

# THE BLADE

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## CYS Building to Transform Dream Into Reality

The C.Y.S building that is planned to be finished in late summer of 2011 promises to be a place where any B.A.S student may go after school and fully enjoy his or her leisure. Next year, when the construction will be done, the students will not have to take a bus anymore to go to USAG where the old C.Y.S is located.

“The USAG Brussels command worked closely with the U.S. Senior Mission Commander at NATO HQ and IMCOM-Europe to develop this project to provide an enduring improvement in our support for the children of the Brussels community,” said Paula Emmert, the School Liaison Officer.

The school is not involved in the project at all. The construction is fully funded by the U.S Army, and the estimated cost of the project is about €5,000,000 (\$6,956,000). Inside the building, the area of which is 2703 meters squared, there will be a gymnasium with a full basketball court and four additional half-court hoops; a 22-foot rock climbing wall; a full professional, commercial size kitchen; an arts and crafts class-room; a Computer lab, and much more. Therefore, the money spent on it seems absolutely worth it.

Like the newly built gym, the C.Y.S building is being constructed by a Belgian company. For now, about 12 workers are participating in the process. The company began actively fulfilling the project on February 2010. The construction is operated by Dug Bonhem, the U.S Army engineer, and the inspector Jennifer Baker. According to Mrs. Emmert, the staff in the new Youth Center will be the same.

“It will provide school age services and teen recreational activities,” said Roger Preciado, one of the project’s supervisors at USAG. “These include a full multi-purpose court (badminton, volleyball, and basketball), a home economics kitchen, and other recreational rooms.”

“The new state of the art Youth Center, which will be



photo by the News & Editorials Editor

### *Construction of new CYS building.*

co-located on the same base as the Brussels American School, will serve as a “one-stop shop” offering programming during lunchtime and after school,” said LTC Ziemba, USAG Brussels Garrison Commander.

“The gym was built by a different local company called ‘Rogiers’,” said the inspector Jennifer Baker. “But the company that is constructing the new Youth center is ‘Lixon’.”

“I’m very excited that the new Youth Center will provide opportunities to expand current programming, such as lunchtime opportunities and a designated place for Youth Sports and Fitness,” said Jason Etchell, C.Y.S Coordinator. “I think having the center next to the school will increase the number of middle school teens that might be able to take advantage of both the facility and programming associated with it.” It is still unclear what will happen to the old Youth Center that served the B.A.S students well for many years. However, there are several proposals – some of them include transforming the building into a mini commissary or using the space to expand the fitness center. It is for the Defense Commissary Agency to decide how to employ the old building.

# New PE Teacher Arrives From Across the Ocean

by Iana Maisuradze

Mrs. Palazzolo, a new PE and ESL teacher, who just came from Sasebo, Japan, has lived in many different places, including the U.S. and Germany.

"Belgium is a lot like Germany," said Mrs. Palazzolo. "But it is softer, since the people in Belgium seem friendlier."

Mrs. Palazzolo has been teaching for 30 years and she hopes to stay in Brussels until she retires. The reason she joined DODEA seven years ago is that she finds it interesting living in different countries.

Mrs. Palazzolo also knows sign language. She was once a Track and Field coach for deaf students back in the U.S. who broke a State Record in the 880 yd. relay in track & field

"It's important to

learn, but it is also important to know how to learn," said Mrs. Palazzolo, who has her own rules and her 10 Commandments. "In absence of understanding, maintain!" is one of her "10 Commandments" that she shares with BAS students.

Mrs. Palazzolo also likes to run marathons, though she has not run one since she came to live in Brussels.

"My first marathon was in Jacksonville, Florida in 1991, and I qualified for the Boston Marathon, since I ran 26.2 miles in 3 hours and 50 minutes," said Mrs. Palazzolo. "I trained an hour every single day and I was teaching PE so I was quite active. I have won a lot of 2nd and 3rd places, but I have won 1st place in 5km and 10 km runs."

Thus far, Mrs. Palazzolo is happy with BAS.

"There are fun students who like to participate and be

involved in activities," she said. "They are good kids and they need to know that they are very privileged to be here; they have to take every opportunity they have."

One thing that surprises Mrs. Palazzolo at BAS is that teachers have a lot different classes, where in the states most of the teachers just teach one subject.

People in BAS like Mrs. Palazzolo as well.

"She has been teaching in DODD's schools for a long time, so she knows the system," said Mrs. Aiello. "She is focused on her job. I have heard only good things about her from the students."

"Also, she has done a good job adapting to BAS," added Mrs. Aiello. "What is very



*Mrs. Palazzolo teaching in class*

important is she cares about the children, and she is planning to open PE club for 3rd through 5th graders to help them choose a healthy lifestyle."

"She considers students feelings and she is very sensitive about them," said Mrs. Whipple. "She is a very kind person and I think she is a great addition to our faculty."

BAS students have similar feelings about Mrs. Palazzolo.

"She is a very good, knowledgeable, and kind teacher," said BAS senior. "Even though she just arrived in Brussels, I think that she fits in very well and I hope that she will have a good time at BAS."

"Mrs. Palazzolo is a very nice teacher and she helps me a lot," said another BAS senior. "She just came here and she tries hard to do her best."

photo by the Features & Sports Editor

# Mr. Mobley Returns to BAS To Teach, Coach

As a very experienced worker with youth, Mr. Tim Mobley is back in Brussels to continue his exciting career. A sports coach and Physical Education teacher, he has just moved back to Brussels after being in SHAPE for the past year, but hopefully he is here to stay for a while longer.

Mr. Mobley hasn't lived his whole career in DoDEA, but he sure has had an amazing lifetime of experience. Coming from Colorado Springs, Colorado, Mobley has worked with DoDEA for five years and has been working with youth much longer.

Mr. Mobley grew up moving often and as he described it, "it was unusual." Not because of school, but because of moving around so often and not being in the military. His father worked with computers and Mr. Mobley said that back in those days moving wasn't as common as it is now. After graduating Ouachita Baptist University in 1980, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas Mr. Mobley worked as a youth pastor from 1984 to 1998.

"I've always liked working with young people." he said.

While on his first tour in Brussels in 1998, Mr. Mobley worked as the bus officer for three years. Also, his family started the program *Club Beyond*, which has been continuing now for twelve years. Unfortunately for the BAS community, they moved to Colorado Springs in 2001 where Mr. Mobley taught a variety of health classes and coached wrestling.

Although they were not here to stay, *Club Beyond* was. Throughout all of his moves, his daughter, Joy and her husband Tyler, kept *Club Beyond* running and still run the program today.

Before Mr. Mobley began his second tour to Brussels he worked at SHAPE. Although he says it's good to be back at BAS, he enjoyed working with the students

at SHAPE for a year. While at SHAPE, he taught three health classes, and coached the SHAPE wrestling team. Mr. Mobley said his experience at SHAPE was "more international."

Because Mr. Mobley enjoys teaching young people, he is not only a PE teacher, but he is the coach of multiple sports. As a former wrestling champ in high school, and later on a football and baseball player in college, he now carries that knowledge into his career today. He is the BAS football

coach, and once winter sports start, he will be in charge of wrestling. Although it has been a while since our football team has had a winning season, Mr. Mobley isn't giving up. Nor is he worried about this year's team.

"We play a week at a time" he said.

A few members of the football team feel the same way. They're positive, not only about football but about their coach as well.

"He is a lot more lax, but expects a lot and he's funny, optimistic and energetic," said junior running back.

"I learn a lot from him and we can look up to him," said one of the teammates.

A long-term

friend of Mr. Mobley, Mr. Eric

Westland said that BAS is a lot more fun with him here and it's great how Mr. Mobley has always been very involved in the BAS community.

Through his positive attitude we can see a great outlook coming our way and as Mr. Mobley said, "you always hope things go well."



photo by the Layout Editor

Mr. Mobley in his PE class

## BAS Senior Inspired by MIT Summer Program

After being one of only three DoDDS students chosen for the summer program, one of the BAS seniors attended the Research Science Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he studied organic chemistry for six weeks.

The senior applied for this rigorous and prestigious program during his junior year. In total, a mere 72 students around the world were selected to participate.

Not unlike a college application, in order to be eligible for the position, the applicant was to provide essays, a transcript, an explanation on why one was interested in a certain field of science, and even teacher recommendations. Fortunately, the BAS senior's academic excellence and determination was more than enough to be noticed.

At the program, he would wake up at 6:30 a.m. and take the metro to Boston College where he worked from 9 to 5 in the Kingsbury Lab. In this lab, named after Professor Jason Kingsbury who is the head of the organic chemistry program, the BAS senior studied the databases of diazo compounds.

Said differently, the senior experimented with carbon atoms that had a rare double bond with nitrogen. These compounds were combined with ketones to insure the reactions that would occur. To add to its complexity, he had to learn quite a bit about organic chemistry in just two weeks.

After a long day at the lab, lectures were held on different scientific topics, from biochemistry to physics. The BAS senior also mentioned the variety of speakers that attended these lectures.

"One day I got to eat dinner with Dudley Herschbach, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1986," added he. "It was pretty awesome."

After meticulously working with the organic chemistry experiments, the BAS student wrote a research paper titled "Synthesis of Diazo Compounds and their Homologation Reactions with Ketones." Within this thorough assessment, he described his conclusions of the purity and percent yield of each compound. Additionally, he explained how the study of diazo compounds could aid in the speed of creating new drugs and medicines.

Throughout his years at BAS, the mentioned senior has performed outstandingly in school while simultaneously challenging himself intellectually. He has even taken every AP science course Mr. McVicker has to offer, including AP Chemistry his sophomore year and AP Physics his junior year. Mr. McVicker, though knowing just how studious the student is, was nevertheless proud of his student's latest success.

"The fact that this student was selected is

impressive on its own, as he was competing against some of the sharpest juniors in the country," he said. "I am certain that while attending the program, he was a significant contributor to the project. Additionally, he now has a new network of friends he can draw from in his future career in science."

Confirming Mr. McVicker's deduction, the hero of the article admitted to wanting to study science after graduating from high school.

"After my summer at MIT, I became more interested in chemistry, and it gave me a deeper insight as to the potency of chemistry."

Some of the universities this particular BAS student is applying to include MIT, Harvard, Olin, Harvey Mudd, and Rochester Institute of Technology. He hopes to pursue a major in chemistry, physics, or physical chemistry.

Knowledge, determination, and devotion are all important ideals that he has developed and maintained over the years. Using these tools, he has expanded his horizons and has achieved



photo by the Editor in Chief

# BAS Welcomes New Students

Each year students come and go, and getting to know new students can be exciting. This year is no different. From places all over, BAS has the opportunity to meet different students each year.

Moving around from school to school can be very difficult for some. Then again, there are those who enjoy moving around, starting new adventures and experiencing new things. With new students moving in and out each year, it gives the others who have been here for some time an opportunity to meet them and get to know the different cultures and lifestyles that move in with the students.

Coming to BAS for the first time can be different because students come from all over the world. This gives each student a neat experience getting to know people from different countries and getting to learn about different cultures.

"I didn't like BAS at first because I thought it was too small, but I did find everyone very friendly." said a new junior at BAS.

Moving around can also be a little challenging academically. Not all schools are the same, so it can take a while getting situated with the classes, especially at BAS as most people would agree.

One of the BAS seniors, who has lived here for eight years, had much to say about the coming and going of students to BAS. He has attended BAS for four years, and he had the opportunity to see changes take place such as a new principal recently coming to BAS.

Another student who has seen much happen at BAS is also a senior who has lived here for the past four years.

"I thought it was harder and I had to get used to being here," she said. She also mentioned that it is a very welcoming school. Apparently, others think so too.

Another new student who is a sophomore also thought that BAS was a very welcoming school.

"It was easy to get to know everyone," she said.

Many new students have other opinions about BAS. New junior at BAS said "This is a very small school and everyone seems to get along well and very quickly."

She also mentioned that it is very easy to get along with others, and she was surprised at how it takes a while to understand the classes. "It was difficult until I knew the styles of the teachers," she said

In an exciting way, each year BAS welcomes new students and they are easily acquainted with one another.



*photo by the Layout Editor*

## BAS Offers AP World History, Chinese I

Every few year BAS is able to provide new classes for its students. This year, BAS offers two new classes, AP World History and Chinese I.

Partially because AP World History was requested by the students last year, this year BAS students have the opportunity to take another AP class as Mrs. Winslow has experience with AP World History.

As the world develops, China continues to rise in influence, and to arise into world power. Someday it may replace English and become the universal language. Fore-seeing their future, two of the school seniors decided to take Distance Learning Chinese I.

Joseph Lauzon is a Chinese I teacher, who teaches only Distance Learning Chinese and has taught it for four years. He is American, but he lives in Camp Humphreys, South Korea; he studied Chinese at Nanjing University, in Nanjing, China, and he has been in many Chinese-speaking countries. It is well known that Chinese is not an easy language to learn. It would be interesting to hear what the students learning Chinese think about the language

“Surprisingly, the Chinese grammar is much easier than English, Persian, or Russian,” said the senior taking Chinese I. “The only thing that makes the language hard to master is its calligraphy.

“I decided to take Chinese because I wanted to try something new and challenging before I left high school,” said another senior.

“It’s definitely difficult in its own way; it’s hard to associate the characters to the pronunciation to the meaning, but I would encourage students to take it,” he said. “Despite being DL, the teacher is quite involved and he structures the class in a way that is easy to follow.”

“The students so far are doing well,” said Mr. Lauzon.

AP World History covers ancient to modern times. Mrs. Winslow feels this is an important class, and her favorite class.

“These students really get an interesting point of view in this class because not everyone has the same culture; nor do they have the same perspective on life.”

“AP World History is more conceptual instead of factual,” she continued. “In AP World History, the students learn how to compare and contrast the different cultures. “It is a great class that anyone can benefit from,” she said.

## BAS Drama Club to Prepare Two New Plays

Drama was and always will be a traditional and inseparable part of Brussels American School. But this year both school plays will have new directors –Ms.Quinn and Ms.Allen.

“After 18 shows in seven years, I’m taking a sabbatical,” said Mr.Stanton. “The theater is in competent hands with Ms.Quinn.”

Therefore, this year the two new plays – “Sleeping Beauty” and “Once Upon a Mattress”- will be directed and coordinated by two other teachers, Ms.Allen (Elementary School) and Ms.Quinn (High-School and Middle School).

Both of the teachers are extremely excited about the plays and hope that they’ll really surprise the audience this year.

The fairy tale of “Sleeping Beauty,” directed by Ms.Allen and performed by the elementary kids, is a musical comedy. What is absolutely unique about it is that the elementary kids will create their own version of the play, different from the other ones. The “try-outs” already took place on September 21<sup>st</sup> in the MPR. Only 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders participate in the play.

Amazingly, about 50 kids are involved in it, and each of them has his or her distinct role. The first rehearsal took place on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> in the MPR. According

to Ms.Allen, the performance is on April 1, 2011.

“From the beginning, I wanted to involve into the play as many children as I can,” said Ms.Allen. “The kids are all from different nations and this brings the community together.”

The high school and middle school students are performing “Once Upon a Mattress,” which is a musical comedy also, written by Mary Rodgers and Marshae Barer. The auditions took place on October 5<sup>th</sup> and about 35 students were chosen to participate in the play.

“We’re still looking for backstage help from students,” said Ms.Quinn.

Not all of the students in “Once Upon a Mattress” are novices in the school theater. For one of the juniors participating in the play, it is the fifth year of actively participating in school drama. Actually, it was this particular junior who suggested Ms.Quinn to direct “Once Upon a Mattress.”

*Continued on page 11*



# New Disney Movies and More in 2010

The top rated movies released in 2010 varied from the latest animated children's film to the newest mind-bending thriller. These movies, though seemingly different, have one thing in common: they dominated the box office.

At the top of the list is *Toy Story 3*, grossing \$167.6 million in its opening week, making it the highest grossing Pixar film yet.

Everyone remembers the group of toys that touched our hearts by reminding us, "you got a friend in me." In the original *Toy Story*, Woody, Andy's favorite toy, is introduced to Andy's newest addition to the gang, Buzz Lightyear. In this movie and its sequel, the band of toys, including Hamm, Rex, and Mr. Potato Head, join together to overcome obstacles and eventually find their way home.

In this continuation of *Toy Story*, Andy is off to college and decides to box up all his toys and put them in the attic, while he plans on taking Woody with him. Mistakenly, however, his mother takes the box and donates the toys to a daycare, where they are tortured and tormented by infants. After being deceived by Lotso the Bear, all the toys want to do is go back home, and they'll need Woody's help to get there.

Being rated 8.8 stars by the Internet Movie Database, this movie is meant for everyone, no matter what the age. While still keeping the animated images and action for the younger audiences, *Toy Story 3* is riddled with witty jokes and causes one to remember those childhood toys with which one made so many memories.

By evoking nostalgia in the older audiences while still entertaining the younger ones, *Toy Story 3* climbed its way to the top of the Box Office, with the help of the talented voice actors Tom Hanks as Woody and Tim Allen as Buzz Lightyear.

Another Disney flick to hit the screens this year was *Alice in Wonderland*, in which a 19-year-old Alice returns to her childhood fantasy world with a purpose: to put an end to the Red Queen's reign.

Grossing \$116,101,023 in its opening weekend, *Alice in Wonderland* appealed to vast audiences with its all-star cast, including Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter and Anne Hathaway as the White Queen, and its captivating new spin on the original movie from 1951.

Alice stumbles upon her whimsical world after falling into a rabbit hole. There she is rejoined with her old friends, including the White Rabbit, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, the Cheshire Cat and of course the Mad Hatter. Here she is pivoted against the evil forces of the Red Queen who will do anything to stop Alice from returning the throne to the benevolent White Queen.

Although this is mostly a children's film, the 3D animation and action allow people of all ages to enjoy the film. Each character presents a unique persona that even adults can identify with. With its quirky remarks and scenes, *Alice in Wonderland* is a family film that can entertain audiences of any age.

For mainly the more mature audiences, *Inception* provided enough action and plot twists that had audiences raving for days, especially with its ambiguous ending. If you're looking for a movie that will keep you at the edge of your cushioned seat for 148 minutes straight, *Inception* is the movie for you.

In a world where people can invade others' dreams, Cobb, a skilled thief played by the handsome Leonardo DiCaprio, works to pull off the most risky career move of his life: to plant an original idea in someone's mind. *Inception*, as it is called, has never been done before and is believed to be impossible to perform; Cobb is about to prove the naysayers wrong.

With epic floating fight scenes and unexpected turn of events, *Inception* never failed to entertain audiences, earning a total gross of \$290,432,773. Diving deep into the architecture of the mind, *Inception* is an original sci-fi that causes one to think outside regular boundaries and does not disappoint.



A Poster from the Motion Picture. Source IMDB

# Google Knows More Than You Know

What website do you use every single day besides FaceBook? Everyone will agree that Google, with its infinite searches and answers, is a massive part of our cyber lives. Google recently has even become a verb. "Google it!" is one of the most popular quotes of people around the world. Google appeals to everyone; it is the most famous internet engine. One of the reasons that Google is so appealing to everyone is that it is easy to use and it can look up everything very quickly. It makes huge profits by dominating online advertising, and it has become the most valuable company of the global market.

Since Google was established in 1998, it has undergone dramatic improvements. Google has many other features such as Gmail (Google mail), Google Maps, Google Earth, Google News, Picasa and Google Sketch-up, and it is available to other electronic devices other than a computer, like iPhones, Ipads and some cell phones such as the Android and BlackBerry smartphones.

One of the recent apps of Google is that it actually converts the voice into text. In addition to everything that Google produces, it is free for everyone.

According to statistics in 2009, Google performed around 76 billion searches in a month. It would be interesting to know to whom these questions were

addressed before Google (BG)? People used to look for everything in books; but today computers have taken the place of books, since most of the books' electronic versions exist thanks to Google.

The Google organization works hard to know more and more about us and our lives. Even though Google is extremely useful for every individual around the world, it has its bad implications as well. It perhaps may seem to not really care about peoples' privacy, since almost any kind of information about you will be accessible for anyone.

No one is certain if Google does not have a dossier for every single user's account. Google can learn a lot of information about you if you have a Google or Gmail account. It knows who sends you emails and who you receive emails from. It might even be scanning your email messages.

Google has bought more satellites to insure the increase of its usage. If there is a high-speed WiFi access, then there will be more time spent on the internet meaning more time on Google. Since 2005, Google has been multiplying investments in all kinds of infrastructures.

Whether Google cares about our privacy or not, a lot of people use Google everyday. Google is very useful even though it probably influences our lives in more ways than we would like. In fact, someday Google may do most of our thinking for us.




## Did you Know That... Cows Have No Upper Teeth?

Although cows love to graze the grass in pastures, sometimes even up to eight hours a day, they in fact have no teeth above their jaw. Even so, they eat about 100 pounds of feed daily, which is roughly the same as a bath tub filled with water. This could explain why they burp so often. Unfortunately, a cow's burp is composed of hydrocarbon, which is one of the main contributors to the hole in the ozone layers. Cows annually release about 100 million tons of hydrocarbon emissions because of their belches. This heat, along with the carbon monoxide emitted by cars, is one of the largest causes for the deteriorating ozone layer.



# Cross Country Teams Repeat and Six-Peat at Euros

The boys and girl's Cross Country teams won Division III Europeans for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a row, respectively, on October 30 in Helderberg, Germany.

"We had an amazing season, despite the fact that several runners had to deal with injuries," said one of the leading runners from the boy's team. "Winning both boys' and girls' Division III Championships was great for us seniors to finish our careers at BAS."

Ten B.A.S runners from the girls' and boys' teams were allowed to participate in the event.

Leading the boys team which narrowly beat 2nd place Alconbury, a senior from the boy's team finished first place among his teammates running at a pace of 17:24--the fastest BAS time ever at Europeans. Another senior from the team finished second for BAS at 17:36. Among all Divisions, the BAS recordsman finished 10th and one of the seniors 13th, each earning All-Europe 2nd Team honors. Coming in third for BAS was team captain, fourth was a boy junior and fifth was a sophomore from the boy's team.

"Every single runner's finish was critical as Alconbury had a solid and deep squad," said Coach Vahrenhorst.

For the BAS girl's team, one of the leading runners who is a BAS sophomore finished first at 21:42 over the tough 5K course. Two of the sophomores finished 2nd and third; one of the seniors finished fourth and a junior fifth for the BAS team which squeaked past Menwith Hill.

At the post-season banquet, two of the leading runners from the boy's and girl's teams, were named Team MVP's and the team captain won the Coaches Award. But many runners contributed to both teams' strong season.

"We've never had more male and female runners in one year placing among the Top Ten for All-Time BAS runners," said Coach Vahrenhorst. "But even those not making the Top Ten were essential because they pushed one another

and formed a tight-knit, hardworking group."

The week before Europeans at Baumholder, for the boy's team, one of the seniors won first place overall with a time of 17:36. For the girls, a sophomore just beat teammate finishing first among her teammates at 24:47.

At the BAS Homecoming Meet the leading runner from the boy's team achieved his own personal best (16:51) placing him third all-time for BAS runners.

"I was really hoping to get the best time," he said. "I felt accomplished once I did."

From the girl's team, the sophomore's 21:20 was the best for the girls, while the senior and two sophomores rounded out the top four--each earning personal bests for the season. The senior's finish in the girl's team was particularly satisfying as it was her best performance at her final Homecoming Meet, and while one of the sophomores time ranked her in the BAS Top Ten List, the other one earned Most Improved Female honors, cutting 2 minutes and 9 seconds off of her first meet time.

Two of the sophomores and a senior in the girl's team rank in that Top Ten list for girls, and three of the seniors in the boy's team are all in the Top Five for Boys in the school's history.

At the SHAPE Meet on Oct. 9, the senior from the boy's team (17:10) led all BAS runners and finished second overall with his personal best time of 17:10. A sophomore from the girl's team led the girls at 24:03 followed closely by two of the teammates.



photo by Mr. Westland

# Brigands Outnumbered but not Outworked

Though unable to bring home a victory, the Brussels Brigands Football Team worked harder than ever this 2010 fall season to prove that it's not always about winning, it's about the hard work you put into it.

In their last game of the season, the Brigands flew down to Sigonella, Italy to face the Jaguars. After a tough loss against Sigonella, who won the Division III Championship the Brigands ended their season. This, however, does not speak for the Brigands' incredible effort and hard work left on the field for not only this game, but for every game of the season.

At Sigonella, the single Brigand touchdown made was by a junior after receiving the ten-yard pass from a senior teammate. One of the seniors in the team, who had 11 tackles, was able to break through the Jaguars and lead Brussels with a 28-yard rush.

On October 16, the Brigands played their Homecoming Game against last year's Division III Champions, the Alconbury Dragons. Despite the impressive 117 rushing yards by the senior team captain, and the 123 more by Zach Jackson, Brussels fell behind and lost to the Dragons 48-20. One of the juniors ran 50 yards more after catching three passes and led the Brigands with seven.

The previous week, the Brigands traveled to Menwith Hill to play the Mustangs at their home field. The Mustangs really shined in this game, beating the Brigands 39-8. The blue team never gave up, though, and managed to survive the grueling game.

One of the Brigands players slowed the Mustangs a bit with a two yard run. That was then followed by a 60-yard completion to a junior from a senior quarterback. Jackson also had 110 all-purpose yards.

For the first conference game of the season, the Brussels Brigands flew down to Rota, Spain. Here, the Brigands

proved to be tough competitors by holding down the Admirals, but in the end Rota won 12-0. The Brigands managed to score two touchdowns, but both were retracted due to penalties, leaving the Brigands at zero.

The Brigands faced the Brussels Bulls in a friendly match on September 18. This Belgian football team, having been national champions in 2009, was in for a surprise when the Brigands started off strong, having an 8-0 lead in the first half. This lead didn't last, however, as the Bulls quickly adapted their defense and ended up scoring 18 unanswered points. It was still an excellent first game for the Brigands, considering the few boys on the team and their lack of previous experience.

From the beginning of the season, the Brigands faced



*The Brigands' team captain makes a run through defense against Alconbury.*

trouble with the lack of players trying out for the team. Then with just enough players to even have a team, many were unable to play due to injury. One of the seniors, for example, was captain and also the quarterback before he suffered from a spiral fracture in his middle finger while playing the Brussels Bulls. Like many others, he was out for the rest of the season.

*Photo by Mr. Westland.*

Another senior, a fellow captain, feels these two factors really affected the outcome of the season.

"The season could've turned out much better if it wasn't for the unfortunate injuries and the amount of people who came out to play," he said.

But all in all, the Brussels Brigands played well in every one of their games. As captain, one of the Brigands player agrees that much was accomplished despite what their record may show.

"It was a tough season but our team managed to finish it with our heads held high, and the knowledge that we were the hardest hitting team in DIII," said Kren.

# Tennis Team takes Third at Europeans

The BAS Brigands tennis team has had an amazing season this year with many accomplishments and outstanding outcomes from all the team players. Not only did they do astonishingly well at Europeans, but throughout the whole season they kept doing only their best.

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, the tennis team left to go and find victory at the European Championship in Wiesbaden, Germany. Those who went to Europeans were seniors, juniors, and sophomores. These players did well and received an overall title of third place in Division III Tennis.

The previous week, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the tennis team went to SHAPE and played hard against their Division I opponents. In Girls Doubles, two of the juniors claimed the win with a score of 8-0.

“The junior girl who played doubles stepped up a lot and it was the main surprise in the matches,” said Coach Bohn.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Friday before homecoming, the tennis team had a home match against Alconbury. In both Boys Singles and Doubles the BAS tennis team had something to cheer about. Two of the seniors and one sophomore all won their individual matches against Alconbury. Although the girls were defeated, they played well and still had strong swings and confidence in their playing.

Prior to the match against Alconbury, the tennis team had yet another home match on October 7<sup>th</sup>, this time facing AFNORTH. Again, the boys’ singles matches resulted in some happy players. One sophomore and two seniors all took the win in their first home match of the season. And though the girls didn’t dominate against AFNORTH, they were definitely proud of how they played.

The week before Alconbury, on September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Brigands tennis team played hard against ISB. Victory was not given to all of the players. Fortunately, in boy’s tennis



*The BAS senior takes a swing. Photo by Mr. Westland.*

doubles, the BAS Brigands were able to find a little luck. Two of the seniors had an impressive win over their Division I opponents, ISB.

Previous to the ISB matches, on September 24<sup>th</sup> the boys’ tennis team gained a victory over Lakenheath.

“This was the highlight of the season,” said Coach Bohn.

The BAS boys’ team won every one of their matches against the Division I school. He also mentioned how both the boys’ team and the girls team, while at Lakenheath, played hard and was very much pleased him in their efforts.

This season started out with a tennis Jamboree which took place on September 18<sup>th</sup>, in Baumholder, Germany. This was a great way for the BAS tennis team to start out the season. With a total of 13 wins, it seemed as if the tennis team would be undefeatable. Both the boys and the girls won every singles and doubles match that came their way. Not only did this give them a good attitude about their playing, but also a very positive outlook on what was to come.

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“One of the seniors and I have participated in this particular play when we were in Middle School,” she said. “So, I gave the old script of the play to Ms. Quinn, and she decided to direct it this year.”

“It is the second play that I’m participating in, and I am quite familiar with the script of the play that we’re preparing this year,” said one of the actors.

Some of the characters in the play are Queen Agravaïn, Princess Winnifred, Prince Dauntless, King Sextimus, Lady Larken, Sir Harry, and the Minstrel.

The floor of the MPR was repaired and new dressing rooms were built. Moreover, new curtains were purchased; soon, there will also be sound and light updates. Undoubtedly, with these improvements, the play is going to be a success.

# Young Lady Brigands Rebuild, Maintain

Despite strong victories against Ankara and Lajes in Volleyball Europeans, the Lady Brigands came out just short against Sigonella and Menwith Hill in the quarterfinal ending their season with a 6 and 12 record.

“This year BAS had a young team since we had only three players who came back from last year,” said Coach Westland. “They developed their skills and learned a lot; we played SHAPE, which is a Division I school and I think it was a good experience. I would call this season a rebuilding one.”

The Lady Brigands had only one starting player returning from last year, a senior.

At the European Tournament in Ramstein on November 4, the Brigands defeated Ankara, 24-26, 25-14, 25-19. They also defeated Lajes, 25-9, 28-26. Unfortunately, the Lady Brigands lost to Sigonella, 25-18, 11-25, 25-20. The quarterfinals, Lady Brigands lost to Menwith Hill, 23-25, 25-21, and 25-22. In the end, Rota got first place in girls' volleyball DIII.

Despite how hard the Lady Brigands tried, on the last week before Europeans Tournament, they lost three to zero to both AF-North and SHAPE. Co-Captain managed 4 service aces, 10 assists, 9 kills and 4 dig; while her teammate managed 4 kills and 1 solo block. The other Co-Captain made 5 kills, and a junior player managed 2 assists, 8 kills and 8 digs. A sophomore player managed 14 assists, 2 kills and 2 digs. One of the freshmen girls managed 2 service aces, 2 assists, 5 kills and 1 solo block. They played best three of five games

The week before, Brussels lost to Division I SHAPE again three to zero, but the Lady Brigands defeated Baumholder three to two.

The week before, on October 16th of, Homecoming, the Lady Brigands beat Alconbury three to two. The junior Co-captain had two service aces, 12 assists, one solo block and two digs while a junior teammate managed to have two kills, one solo block, two assists and one solo block. A senior Co-captain had four kills, one solo block,

and one block assist while a junior player managed to have nine kills. A sophomore had two service aces and six assists. A senior and freshman players both managed to have two digs, while the freshman had two kills.

The previous week, on 9<sup>th</sup> October. The Lady Brigands almost won over Kaiserslautern, but in the end, they lost three to two. For that weekend, the sophomore Co-captain had 35 successful serves, three service aces, four kills, one solo block and one block assist. Both the freshmen and a sophomore managed to have two solo blocks, while a sophomore had three digs and a freshmen had two service aces, five kills and one assisted block. The junior player had 38 successful services, five kills and two digs. The sophomore player had two kills. A senior had three kills and three digs.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> The Lady Brigands defeated Menwith Hill three to zero, which was a really good result for the girls. The team's Co-captain managed having six service

aces and four assists. A sophomore had three kills, five digs, and one solo block, while the senior Co-captain had four kills and seven digs. The junior player had four kills and one solo block. The sophomore had seven assists, two kills and four digs. The freshman had three kills, three solo blocks and six digs.



On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September Lady Brigands lost to AF North three to zero. Then the Blue team lost to Bitburg three to zero as well. According to the combined weekend statistics, one of the team's Co-captains had four aces, 10 assists, nine kills and 4 digs. The sophomore managed to have four kills and one solo block. The senior Co-captain had five kills, and a junior ended up having two assists, eight kills and eight digs. The sophomore had 14 assists, two kills and two digs. The freshman helped the team by having two service aces, two assists, five kills and one solo block.

“We were a brand new team, so from the beginning we had to work hard,” said Co-Captain of BAS volleyball team. “Our hard work paid off; however, when we began to win and show our true potential. This was a great first season and next year the team will be even better.”