devin Noel will be chair persons. ■