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They Grow Up So Fast! by Nathan Reeves

They do, don't they? This is the time of year that I compare our students to themselves nine months ago. At least to me, they look so much more grown up. You'd think it was two years ago they were that short! But a lot of growth happens during a school year. Our students have grown physically, socially, academically, and spiritually.

This year, some of our students learned how to read, do long division, use an adverb correctly, use a

protractor, play the piano, write a research paper, and speak publicly. Others learned about the metric system, spelling rules, states and capitals, factoring, capitalization, ecology, problem-solving strategies, and more. All our students were trained to hold the door for others, say "Yes, sir" and "Yes, ma'am," encourage others by clapping for them when they got a question right, and apologize when they did wrong. Sometimes there were growing pains, but it's worth it.

Our Middle Schoolers grew more this year than any other year! It all started with a brand new Boot Camp where we taught BRCA culture, trained in social skills, and bonded through team-building activities. Throughout the year we added so much more training in skills like giving the Gospel, public speaking, dinner etiquette, and interview skills. We trained those with Middle School jackets how to be a mentor and conducted our own BRCA election! All this training led to The Amazing Shake - a social etiquette competition that uses local business leaders as judges (see what all the Elementary students have to look forward to!). Our Middle Schoolers are more prepared for life!

The Academy has grown this year too! While we added Phase 1 of our new building last summer, Phase 2 is being worked on as I write! Once it's completed this summer, God will have given us three buildings in seven years! Praise God! We also added digital projectors and Abeka digital teaching aids that include professional animations, illustrations, and videos to enhance the lesson. Our students can now **see** how things work such as James Watt's steam engine, the human lungs, and much more. They can now **see** how to form cursive letters and how the blood flows through the heart. These digital teaching aids have really enhanced student learning.

It's been a great year that we had the highest teacher and student retention rate in years! We are so thankful for the support our students' parents show us on a daily basis. Please continue to pray for us as we grow with our students!

May 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week

Help us express our appreciation to our teachers during this week. One good way to express your gratitude is to send notes and letters (maybe one per day, from you and your child), flowers, or even a gift card. We have the best teachers!

May 9 Middle School Reward Trip

Students who earned their way to the Reward Trip will go on an exciting trip this Friday after school until 5:30.

May 10 Ranch Work Day

Our school dads are invited to join us for a half day of work and food! Come enjoy some good food & be a blessing!

May 14 Middle School Team Party

Our Middle School Team Party will be the perfect way to finish the Middle School team competition and to celebrate the Team of the Year!

May 16-17 Father and Son Adventure

This is a really great chance for dads and sons to grow closer together around God's Word. We hope you will join us!

May 21 School Picnic

This special event will begin with lunch at Cowboy Town and will include different games and activities. Parents will be asked to bring in food/drinks, and BRCA will provide the hotdogs. We hope you will be there!

May 22 Last Day of School/Graduation Ceremony

School gets out at 11:30, and the Graduation Ceremony starts at 7:00 p.m. in the John R. Rice Auditorium. Please come to support our graduates on this special evening.

May 23-August 17 Summer Vacation

Have a terrific summer! We will see many of you for camp and then again on August 18 for a new year!!



June 9-13 BRCA Camp Week

Pay the \$50 registration fee by the last day of school, and then pay the remainder upon arrival. Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity!

Bill Rice Ranch 101

The recruiting department of the Bill Rice Ranch is busy

during the fall and spring, but they reap the benefits during our summer camping season. Our recruiting staff visits several Christian colleges where they set up a booth, pass out hundreds of pieces of literature, answer thousands of questions, and interview dozens of young people who are interested in serving with us from June through the beginning of August. Our specific camp needs are junior, teen, and deaf counselors and operational staff, which consist of cowboys, cooks, dishwashers, grounds, linen room, maintenance, and first aid assistants. When it's all said and done, we will have recruited nearly one hundred volunteers for the action-packed summer of their lives. Together we serve thousands of campers for eight weeks for the cause of Jesus Christ and eternity.



BRCA & Summer Camp



Our 2nd-12th graders will be attending camp June 9-13. This is a great time to reconnect with school friends in the summer and hear clear Bible preaching that is right on their level. Along with the services, the Juniors will enjoy activities like Funspiration, the pentathlon, a rodeo, battleball, Inflatable Invasion, and much more! Teen campers can participate in the Sports Tournament, the Music Contest, and many special activities. And everyone will have the opportunity to go swimming and ride a horse!

All students that will be attending camp this year will meet at the Academy at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9. Parents will pick up their juniors and teens on Friday night after the service at BRCA, around 9:00. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Reeves.





Middle School Student Highlight with Joshua Moss

Miss Williams: What is your favorite thing to do? **Joshua:** I like to play video games with my brother.

Miss Williams: What is your favorite thing about your parents? Joshua: Whenever I need help, they are there for me. Miss Williams: What do you like most about your teachers? Joshua: They do not give out much homework. Miss Williams: What is your favorite thing about Middle School at BRCA?

Joshua: I like that we have the Middle School jackets. Miss Williams: What do you hope to do when you grow up? Joshua: I want to be a police officer.



Definition: selflessly helping others; usefulness

Description: helpful, humble, giving Examples:

1. Volunteer to help your teacher when your work is finished.

2. Serve your classmates by letting them go first, getting their lunch, letting them choose the recess game, or doing their room job.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Ellie Robbins: Ellie has shown kindness all month long. She has given toys to others, been concerned for those who have gotten hurt, prayed for those who were sick, and been helpful to others. I am so proud of her sweet spirit!

Josiane Saad: Josiane is a kind, sweet girl. She is willing to help anyone in need. I love how caring she is! Congratulations, Josiane!

Emma Merkler: Emma has shown kindness all year long. She not only is considerate of others, but she esteems them better than herself. She's a great example to her peers!

Holly Estep: Holly's actions overflow with kindness! Holly is constantly using her free time to write thoughtful notes or draw pictures for anyone who comes to mind. She also always has a smile and kind words ready to cheer up anyone who needs encouragement.
Isabella McAndrew: Izzy has shown kindness all year long! She's often the first to notice if someone is sad or hurt. Izzy is quick to offer help and check on friends. She includes others during recess, and is an encouraging friend. Way to go, Izzy!
Oliver McConnell: Oliver is friendly with his classmates. He is willing to congratulate others even if they win a game or are doing well in school. Thanks for being a kind friend, Oliver.

Sam Freitas: Sam has shown kindness from his first day with us. He is always willing to play with anyone around him, even students from other classes! He is an encouragement every day.



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