

Sports



Will the cross country team follow the softball team and make it to state?

SEE SPORTS, 4



Books! Books! Books!



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Small School, Big Stories

Volume 1 Edition 2

Friday, October 1, 2021

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Girls Softball Wins State Championship!

By Sawyer Drury and Finn Kuhn

The Brimfield Girls 2021 softball team has become the first ever state champions in Brimfield history! After 3 intense games the talented team pulled through with a win in the championship game against a good Bloomington Corpus Christian team.

The first game the girls played was against the Lexington Minutemen. The first inning was a 0-0 tie. That didn't last long, though. During the second inning, the Lady Indians scored 9 runs to pull out a lead.

With the student sections' voices worn out from cheering, the girls continue to dominate the game in the 3rd inning. The defense put a stop to any attempt to get a run, led by super-star pitcher Schyer Meinders.

At the end of the game the team run ruled the Minutemen and pulled out with a 10-0 victory!

Since the girls won the first game, they went on to compete in the next game. They played the Pawnee Indians. As hard as the other team fought, Brimfield still took the win. The final score of the game, Indians vs Indians, was 14-3!

With the 2nd game out of the way, it was time to play the 3rd game against Bloomington Corpus Christian.

In the first inning the Saints made a run, but it didn't discourage the players. They all kept their cool and ended the inning.

The second inning was when things started looking up. Brimfield was now up to bat, with Reese Legaspi on 2nd from her single, Sawyer Drury sac bunted moving Legaspi to 3rd. Mia on second from her



line drive to left field, and Layni Linthecum on first from her hit to mid centerfield. Kendyl Binder bombs a line drive over the left fielder's head bringing in 3 runs. The score is now 3-1. Long story short the Saint sand Brimfield get another one. Making the score 4-2.

One of the deciding factors was Anja Nelson making a diving catch.

"If Nelson dropped the ball it would've changed the game," Coach Steve Updyke said.

Just like that it was the final inning of the game.

Pitcher Sawyer Drury struck out the first two batters that came up to the plate. As the next one came up to bat the crowd could hardly contain their excitement. The batter came up to the plate.

Strike one.

Strike two.

The batter hit it over 1st basemen, Meinders, too far up for her to catch.

Drury threw 4 balls, sending the next batter to first.

"I was a nervous wreck, but I didn't show it. No way was I letting the other team and fans think I was scared," said Sawyer.

Number 14 was on the plate. First pitch was thrown.

14 hits it straight to 3rd base. Wiewel fields it and throws it straight to 1st base.

The umpire throws a fist up in the air.

Out.

For the first time ever in Brimfield history the softball team are state champions.

A team as good as ours doesn't just form overnight. Effort from the athletes is important, but it couldn't have been done without the coaches. The varsity team was coached by Kurt Juerjens and co-coached by Steve Updyke. Ashley and Riley Cornelison coached the JV team. Both of the varsity coaches voiced how proud they are of their athletes.

Kurt Juerjens said, "I thought they were awesome. They were there to play."

The girls showed that they wanted to win with the level of focus and effort they all were playing with. Steve Updyke said this about the girls' drive.

"Everything we worked on all year, the girls listened."

Josie Wiewel, the player that made the winning play, gave everyone but herself credit.

"Anya got a diving catch in right field, I think the team played very very well."

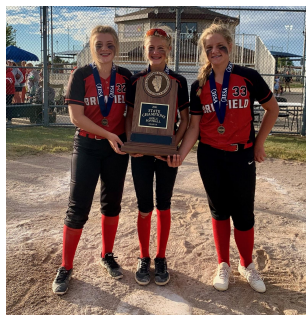
Layne Johnson attended the game and voiced how confident he was in the girls talents.

"I was confident the entire time that they would win."

Juerjens was equally as confident. When the line drive was hit towards Wiewel he said this.

"Josie has been so accurate all year long, so please get this one throw. When she made the out I just thought... finally!"

All of the girls on the team did an absolutely amazing job competing. They not only brought in a win for Brimfield, but represented what it is to be a Lady Indian. Their sportsmanship never wavered the entire season, whether it was when the score was 10-0 or 0-10. "It was definitely a team effort, nobody quit, everyone held their composure," said Sawyer Drury



BGS Fall Book Fair

By Noah Malone and Jackson Kappes

A book fair is coming to Brimfield Grade School October 11th-15th. You may have noticed that it is no longer called the Scholastic book fair as it has been in the past. Instead, it is called the Follett book fair.

With the bookfair being around for such a small amount of time it may be hard to make it there. However, there is still a way you can get your books without actually being there in person. The online fair is going on right now until October fifteenth.

"All books should be available online. This way everyone can find time to get their books and read". Librarian Mrs. Wagner stated.

Everyone should be able to find the perfect book. No matter if you like fiction or nonfiction, If you are a first grader or an eighth-grader you should be able to find a great book to read.

"There will be up to 300 different types of books". Mrs. Wagner said.

Books are brought to BGS at no charge.

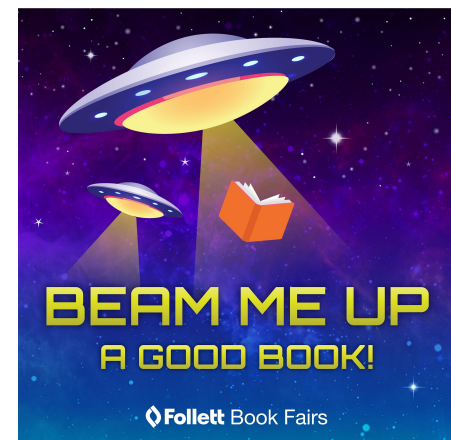
"When books are ordered by the school, they get sent to the school free of charge," This can help to greatly improve the book fair because it allows us to get more books and we do not have to pay for shipping.



After ordering your books you can head to the school to pick them up.

The wide variety of books, ease of purchasing them, and the smiles on children's faces make all the hard work worth it.

"I do enjoy doing the book fair because of the decorating and seeing everyone's reactions to their new books". This just shows a small amount of



librarian Mrs. Wagner's passion for the book fair and her care for the kids and their enjoyment.

With all these types of books, there are bound to be leftovers. Sadly, all these leftover books don't just go to the school library.

"Anything that is leftover gets sent back to the company," So get your books while you can because they won't be available after October fifteenth.

With a wide variety of books able to satisfy people of all ages, this year's book fair should be a blast!

You can order books online at efairs.follettbookfairs.com with the code 97562.

Public Library Offers Activities for Kids of All Ages

By Sean Crowe and Brody Kenney

The Brimfield Public Library offers many programs this October. People of all ages can attend these events. Events like escape rooms, reading challenges, and building creative things. K-8 students can attend these events. K-8 students can have lots of fun doing the programs.

"The escape room and tech programs are the most popular." Katie Hahn the children's librarian said when talking about how fun the programs are.

You don't even need to enjoy or be good at reading to participate in these programs. All students can have fun at the library.

"I'm having fun whenever the kids are having fun" said Katie Hahn.

Katie works hard to set up the programs and she invites kids to come and have a good time at the library because she enjoys it just as much as the kids. The library tries to keep the programs fresh with new ideas and themes.



"We look at the internet to see other ideas libraries are doing and we also ask the kids what they would like for us to do," said Katie Hahn. Kids all like different things so Katie wants to have their ideas shown in the programs that they can enjoy the library.

The library is still doing the programs even with COVID-19 happening and enforces you to wear masks and social distance.

"If the weather is nice out we will take what we're doing outside and take our masks off while still social distancing," said Katie Hahn when talking about the COVID-19 precautions. Nobody likes masks but if the library wants to keep having these fun events then everyone should wear masks and social distance.

You do not have to participate in a program if it does not sound fun to you. If you have any ideas to make some of the programs more interesting and, share them with the library.

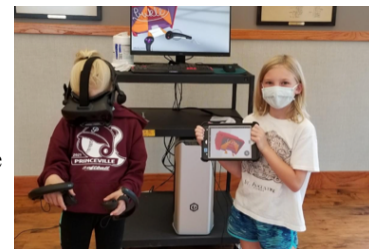
"The reading challenges have been losing popularity. Maybe not sounding fun enough" said Katie Hahn when talking about some of the programs having less popularity.

If you think the programs sound fun you should check out the website for the Brimfield Public Library.

They also have to set up the programs and get the materials needed. If you register too late they will not have enough materials for you to use.

"If we need paint for the event we will set it out where the kids are working" They make sure they have all the materials needed and set them up so that they are ready to use.

The Brimfield Public library programs are fun and exciting. You can learn a lot from the programs too. If you want to have a good time you should join the programs. The library loves seeing the programs grow in popularity.



Substitute Teacher Shortage

By Kaeden Schatsiek and Wesley Koller

The sub shortage at Brimfield Grade School is getting very out of hand during this school year. Mrs. Bren Dwyer and Mrs. Smith, a current sub at BGS, have both felt the effects of the substitute teacher shortage. There are many reasons why people might not have wanted to come to Brimfield and sub or just sub in general. The sub shortage is something that is serious all around the country and some people have different opinions on why it is an issue.

“At least in these last couple years, maybe it was COVID,” Mrs. Smith said.

“Whether it be they’re nervous about contracting COVID or there are so many restrictions, they don’t want to deal with those restrictions as a sub,” said Bren

During COVID there are a lot of worries that there won’t be enough subs to fill the spots of the teachers that have to miss certain days. Mrs. Bren the secretary of the Grade School is the person who does all the scheduling for substitute teachers and at times, this can be a daunting task.

“Yes, there are days where I feel like I’m moving puzzle pieces around trying to make them fit,” says Bren.

Sub shortages have affected lots of areas and districts. Brimfield is one of the districts that is affected.

“I think it’s difficult sometimes if multiple teachers have to be gone on the same day, sometimes it’s hard to find coverage for all of them, but I don’t want to tell my teachers ‘no you can’t have that day off for whatever reason,’” said Bren.

Teachers are very overwhelmed by the sub shortage. They also feel the weight of the sub shortage.

“There are when we have to take off because sometimes we need it... I think me and other teachers are very conscious that there is a sub shortage and I am only going to take time off if I absolutely have to.” Says Mr. Tilly.

If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, contact Bren at bren.dwyer@brimfiel309.com.



October School Calendar

2 - GBB @ St. Jude
2 - CC Dare Classic
4 - GBB vs. Elmwood
5 - GBB vs. Williamsfield
7 - GBB vs. Knoxville
9 - GBB @ Lewistown
9 - CC Sectionals
11 - School - Holiday Waved
11 - GBB vs Midland
13 - 1:50 Dismissal
13 - GBB @ North Fulton
15 - End of 1st Grading Period
16 - CC State
18 - GBB vs. Dunlap Middle
19 - Report Cards Sent Home
19 - GBB vs. Illini Bluffs
20 - 1:50 Dismissal
20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
21 - 1:50 Dismissal
21 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
22 - No School
23 - GBB vs. Princeville
25 - GBB @ Monroe
26 - GBB vs. Peoria Heights
28 - GBB vs. Norwood

Student Spotlight: Influential Eisley

By Whitney Smith

Eisley Soucie, in Mr. Tilly’s 6th-grade class, is a hard-working determined student who portrays the #BELITE. Eisley has really shown Mr. Tilly and former teachers that she has a kind heart and is always setting a good example for others.

“She leads by example,” teacher Mr. Tilly said.

Along with being an awesome student she also runs cross country. Her coach, Mrs. McKinty thinks she is a hard-working runner trying to always chop time off of her mile and trying to improve.

“She is a very hard worker but very mature and determined for her age,” said Coach McKinty.

Eisley is known for her kindness and her sweet presence. She doesn’t seek attention from other people and is self-motivated.

Eisley is a prime example of the #Belite and really “embodies it,” said Mr. Tilly. She really “pays attention to detail on her school work,” said Mr. Tilly. She wants to be the best version of a student she can be. That’s why she is different from other students because she is always giving her best effort and is giving 100% all the time.

“Most students who might be a little more introverted might tend to be overlooked, but that still means they are important and serve an important role in our school,” Mr. Tilly said. Eisley may be a little more on the introvert side, but her drive for her school work and sports makes her shine. Eisley’s teachers and coaches all say that “they can’t wait to see what she will do in 7th and 8th grade”.



Cross Country: How will their seasons end?

By Beau Grunow

The 2021 boys and girls cross country teams look very promising to win sectionals and potentially go to state. This time the girl's team has 17 runners. The 17 are Brittany McGowan, Anja Nelson, Brooke McGinn, Taylor Forney, Jayla Binder, Audrey Schachtrup, Mya Hill, Riley Kelly, Rosalie Higgs, Channing Quiram, Katie Doe, Ashlyn Bertsch, Easley Soucie, Reese Jones, Aubrey Schmitt, Bristol Schmidgall, and Sienna Strahm.

Girls cross country coach Mrs. McKinty said, "to have 17 girls shows that we have a strong program and a lot of promising runners."

The boys also have a very promising season because of the way they practice and the effort they put forth. If the team continues to forth effort they will make it far in the season. The boys' names are Cohen Arbogast, Luke Estes, Jackson Kraft, Dallas Graham, Calvin Peelle, Logan Siegel, Kai Nelson, Danny Ellen, Cole Cahill, Cam Kraft, and Geoffrey Schachtrup.

"At this rate, I am hoping to see them peak at sectionals and maybe state," said boys cross country coach Ms. Meyers.

There are only good qualities that a cross country runner has in school and out of school at practice. These qualities make them excel at their sport.

Coach Meyers said, "Each runner has a good work ethic, a positive attitude, they must be coachable, and lastly they are mentally tough."

Teamwork is used in cross country to boost each other's morale and challenge each other while running.

"When training we group up with the people with a similar pace who also encourage each other," said girls cross country coach McKinty.

In order to place high in each meet, you must have a good practice to increase your speed and also your stamina.

Coach McKinty said, "We will have some days to work on increasing our speed or some days, we will do track workouts; Also we will be in groups for long distances."

Coach Meyers is a great coach and speaks from experience. Both Coach Meyers and Coach McKinty ran cross country in high school. Coach Meyers also ran cross country in college.

Coach Meyers said, "I ran cross country as a student my high school and college years"

Coach McKinty also said, "Yes I ran as a student and Ms. Meyers' dad was my coach."

Both cross country coaches agreed on the idea that both teams are strong this year and as long as they keep up on practicing and improving they will make it to the postseason.



Opinion: Should people under 18 be able to vote for president?

By Brittany McGowan

Yes, because younger people, mainly teenagers, have strong opinions on the future. Teenagers know what they want, but they usually don't get a chance to be heard. We should let them help decide the country's future. Some younger people have bigger responsibilities than some adults but still aren't taken seriously. Kids are just as important as adults. As younger people, we have good accomplishments and intelligence. More rules apply to younger children rather than adults.

Another reason that they should lower the voting age is that we could change the lives of younger people. It could also help increase voter turnout. Candidates could get more votes and even a closer chance of winning if we change the voting age. Everyone's opinion matters. There's no wrong answer to voting. They vote on what they want, not what society is telling them. If you're 16 and driving, surely you are responsible enough to vote. Plus, if someone turns 18 it doesn't mean that they are responsible and smart enough to vote.

Even though you have to be in a certain age group to vote, it isn't fair to restrict something like voting just because you are too young. Kids shouldn't miss out on voting when they are young because even though they may be young they still should have a chance to make a big change in the world. Some people don't even vote when elections come around so why waste a vote when you could give that to someone else who wants to vote. Even if they have a different opinion than you, don't waste something valuable if you know there could be a good use for it. Voting is very important and valuable.

Voting helps the economy. All opinions help our country grow. Even kids' opinions. Kids are the next generation in our society. Many people under the age of 18 even have jobs. So, why don't they get to vote? Many people probably think that and we just don't know. So, why isn't the government letting them? We may never know why, but the world isn't set in stone. We can't always change it, but we can always try.