

NEWS FROM BRUTON HIGH



For submission in the YC Youth Commission News!

Junior Year...More than it's Cracked Up to Be?

by Brennan Pritchard

As June approaches, all students have many things to reflect back on from this school year. Whether these reflections are of fun times had with friends, staying up all night cramming for a test, or just the ups and downs of the year, all students take these things to heart as they prepare to end one school year and enter the next. Some may be about to start their first year in high school, some their first year in college, but most would agree that the juniors of this year have by far the most to look back on. Many say that junior year is the most difficult due to the pressure of getting grades up for college applications. But, the good news according to many students is that juniors have the most to look forward to...their senior year. When asked what makes junior year the most difficult, junior Claire McKecher answered, "It's much harder than sophomore year. In sophomore year, you're only taking one AP class, so you're just getting a taste; you think you can handle more. Junior was worse because I had the stresses of three more AP classes,

four in all. In AP classes, there's no excuse for late work or a bad grade, it's AP for a reason. I definitely had to learn time management for all of my AP classes."

Though junior year can be an academically challenging time, it can also be a very exciting one. After all, once a junior, a student is officially an upper-classman. "There were a lot of good times this year. I think it's all the new perks of being an upper-classman that makes it fun. I enjoyed more freedoms and privileges, driving to school and I am looking forward to Junior-Senior prom! Even though it's stressful, I enjoyed being so involved. It's nice to get things done for college applications and it's fun- you get to really know yourself and explore things," said Claire when asked what her favorite part of being a junior. When asked the same question, junior Erika Piotrowski said, "I have had so much fun this year...I can't pick what my favorite thing was! But I do have to say, I am

really looking forward to prom and the end of the year assembly when juniors officially become seniors! If this year was so much fun, I don't know what to expect for next year!"

With all of the trials and tribulations of junior year, some students say they wish they had just had some advice about what to expect to help make the year run more smoothly. Claire would like to leave next year's juniors with this advice: "Don't take four AP classes!" She also says that while junior year can be tough at times, juniors should remember to "keep your eye on the prize. Don't get discouraged if you fail one test or don't get the award you wanted because then you will wonder, 'what if I pushed myself further?' You will always wonder what could have been." With all of these things to look forward to, and some great advice from those now finishing up their junior year, we wish best of luck to all current sophomores ready to tackle and enjoy their junior year this fall!

Mrs. Jennifer Powell - YCSD Teacher of the Year

by Abby Moul

Jennifer Powell, World History I and AP European History teacher at Bruton High School, was selected during the spring of 2008 for the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year for the York County School Division. Powell, a graduate of the University of Virginia and former Bruton High School student, has been teaching at Bruton for four years now.

After graduating from UVA with her Bachelor's of Arts degree in History, Powell thought she might be interested in practicing law, but after a year in a law office, she soon realized that it wasn't her calling. She consulted her mom, fellow teacher, and role model— Judy Old— for advice in her undecided career path. Powell finally came to the realization that with her strong passion for history and true enjoyment in working with young people, becoming a history teacher might be the perfect solution. Powell decided to pursue graduate studies at William & Mary where she received her Masters degree in Education. When the job opening at Bruton arose, she was eager to apply for the position.

Powell thoroughly enjoys her job, and when asked what her favorite part about teaching was, she replied, "THE STUDENTS! I love my students! There is nothing more invigorating than helping students meet with academic success, as well as personal success. I am a firm believer that the young people in my classroom are growing academically, emotionally, and ethically— it is my job to help them mature into confident and principled young adults."

Powell shares a strong connection with many of the students at Bruton High School through the many activities that she sponsors such as the Student Council Association (SCA), the Spirit Club, and the newly formed International Awareness Committee. "I don't think there has ever been a time where I have stopped by Mrs. Powell's classroom and there wasn't at least one other student hanging out and having a casual and fun conversation with her," stated Leah Prezioso, Bruton High School Junior, "The kids truly love her and look up to her—she's smart, funny, loving, caring, and young, which means that she can relate really well to her students. It's clear that there couldn't have been a more deserving candidate of the award than Mrs. Powell."



Ms. Jennifer Powell
YCSD Teacher of the Year

Interview with Ms. Rebecca Walker

Transitioning from Fall 2007 JV Field Hockey Coach to Fall 2008 Varsity Field Hockey Coach

by Abby Moul

Q: What are the main differences between coaching for a JV team and coaching for a Varsity team?

A: *JV sports focus more on the development of skills and enjoying the sport, whereas Varsity sports focus on fine tuning those skills and concentrating on the competition aspect.*

Q: What do you hope to accomplish this coming year with the new Varsity team?

A: *I hope to have more competitive spirit amongst the team members and a stronger drive on the field.*

Q: How do you plan to train and prepare the players to meet Varsity standards?

A: *I plan to focus on conditioning as well as more communication and awareness on the field.*

Q: How many returning Varsity players will you have this coming year?

A: *Well, we lost half of our team at the end of last season because eight of them were seniors, so we'll have eight returning players this year. It will definitely be a team-building year.*

Q: What's your coaching philosophy?

A: *I think it's essential to have a team-centered mentality so that we're concentrating on the team's success as a whole and not on individual players. I also want to promote leadership and life-long fitness.*