

# Culture shift at BAHS

## Positivity plays a huge role on campus

by Aaron Sawyer  
Pulse Staff Writer

Throughout the school this year, something very strange has been happening. There has been record high attendance for volleyball and softball games, students have signed up to go to away scrimmages, and the student section has even showed up in a big way to away games. Not to mention that Broken Arrow won the Week 1 Fox 23 News "Student Section of the Week" award.

All accolades aside, something even stranger has been happening: students appear to be happy. The 'H' word that high school students have avoided for years is finally becoming obvious all over. It sounds crazy, but some are even smiling on campus.

Senior Logan Brown has noticed a change in the attitudes of kids.

"It has been so much more positive this year, I am feeling good and ready to go," Brown said.

All around Broken Arrow, students are being nicer to each other and the culture here is becoming all around more positive.



**T-I-G-E-R-S** The student section participates in a chant led by the Jungle Squad at a home volleyball game on September 22. (Photo by Andra Fauvell)

What's the reason behind this phenomenon?

In simplest terms, students are finally realizing the importance of enjoying their high school experience by becoming engaged. They're making a real attempt to get involved in activities and sporting events, and they're even volunteering to help coordinate the events.

Senior Miranda Shaw has noticed a change, and gives credit in part to the student council of Broken Arrow High School.

"We have a very fun and outgoing group for student council who gets the entire school excited for events," Shaw said.

The change doesn't stop with the students. Teachers are noticing a change too. Shelly Sheffler, who has been teaching at the high school for nine years, notes a difference.

"Students have been respectful and seem pleased and excited to be a part of BA," Sheffler said.

When it comes down to it, change is happening, but

students cannot just settle for change.

The school should aim for a movement among not only this campus, but also the surrounding schools. In the public eye, students, administrators and Fox News alike are noticing the positive change that has been surrounding Broken Arrow.

If students allow this change to be the catalyst for a significant movement, there would be no words to fathom the impact it would have on our community.

### STUDENT LIFE

## Pride members are busy in the fall

by Shaelyn Disotell  
Pulse Staff Writer

Being a member of the Pride of Broken Arrow is very difficult in general, but it's even harder in the fall for three reasons: school, school, and more school. Anybody taking AP or Pre-AP classes knows the struggle, but anyone that is in Pride and taking those classes, lives the struggle. With rehearsal times lasting until almost seven o'clock every night, having four hours of homework is barely possible.

After showering and eating dinner, it's already nine o'clock, and every class assigned homework. This is an everyday routine for Pride members. Many teachers are understanding of students in extracurricular activities, but it is still tough to manage it all.

"I try to keep up with all of my homework and get assignments before we go on big trips," senior Jessie Wolters, a Pride member of three years, said.

Pride members are often creative in their approach to find times to get all of their work and studying completed.

"I'll just try to find time at lunch or during free time to do homework, but we usually have time at home after rehearsal," junior percussionist Courtney Hamilton said.

It becomes even more stressful around competitions, which



**SMILE** Pride member juniors Cassidy Rushing and Grace Burch pose for a photo before the Union game. (Photo by Tirezah Perry)

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# Jungle experiences rapid growth

by Hailey Cochran  
Pulse Staff Writer

This year, Broken Arrow's student section, The Jungle, has gotten bigger and better. More and more students keep showing up to events with a ton of spirit and lots of their friends. This year BA made "The Jungle Jersey", which is a shirt that all students wear to the games to support the team.

"Over 750 have already been sold, and we just ordered 325 more," Student Activities Liaison Whitney Nolen said.

Seeing how many jerseys and athletic passes have already been sold shows that more students are attending the events. Aaron Sawyer, the leader of the student section, has pumped up the crowds with his energy and has been a big part in bringing more students to football, volleyball and softball games.

"The student section has grown since last year because

kids have realized how fun it is to scream and have school spirit. There is just a more positive atmosphere this year, and the kids are feeding off of it," Sawyer said.

The student section has already taken around 300 kids to Coppell, Texas, to support the football team, and Broken Arrow won Fox 23's "Fans in the Stands" during week one. Ashley Bivins, a senior at BA, has attended almost all the games this year and last year.

"There is way more spirit this year because students are going to games in bigger groups, getting louder and dressing out," Bivins said.

The Broken Arrow student council is still coming up with more themes for games and new ways to get more students involved. It is their goal to see a continued growth, with each game louder and prouder than the last.

## Pride *Continued from Page 1*

are in October and November. Members try to get all of their work before they go, but some teachers are not prepared that far ahead. Fairly often, members end up having to wait until they get back to get all of the make-up work. Then, with only two days to get all of it done and turned in, those are the times they end up staying up all night trying to finish it.

There are many different reasons why members stick

with it and keep pushing, even when they are extremely tired.

"The memories, the experience, and the joy of finishing and getting closer with others who have a passion like yourself makes it worth it," junior clarinet player Charles Borsom said.

Dealing with homework and studying is tough, but Pride members believe it is all worth it in the end.



**TRAVELING TEAM** Hundreds of students, parents and fans accompanied the football team to Coppell, Texas, to play the Cowboys. (Clockwise from top left) Sophomores Cheyenne Akins and Jade Haley cheer from the sidelines. Students release corn starch at the beginning of the game. Several buses full of students made the trip. Devin Kruse makes a run during the game. (Photos by Victoria Corbitt)

## BAHS travels to Coppell, Texas

by Zack Rodgers  
Pulse Staff Writer

On Sept. 11, the Broken Arrow High School football team traveled to Coppell, Texas, with the company of almost 300 student fans. With the support of the students and over 100 parents, the football team was cheered on with passion and school spirit.

The game started strong with both teams dominating their opponent. With under two minutes left in the fourth quarter, Broken Arrow led with a score of 17 to 10. As the Tigers tried to defend their lead, the Coppell Cowboys threw a 70-yard pass for a touchdown. Time wound down as the Tigers tried to finish the game with a touchdown of their own, but time ran out with the score tied. The Cowboys were stopped on their first try in overtime, leaving it all on the table for the Tigers to take. The Tigers then scored on a 15-yard rushing play.

"I think they played like they always do - hard," student council teacher Spencer VanDolah said.

One contributing factor to the team's success came from the Jungle, the Broken Arrow student section. With the excitement of an out-of-state game and hundreds of fans there with sheer excitement to cheer, the stadium was lit up with new energy. Gloria Kermanshahi, an active student council member, attended the game and helped plan activities.

"I think the support and enthusiasm really helped motivate the football team," Kermanshahi said.

The band and cheerleaders worked together with the student section to make the experience absolutely unforgettable. With coordination of fans and students, chants encouraging the team went back and forth between the students, fans, band, and cheerleaders. Senior Aaron Sawyer served as a leader of the student section.

"It was fantastic. Definitely one for the books," Sawyer said.

All in all, the trip to Texas will become a memory that cannot be erased. Even though the game wasn't at home, students felt as if they were home while in each other's company cheering on their team.

# Tae Kwon-Do Torres Teaches

by Percy Totten  
Pulse Staff Writer

Everyone has hobbies outside of school, including teachers. With some teachers, students could never guess what they do when they're not busy keeping their students in line. As for English teacher Patricia Torres, practicing her martial arts skills is one of her favorite pastimes. In fact, she and all her family members have each earned their own black belts.

Torres and her son started taking Tae Kwon-Do classes at Kang's Tae Kwon-Do in 2009 and about six months later, Mr. Torres and their daughter joined them.

"We were looking for discipline and structure that provided cardio and self-defense," Torres said. "We've learned a philosophy of self-discipline."

Torres has noticed the effect practicing Tae Kwon-Do has had on her children. She claims that they are more confident in themselves now.

As her instructor Grandmaster Kang says, "A black belt is a white belt that never quit."

Torres' students are often surprised to learn of her black belt.

"I feel that she could teach me a few things,"

senior Victoria Corbitt, a student of Torres, said.

Grandmaster Kang and his Tae Kwon-Do classes are at Kang's Institute of Tae Kwon-Do at 6005 South Mingo Road, in Tulsa. Classes are available for all ages.



**IN IT TOGETHER** Black belt English teacher Patricia Torres poses for a photo with her husband and son, who both have black belts as well. (Photo submitted)

# Yearbook offers senior quotes

by Percy Totten  
Pulse Staff Writer

A new feature has been added to the yearbook that many seniors are excited about: senior quotes. Seniors can place a quote beneath their individual portrait in the yearbook.

Ashley Spencer, yearbook adviser, loves reading the submissions and thinks students will enjoy seeing them in the yearbook.

"Seniors kept asking for the opportunity, so we decided to give it a try," Spencer said. "So far there has been a mix of funny and serious quotes."

Each quote can have a maximum of 140 characters -- that's the same length as a tweet. Senior quotes must be school appropriate or they will not be in the yearbook and money will not be refunded.

Many seniors are glad for the opportunity, but are unsure of what they want to choose for their senior quote.

"I think it's cool that they are giving us this opportunity, especially since we have so many students," senior Miranda Shaw said.

Putting a senior quote in the yearbook provides seniors with a chance to be remembered by their peers in a meaningful

way. Students can look back at senior quotes and realize things about fellow students that portraits can't reveal.

"I'm still deciding, but I know my senior quote is going to be inspirational and about adventure," Yearbook Editor and senior Elisabeth Beemer said. "I'm making a senior quote because I think it's a great way to be represented, and people can see what you were like when looking back."

Senior quotes can be purchased for \$10 in MN106. Senior quote orders are due by October 8.

# Volleyball strikes a win

by Spencer Tuia  
Pulse Staff Writer

"M-U-S-K-O-GEE. DOUBLE E MUSKOGEE ROUGHERS!" The Roughers chant as they fall into position across the net from the Broken Arrow Lady Tigers. They may be the Roughers, but the Lady Tigers were the ones who made it rough for Muskogee on September 8.

It was just another Tuesday for any other student in school, but for the Lady Tigers it was something else: it was game day. Game day is a highly anticipated day for any student athlete out there. As the Lady Tigers boarded the bus to Muskogee, the excitement level was high. In the past, a win against Muskogee had been a piece of cake; however, the Lady Tigers did not want to take this game too lightly. Senior Lindsay Derricot had high hopes for the game.

"Our expectation for this game is to play hard and come out with a win," Derricot said.

The first set of the game had been all about aggressiveness and power. Senior Taylor Bailey and junior Mia Bledsoe led the offense with amazing kills that pummeled the Lady Roughers defense. When the Lady Roughers fought back with their offense, senior Claire

Turner was right where she was supposed to be at defense and was able to pass perfect passes to the setter. Lady Tigers won this set with a score of 25-19.

The aggressive energy seemed to simmer down, however, in the second set. With the Lady Tigers heads held a little too high, they seemed to think that this second set would be a breeze. The Lady Roughers took advantage of this and started to gain points on the Lady Tigers' mistakes. The energy near the end of the game became very intense and the score was very close, but Broken Arrow ended up following this set with another win at 25-20.

By the third set, the Lady Tigers were even more determined to achieve a win. This time the tension was gone and the sensation of reassurance of winning had come over each and every player. The score was 25-18 by the end of the set, and the Lady Tigers had added another win to their 14-5 record.

"Our intensity and how we didn't play selfish really helped us win the game," Bailey said.

Bailey collectively had 10 kills along with 3 blocks while Mia Bledsoe led the hitting stats with 17 kills. Claire Turner had a team high of 19 digs and Kamryn Smith added on 6 digs.



**TEAM ON 3!** Tigers break out of the huddle after a set. (Photo by Andra Fauvell)

## FINE ARTS

# Eight days of plays

Drama is working to produce two full-length plays

by Austin Wyatt  
Pulse Staff Writer

Broken Arrow Drama Department's fall play is going to be a little different this year. First and foremost, there are two of them. Both plays will be cast, memorized and rehearsed at the same time and performed during the same week. Another new aspect will be the venue for the performances. Both shows will be performed at the high school in the black box theater.

"The biggest challenge of being in two plays will be switching between two characters so quickly," junior Chris Delano said.

The two fall plays are called "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "Bury the Dead." One is a British high comedy, and the other is a dark and gritty expressionist drama set in the early 1900's. "The Importance of Being Earnest" is about two men who are willing to change their names, pretend to be imaginary siblings and deceive anyone they can to get the girls of their dreams. "Bury the Dead" is about a World War I military burial detail that is digging a mass grave when the corpses start standing up and refusing to be buried.

"I'm most excited for presenting two drastically different stories and messages to the

audiences," director and drama teacher JoJo Nichols said.

Changing between two drastically different shows and switching between unique characters and situations over and over again is bound to put a weight on most of the cast and crew's shoulders. Members of the drama department are rehearsing, memorizing and developing two shows at once, and the majority of them are staying very optimistic about the packed schedules for the next eight weeks.

"I've never been in two plays at the same time, so this is new to me. Regardless, I am excited for the chaos," cast member and senior Miranda Shaw said.

The plays are running November 16-23 in the black box theater on campus.



**BLOCKING** Juniors Chyna Mayer and Caleb Ricketts run lines while teacher JoJo Nichols listens. (Photo by Austin Wyatt)

## Electives serve as creative outlets

by Callie Spencer  
Pulse Staff Writer

Students at Broken Arrow High School have a variety of courses to choose from, including an extensive list of elective classes that allow them to express their interests. For those interested in technology, there exists a plethora of computer classes. For the more creative types, there are writing and art classes. Joshua Wann, a creative writing teacher, wants his class to be an outlet for writers' creativity.

"They all clearly have a story to tell, so I'm just providing a class where they can tell it," Wann said.

When people think of school, words like learning, lectures and long come to mind. However, with these courses that act as creative outlets, students can enjoy a getaway from the stresses of their other classes. Seniors are often able to take almost a full course-load of electives, which allows them to spend

their last year of high school familiarizing themselves with what they might want to pursue in college or, if nothing else, enjoying some fun and undemanding classes. Many computer students consider their classes entertaining.

"They're fun. I enjoy getting to be on the computers and learning more," senior Chase Sadus said.

Students interested in technology can win in more ways than one if the electives they take count towards requirements for college. As for those who would rather spend their time writing, creative writing classes can look great on a college application if the student is planning on

pursuing something in the way of English. For students with a talent for drawing, art classes are offered on various levels. Dianna King is a senior who delights in the opportunity to take art classes.

"I just enjoy having an entire class dedicated to being artistic and using my imagination," King said.

Overall, students express a great appreciation for the elective classes they are offered. Many students look forward to these classes as the highlight of their school day. It's important for students to be able to express themselves in a place with as much structure as a school, and these courses are a way for them to do just that.



**CREATIVE FOCUS** Senior Robert Pescar focuses on his project in Michelle Lewandowski's Desktop Publishing Class. (Photo by Callie Spencer)



## Student Artist Spotlight

Junior Cole Gastineau draws for recreational purposes, not classically trained

by Kaylee Borrer  
Pulse Staff Writer

Cole Gastineau, a junior here at Broken Arrow Senior High School, started drawing at eight years old when he moved here to Broken Arrow. Drawing was the only thing to help him cope with the anxiety of a new school and environment.

"Art is something I do to help with anxiety," Gastineau said. "It allows me to take all the things that make me anxious and put them down on a piece of paper."

One of Gastineau's drawings called "Nature on the Mind" is of a man who seems to be holding his head like he is hearing an awful sound that is too much to bear. His face is distraught almost as if he cannot take any more of the horrific noise. All around his arm and on his back is what appear to be roots from trees. The art work

is like nature is becoming too much. It is surrounding him and he cannot break free. Cole uses neutral colors to signify the realism of the mood the man in the drawing is feeling.

"I take a lot of inspiration from Leonardo DaVinci, who uses the human form in different positions," Gastineau said. "I like to use the faces to show emotion."

Cole has never taken drawing lessons. He draws more for recreational purposes. He especially enjoys drawing comics/cartoons and some realistic drawings depending on his mood. Most of his drawings are abstract and have a dreamlike feel to them.

Even though Cole felt alone in the beginning of his time here in Broken Arrow, he has made multiple friends over the years while using drawing as a coping mechanism.

## STAFF

Adviser: Ashley Spencer, [aspencer@baschools.org](mailto:aspencer@baschools.org)

Amber Boatman, Kaylee Borrer, Jordan Brandt, Hailey Cochrane, Ally Coldwell, Victoria Corbitt, Shaelyn Disotell, Jordan DuBuc, Zach Duncan, Stone Freeman, Cole Gastineau, Jacqueline Hood, Nikole Meier, Sidney Parks, Cheyenne Pauls, Zack Rodgers, Aaron Sawyer, Alexia Scott, Callie Spencer, Percy Totten, Spencer Tuia, Austin Wyatt

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