



### NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ON THE SCHEDULE:

Varsity Basketball – various dates!

The band is divided into 3 groups – Red, White, and Blue. Groups rotate between boys and girls varsity home games. Call time is 6pm for games at 7pm. Check with your musician to see which group they are in.

January 22, 7:00-8:30

Alumni Band at Basketball Game

February 6

Winter Guard @ Bremerton

February 8, 7:00pm

Festival of Catholic Choirs  
Benaroya Hall

February 13

Winter Guard @ Cedarcrest HS

February 27

Winter Guard WGI Portland  
Regional at Skyview HS

February 29, Time TBD

Highline Community Band Concert  
(Symphonic and Concert Bands)  
Highline Performing Arts Center

March 5,

Instrumental Solo and Ensemble  
Contest, Lindbergh HS

March 5

Winter Guard @ Bonney Lake HS

March 12

Vocal Solo and Ensemble Contest,  
Hazen HS

March 17, all day

Orchestra Assessments, Hazen HS

March 17-20

Spring Musical "HONK!"  
Kennedy Catholic Little Theater

March 19

Winter Guard @ Kamiak HS

March 22, all day

Choral Assessments (all choirs)  
Highline Performing Arts Center

March 24, all day

High School Band Assessments (all  
bands)

#### MEET MRS. BROWN, CHOIR TEACHER AND FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT CHAIR

*Tell me a little of your background. Where did you go to school?*

I grew up in Tacoma and went to Bellarmine Preparatory High School and Central Washington University, where I got my Bachelor of Music Education in Choral Music.

*Was there music in your family growing up?*

Growing up in the NW, it was always rainy and I am the fourth of eight kids. My mom, a homemaker, used to play different records all the time and we would have dance parties while we did our chores. Now that I'm a mom, I think she may have been trying to drown out our bickering or get us to work out our energy... but it worked! We all love music, but I am the only one who went on to pursue it as a career.



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#### BAND AND CHOIR NEWS

The band was busy in the fall! The **New South Wales Public School Millennium Marching Band and Color Guard** from Australia joined us on Sept. 25 at one of our football games. There was a joint band performance and a field show by the visiting band. Post-show festivities included Marmite tasting!

In October the band and orchestra took Mr. Fischer on his first-ever Kennedy Catholic **band retreat**, to Island Lake in Poulsbo. There was time for both fun and reflection (and maybe a little sleep!).

Don't miss the upcoming **Festival of Catholic Choirs** on Feb. 8, in the beautiful acoustical setting of Benaroya Hall. Over 740 singers from local Catholic schools will participate, under the guidance of renowned conductor and composer, Stephen Hatfield.

#### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

**The Magazine Sale** was a success! Band, Choir, and Drama students sold \$7,473 in magazines this year, half of which BSHARP gets to keep. Thank you for your continued support! Band student **Erik E.** was our top seller with a whopping 43 magazine subscriptions totalling \$952. The secret to Erik's success? Repeat sales! Way to go Erik!

**Raffle Baskets:** BSHARP members assembled 15 beautiful gift baskets that were raffled off at the December Arts & Crafts fair. The raffle raised \$1,110. Thank you!

Band parents, you can look forward to **new garment bags** purchased by BSHARP this year. No longer do you need to repurpose your old suit bag or the dry cleaner bag. New garment bags will have room for both shoes and hat, and will be monogrammed with the Kennedy Catholic logo! BSHARP also purchased a new **gong stand**, and **rolling uniform racks** for the band room.



**New for 2016/2017! Kennedy Catholic Percussion Ensemble** will be offered to all students who wish to enhance their percussion performance abilities, be part of a team and perform in public. This is **separate** from Concert and Symphonic Band (you don't take both). MORE DETAILS TO COME!

**In the Drama Department, Major Barbara** opened our drama season in the fall, and upcoming this spring we will see the musical **HONK!**, adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's story The Ugly Duckling. The tunes are catchy and the show has a great message.



## MEET MRS. BROWN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

*When did you decide you wanted to be a professional music teacher?*

There were a lot of different experiences that led me to music education...

I was a ballet dancer for twelve years and was lucky to be in a studio that always had live music for each class and performance. I learned to think about interpreting music there.

When I was in eighth grade, we had a maternity leave replacement choir teacher who told me that I was singing quarter tones (the pitches in-between the half steps). I was a very stubborn teen who was convinced that I was not and spent lunches for the rest of the year at the piano, trying to match pitch. I scratched the surface of the work ethic of music there.

As a sophomore in high school, I was cast in the school musical. I solidified the joy of performance there.

As a junior in high school, I was asked to fill in for my choir teacher while she attended to some business in class one day- probably our grades. I was introduced to the challenge of conducting there.

As a senior in high school, everyone kept asking me what I wanted to do when I grew up. I figured that I loved music, I loved the process, and I always wanted to teach. If I had to work for a living, it might as well be doing something I love, so here I am.



*You have 2 children – do they like to sing?*

They sing all of the time- especially Christmas music. It is hilarious to hear their take on certain lyrics.

*Do you play any instruments besides your voice?*

I continue working on my piano skills.

*What advice do you have for aspiring musicians?*

This is a great gig, if you love it! Practice daily. Learn the piano- regardless of your instrument. Listen to all genres of music. Seek out live performances of all kinds and see as many shows as you can. Ask multiple teachers for their feedback and try new techniques. Cultivate your personality- introvert and extrovert- because you will need both sides. Work hard.

*Where do you get your inspiration for teaching music?*

I feel privileged to work with our young people each day. They inspire me.

*What do you like about teaching at Kennedy Catholic?*

I love that we teach students of every academic level and culture. They are respectful, encouraging, ambitious young people and they inspire me daily.

*Tell me something about you that your students would be surprised to know.*

I met my husband through an online dating website because my big sister, Katy, signed me up and created a profile for me without my knowledge. I only even logged on because I was so embarrassed by her answers on my profile and had to fix them! Ironically, she and I now share the same married last name- we both found Browns.

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**BSHARP** is the **Kennedy Catholic Arts Booster Club**. We support all the fine arts, including band, orchestra, choir, Color Guard, and drama. BSHARP fundraising provides students with uniforms, instruments, music stands, and more. We provide logistical support at events and parades. We do not charge parents a membership fee! There are many ways for you to be involved. Help out at school or at school events. Purchase and use Scrip when you shop. Help assemble a gift basket. Renew magazines! Work at the book sale. All are welcome! [BSHARP@kennedyhs.org](mailto:BSHARP@kennedyhs.org)



@BSHARP at Kennedy Catholic High School