



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Panther Press 
NOVEMBER 2024

A Heart of Gratitude: Thanksgiving Blessings for Our School Community

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many blessings that surround us, especially the gift of Christian community. We are truly blessed to be part of a vibrant and caring family that supports and encourages one another every day.

This Thanksgiving, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude and thank God for each member of our school community.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment to nurturing, teaching, and guiding our students with love and wisdom. Your hard work and passion are a reflection of God's grace at work in our school.

To our students, thank you for bringing your energy, curiosity, and joy into our classrooms. Your willingness to learn and grow makes this community a place of hope and promise.

And to our families, thank you for your support, prayers, and partnership. You are a vital part of our school's mission, and together, we are building a foundation of faith, knowledge, and service that will guide our students for years to come.

Let us remember to give thanks to God for the incredible people in our lives, and as we celebrate this season of gratitude, may we continue to grow in love, faith, and unity in Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

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Panther Spotlight

Donna Pearson

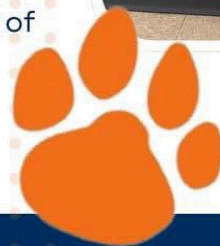
We're excited to honor Ms. Donna Pearson, a 5th Grade Math and Science teacher who truly exemplifies Christ-like character in every aspect of her work. Known for her kindness, compassion, and integrity, Ms. Pearson creates a classroom environment where every student feels valued and supported. Her leadership is equally remarkable, inspiring her colleagues to collaborate and strive for excellence. With engaging, adaptive teaching strategies, she goes above and beyond to meet the diverse needs of her students. Ms. Pearson's words and actions consistently reflect a spirit of service and humility, leaving a lasting impact on our entire school community.



Panther Spotlight

Jiles Kirkland

This week's spotlight shines on Jiles Kirkland, a dedicated BCS senior who exemplifies leadership, service, and academic excellence. Not only is Jiles an outstanding student and generous mentor to his peers, but he also holds a variety of influential roles. He serves as president of the National Honor Society and is an active member of Key Club, and The Claw. He is continually demonstrating his commitment to making a positive impact. Over the summer, Jiles represented BCS at the Boys State conference in Tallahassee, proudly showcasing his leadership skills on a broader stage. His involvement in student council further highlights his dedication to our school community, as he willingly gives his time both in and out of school to support others. Jiles truly embodies the spirit of service and is an inspiring role model for all students. Congratulations to Jiles, our well-deserved spotlight of the week!



CAMPUS NEWS

Elementary Field Day 2024

Congratulations to all our participants and winners, and thank you to everyone who made this day a huge success! We're so proud of the talent, teamwork, and creativity shown by our students.

Way to go, BCS!

Here are the winners for this year's events

Broad Jump

- Kindergarten: Daniel Benzing (5'-new record), Chloe Woehner (3'11")
- 1st Grade: Kaizen Belizaire (5'11"-new record), Jasmine Braemer (4'11")
- 2nd Grade: Duke Mercer (5'7"), Georgia Geyer (5'4")
- 3rd Grade: Austin Hassall (6'1"), Hadley Crawford (5'10"-new record)
- 4th Grade: Rocco Potillo (6'), Brooklyn Palus (5'9")
- 5th Grade: Bo Sears (6'), Makynzie Bertsch (6'2")

Softball Throw

- Kindergarten: Cairo Pough (70'11"), Rio Smith (31'1")
- 1st Grade: James ten Haaf (77'6"), Reagan Johnson (36')
- 2nd Grade: Dominic Rainer (89'), Georgia Geyer (80'8"-new record)
- 3rd Grade: Josiah Pough (104'7"), Lauren Marshall (60'10")
- 4th Grade: Dom Ortegon (107'3"), Andi VanDuijn (81'10")
- 5th Grade: Bo Sears (139'3"), Autumn Werner (104'11")

50-Yard Dash

- Kindergarten: Jason Hassall (9.16), Illiyana Reecher (9.54)
- 1st Grade: Barrett Yobo (8.55), Jasmine Braemer (8.73)
- 2nd Grade: Dominic Rainer (7.70), Leila Enriquez (8.46)
- 3rd Grade: Parker Chrisman (8.29), Hadley Crawford (7.49)
- 4th Grade: Declan Biggs (7.95), Jordyn Braemer (7.56)
- 5th Grade: Bryson Beigel (7.56), India Boender (7.40)

Best Dressed Class Winners

- K-2: Holton's Pizza Chefs
- 3-5: Morishita's Queen of Hearts



CAMPUS NEWS

Cubby Buddy Memories

The Cubby Buddy event is such a joy! Our kindergartners brought in their favorite books, and their senior buddies enjoyed spending time reading and having fun together. It was heartwarming to see the older students sharing stories and laughter with their young buddies, making memories that will last a lifetime. What a blessing to be able to celebrate reading and friendship together!



CAMPUS NEWS

The Builders Club

The Builders Club has made a meaningful impact in Manatee County by helping to make beds for children who don't have one of their own. Through this project, they've provided comfort and support to local families in need. Each bed is unique, with a Bible verse carefully painted on the slats, offering encouragement and hope to the children who receive them. This initiative reflects the Club's commitment to giving back to the community and spreading kindness, one bed at a time.



Hispanic Honor Society

In a warm and joyful ceremony, 13 new members were officially welcomed into the Hispanic Honor Society. The event celebrated the achievements of these students, highlighting their dedication to the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. Surrounded by faculty, family, and friends, both new and returning members were honored for their commitment to academic excellence and cultural enrichment. The evening served as a reminder of the society's mission to foster a deeper appreciation for Hispanic heritage while inspiring continued growth and camaraderie among its members. Congratulations to all on this significant milestone!



GET INVOLVED

Calling All Panther Parents!



The Panther Parents is an organized volunteer group to help promote the school's mission and come alongside the school to help facilitate events and coordinate volunteerism. Current parents and guardians are automatically a part of this group. This group is also open to alumni and grandparents who desire to volunteer for Bradenton Christian School.

This group will operate off suggested dues of \$50 and/or donations (The \$50 is a suggestion, not a requirement to be a part of Panther Parents. Dues and donations are a tax write off.) The dues/donations will help cover the cost of staff appreciation throughout the year and any other needs that arise at BCS with approval from administration. We are excited to support BCS in so many ways!

Looking to dive in? Current Panther Parent opportunities that are open:

- Carousel's Creamery Parent Playground Day-
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44A9AE29A6FAC70-50861817-carousels>
- Auction- Are you connected in the community? Do you know local business owners? We are looking for volunteers to help gather items for the auction and sponsorships. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Bowman at abowman@bcspanthers.org

Church Connection

Throughout the school year we connect with several local churches to guide our youth to stay "plugged in" and growing in Christ. Please check out the website links below:

- **Bradenton CRC:**
<https://bradentoncrc.org/ministries>
- **Bayside Community Church:**
<https://www.mybayside.church/ministries/bayside-youth>
- **West Bradenton Baptist:**
<https://fortheneighborhood.com/students/>
- **Grace Community Church:**
<https://www.gracesarasota.com/ministry/high-school>
- **North River:**
<https://www.gonorthriver.org/students>
- **The Bridge Church:**
<https://www.bridgechurchfl.com/students>
- **First Baptist Church of Bradenton:**
<https://firstbradenton.com/>

If you would like your church featured in Panther Press for youth events, please email BobbiJo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

If you would like to speak at Middle or High School chapel services for BCS please contact Calvin Morley at CMorley@bcspanthers.org.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

Important Dates

- December 3- Choral Concert (Grades 6-12)
- December 3- Giving Tuesday
- December 5- Strings Concert (Grades 6-12)
- December 6- Elementary Christmas Concert (Grades K- 4th)
- December 10- Band Concert (Grades 6-12)
- December 10- **Late Start**
- December 17-19- Exams
- December 19- Pre-School Christmas Concert
- December 19- End of 1st Semester (**11:30 Dismissal**)
- December 20- January 6- **Christmas Break**



Bouwer Cup Golf Tournament

Thank you for your generous support to the **2024 Bouwer Cup Golf Tournament!** Together, we've hit a hole-in-one for BCS! Here's to many more rounds of support and success on and off the green. We are fore-ever grateful!



BCS is always looking for talented, Christ-centered faculty and staff members! Please check out the link if you are interested in opportunities at BCS <https://www.bcspanthers.org/about-us/employment-opportunities>

If a loved one of yours wants to receive The Panther Press or you want to feature a story about BCS, please contact BobbiJo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Program & Concert Reserved Seating

We are excited to present a fun opportunity! One of our biggest fundraising events is our BCS Auction and Festival now postponed to January 11, 2025. At our Auction normally held in November, we offer a few reserved seats for our BCS Christmas Concerts and Programs. This year, for a fun way to give to BCS, and for you to have some nice seats, we are offering prime reserved seating at all our Christmas Concerts and Programs. The prime front area seating is available in Tier 1 for \$100 and Tier 2 for \$50 per seat. This seating will be limited, and all other seating will be as normal - first come, first serve. We thought this would be a great way to donate to BCS as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas Season.

Please see the following reserved seating options [HERE](#). Also note, if you need multiple concert seating or want to pay with a check, please contact Heidi Sikkema, and she will work out a plan with you - 941-792-5454 x 160 or hsikkema@bcspanthers.org.

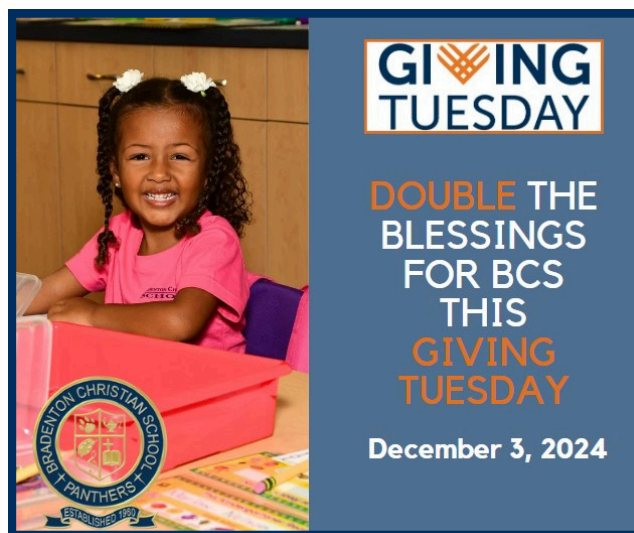


Double Bless BCS on Giving Tuesday December 3, 2024

The Thanksgiving Season brings on a time of being thankful and we are so thankful for BCS! Please join us with your thankful generosity by donating any amount **NOW** through **Giving Tuesday December 3rd**.

Your donation will immediately go to work to "Prepare the Hearts and Minds of God's Children!" **PLUS**, your gift will **DOUBLE**, thanks to generous donors who have blessed BCS with \$35,000 in matching funds!

You may give online [HERE](#). We are so grateful for you, and pray you have a blessed Thanksgiving! If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Sikkema at hsikkema@bcspanthers.org.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Celebrating our 40th BCS Auction & Festival Saturday, January 11, 2025

Final Call for Auction **EVENT SPONSORS** - We encourage you to sponsor this event. You will receive event tickets, reserved seating for the Live Auction, and advertising in our printed and online Auction catalog, plus the opportunity to have a booth for our festival! Your sponsorship is due by December 1.

For more information please visit our Auction Website [HERE](#)

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- Stewart Orthodontics
- Schofield and Spencer – Wills, Trusts & Estate Attorneys

Bradenton Christian School
Winter Blessings
Festival & Auction

Saturday
January 11, 2025

BCS CAMPUS – 3304 43RD ST W

FESTIVAL 4 – 5:30 PM
SILENT AUCTION 4 – 5:30 PM
LIVE AUCTION STARTS AT 5:45 PM

Scan the code or visit bcspanthers.maestroweb.com

Get Involved!	Event Highlights
<p>Whether you are looking to volunteer, donate, sponsor, or simply come and enjoy the event there is a place for you!</p> <p>Visit the website above or call BobbiJo Norris for more information: 941-792-5454 ext. 114</p>	<p>FREE ADMISSION Auctions Bid on exciting items in our silent and LIVE auctions and participate in our ticket drop auction to win fantastic prizes.</p> <p>Festival Games & Activities Enjoy bounce houses, a maze, face painting, a water booth, and other fun games!</p> <p>Tickets \$1 each to use on food, games, & ticket drop.</p> <p>Wristbands Good for unlimited Festival Games and childcare/youth activity. \$20 for the 1st child & \$10 for all others in the same family.</p> <p>Concessions & Dessert Room Enjoy BBQ sandwiches, burgers, dogs, and more, plus don't forget the desserts!</p> <p>Childcare & Youth Activities Childcare and Youth Activities during the LIVE auction - \$10 / child or included with the purchase of a wristband!</p>
<p>Current Needs</p> <p>Donations for the Auction (vacation homes, gift certificates, activities, services, electronics & more)</p> <p>Volunteers</p> <p>Grade Basket Lead Parents</p> <p>Sponsors</p> <p>Festival Booth Participants (open to parents, churches, BCS organizations, and sponsoring businesses)</p>	

We also encourage you to sign up to volunteer, donate an item, and share your talents to bless our school.

For all the information, please check out this [LINK](#)

Questions, contact BobbiJo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org or 941-792-5454 x 114.



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SPORTS

Congratulations BCS Swim Team!

The 2024 Swimming Season was a tremendous success, with our team of 19 swimmers from 6th to 12th grade showing impressive improvement throughout the year. Each swimmer focused on shaving time off their events and worked tirelessly to become faster and stronger. This dedication paid off, as eight swimmers advanced to Regionals, and five made it to the State Championships. Notably, Jack Freed, Brandon McCarther, Riggs Klika, and Jack Sallee competed in the 200 Medley Relay and the 200 Free Relay, while Jack Freed swam the 100 Backstroke and Riggs Klika raced the 100 Breaststroke. The youngest competitor for the entire Florida State meet was our very own BCS 8th grader, Makayla Muneio, who swam the 100 Freestyle. The 200 Medley Relay and Jack Freed's 100 Backstroke both finished in the top 16 at the state finals. Additionally, several school records were broken this season. We are excited to continue building on this success and look forward to taking even more swimmers to State next year!



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ATHLETIC CORNER

Tips & Advice with Dr. Nicole Kemper

Concussion Information- Facts & Myths

Concussions can occur in any sport. They are very common in football, and also common in soccer and even wrestling, both of which are in season at BCS.

What is a concussion? A concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) that is often caused by a bump or blow to the head, or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. It's possible to sustain a concussion without even hitting your head.

Concussions can affect how student athletes think, learn, feel, act, and sleep. Sometimes symptoms will exacerbate with cognitive function and athletic participation, which is what we want to avoid.

Below are some common symptoms, red flags of when to seek immediate medical attention, and even some myths related to concussions. If you are concerned that your child has a concussion, always reach out to our athletic trainer, or a physician ASAP.

Common Symptoms

Headache, dizziness, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, difficulty remembering, difficulty falling asleep, pressure in the head, nausea, feeling slowed down, sensitivity to light and noise, confusion, feeling more emotional, and even sadness, nervousness, and anxiousness.

Red Flags

Red flags are those signs we notice that warrant your child being seen by medical professionals immediately, typically in the ER.

- Neck pain (along the spine)
- Seizures or convulsions
- Double vision
- Loss of consciousness
- Major muscular weakness or tingling/burning in more than one arm or in either legs
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Vomiting
- Severe or rapidly increasing headache and pressure in the head
- Visible deformity of the skull (head impact)

Common Myths

1. MYTH: A concussion only happens with a direct hit to the head. REALITY: The brain can move inside the skull with body movement or head movement without getting directly hit in the head. The brain movement can cause the concussion as it may make contact with the inside of the skull.
2. MYTH: A concussion only occurs when one loses consciousness. REALITY: 90% of diagnosed concussions do not result in a loss of consciousness.
3. MYTH: You need to wake up someone every few hours if they have a concussion. REALITY: Some rest is good for the brain after injury. Unless directly told by your treating physician or healthcare provider to wake them up due to other concerns, sleep is beneficial for healing.
4. MYTH: Concussions can be mild, moderate or severe. REALITY: Concussions are no longer diagnosed by "severity" as the presence of signs and symptoms, cognitive difficulty, balance struggles, etc, dictate the presence of a concussion.



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Thank You Sponsors

We invite you to take the opportunity to sponsor the Panther Press. The Panther Press is a monthly publication during the school year that showcases our BCS community and all the amazing events, happenings, students and faculty. These newsletters are sent electronically which means timely delivery and accurate information. Additionally, all publications will be uploaded to our website. Imagine the exposure for your business throughout the school year for a minimal cost of \$200.

For more information contact BobbiJo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.



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