



# **Bear Witness**

**Best use of social media:**

*Reporting*

**@bhsbearwitness**





Click on any of the  
screenshots to see the  
original posts. These are just  
highlights of our social  
media, for more see  
[@bhsbearwitness](#) on  
[Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#)






## Our social media statement of purpose

Our goal in running our social media feed was to report each event as a complete story. We ask our reporters to interview at least one source, and in their caption provide the context. We also often run feature stories that take advantage of the carousel format that Instagram provides.

We aimed for both frequency and quality in our reporting. In the past year, we published 188 posts, a little more than 1 per every school day.



## Goals/changes to social media reporting

- Headlines for every news story
- More creation of graphics and graphical elements to illustrate a story, especially due to distance learning.
- Addition of information + statistics to help provide context to every online story
- Collaborative efforts with newsmakers, such as those with our College and Career specialist and a student foodie.



# Collaborations

With school shut down, we sought to amplify the voices of students and staff who needed a platform to share tips and stories.

# College With Ms. Perez

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

## FINDING FUNDS FOR YOUR NEXT STEP



**WHY MONEY IS IMPORTANT**  
College and Career Specialist Patricia Perez shares her experience and offers why you should apply!

**The basics: College edition**  
What's the difference between a scholarship, a grant and a loan?

**Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

Carva stock illustration

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

**COVID-19 COLLEGE**  
Q: How has COVID-19 affected college admissions for the class of 2021?

**THIS WEEK: COVERING THE BASICS**

- My purpose and Q&A**  
College and Career Specialist Patricia Perez explains her journey helping students figure out life after high school.
- The basics: College edition**  
A.A., B.A. and beyond. Explaining the alphabet soup that is your post-high school life.
- The basics: Trade school**  
Perez shares reasons to consider a trade school over four-year colleges.
- Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

Plus, look out for the link to next week's Financial Aid Information night!

joshing\_u24년 외 148명이 좋아합니다

2020년 10월 29일

댓글 달기...

게시

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

**COVID-19 COLLEGE**  
Q: How has COVID-19 affected college admissions for the class of 2021?

**THIS WEEK: COVERING THE BASICS**

- My purpose and Q&A**  
College and Career Specialist Patricia Perez explains her journey helping students figure out life after high school.
- The basics: College edition**  
A.A., B.A. and beyond. Explaining the alphabet soup that is your post-high school life.
- The basics: Trade school**  
Perez shares reasons to consider a trade school over four-year colleges.
- Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

Plus, look out for the link to next week's Financial Aid Information night!

joshing\_u24년 외 148명이 좋아합니다

2020년 10월 29일

댓글 달기...

게시

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

**COVID-19 COLLEGE**  
Q: How has COVID-19 affected college admissions for the class of 2021?

**THIS WEEK: COVERING THE BASICS**

- My purpose and Q&A**  
College and Career Specialist Patricia Perez explains her journey helping students figure out life after high school.
- The basics: College edition**  
A.A., B.A. and beyond. Explaining the alphabet soup that is your post-high school life.
- The basics: Trade school**  
Perez shares reasons to consider a trade school over four-year colleges.
- Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

Plus, look out for the link to next week's Financial Aid Information night!

joshing\_u24년 외 148명이 좋아합니다

2020년 10월 29일

댓글 달기...

게시

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

**COVID-19 COLLEGE**  
Q: How has COVID-19 affected college admissions for the class of 2021?

**THIS WEEK: COVERING THE BASICS**

- My purpose and Q&A**  
College and Career Specialist Patricia Perez explains her journey helping students figure out life after high school.
- The basics: College edition**  
A.A., B.A. and beyond. Explaining the alphabet soup that is your post-high school life.
- The basics: Trade school**  
Perez shares reasons to consider a trade school over four-year colleges.
- Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

Plus, look out for the link to next week's Financial Aid Information night!

joshing\_u24년 외 148명이 좋아합니다

2020년 10월 29일

댓글 달기...

게시

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

**COVID-19 COLLEGE**  
Q: How has COVID-19 affected college admissions for the class of 2021?

**THIS WEEK: COVERING THE BASICS**

- My purpose and Q&A**  
College and Career Specialist Patricia Perez explains her journey helping students figure out life after high school.
- The basics: College edition**  
A.A., B.A. and beyond. Explaining the alphabet soup that is your post-high school life.
- The basics: Trade school**  
Perez shares reasons to consider a trade school over four-year colleges.
- Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

Plus, look out for the link to next week's Financial Aid Information night!

joshing\_u24년 외 148명이 좋아합니다

2020년 10월 29일

댓글 달기...

게시

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

## NOTHING SCARY ABOUT COLLEGE APPS



**NAVIGATING COLLEGE APPLICATION SEASON**  
Overwhelmed? That's okay. Figure out when to apply.

**Surviving the season**  
What's a work permit and other questions that you might have.

**The basics: How to get a permit**  
What are some requirements

**Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

Carva stock illustration

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

**NOTHING SCARY ABOUT COLLEGE APPS**

**NAVIGATING COLLEGE APPLICATION SEASON**  
Overwhelmed? That's okay. Figure out when to apply.

**Surviving the season**  
What's a work permit and other questions that you might have.

**The basics: How to get a permit**  
What are some requirements

**Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

joshing\_u24년 외 164명이 좋아합니다

2020년 10월 29일

댓글 달기...

게시

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

## INSIGHTS



**BRANHAM ALUMNI SHARE ADVICE ON COLLEGE**  
Highlights from last week's College Week, with input from Saul Gutierrez, Malla Mile and Laurn Ping.

**Why a personal statement?**  
What a reflection of your past tells about your future.

**Essays: The good and the bad**  
What to avoid, what to include.

**Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

joshing\_u24년 외 124명이 좋아합니다

2020년 10월 29일


댓글 달기...

게시

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

## INSIGHTS



**BRANHAM ALUMNI SHARE ADVICE ON COLLEGE**  
Highlights from last week's College Week, with input from Saul Gutierrez, Malla Mile and Laurn Ping.

**Why a personal statement?**  
What a reflection of your past tells about your future.

**Essays: The good and the bad**  
What to avoid, what to include.

**Weekly college visits & calendar**  
Learn about important deadlines, and hear from college reps and learn about their campus' strengths.

joshing\_u24년 외 124명이 좋아합니다

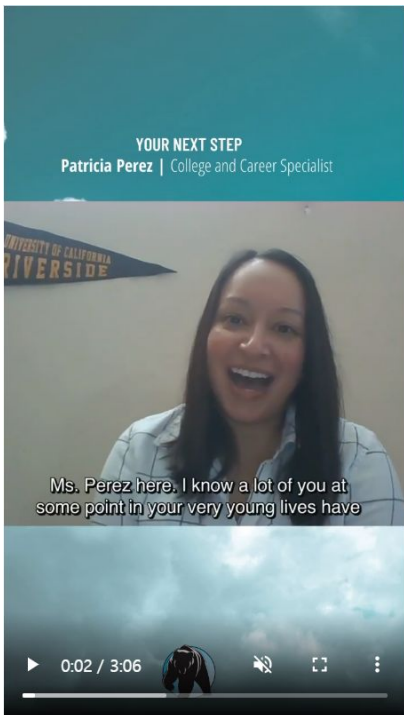
2020년 10월 29일

댓글 달기...

게시

We worked with College and Career Counselor Patricia Perez on a series that provided advice on life beyond high school.

# College With Ms. Perez cont.



**YOUR NEXT STEP**  
Patricia Perez | College and Career Specialist

Ms. Perez here. I know a lot of you at some point in your very young lives have

**bhsbearwitness** ...

**bhsbearwitness** Your next step

College and Career Center Specialist Patricia Perez's first career choice was medicine, but realizing that it was not for her, she eventually switched to education. She realized that what linked the two was her joy in helping people. She shares why it's okay for students not to be sure what their career goals are at in high school, and to keep on reflecting on and asking questions about their goals and passions.

30주

♡ 💬 📌

조회수 287회

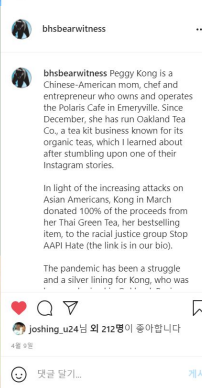
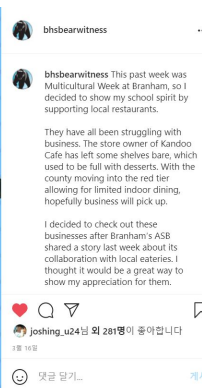
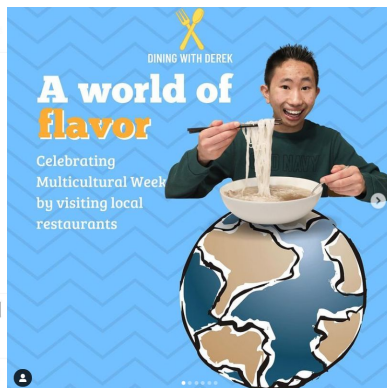
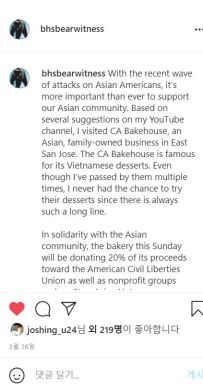
2020년 11월 20일

😊 댓글 달기...

게시

We also helped Patricia Perez share videos of college and career advice.

# Dining With Derek

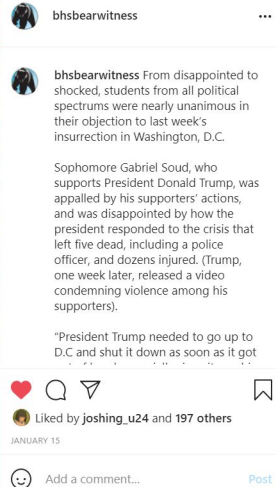
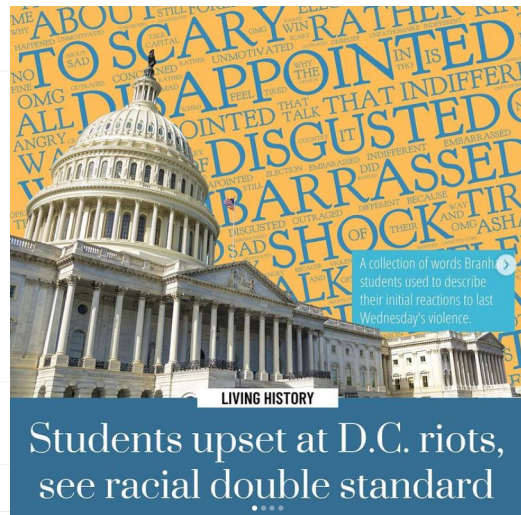
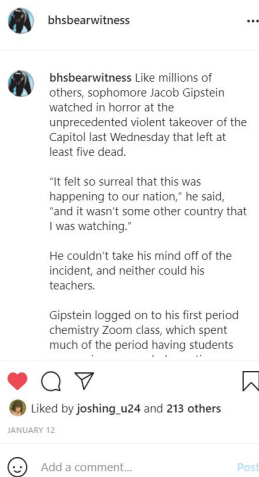


Additionally, we partnered with sophomore foodie Derek Lee, who shared thoughts on ethnic food and culture.

# Localizing hard news

Social media can be used for more than just light topics. We used our social media to cover serious issues such as the Washington D.C. Riot, the death of a teacher, and return of sports which were all lightning rods for student and community engagement.

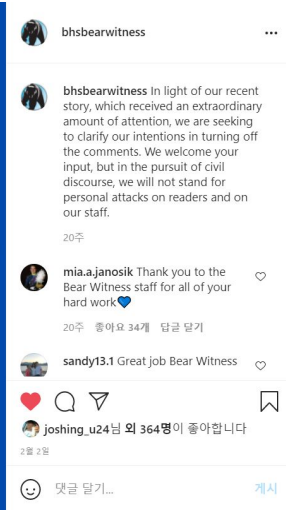
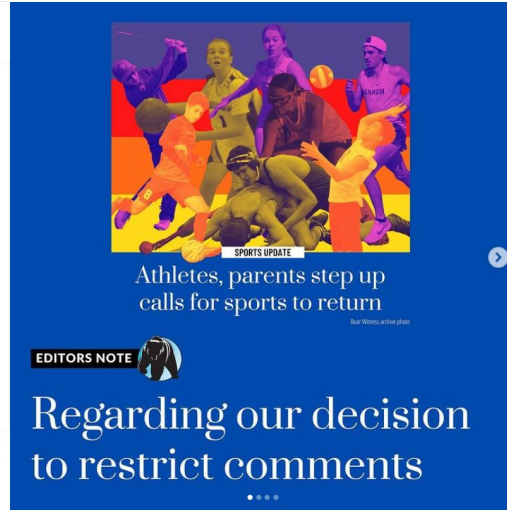
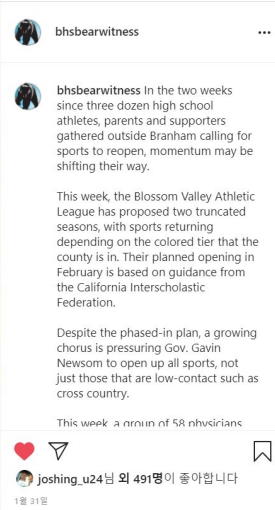
# Washington D.C. Riot



In the week following the D.C. riots, we sought student and teacher opinions about their approach to teaching and experiencing the events.



# Return to School + negative Comments



- This post in particular sparked a rush of debate, and vitriol - More than 2,000 comments before it was shut down. A sign that the Bear Witness served a good focal point for student and community voices. We issued a rare editors note encouraging a civil debate.

# Mental Health

"There has been an increase in mental health problems in distanced learning. It's a big shift from our normal routines." — **Michelle Ho**, SSAC board member



**STUDENT SERVICES**

Student group has district's ear on mental health issues



bhsbearwitness



**bhsbearwitness** Note: You can apply for the CUHSD Superintendent-Student Advisory Council using the link in our bio.

One year into the pandemic, distance learning is often cited the main contributor to the declining mental health of students. The Superintendent-Student Advisory Council is a prominent voice in addressing that. The group, made of two or three members from each school in the district and joined by Superintendent Dr. Robert Bravo and school board members, is hoping to launch an online tip line for students to share their struggles while distance learning.



joshing\_u24 님 외 151명이 좋아합니다

3월 29일

댓글 달기...



게시

## STUDENT SERVICES

### Proposal for an anonymous tip line for mental health issues

After reviewing a survey of more than 1,000 students in the district, the Superintendent-Student Advisory Council is proposing an anonymous tip line for non-emergency issues. Ideas for the plan include:

- An option for tip line to remain anonymous for student feedback/concerns,
- Student- and administration-led
- Non-emergency use only



### Applicants sought for student advisory group

The SSAC is looking for students who will meet with the Superintendent Dr. Robert Bravo and school board members. Positions that are open include.

- Two seats for district-level student board members
- Two to three seats for members of each school.
- Link to application in our bio.

“All of the people involved from different schools come with the same goal of making improvements to our district, and they are some of the most passionate people to have discussions with.”

**Michelle Ho**, sophomore member of SSAC

Screen grab from CUHSD-SSAC



bhsbearwitness



**bhsbearwitness** Note: You can apply for the CUHSD Superintendent-Student Advisory Council using the link in our bio.

One year into the pandemic, distance learning is often cited the main contributor to the declining mental health of students. The Superintendent-Student Advisory Council is a prominent voice in addressing that. The group, made of two or three members from each school in the district and joined by Superintendent Dr. Robert Bravo and school board members, is hoping to launch an online tip line for students to share their struggles while distance learning.



joshing\_u24 님 외 151명이 좋아합니다

3월 29일

댓글 달기...



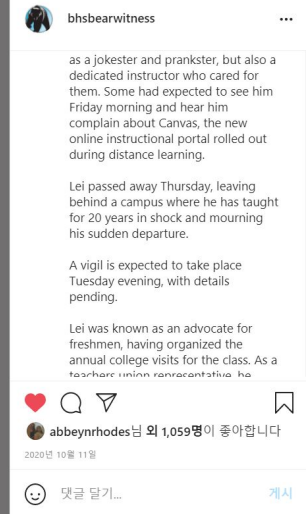
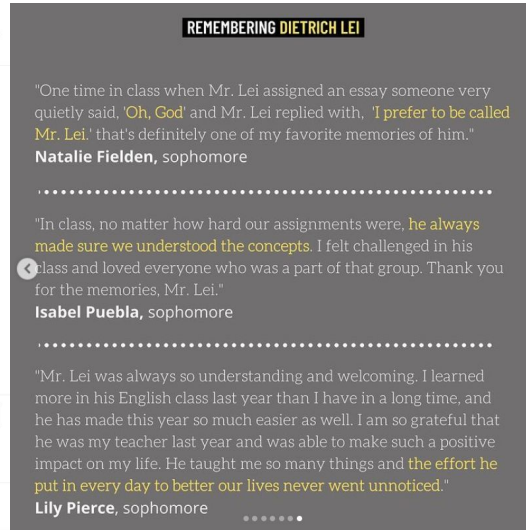
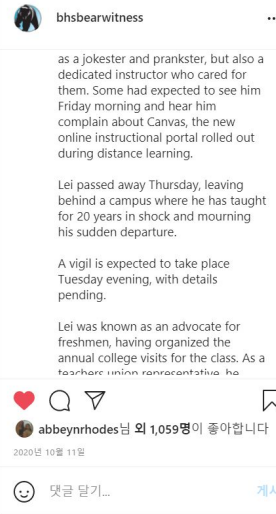
게시

We interviewed students and staff about a new advisory council concerned with mental health during the pandemic.



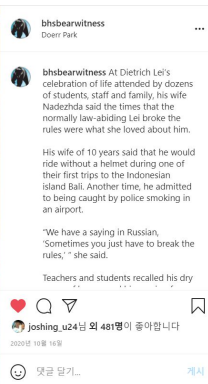
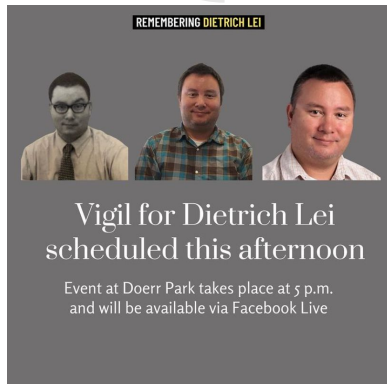
# Honoring those who passed away

# Death of a teacher



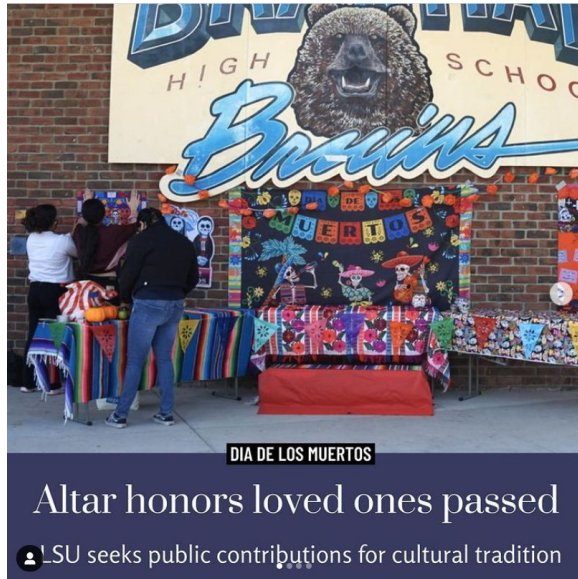
We sought student and staff perspectives after the death of a beloved teacher. Students honored and shared memories with him. This particular post had our highest engagement, with more than 1,000 likes and hundreds 400 shared.

# Tributes to Dietrich Lei



We covered the passing of beloved English teacher Dietrich Lei and the ceremonies held in his honor.

# Dia de los Muertos Altar



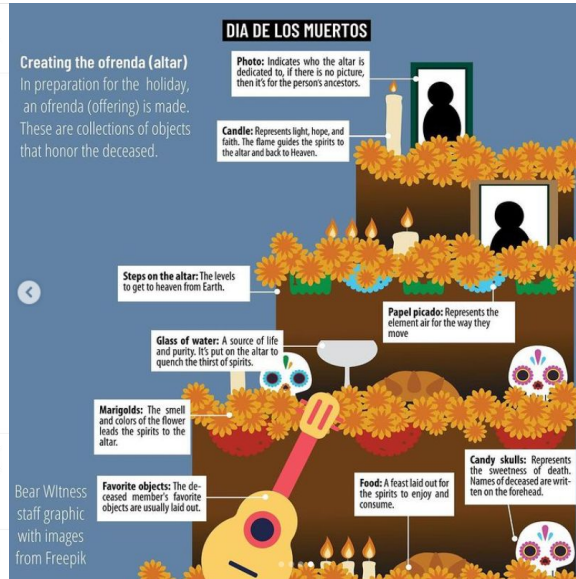
bhsbearwitness  
Branham High School

bhsbearwitness Senior Mia Estrada Lara's contribution for the Dia de los Muertos altar at Branham was a photo of her late grandfather, Donato Lara, who passed away two years ago from a car accident.

The Mexican holiday, which combines the Catholic holiday All Saints Day and All Souls Day with Aztec traditions, begins today and lasts through tomorrow. At Branham, members of the Latinx Student Union and the Multicultural Club decorated the altar Wednesday, with contributions of loved ones who have passed away. Because of the school closure, students worked in small cohorts at specific time intervals.

joshing\_u24님 외 245명이 좋아합니다  
2020년 11월 1일

댓글 달기...



bhsbearwitness  
Branham High School

bhsbearwitness Senior Mia Estrada Lara's contribution for the Dia de los Muertos altar at Branham was a photo of her late grandfather, Donato Lara, who passed away two years ago from a car accident.

The Mexican holiday, which combines the Catholic holiday All Saints Day and All Souls Day with Aztec traditions, begins today and lasts through tomorrow. At Branham, members of the Latinx Student Union and the Multicultural Club decorated the altar Wednesday, with contributions of loved ones who have passed away. Because of the school closure, students worked in small cohorts at specific time intervals.

joshing\_u24님 외 245명이 좋아합니다  
2020년 11월 1일

댓글 달기...

A story on the altar set up by the Latino Student Union, explaining the holiday and its meaning. We also shared the experiences of the club president.

# Passing of a student's parent

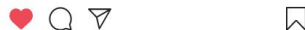


bhsbearwitness

bhsbearwitness Junior Lucas Joo-Perez is seeking the Branham community's help after the sudden passing of his father Henry in August. Lucas and his older brother, Eligh, who graduated in 2019, have set up a GoFundMe to pay for funeral expenses as well as providing financial help for the two siblings. They are close to their \$25,000 goal (please view the link in our bio).

Though Lucas and his brother are now living with family in San Bruno, he is still attending distance learning classes. Their mother Priscilla passed away in 2013.

On Aug. 13, Henry was found



joshing\_u24님 외 411명이 좋아합니다

2020년 9월 14일

댓글 달기...

게시

## Remembering Henry Joo-Perez



TEAM FUNDRAISER

Lucas Joo-Perez and Eligh Joo-Perez are organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Eligh Joo-Perez.

A GoFundMe page was created by Lucas and his brother Eligh to pay for funeral expenses and the siblings' living costs. Their goal is to reach \$25,000.

bhsbearwitness

bhsbearwitness Junior Lucas Joo-Perez is seeking the Branham community's help after the sudden passing of his father Henry in August. Lucas and his older brother, Eligh, who graduated in 2019, have set up a GoFundMe to pay for funeral expenses as well as providing financial help for the two siblings. They are close to their \$25,000 goal (please view the link in our bio).

Though Lucas and his brother are now living with family in San Bruno, he is still attending distance learning classes. Their mother Priscilla passed away in 2013.

On Aug. 13, Henry was found



joshing\_u24님 외 411명이 좋아합니다

2020년 9월 14일

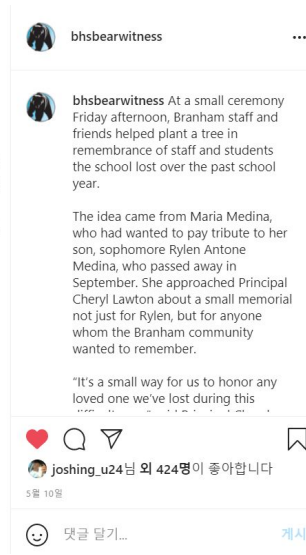
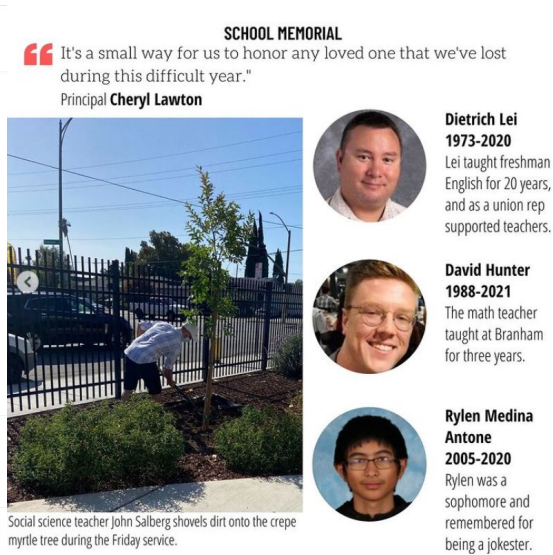
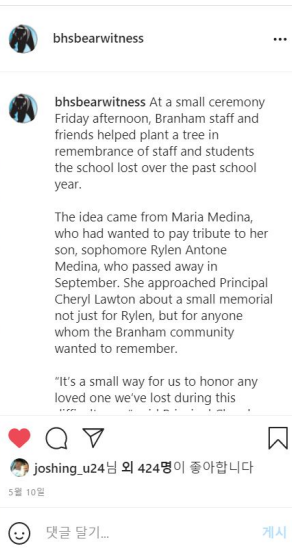
댓글 달기...

게시

When a Branham student's dad passed away suddenly, we shared his memories of his dad his family's fundraising efforts on behalf of his children.



# Tree planting in memory of those who died



With the deaths of three members of the Branham community during the school year, the Bear Witness covered a tree-planting ceremony in their honor.

# Covering national events

We aimed to localize national issues by talking to our staff and students, including the anniversary of 9/11, Super Bowl, and Kamala Harris.

# Covering AAPI hate crimes



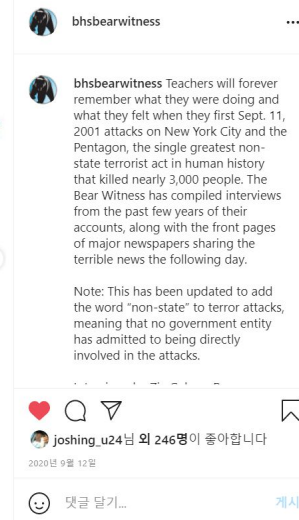
The Bear Witness shared stories about how the Branham community responded to the stretch of hate crimes against people of Asian heritage, including rallies, student reactions and statistics.



# Remembering 9/11



“ Ever since then the idea of terrorism became really relevant to me. It was the first time that I really became interested in government and politics ... just because of how big of an event it was.”  
**Mike Espinoza**  
English teacher



We covered about the memories 7 teachers recalls their own experience of 9/11.

# Honoring RGB



**bhsbearwitness**  
Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center

**bhsbearwitness** San Jose residents and officials on Saturday paid respects to Ruth Bader Ginsburg at a vigil outside the Billy de Frank LGBTQ+ Community Center near downtown San Jose.

The liberal Ginsburg wrote strong opinions supporting gender equality, civil rights, including those supporting women's education, disability programs and voter discrimination.

At the vigil, Santa Clara County supervisor Susan Ellenberg praised Ginsburg and her goals to embrace "equity for all," while others encouraged attendees to carry on her spirit of social justice.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Add a comment...

Post

**RUTH BADER GINSBURG | 1933-2020**

**Trump expected to pick a woman to fill Ginsburg's seat**  
President Donald Trump is set this week to announce his nomination for a Supreme Court justice to fill the vacancy left by Ginsburg. He said that they will most likely be a woman.

**Supreme Court controversy**  
In 2016, Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) prevented a senate vote on President Barack Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court, saying that voters in an election year should decide who should be on the bench. Following Ginsburg's death, Democrats, and some Senate Republicans, are urging that McConnell follow the precedence that he had set.

**62%** Americans who prefer presidential winner to pick the next Supreme Court Justice.  
Source: Ipsos/Reuters

There is nothing in the Constitution that prevents a Supreme Court justice seat from being filled, regardless how close it is to the election.

**bhsbearwitness**  
Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center

**bhsbearwitness** San Jose residents and officials on Saturday paid respects to Ruth Bader Ginsburg at a vigil outside the Billy de Frank LGBTQ+ Community Center near downtown San Jose.

The liberal Ginsburg wrote strong opinions supporting gender equality, civil rights, including those supporting women's education, disability programs and voter discrimination.

At the vigil, Santa Clara County supervisor Susan Ellenberg praised Ginsburg and her goals to embrace "equity for all," while others encouraged attendees to carry on her spirit of social justice.

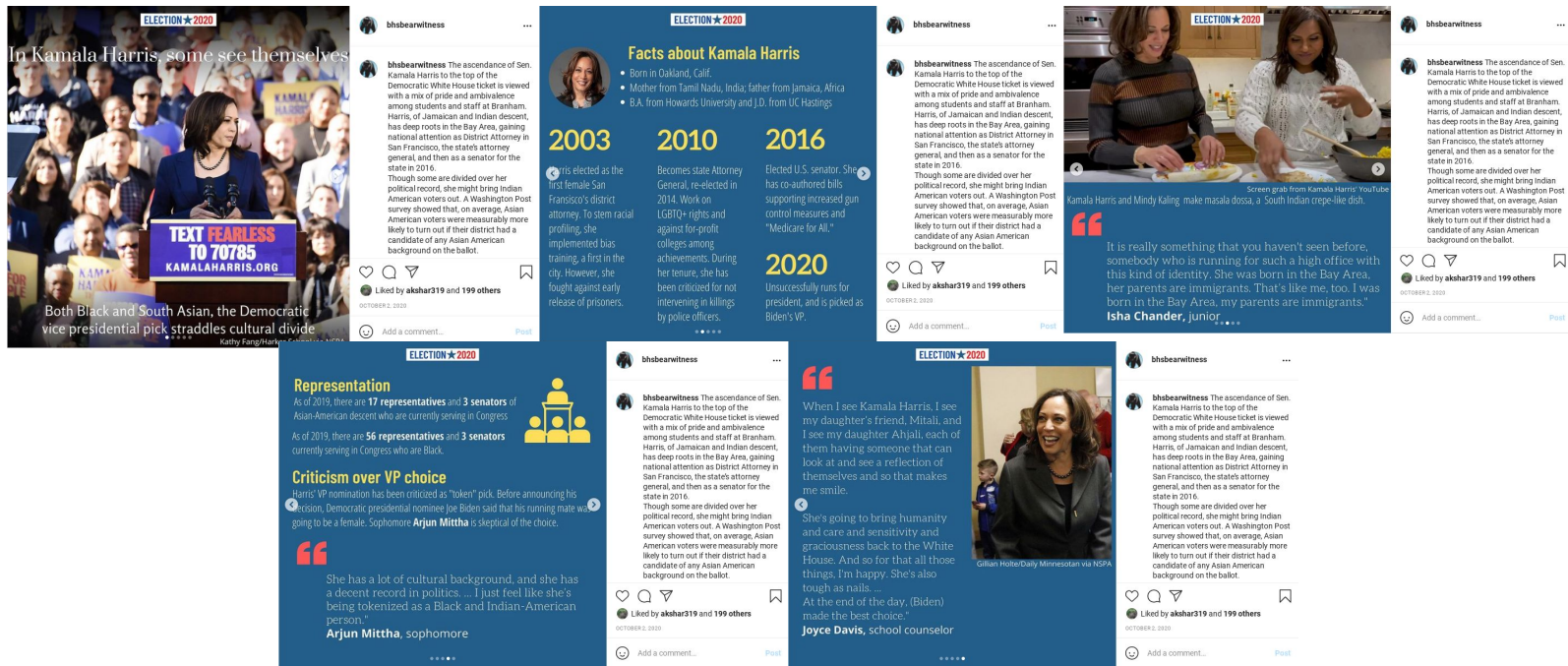
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Add a comment...

Post

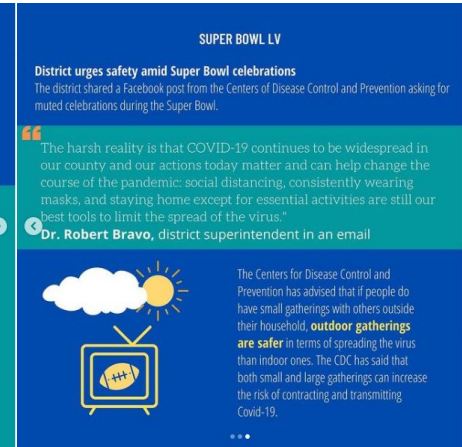
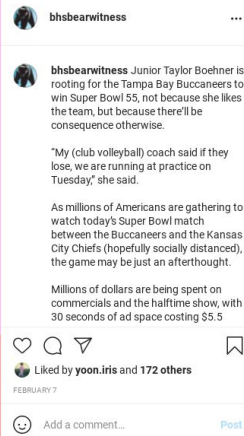
We covered a vigil remembering the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg who passed away last September.

# Kamala Harris



We interviewed students and staff about their opinions of Kamala Harris and how they feel she represents them.

# Super Bowl LV



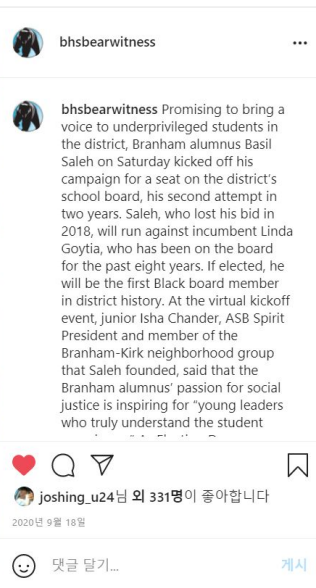
We surveyed students about their reasons for watching the Super Bowl and shared reminders from the district and CDC about how to stay safe while watching the big game.

# 2020 Election

Coverage on the presidential election and the district alumni election, along with school ASB election.

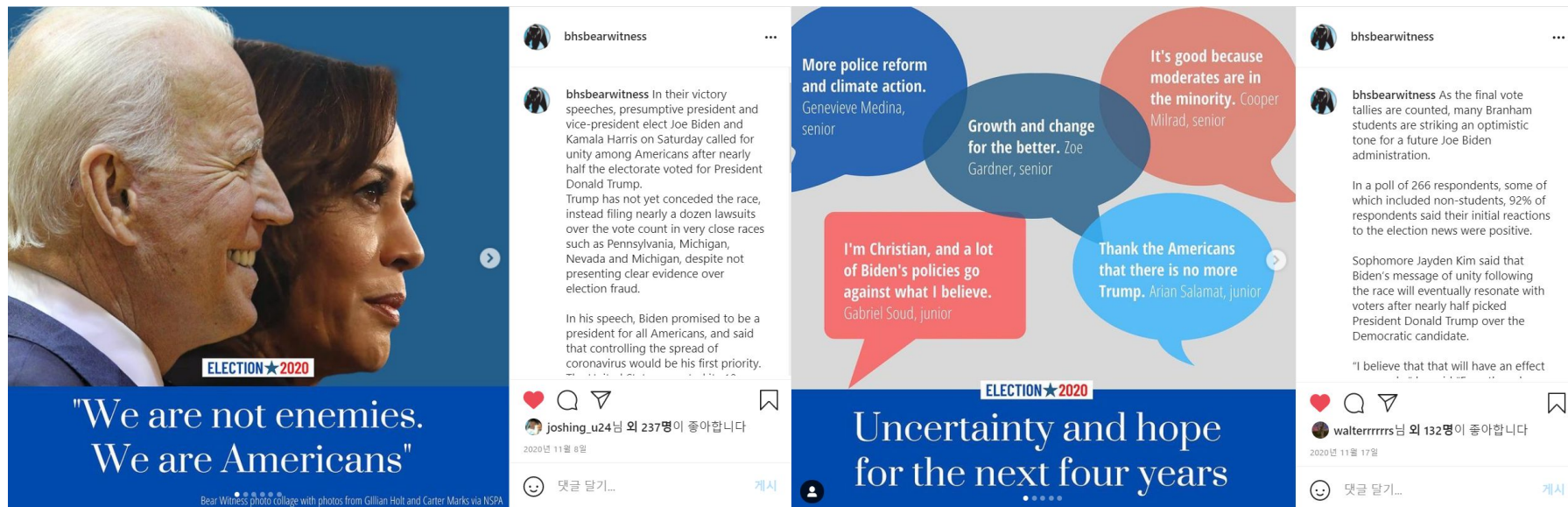


# Alumnus runs for school board



When a former Branham student renewed his run for school board, we covered his pitch and interviewed the candidate about his experience with racism.

# Presidential Election + Student Thoughts



Many students had opinions on the election of President Biden in November. We shared updates and some of their thoughts in a number of posts covering the presidential race.

# Inauguration Recap

Somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished. We the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a man can dream of becoming president only to find herself reciting for one. And yes we are far from polished. Far from pristine. But that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect. We are striving to forge a union with people to compose a country committed to all conditions of man. And so we lift our gazes not to what stands before us but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.

**BIDEN INAUGURATION**

Amanda Gorman, speaking at a Ted-Ed conference in 2018, is the youngest inaugural poet in history. Readers said her poem "The Hill We Climb" was the highlight of last week's inauguration.

**Poet's vision for America was an inauguration highlight**

Courtesy Creative Commons/TED Conference

**bhsbearwitness**

bhsbearwitness Amid celebrity performances and the 46th president's inaugural address last week calling for unity, Bear Witness readers said it was 22-year-old Amanda Gorman's powerful poem that stole the show.

Gorman, the youngest poet to speak at a presidential inauguration, recited "The Hill We Climb," a poem she completed in the aftermath of the Capitol riot in early January. Speaking before the 46th president of the United States, and the first vice president of Black and South Asian descent, she sought to describe an America with flaws but with promise.

joshing\_u24 님 외 197명이 좋아합니다

1월 25일

댓글 달기...

게시

**BIDEN INAUGURATION**

**77%** of Bear Witness readers said they watched all or part of the inauguration. **23%** did not

Nearly 40 million people watched President Joe Biden's address on the major cable news stations and the three big broadcast networks, more than for former President Donald Trump's address in 2017, but fewer than for Obama's in 2009.

**Key takeaways from Biden's first week**

- Domestic priorities:** Addressing deep divisions, he said he wants to help in "healing the nation [and] repairing the rifts in the fabric of American politics."
- Executive orders:** President Joe Biden issued 33 executive orders in his first six days in office, including those addressing the coronavirus pandemic, as well as the environment.

It made me feel relieved and happy that we're starting a new chapter, knowing things will get better and hopefully justice and peace achieved in America. These next few years we can overcome many of the problems we face today, together."

**Ava Lee, freshman**

**bhsbearwitness**

bhsbearwitness Amid celebrity performances and the 46th president's inaugural address last week calling for unity, Bear Witness readers said it was 22-year-old Amanda Gorman's powerful poem that stole the show.

Gorman, the youngest poet to speak at a presidential inauguration, recited "The Hill We Climb," a poem she completed in the aftermath of the Capitol riot in early January. Speaking before the 46th president of the United States, and the first vice president of Black and South Asian descent, she sought to describe an America with flaws but with promise.

joshing\_u24 님 외 197명이 좋아합니다

1월 25일

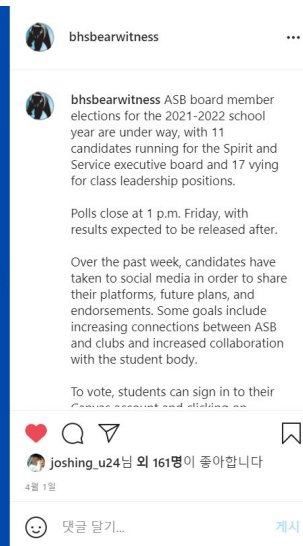
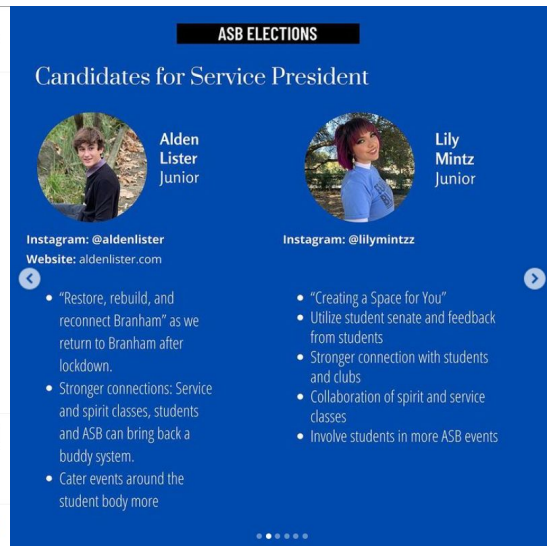
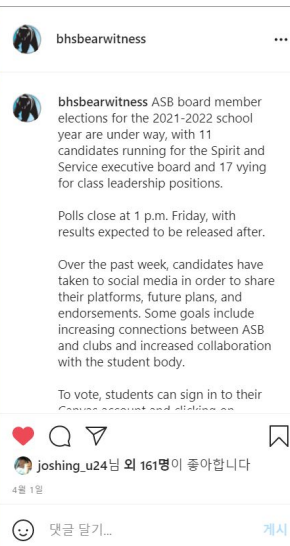
댓글 달기...

게시

After a landmark election, the Bear Witness covered the inauguration ceremony in January, particularly student opinions on Amanda Gorman's poem and President Biden's address.



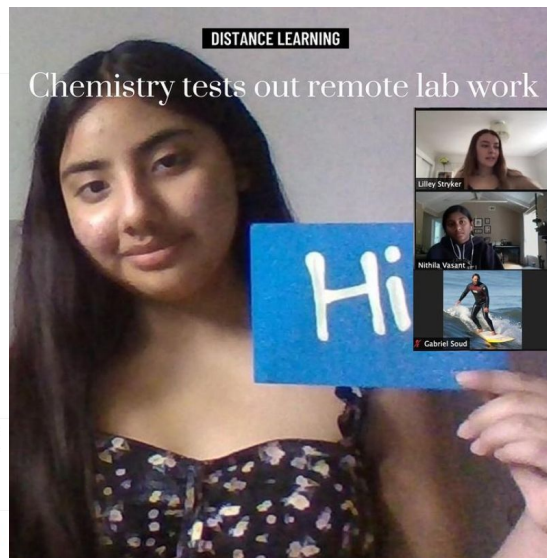
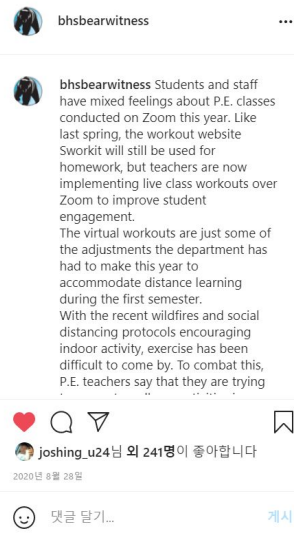
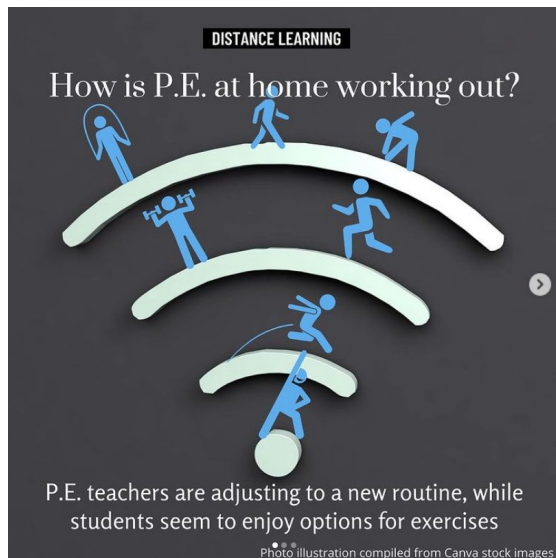
# ASB Elections



# COVID-19 Updates

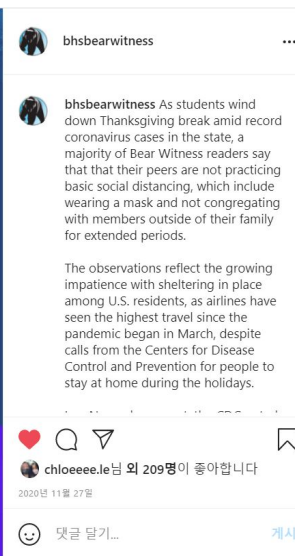
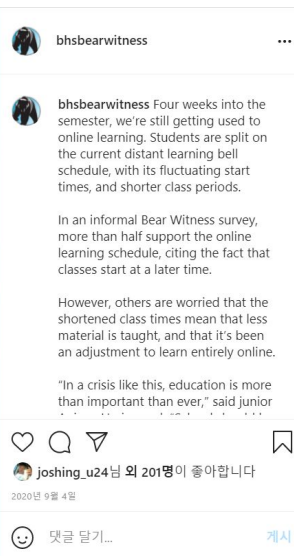
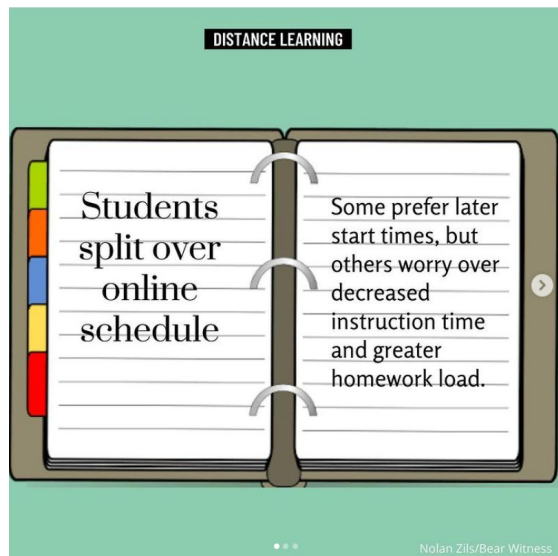
The community was constantly updated with coronavirus information and how it affects the school.

# Classes at Home



Classes now online warranted coverage from the Bear Witness, specifically classes more designed for in-person learning like PE and chemistry.

# Sharing student opinions



We continued our goal to be a platform for student opinions by sharing their thoughts on pandemic guideline adherence and the new school schedule.

# School reopening status

**Minimal transmission:** Counties in this tier have fewer than one new case per 100,000 people daily and a coronavirus test positivity rate of less than 2%.

**Moderate:** Counties in this tier have 1 to 3.9 new cases per 100,000 people each day and a coronavirus test positivity rate of 2% to 4.9%.

**Widespread:** Counties in purple tier have more than seven new cases per 100,000 people each day and a coronavirus test positivity rate of more than 8%.

**Substantial:** Counties in red tier have four to seven cases per 100,000 people each day and a coronavirus test positivity rate of between 5% and 8%.

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

**Semester likely to start online as COVID-19 worsens in state**

**REOPENING CLASSROOMS**

**Board OKs plan for limited in-person classes by April**

*Leigh High School parent Lari Albert and her daughter, Aly, protest outside of the district office Thursday.*

*Ann Schaeffer/Bear Witness*

**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** District superintendent Dr. Robert Bravo plans to resume distance learning at the start of the semester while providing possible in-person support to groups of students who have been adversely affected by the closures, in an email to staff this afternoon.

The announcement comes as the county, and dozens of others in the state, have slipped back to the purple tier, indicating that COVID-19 infection rates have increased dramatically. In Santa Clara County, 379 new cases were reported on Monday alone, the third most new cases in a single day. The daily average has also doubled to about

**walterrerrrrrr** 외 153명이 좋아합니다

2020년 11월 18일

**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** At its first in-person board meeting since schools shut down last March, the district board unanimously approved a plan to move high-priority students back to the classroom in small cohorts 8 to 10 students for in-person learning, skipping over its phase two plan of providing just in-person tutorials.

An April 12 reopening date, after spring break, was established to accommodate for the complete immunization of teachers receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Principal Cheryl Lawton has already introduced a plan for phase three, targeting specifically academically

**joshing\_u24** 외 266명이 좋아합니다

3월 19일

**SCHOOL REOPENING**

**District OKs plan phasing in return of students to school**

**REOPENING CLASSROOMS**

**Optional in-person classes for all to open by end of April**

*Custodian Raul Jimenez Magana installs a plastic barrier in classroom Thursday in preparation for the return of students.*

*Fig. Worcester Witness*

**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** The district and teachers union representatives are negotiating on a plan that trustees approved Tuesday that would eventually bring back teachers on-campus and increase services and activities for priority students.

The plan, which the board unanimously approved, would start the next school year with distance learning and small connectivity hubs for students on campus. If county conditions improve, it would also leave the door open to make room eventually for all teachers to be teaching remotely on campus, while providing more in-person support such as tutoring, grade recovery and

**joshing\_u24** 외 247명이 좋아합니다

2020년 11월 18일

**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** The district this week announced that it is moving ahead with phase 4 by the end of April which will open schools up for all students and families who opted for in-person learning.

Phase 3, which will prioritize freshmen, English learners, and students with disabilities, begins April 12, the week after spring break.

Principal Cheryl Lawton met with other school principals and Superintendent Dr. Robert Bravo on Friday to finalize the plan, which will be consistent among all schools. Lawton was tasked with coming up with a Branham-specific plan for

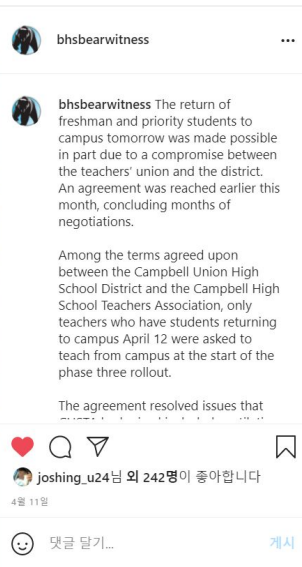
**joshing\_u24** 외 258명이 좋아합니다

3월 17일

With many steps for reopening, the Bear Witness covered much of the district's plans and the colored tier system implemented by California.

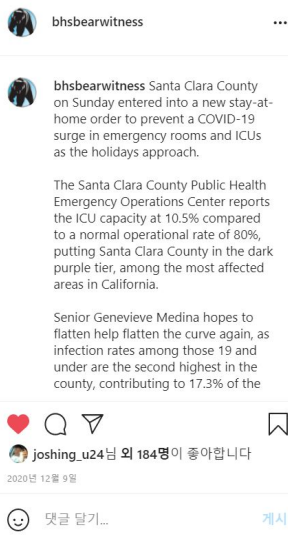


# Student's Return to Campus



Once school eventually did return, we made sure to recover the transition from home to campus.

# County COVID-19 Updates



Unlike toilet paper, there was no shortage of updates on the coronavirus and covering them all became a priority for us.

# Vaccines



SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Two students test COVID-19 vaccine for use in minors



bhsbearwitness



bhsbearwitness As coronavirus vaccines are being rolled out to millions of adults worldwide, two Branham students are participating in a coronavirus vaccine trial aimed at minors. Freshman Matthew Eisenman and his sister Allyson, a junior, are among 2,000 teens 12-16 who are testing out the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in Santa Clara County.

The teens are part of the pharmaceutical company's effort in tracking the effectiveness of the vaccine at teens. In total, nearly 44,000 around the world will be taking part in the randomized study among healthy individuals, according to the National Institutes of Health. Subjects



joshing\_u24 님 외 261명이 좋아합니다

2020년 12월 22일



댓글 달기...

게시

How the vaccine works



1) Vaccine is based on COVID-19's genetic code, or RNA. A part of that is extracted and inserted into a benign virus.



2) Patient is injected with the vaccine, which enters the cells and tells them to produce COVID-19 spike proteins. Immune system creates antibodies and activate T cells and antibodies to destroy infected cells.



3) If patient is infected, antibodies and T cells are triggered to fight the virus.

2,000

children ages 12-16 are testing the Pfizer vaccine. The vaccine has been approved for all people ages 18 and older, but tests are still being performed to guarantee the safety of the vaccine among younger populations.

“

I hope I got the actual vaccine. I could have gotten the placebo, but it feels pretty good, you know. I might be getting it out of the way!" Freshman **Matthew Eisenman**, who, along with his sister, is testing the Covid-19 vaccine.



bhsbearwitness



bhsbearwitness As coronavirus vaccines are being rolled out to millions of adults worldwide, two Branham students are participating in a coronavirus vaccine trial aimed at minors. Freshman Matthew Eisenman and his sister Allyson, a junior, are among 2,000 teens 12-16 who are testing out the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in Santa Clara County.

The teens are part of the pharmaceutical company's effort in tracking the effectiveness of the vaccine at teens. In total, nearly 44,000 around the world will be taking part in the randomized study among healthy individuals, according to the National Institutes of Health. Subjects



joshing\_u24 님 외 261명이 좋아합니다

2020년 12월 22일



댓글 달기...

게시

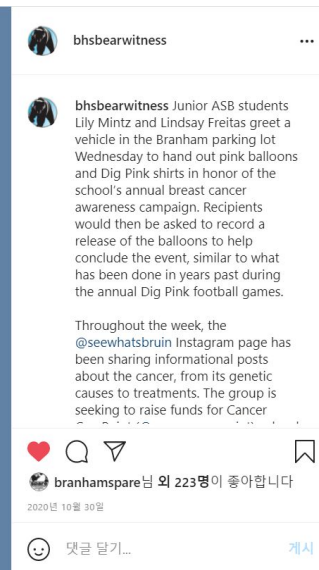
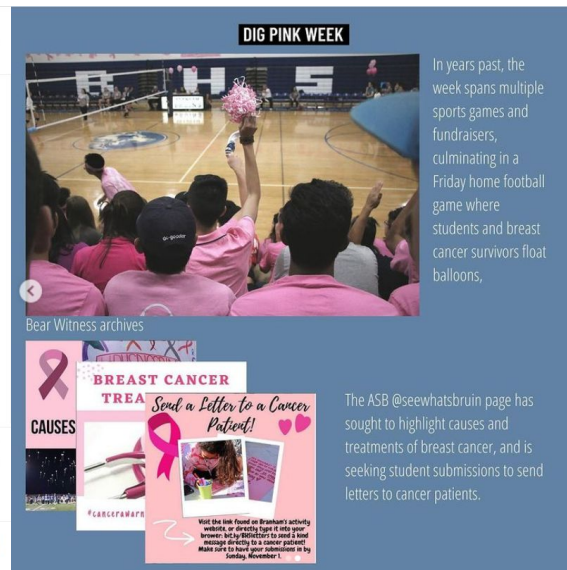
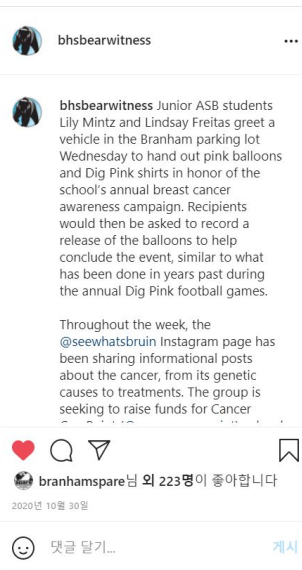
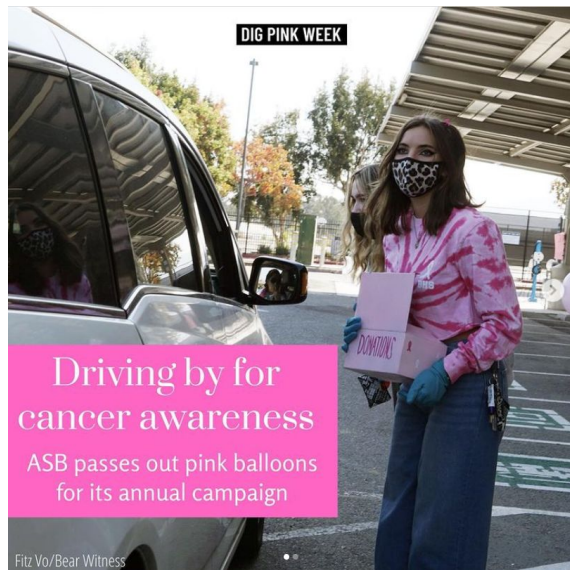
Vaccine became available for students in 2021, but two Bruins were already testing them in December 2020.



# Awareness

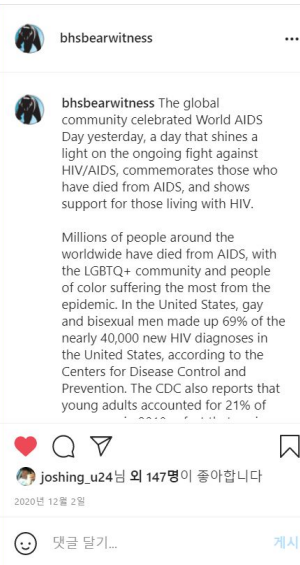
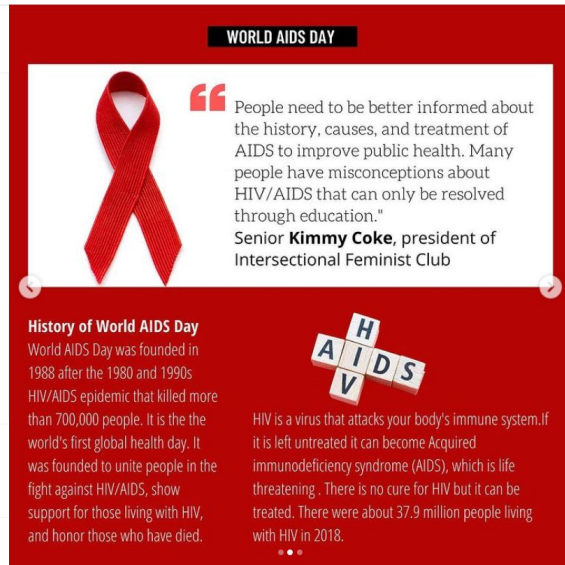
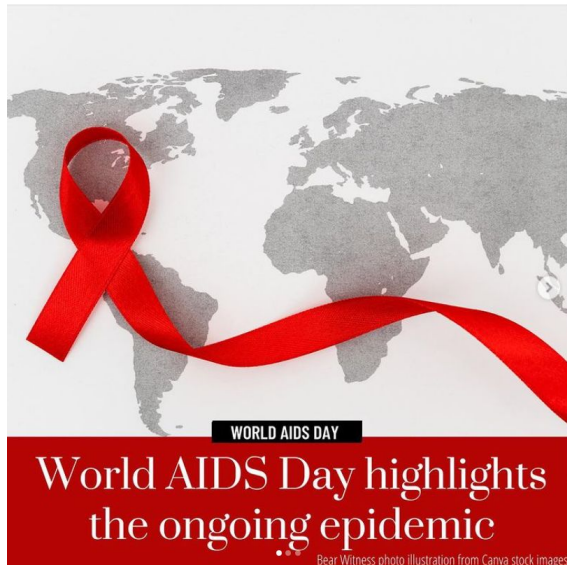
Various heritage months, honoring days, and other important events were covered to raise awareness.

# Cancer awareness



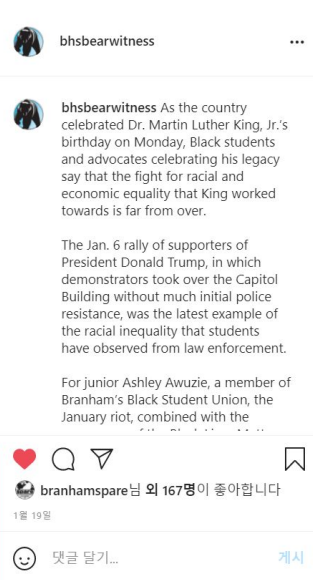
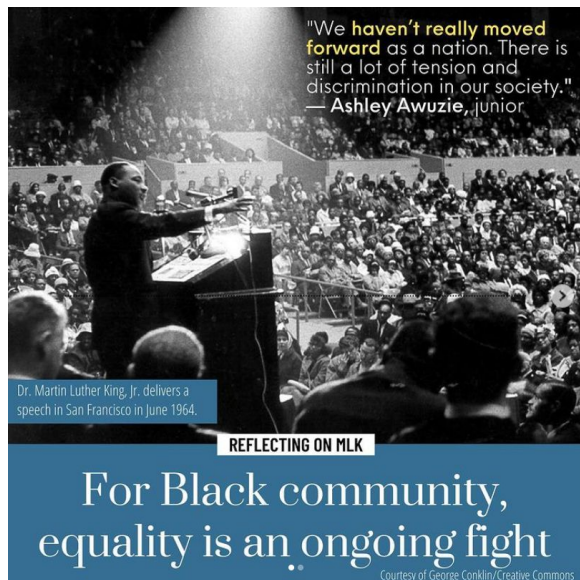
The Bear Witness covered the drive through for Dig Pink Week last fall in support of cancer awareness.

# World AIDS Day



Even with a pandemic ongoing, diseases like AIDS haven't gone away and the Bear Witness made sure to spread awareness on World AIDS Day.

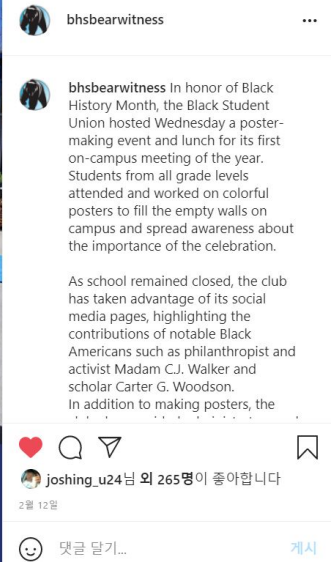
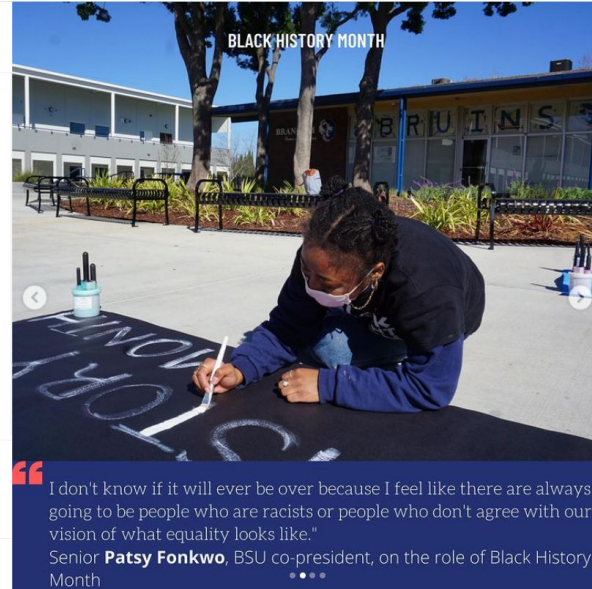
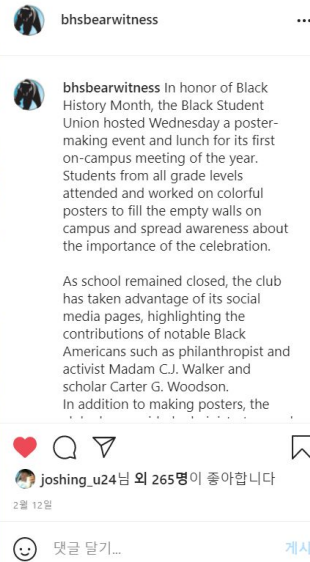
# MLK Day



After a year of racial reckoning, MLK Day was more important than ever for the Bear Witness, and we shared student opinions on race and equality.



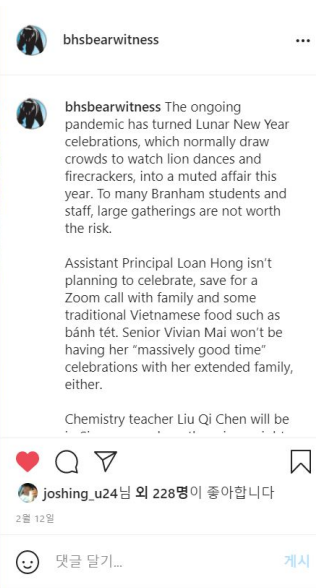
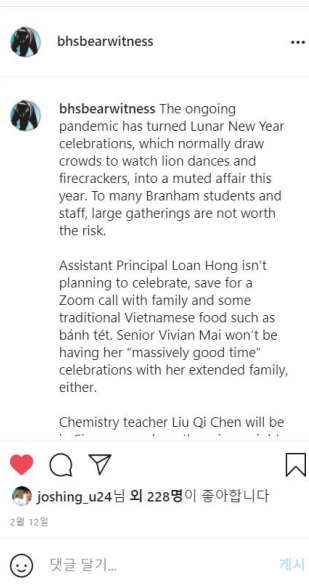
# Black History Month



The Bear Witness shared the work of the Black Student Union during Black History Month, as they made posters and worked to educate others on the meaning behind it.



# Lunar New Year



Lunar New Year celebrations began in mid-February and we shared traditions and the history behind the holiday.

# Science Education

**Katherine Johnson** | helped calculate orbits for NASA spaceflights.

**Hedy Lamar** | inventor of tech that served as foundation for wireless communication systems.

**Gunpei Yokoi** | inventor of the original Nintendo GameBoy

**Jerry Lawson** | developed pioneering cartridge

**Grace Hopper** | worked on first large-scale automatic calculator

**SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**STEM teachers look beyond work of 'old white dudes'**

bhsbearwitness

bhsbearwitness Introductory lessons on the atom in chemistry classes at Branham have referred to chemists and physicists such as J.J. Thomson and Erwin Schrodinger as the "old white dudes of science". The joke is an admission that much of STEM education may be based on the Eurocentric contributions of a privileged few.

An equity initiative this year has been encouraging teachers to expand the scope of notable contributors to the sciences and other disciplines, with the hope of offering a more diverse representative curriculum of STEM pioneers.

joshing\_u24님 외 205명이 좋아합니다

2월 23일

댓글 달기...

게시

**SCIENCE EDUCATION**

This project was inspired as my students were learning about computing innovations... and I saw (it as) an opportunity to go beyond the textbook assignment."

**Steven Turner**, AP Computer Science and math teacher

**Clarence "Skip" Ellis**

**Other Information**

- Ellis attended Beloit College, where he earned his Ph.D.
- he was the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in Computer Science.
- he then became a researcher and software developer.
- Ellis contributed his skills to many companies including Bell Telephone Laboratories, Xerox PARC, and Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation.

**Background**

- May 11, 1943 - May 12, 2014
- grew up in Chicago
- gained interest to the Computer Science field during high school at his part-time job at Dover Corporation, which produced computers

**Contributions**

Ellis taught at Stanford, MIT, UT Austin, and many more. Ellis became a professor at University of Colorado at Boulder, where he focused on collaboration using computers. He came up with the idea of "point and click", which is the feature of clicking on a graphic to open a program. This feature is used in Apple computers and the Windows operating system. Ellis' work benefited to the Computer Science field, and especially towards future Black Computer Scientists.

Clarence Ellis teaching at a university.

A slide from Steven Turner's AP Computer Science Principle's presentation on overlooked figures in computer science and programming.

bhsbearwitness

bhsbearwitness Introductory lessons on the atom in chemistry classes at Branham have referred to chemists and physicists such as J.J. Thomson and Erwin Schrodinger as the "old white dudes of science". The joke is an admission that much of STEM education may be based on the Eurocentric contributions of a privileged few.

An equity initiative this year has been encouraging teachers to expand the scope of notable contributors to the sciences and other disciplines, with the hope of offering a more diverse representative curriculum of STEM pioneers.

joshing\_u24님 외 205명이 좋아합니다

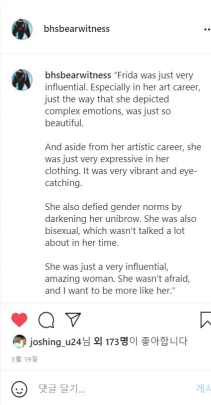
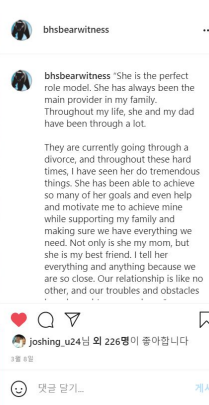
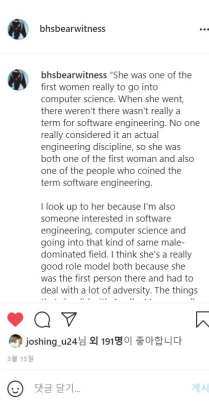
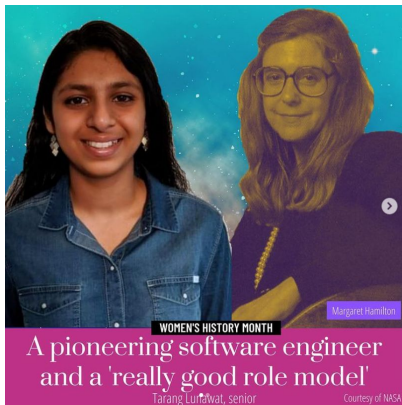
2월 23일

댓글 달기...

게시

The Bear Witness covered the science department's aim to diversify the curriculum and cover achievements and contributions by women and people of color.

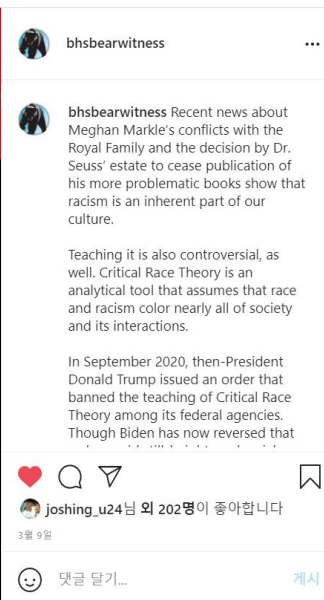
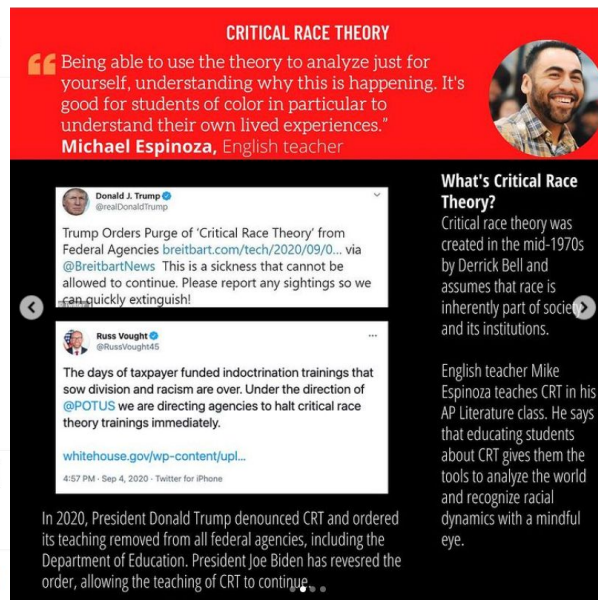
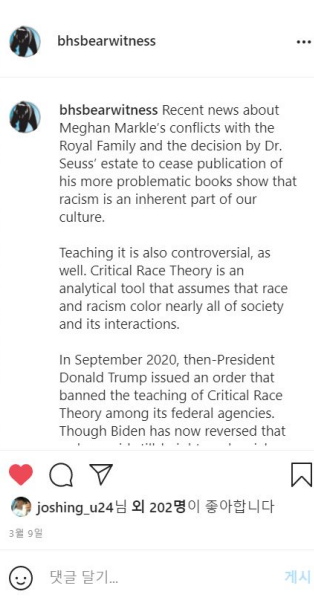
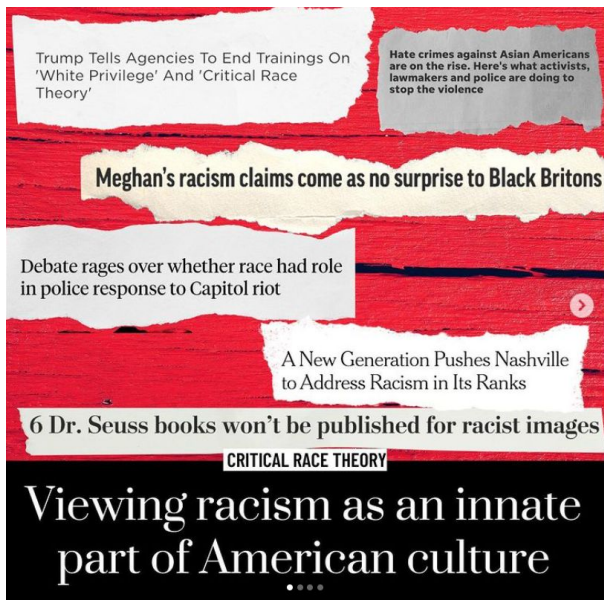
# Women's History Month



The Bear Witness shared the many female role models of our students, from their mothers to women in the fields of science and art.

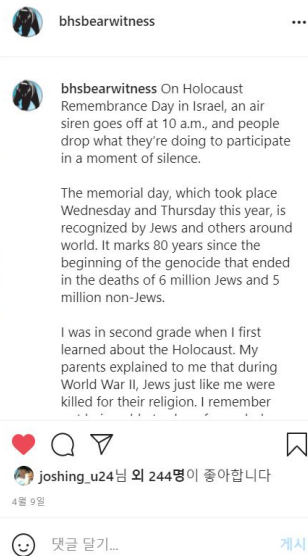
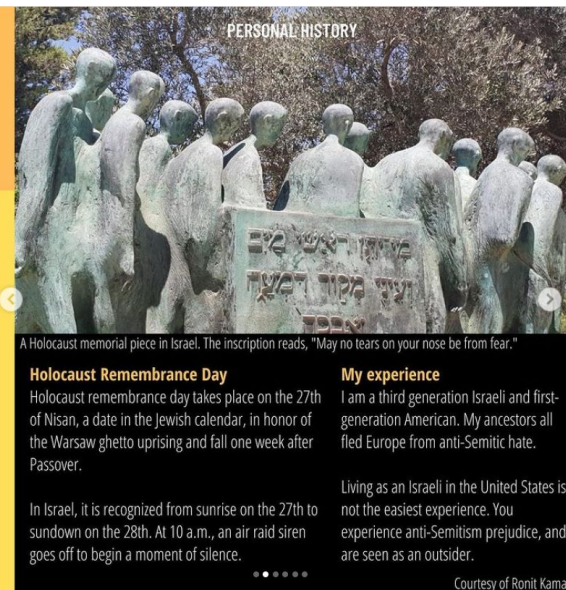
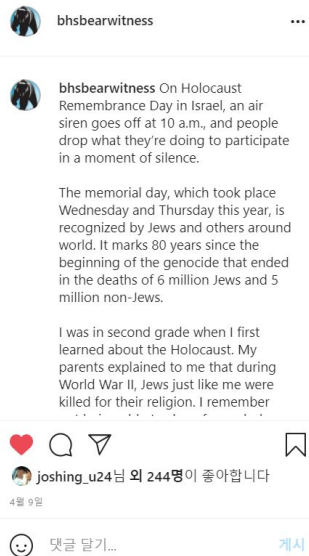
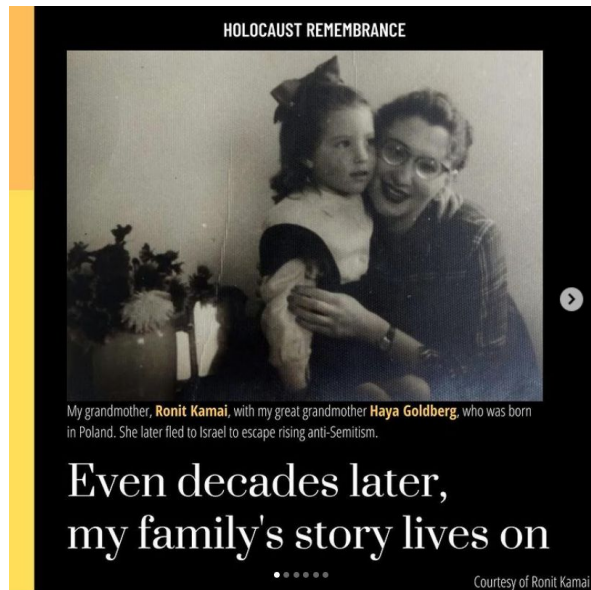


# Race Theory



The discussions about racial injustice continued as we reported on Critical Race Theory and what it means.

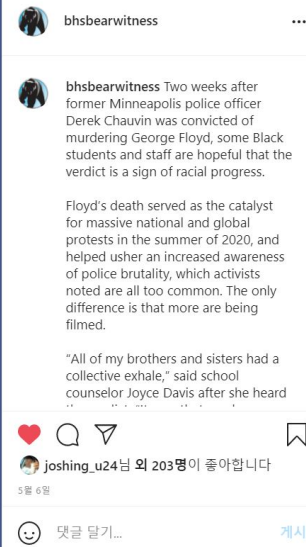
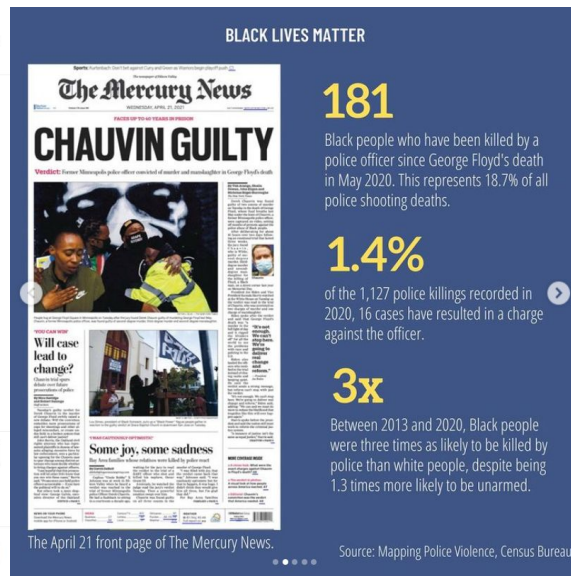
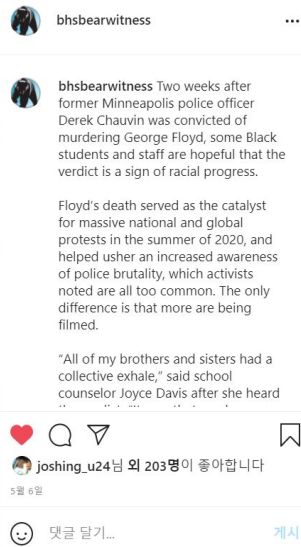
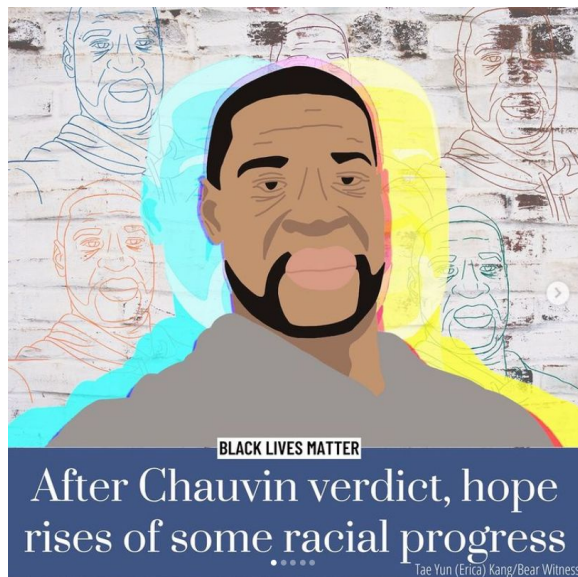
# Holocaust remembrance



One of our editors shared the story of her family's struggles during the hoocaust in remembrance and awareness.



# Black Lives Matter

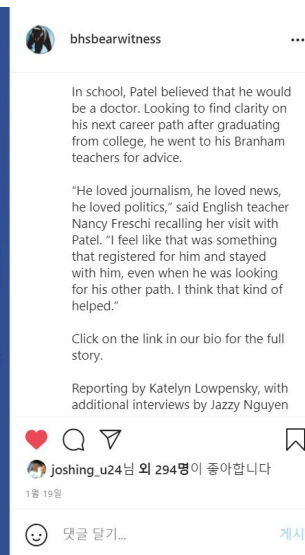
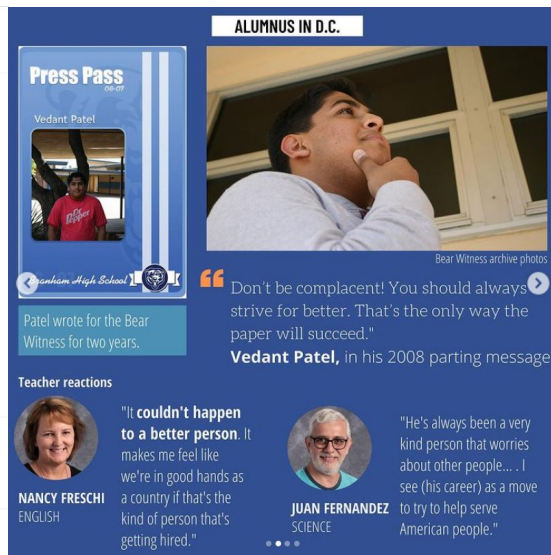
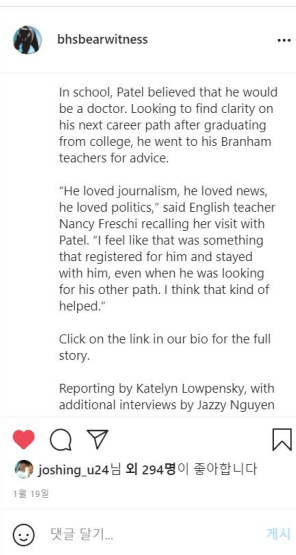


The Black Lives Matter movement was a big part of 2020, and the Bear Witness covered the assaults on people of color by police and the trial of Derek Chauvin.

# Local News

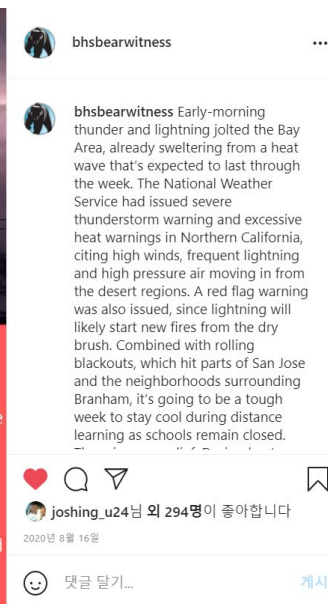
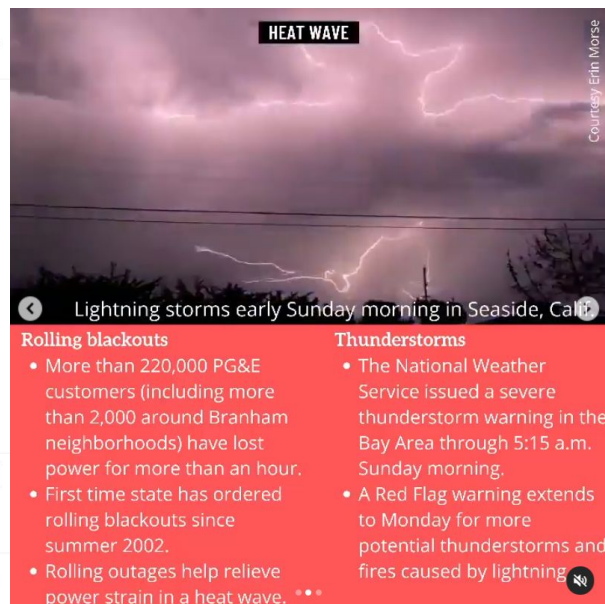
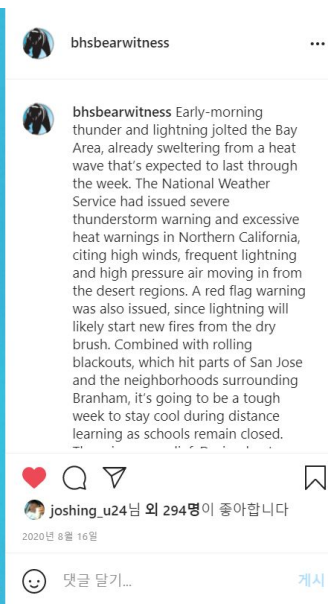
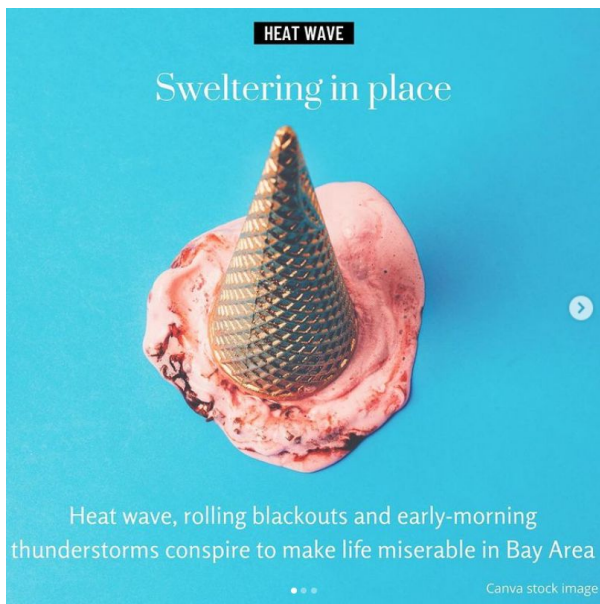
Events that happened outside of school campus but impacted our community was reported.

# Alumnus working for Biden



Branham graduate Vedant Patel joined Joe Biden's administration as an assistant press secretary, giving thanks to his high school teachers.

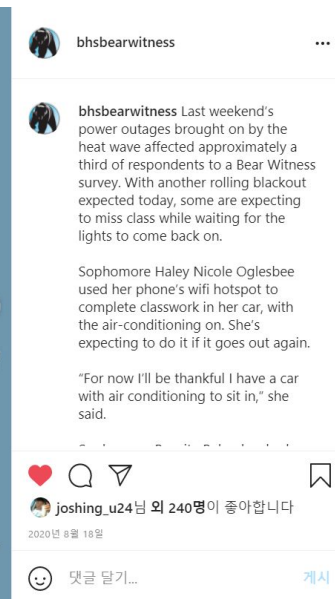
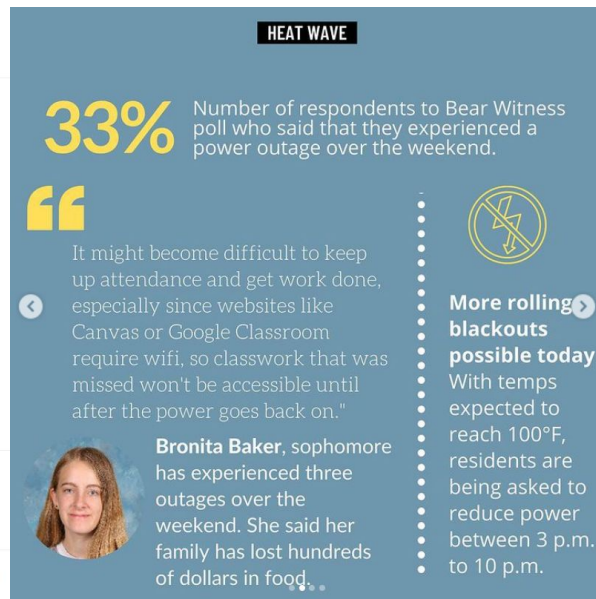
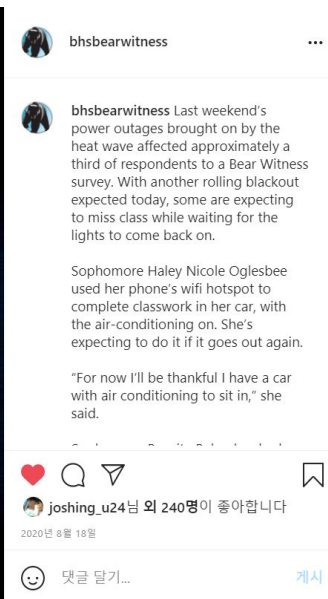
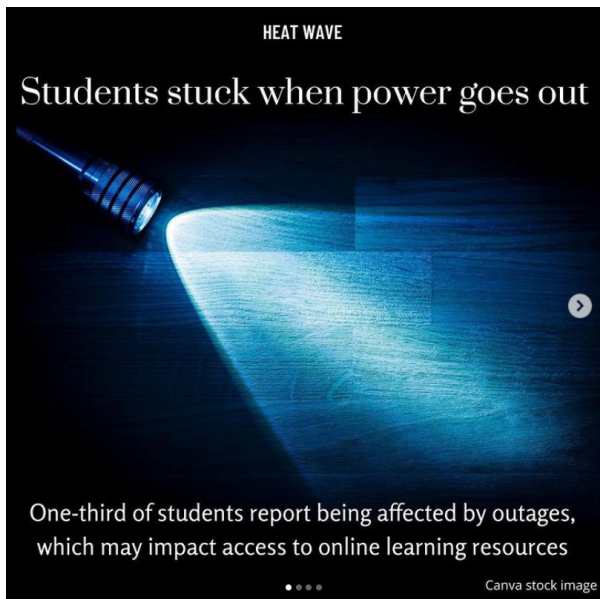
# Heat Waves



The Bay Area has always been warm, but when it reached extremely hot temperatures and odd weather last fall, the Bear Witness made sure to cover it. We used videos and explainers to provide context for what they were seeing.



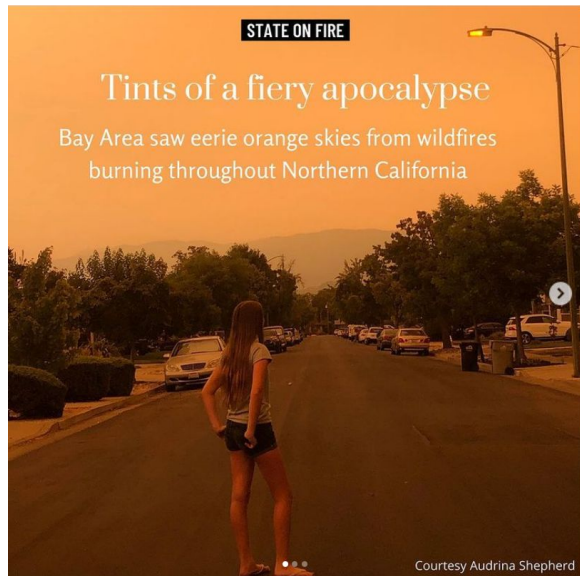
# Power Outage



With school online, power outages have a huge impact on a student's ability to do schoolwork. We didn't keep readers in the dark about the situation, reporting on the power outages and provided tips for students.



# Orange Sky



STATE ON FIRE

## Tints of a fiery apocalypse

Bay Area saw eerie orange skies from wildfires burning throughout Northern California



bhsbearwitness

...



bhsbearwitness Freshman Jocelyn Shepherd gazes at the foothills and the eerie dark orange sky that has developed over the Bay Area throughout Wednesday. Their color is a result of the dozens of fires burning throughout Northern California, including the August Complex Fire in Mendocino and the Bear Fire in the Sierra range. Air quality is expected to improve during tonight's Back to School Night as winds shift, but the National Weather Service expects the smog to return the following day. "We're having such a large scope of dense smoke across the Bay Area and the West Coast in general, that it's actually impacting our weather conditions," National Weather Service



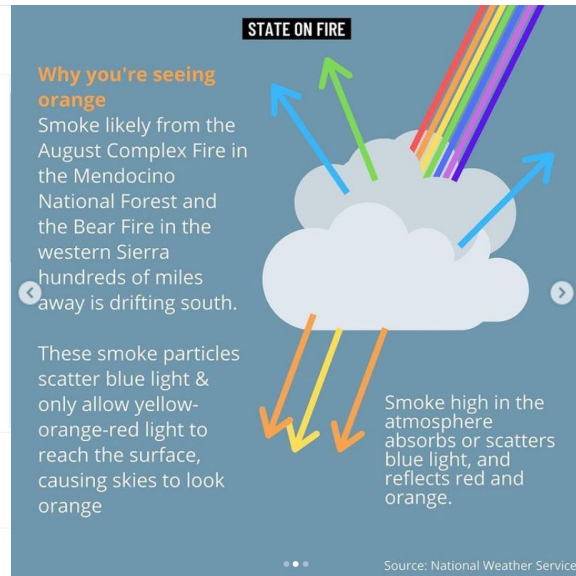
joshing\_u24 님 외 297명이 좋아합니다

2020년 9월 9일



댓글 달기...

게시



STATE ON FIRE

## Why you're seeing orange

Smoke likely from the August Complex Fire in the Mendocino National Forest and the Bear Fire in the western Sierra hundreds of miles away is drifting south.

These smoke particles scatter blue light & only allow yellow-orange-red light to reach the surface, causing skies to look orange

Source: National Weather Service



bhsbearwitness

...



bhsbearwitness Freshman Jocelyn Shepherd gazes at the foothills and the eerie dark orange sky that has developed over the Bay Area throughout Wednesday. Their color is a result of the dozens of fires burning throughout Northern California, including the August Complex Fire in Mendocino and the Bear Fire in the Sierra range. Air quality is expected to improve during tonight's Back to School Night as winds shift, but the National Weather Service expects the smog to return the following day. "We're having such a large scope of dense smoke across the Bay Area and the West Coast in general, that it's actually impacting our weather conditions," National Weather Service



joshing\_u24 님 외 297명이 좋아합니다

2020년 9월 9일



댓글 달기...

게시

Forest fires in the mountains turned the skies an apocalyptic orange color for weeks last fall and some teachers and students were displaced by the threat of fires near their homes. We reported about the eerie sky and the reason why it was happening.

# Distinguished School



**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** Branham has been named a 2021 California Distinguished School, the first for the district since 2007 and the school's second overall.

The school is one of four high schools in Santa Clara to receive the award this year.

The honor from the California Department of Education is given to schools that have made their curriculum and programs accessible to students.

According to the CDE, distinguished Schools make progress toward closing the achievement gap among groups

5월 4일

댓글 달기...

**DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL**

“ Being named a California Distinguished school recognizes the caring dedication, collaborative spirit, and tenacity of all members of our Branham community to help achieve that goal.”  
**Principal Cheryl Lawton**

**District recipients**

2021	<b>Branham</b>
2007	<b>Branham</b>
2007	<b>Del Mar</b>
2005	<b>Westmont</b>
2003	<b>Leigh</b>
1999	<b>Leigh</b>
1996	<b>Prospect</b>
1996	<b>Westmont</b>

Branham is **one** of only **four** high schools in Santa Clara County honored as part of the 2021 California Distinguished Schools Program. Schools recognized as a California Distinguished school awardee hold the title for two years.

The California Department of Education (CDE) identifies and awards eligible schools based on performance and progress on state indicators that are outlined on the California School Dashboard.

**2019 California Dashboard summary (2020 not counted)**

- English Language Arts:** 48 points above standard (+54.6 points)
- Math:** 4.8 points above standard (+5.4 points)
- College career readiness:** 68.5% prepared (+4.3%)
- Graduation rate:** 95.5% (+2%)
- Suspension rate:** 2.6% suspended once. (-0.3%)

The CDE dashboard indicates how schools are meeting the needs of students in various categories.

Source: California Department of Education

**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** Branham has been named a 2021 California Distinguished School, the first for the district since 2007 and the school's second overall.

The school is one of four high schools in Santa Clara to receive the award this year.

The honor from the California Department of Education is given to schools that have made their curriculum and programs accessible to students.

According to the CDE, distinguished Schools make progress toward closing the achievement gap among groups

5월 4일

댓글 달기...

In 2021, Branham earned a state honor, the first school in the district to do so in almost 15 years

# Pool vandalism



POOL VANDALISM

Pool damage may be costly  
after late night break-in

Branham security footage



bhsbearwitness

\$100,000.

Based on their ease and confidence moving about the pool, administrators believe the two individuals responsible are Branham students, who hopped the fence on Dent Avenue around 10:45 p.m. on Wednesday. After entering the pool area, security cameras show them spray painting the concrete, pushing the metal pool cover reel into the water, and dumping various items into the pool.

Swim coach Dave Mackey said he was disappointed but not surprised that the incident happened. The Aquatic Center, barely a year old, stood barely used since the school shutdown last March, and has been open only for



abbeynrhodes님 외 509명이 좋아합니다

2월 26일



댓글 달기...

게시

Swim coach Dave Mackey inspects damages to the pool Friday morning, which has forced the cancellation of swim practice for the week.

POOL VANDALISM



Fit You/Bear Witness



"I've seen that pool get built from the beginning. I've been a coach for seven years, and so to see them destroy a brand new swimming pool – vandalizing it and things like that – there was sort of a little sickening feeling in my stomach as I was watching it."

David Mackey, Branham swim coach.



bhsbearwitness

\$100,000.

Based on their ease and confidence moving about the pool, administrators believe the two individuals responsible are Branham students, who hopped the fence on Dent Avenue around 10:45 p.m. on Wednesday. After entering the pool area, security cameras show them spray painting the concrete, pushing the metal pool cover reel into the water, and dumping various items into the pool.

Swim coach Dave Mackey said he was disappointed but not surprised that the incident happened. The Aquatic Center, barely a year old, stood barely used since the school shutdown last March, and has been open only for



abbeynrhodes님 외 509명이 좋아합니다

2월 26일



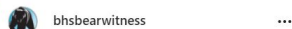
댓글 달기...

게시

We broke a story about a recent vandalism during a pool break-in.



# Recycling poster



bhsbearwitness



**bhsbearwitness** The next time you're wondering what to put into the recycling bin, wait for a recycling truck to roll around with a larger-than-life display of freshman Hannah McCarthy's first-place poster on recycling no-nos.

Her colorful design, which won first place in the high school division in a citywide contest organized by the San José Environmental Services Department, visually describes which items can't be included in the bin, including food and liquids.

Thirty-nine students entered contest, which will feature winners from grade school, middle school and high

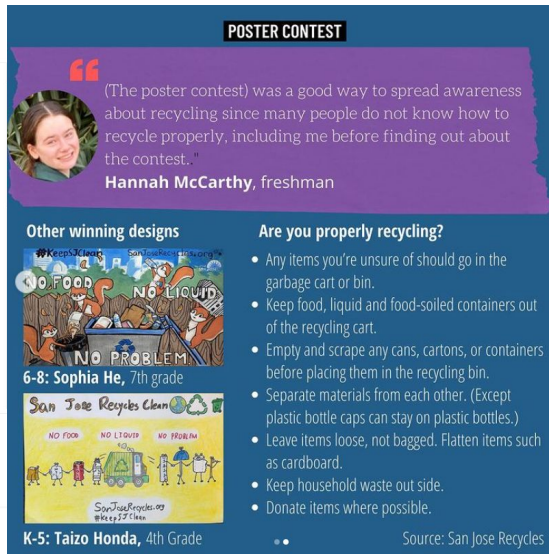


joshing\_u24님 외 176명이 좋아합니다

2020년 12월 1일

댓글 달기...

게시



bhsbearwitness



**bhsbearwitness** The next time you're wondering what to put into the recycling bin, wait for a recycling truck to roll around with a larger-than-life display of freshman Hannah McCarthy's first-place poster on recycling no-nos.

Her colorful design, which won first place in the high school division in a citywide contest organized by the San José Environmental Services Department, visually describes which items can't be included in the bin, including food and liquids.

Thirty-nine students entered contest, which will feature winners from grade school, middle school and high



joshing\_u24님 외 176명이 좋아합니다

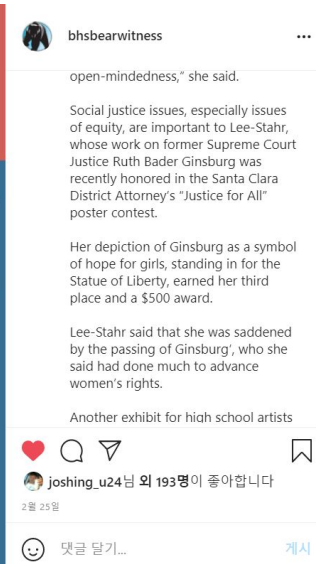
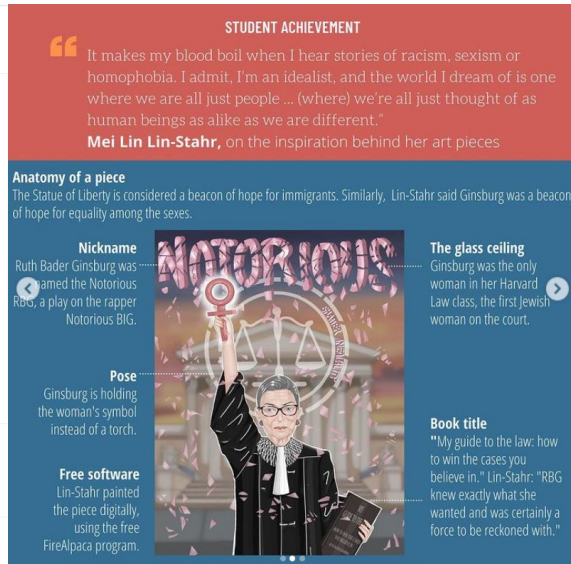
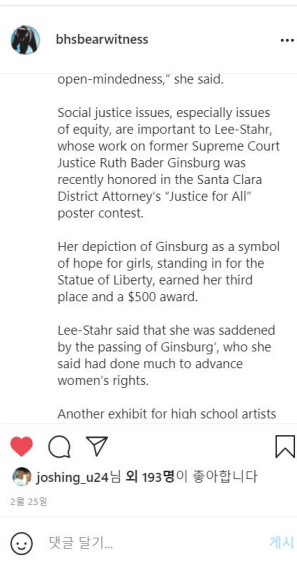
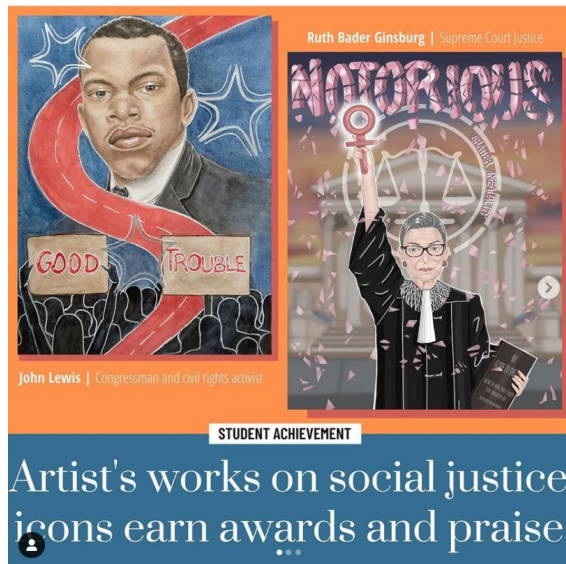
2020년 12월 1일

댓글 달기...

게시

Designed by Branham freshman Hannah McCarthy, the recycling poster was displayed on San Jose recycling trucks.

# Student Achievement



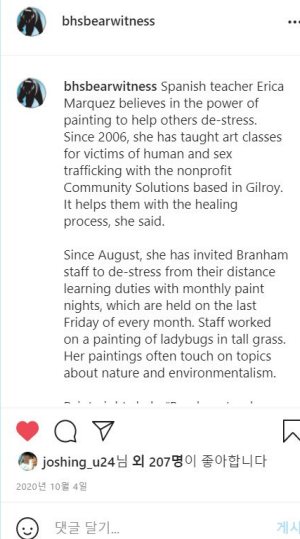
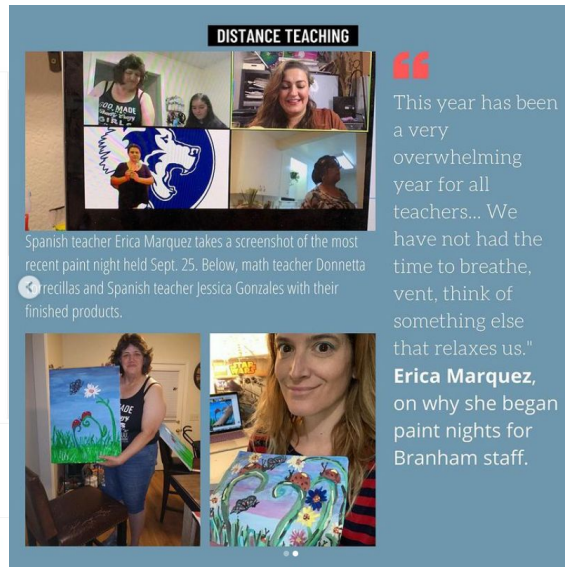
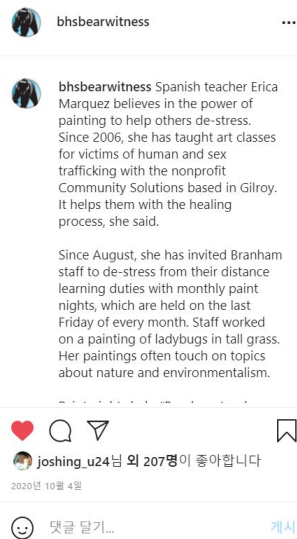
A student's artwork won 3rd place for the "Justice for All" poster contest about equity and justice with artistic detailed pointed out and explained.



# Teacher contributions

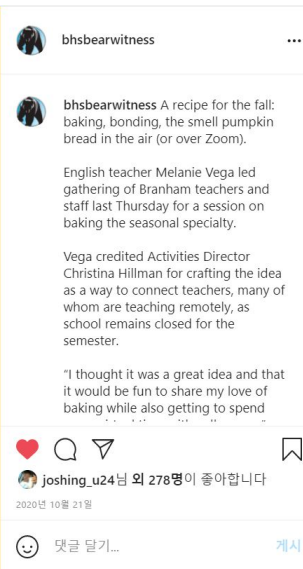
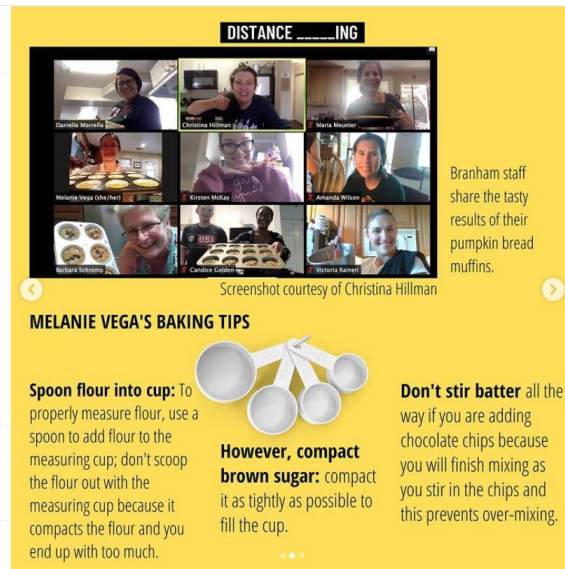
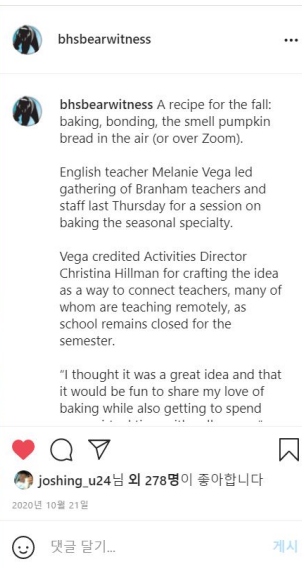
We made sure that teachers' stories were covered, especially their efforts in connecting with each other during distance learning.

# Teachers De-stress



Online learning (and teaching) can be stressful, so the Bear Witness covered Spanish teacher, Erica Marquez's paint night for teachers. Although most of our readers are students, methods of how teachers relieving stress was shared for representation and to view their perspectives.

# Staff Bonding - Baking



We reported on a group baking session over Zoom that meant to increase bonding between distanced teachers. Moments of staff bonding was reported along with the recipe of the cookie the teachers baked in the post

# Teacher of the Year



MIKE ESPINOZA | TEACHER OF THE YEAR

'A role model to students and an inspiration to teachers'



bhsbearwitness



Whether it's teaching his classes about critical thinking, building connections with AVID students, or advising the Latinx Student Union, English teacher Mike Espinoza loves to be involved in the Branham community.

In honor of his hard work, Branham teachers voted him as the school's Teacher of the Year.

"The fact that I've been working hard to be the best teacher I can be, and that my peers recognize that work, makes me proud of myself and my journey," he said.

The award was announced



joshing\_u24 님 외 472명이 좋아합니다

4월 28일



댓글 달기...

게시

MIKE ESPINOZA | TEACHER OF THE YEAR



"No one would ever hear how amazing he is or what he is doing from him because he is so incredibly humble."

Statement from a nominating teacher

## Notable contributions

- Latinx Student Union club adviser
- AVID teacher
- English 1 and AP Literature teacher
- Developed Ethnic Literature curriculum



bhsbearwitness



Whether it's teaching his classes about critical thinking, building connections with AVID students, or advising the Latinx Student Union, English teacher Mike Espinoza loves to be involved in the Branham community.

In honor of his hard work, Branham teachers voted him as the school's Teacher of the Year.

"The fact that I've been working hard to be the best teacher I can be, and that my peers recognize that work, makes me proud of myself and my journey," he said.

The award was announced



joshing\_u24 님 외 472명이 좋아합니다

4월 28일



댓글 달기...

게시

Courtesy of Mike Espinoza

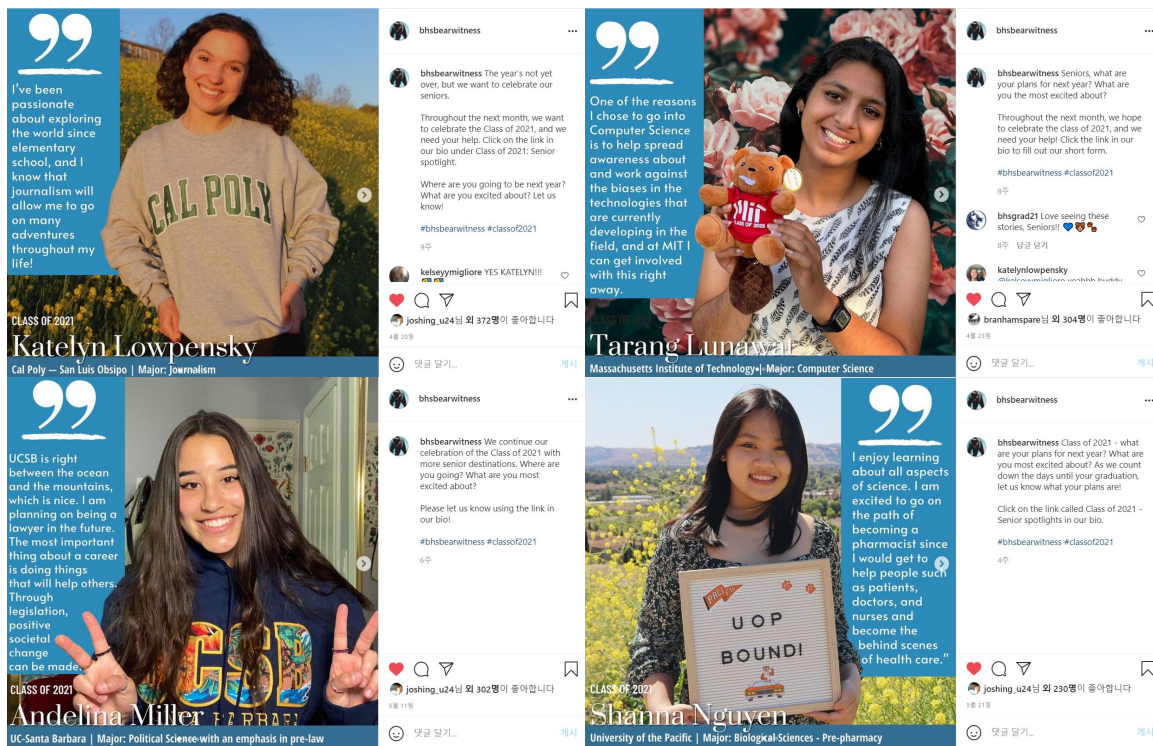
English teacher Mike Espinoza won the Teacher of the Year award for 2020, and the Bear Witness shared what he means to his students and colleagues. Mike Espinoza was named the teacher of the year in the school and students congratulated him in the comments.

# Seniors and graduation

The Bear Witness devoted much of its May coverage to honoring seniors, who spent almost the upperclassmen years in remote learning.



# Spotlight on Seniors



We provided spotlights on seniors who responded to our survey asking about their future plans.

# Celebration Events



**CLASS OF 2021**

**Teachers celebrate seniors with a drive-through parade**

*"It was so nice to see them, smiling and talking to each other. It's been a crazy senior year for all the senior students."*  
—Neeraja Nambula, AVID teacher



**CLASS OF 2021**

**AVID honors its 20 seniors with cake and a celebration**

*"So nice to see them, smiling and talking to each other," she said. "It's been a crazy senior year for all the senior students."*

**bhsbearwitness**

With less than one month of high school left for the class of 2021, teachers again lined up behind Branham to cheer on their graduating seniors for a drive-through celebration as they did at the start of the school shutdown last year.

The hour-long event was timed to avoid scheduling conflicts with major events such as prom and AP tests at the end of May.

With the easing of coronavirus restrictions, end-of-year plans for seniors are opening up, unlike those of their predecessors. An in-person graduation is planned for June 3, as well as a prom dinner on the football

**joshing\_u24** 님 외 336명이 좋아합니다

댓글 1개

댓글 달기...

**bhsbearwitness**

The AVID class of 2021 celebrated the end of the school year on Friday and each other's success amid the challenges of remote learning and their transition into adulthood.

The morning celebration was the first time AVID teacher Neeraja Nambula saw many of the 20 graduating seniors in the program, which helps provide mentorship and learning skills for students throughout their four years in high school.

"So nice to see them, smiling and talking to each other," she said. "It's been a crazy senior year for all the senior students."

**joshing\_u24** 님 외 286명이 좋아합니다

댓글 21개

댓글 달기...



**CLASS OF 2021**

**Rush of activities to mark final moments for seniors**

Katelyn Lowmeyer/Bear Witness

**bhsbearwitness**

bhsbearwitness Seniors on Wednesday picked up bags with their grad caps and gowns as well as commemorative Class of 2021 coffee mugs, signaling the start of in-person activities that mark their final weeks as Bruins.

On Wednesday, many will return to the quad to be honored for Senior Awards Night, which will be held in the quad. Last year's celebration was entirely virtual and pre-recorded.

On May 29, a day after their last finals, seniors will have their first prom in two years. Instead of an off-campus venue with dancing, the event will be in the football field with dinner and

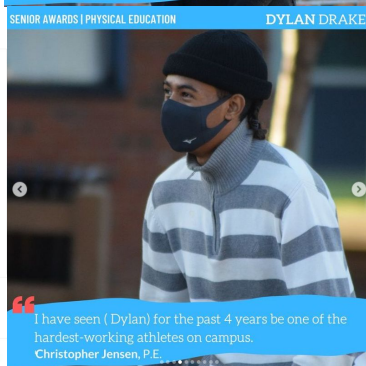
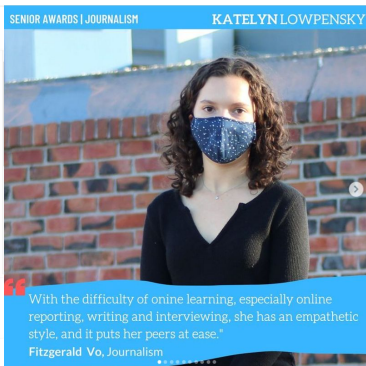
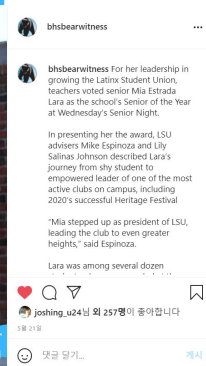
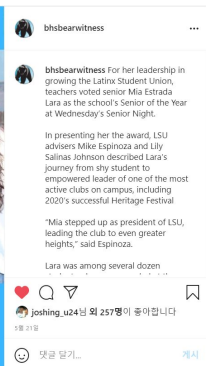
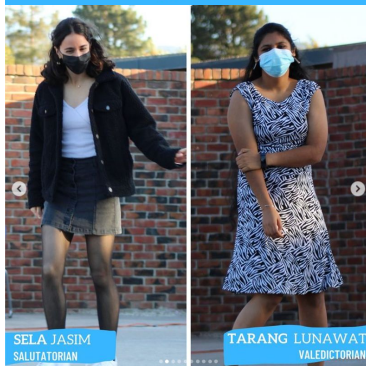
**joshing\_u24** 님 외 350명이 좋아합니다

댓글 13개

댓글 달기...

With the end of the year imminent, there was no shortage of activities and events. The Bear Witness did our best to cover them. Because most of the year was online, seniors had a rush of events at the end, and the Bear Witness constantly updated the readers

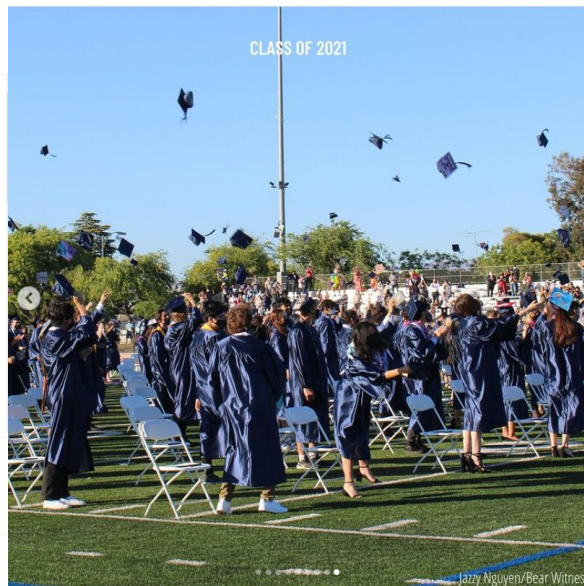
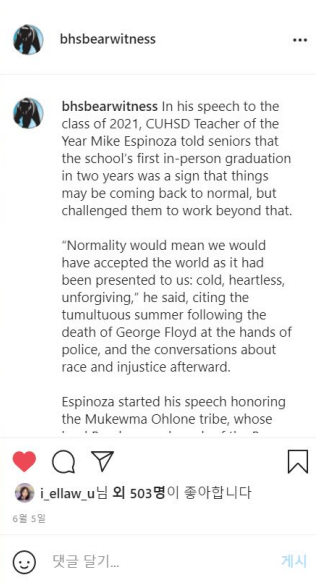
# Senior Night



Being the first in-person award ceremony in 2 years, seniors voted by teachers for each category received an award.



# Graduation Ceremony



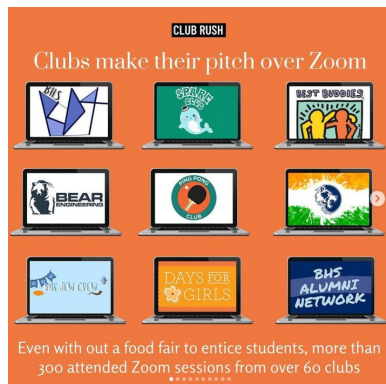
After four years at Branham, the seniors graduated on the football field. We covered the ceremony at the end of the year in June. The graduation ceremony was reported in different parts: teacher's speech, spotlight on decorative caps, and the celebration.



# Clubs and Electives

Student groups contribute a lot to campus and hold their own events. These are not only great photo opportunities, but allow the Bear Witness to cover a variety of events.

# Club Rush

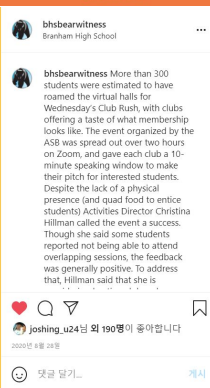


**Purpose**  
The group of Branham alumni aims to help those who will be low-income and first-generation college students. The group has been hosting seminars, tutoring sessions and essay prep.

**47%**  
students from Branham's class of 2020 who are enrolled in a four-year college or university, according to a school survey.

We're providing personal insight and advice, which can be interesting to students who learn about it."

**Xiamian Yang**  
class of 2020  
Freshman at Stanford



**CLUB RUSH**

**We asked several new clubs to make their 30-second pitches for membership.**

**Future Business Leaders of America**

"We focus on developing business skills through guest speakers, educational presentations, and real life experience. If you have interest in any field of business, come out and learn more about how you can partake in the club."

**Blake Balak, Junior, president**

**R.E.A.D. (Readers enjoy, authors dream)**

The club is "for readers and writers to hang out and have their own community for one another. We talk about our favorite pieces of writing, or our own writing, and strive to show how fun reading is. There's several activities we do, such as book trivia, collaborative writing games, and short story read-alouds to make reading fun and accessible to all."

**Allison Wang, sophomore, president**



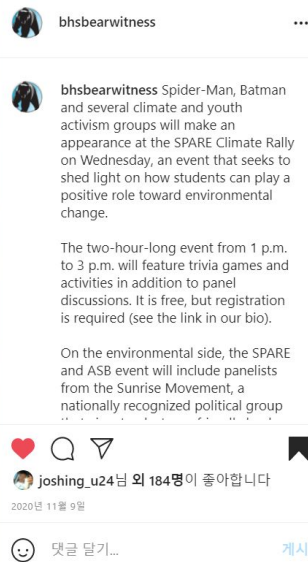
The first virtual club rush where clubs pitch their purpose and attract members was advertised to increase student participation.

# Best Buddies



Best Buddies is a club that connects one-on-one friendships between individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those without. Our posts show how Best Buddies maintained the friendships and adapted for the virtual year.

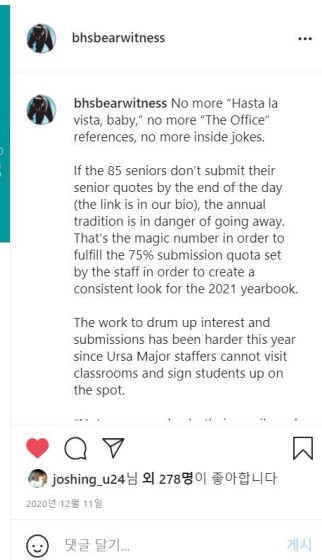
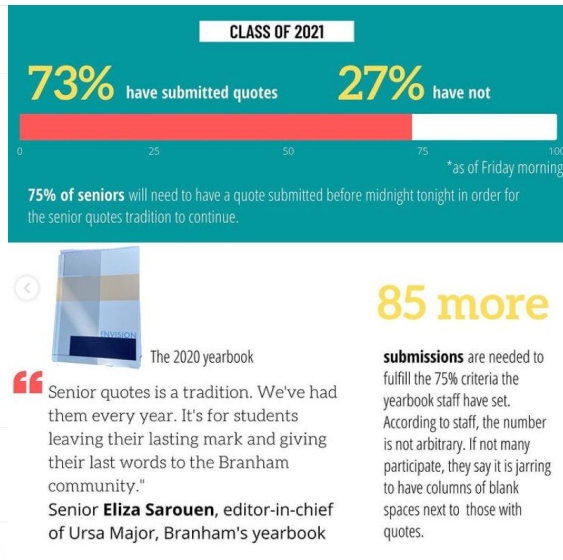
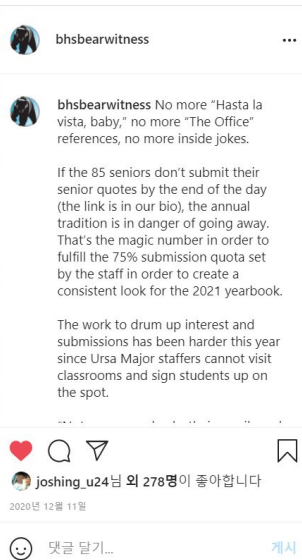
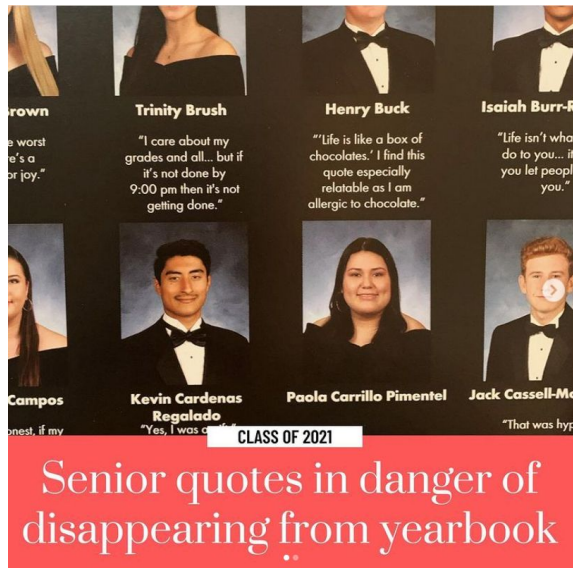
# SPARE



SPARE is a club that stands for students promoting awareness of recycling and the environment. By covering their events, we helped increase student representation and participation.



# Yearbook

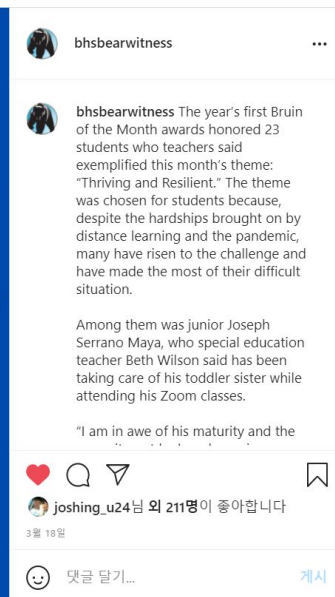
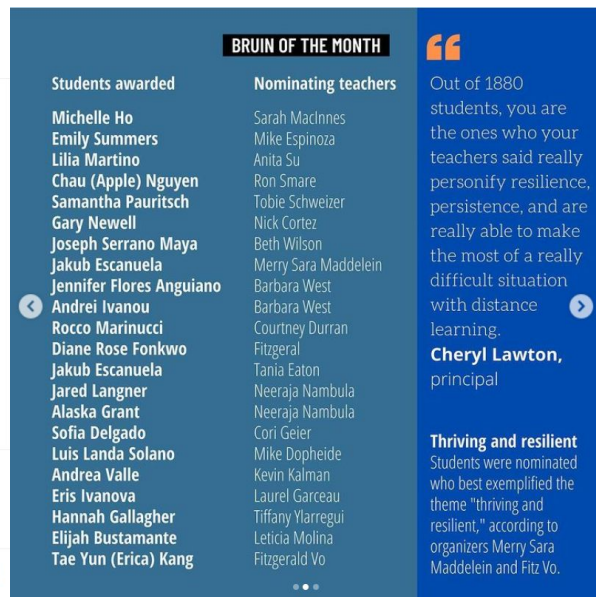
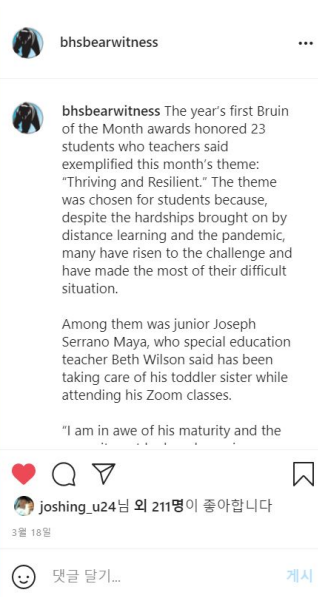


The Bear Witness reported the shortage of senior quotes in the yearbook and helped the yearbook (not part of the journalism program) to meet its quota.

# Student spotlights

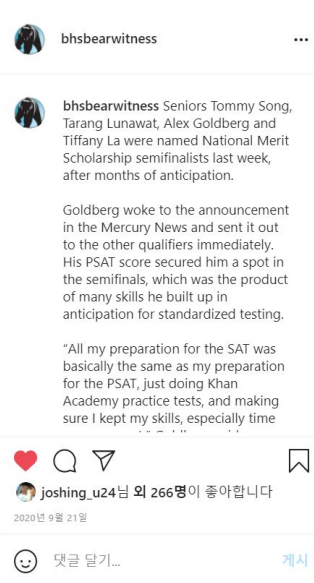
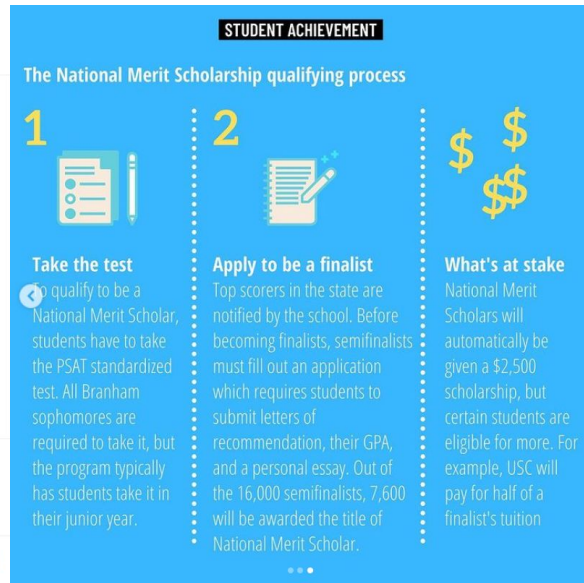
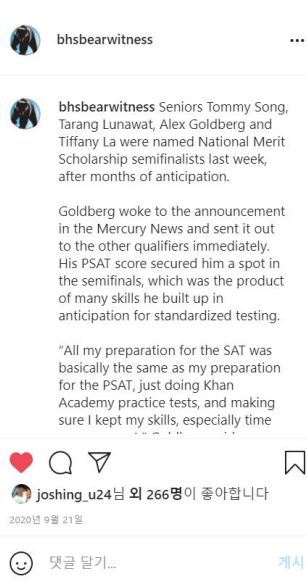
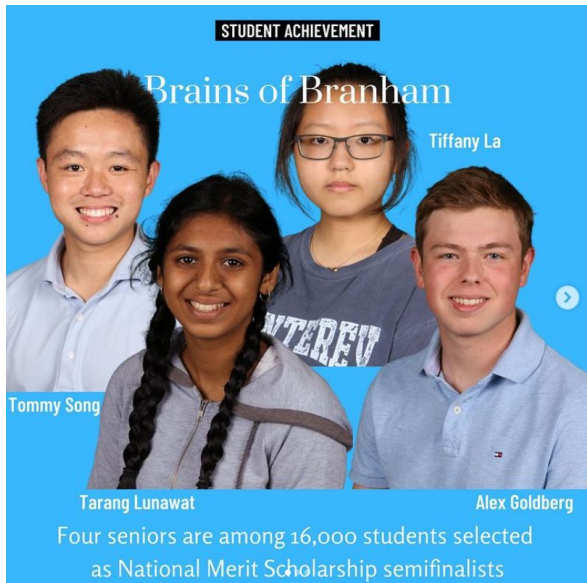
Student achievements, awards, and personal stories were covered.

# Student Awards



Selected by teachers, the students of the month were awarded and spotlighted during the virtual event.

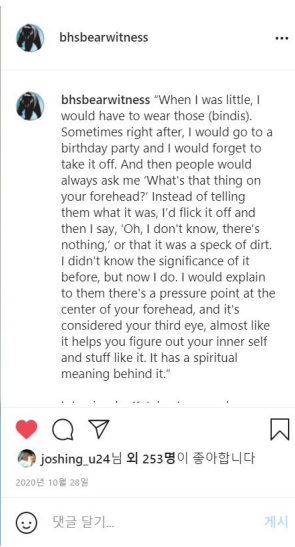
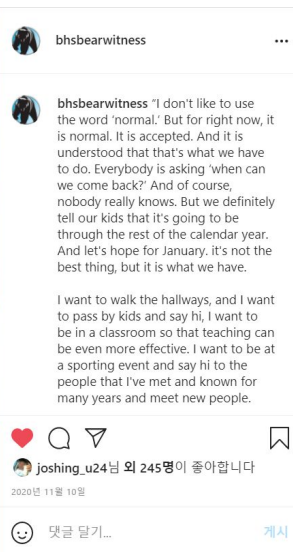
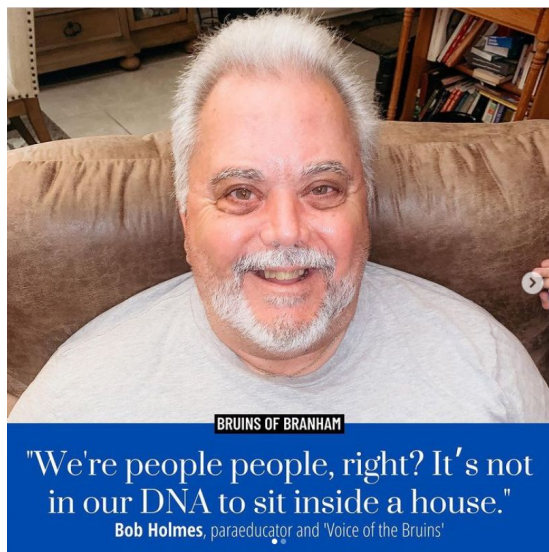
# Student Achievement



Four National Merit Scholarship semifinalists were spotlighted and encouraged in the comments.



# Bruins of Branham

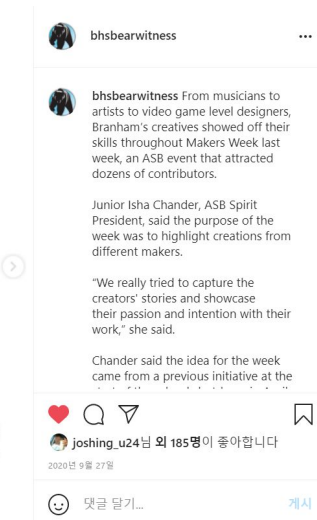
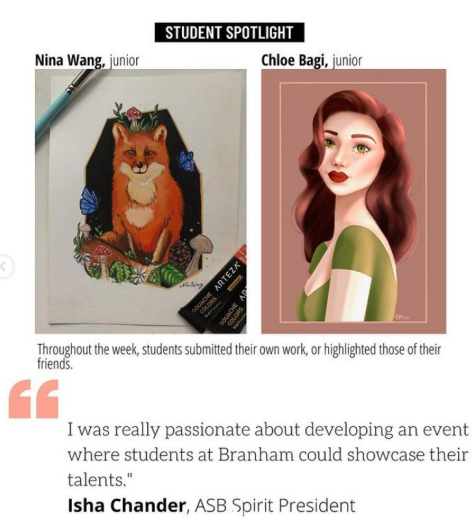
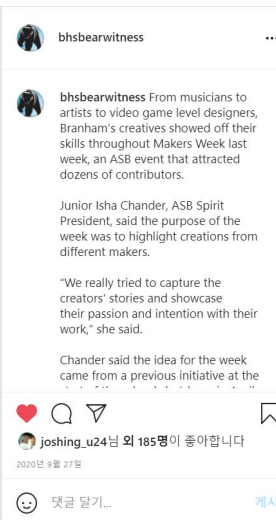
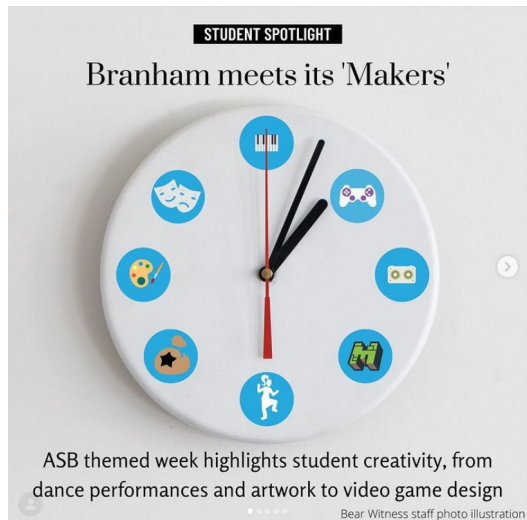


The Bear Witness series sought to highlight student personalities in longform interviews a la Humans of New York.

# School Events

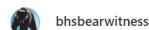
By keeping our ears and eyes peeled to what's going on on and off campus, we were able to find unique stories and photo opportunities.

# Makers Week



To highlight creations from different makers, musicians to artists to video game level designer showed off their skills during Makers Week and Bear Witness acknowledged those creative Branham students.

# Winter Week



bhsbearwitness



bhsbearwitness From "Among Us" game nights to boba drinks, ASB leaders have been leveraging their sizable student audiences on @seewhatsbruin and class accounts as connectivity hubs of sorts to help keep the Branham community close-knit, and are seeking to expand the level of interaction to include tie-ins with local businesses.

Their constant experimentation has yielded a fun partnership with nearby Boba Pub, which has created a Branham-specific drink called Blue's Bev. Students who order the drink and tag the @seewhatsbruin Instagram page are regularly featured.



joshing\_u24 님 외 174명이 좋아합니다

2020년 12월 14일



댓글 달기...

게시

## BRANHAM SPIRIT



Especially this year, we've refrained from the traditional idea of what a spirit day is and tried to create more smaller virtual challenges that appeal to people that still have that want to interact with the school in some way."

Junior Isha Chander, ASB Spirit President



### Fun, but not difficult, challenges

Challenges of organizing virtual spirit days have been trying to increase participation without making events feel like a burden on students. ASB has tried to really center their student activities on giving, rather than asking, which comes to be difficult with everything functioning online.



### Adapting to the online platform

Successes that have been visible are the new activities that have been able to be developed with the new virtual setting. Student activities such as "Among Us" nights and online art showcases have been able to bring the school community together in a new way.



### Emphasis on social media

In upcoming spirit days, ASB is looking to still use social media to recognize and interact with students, as well as forming partnerships with local businesses, such as the creating a new drink with Boba Pub, to make their participation more interactive.



bhsbearwitness



bhsbearwitness From "Among Us" game nights to boba drinks, ASB leaders have been leveraging their sizable student audiences on @seewhatsbruin and class accounts as connectivity hubs of sorts to help keep the Branham community close-knit, and are seeking to expand the level of interaction to include tie-ins with local businesses.

Their constant experimentation has yielded a fun partnership with nearby Boba Pub, which has created a Branham-specific drink called Blue's Bev. Students who order the drink and tag the @seewhatsbruin Instagram page are regularly featured.



joshing\_u24 님 외 174명이 좋아합니다

2020년 12월 14일



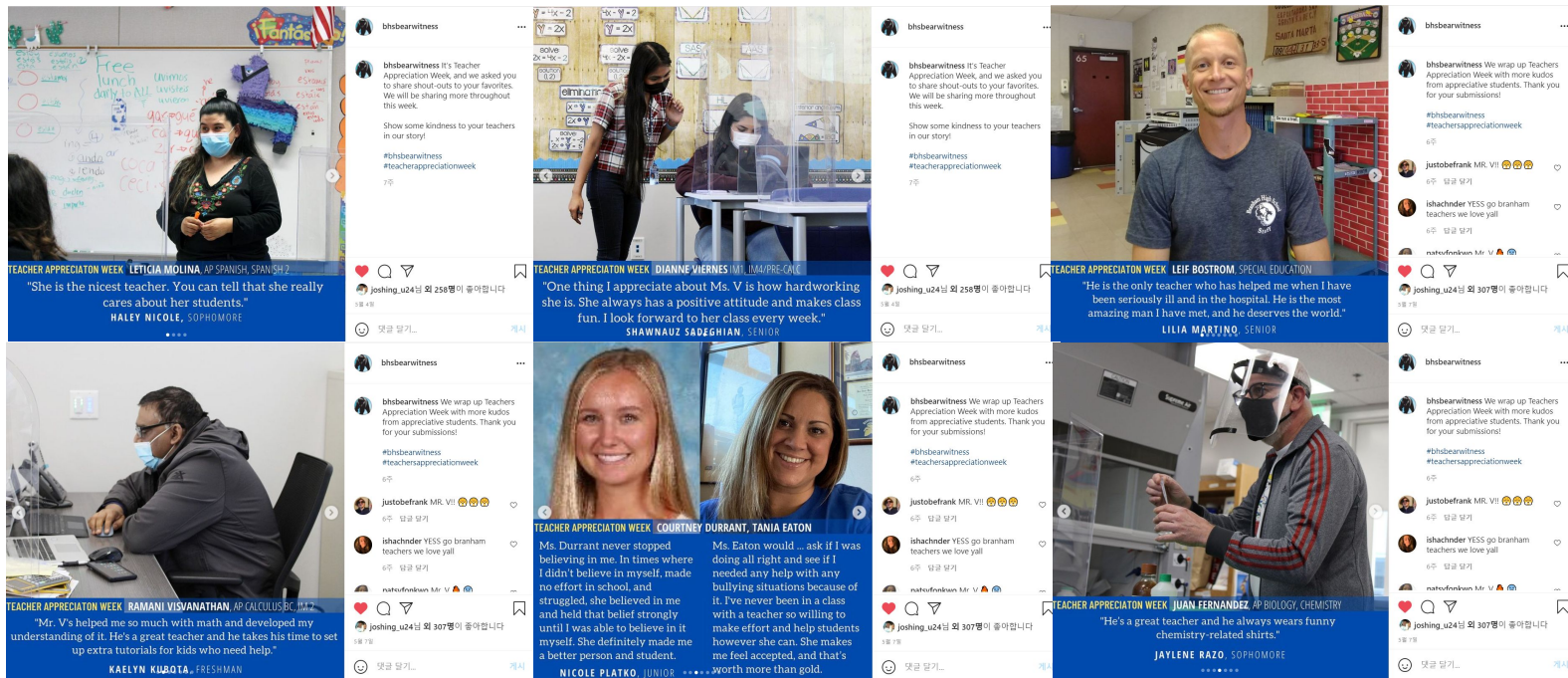
댓글 달기...

게시

Activities and interactions included tie-ins with local businesses and "Among Us" game nights, keeping the Branham community close-knit.

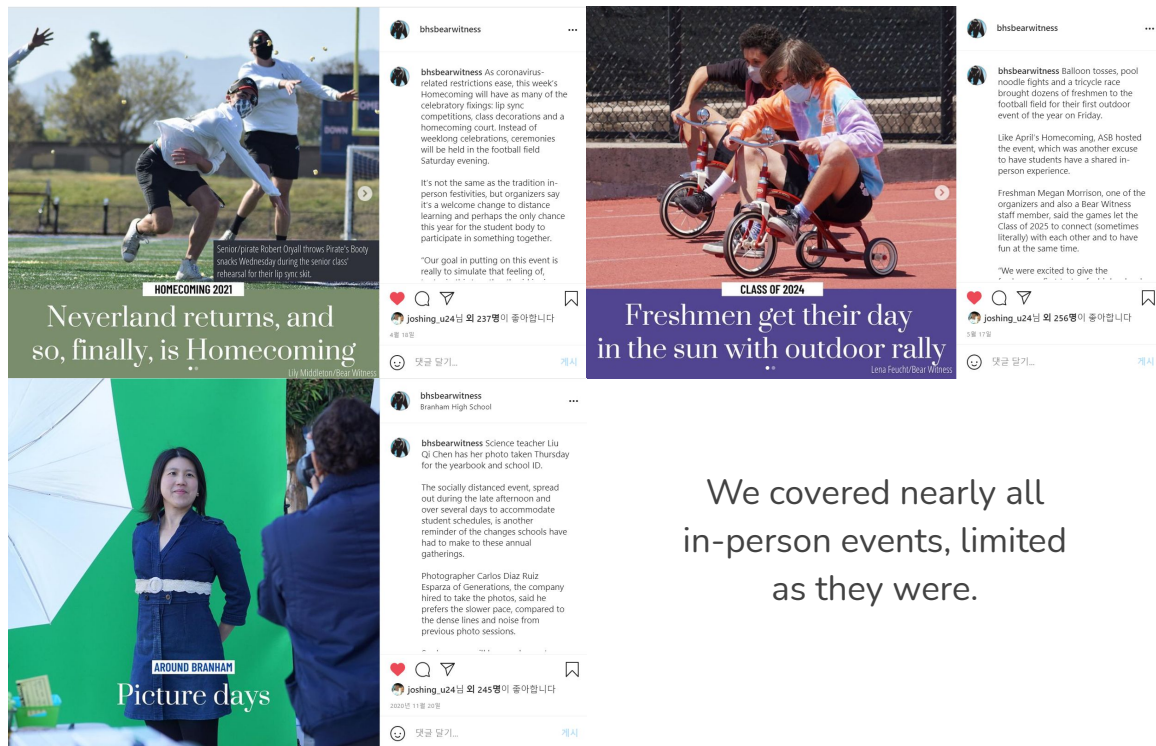


# Teacher Appreciation Week



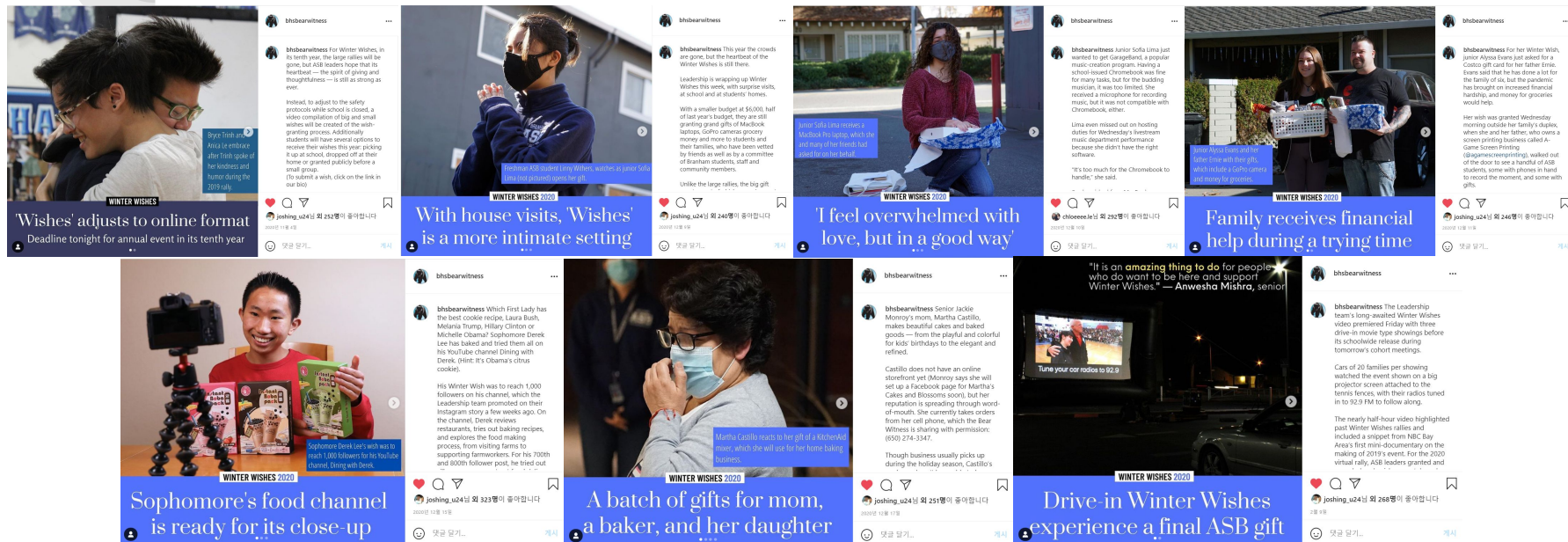
The Bear Witness asked for student submissions during teacher appreciation week.

# In-person Events



We covered nearly all in-person events, limited as they were.

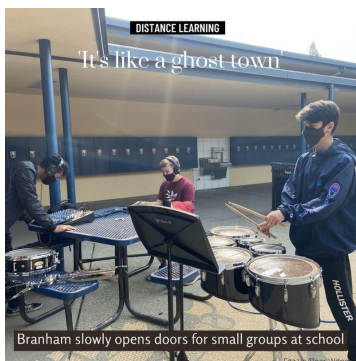
# Winter Wishes



Winter Wishes is a Branham tradition where students submit their wish and the ASB grants selected wishes. Bear Witness reported on several wishes being granted at students' homes in a series of related posts.



# Visual arts performances



**Band concert tonight features original piece about Branham**  
By bhsbearwitness

**bhsbearwitness**  
 Branham High School

**bhsbearwitness** Junior Vinidu Geevarathne, senior Will Irish and junior Arian Salamat record a percussion sample Wednesday at Branham for the band department's upcoming virtual concert later this month. The trio were the only students on campus, aside from teachers and staff, a feeling that Salamat described like being in "a ghost town."

The percussionists were allowed on campus specifically because they are engaging in a non-aerobic generating activity, that is, percussion instruments do not have to be blown into to create sound.

**joshing\_u24년** 외 249명이 좋아합니다  
 2020년 10월 8일

댓글 달기...

**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** For tonight's final live-streamed performance at 7 p.m., band director Chris Nalls will debut "Bruin Fanfare," a piece he had written that features elements of the school and the various bands he directs.

The event, called "The Finale," will celebrate the program's graduating seniors and will be the first to be hosted in the Performing Arts Center. As with past live-streamed shows, it will be a mix of live emcees and recorded performances.

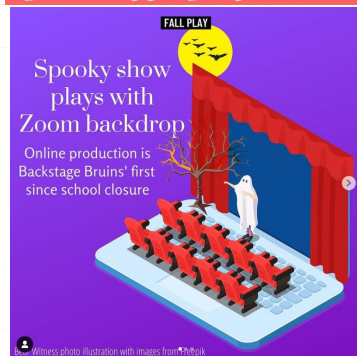
Nalls said that the bands have played several of his original pieces, but "this is the first piece written specifically for a group at BHS," he said. "It was

**joshing\_u24년** 외 204명이 좋아합니다  
 2020년 10월 8일

댓글 달기...



**CONCERT REVIEW**  
**Bands, choirs unite for a fun genre-hopping experience**



Writers photo illustration with images from iStock

**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** It was a night of team-ups: Branham's bands paired with Dartmouth Middle School's, while Branham's and Leigh's combined choirs delivered a standout performance on Wednesday for their annual Pop Concert, the fourth live-streamed concert since schools shut down last year.

Nine performances were featured, with wide-ranging genres from Disney to rock to jazz, with a song for everyone. Juniors Kylie Ng and Vinidu Geevarathne played hosting duties.

World travel was the theme of the event, and the concert started with a short segment of travel photos from

**joshing\_u24년** 외 220명이 좋아합니다  
 2020년 10월 8일

댓글 달기...

**bhsbearwitness**

**bhsbearwitness** Three tales of comedy and horror over Zoom? Now that's scary.

The Backstage Bruins fall play, "Ghost Stories for an Empty Theater," the first production in nearly a year, debuts tonight at 7 p.m. and runs through Saturday over the ubiquitous meeting format.

The pre-recorded performance will consist of three ghost stories told by high school theater students over Zoom who are disappointed about their fall play being cancelled (yes, it's meta). Two stories are modern retellings of two famous horror stories, "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar

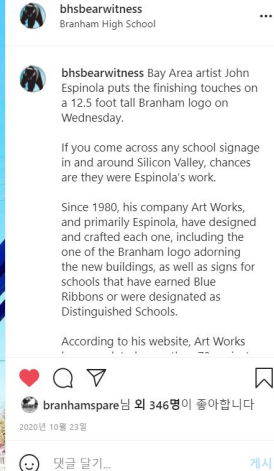
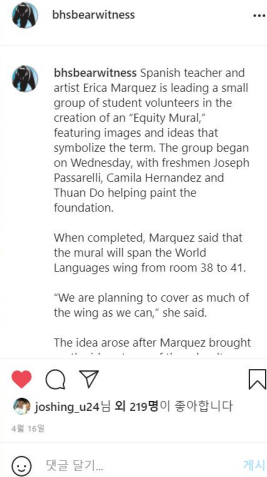
**joshing\_u24년** 외 164명이 좋아합니다  
 2020년 10월 8일

댓글 달기...

We shared stories of the various shows and performances put on by the visual arts department.



# Painting Murals

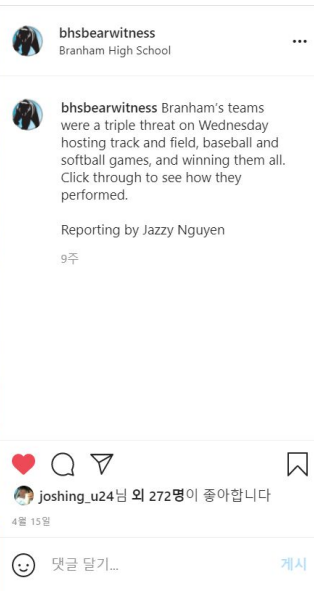
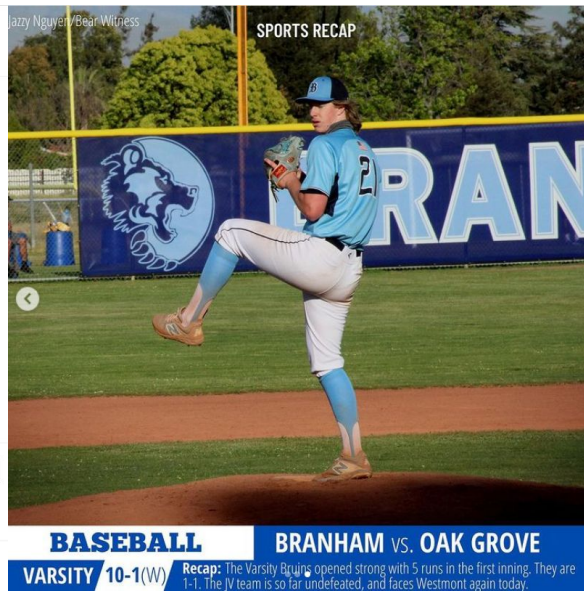
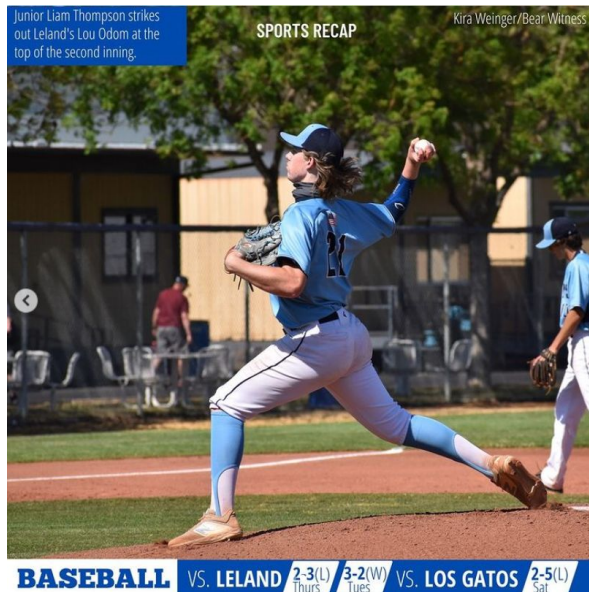


On the left post, a group of student volunteers painted the “Equity Mural,” featuring images and ideas that symbolize the term. On the right, Bay Area artist John Espinola paints a Branham logo on the wall. Since not all students went back on campus, students distance learning could get an update about the appearance of the Branham campus through Bear Witness.

# Sports

With fourteen sports playing simultaneously at the end of the spring semester, we focused on breadth. An addition this year were scores and summaries to provide more information on sports results.

# Baseball



# Basketball

Freshman Rebecca Sung takes the ball across the court.

SPORTS RECAP



Shantala Muruganujan/Bear Witness

**GIRLS BASKETBALL** **BRANHAM VS. GILROY**

**Varsity 61-18 W**

**Recap:** Quinn Godfrey led the team with 12 points against the Mustangs on Thursday. The team, led by captains Sindina Begic and Maya Madrid, is 7-2.

bhsbearwitness

bhsbearwitness Swim and dive: The varsity teams split their games against Sobrato on Thursday, with the boys winning 120-44 and the girls losing 66-115. Team leaders include senior Brandon Mayekawa, who placing first in the 100 yard butterfly and 100 yard breast stroke. Sophomore Katie Hannigan placed second in the 50 yard freestyle.

Girls basketball: The girls basketball team earned a lopsided win over Gilroy on Thursday, bringing its overall record to 7-2. Freshman Quinn Godfrey led the team with 12 points, followed by freshmen Annie Chen and Kaitlyn Williams, who brought in 9 points each.

joshing\_u24님 외 241명이 좋아합니다

5월 15일

댓글 달기...

게시



# Competitive Sports Cheer



bhsbearwitness



**bhsbearwitness** The Branham Competitive Sport Cheer team hosted their first and final home game of the season and earning every point possible against Prospect High School with a 21-10 win.

Before the game, the team held a ceremony for its seniors Bridget Laugesen, Esme Toro, Susan Montoya, and Maddie O'Kennon.

It has been an unusual season for the CSC league. To adapt to the shortened season, teams have been scheduling and hosting their own events, with coaches choreographing the new routines and agreeing on point distributions, instead of hiring an



joshing\_u24 님 외 225명이 좋아합니다

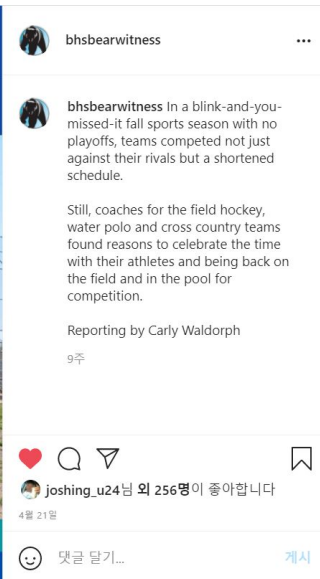
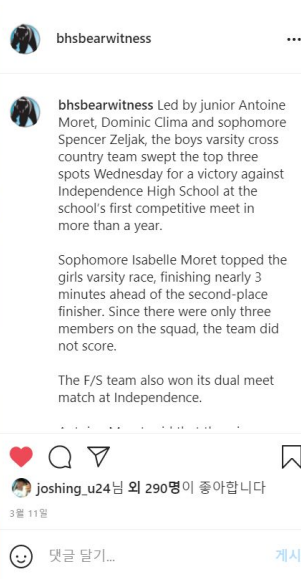
5월 16일



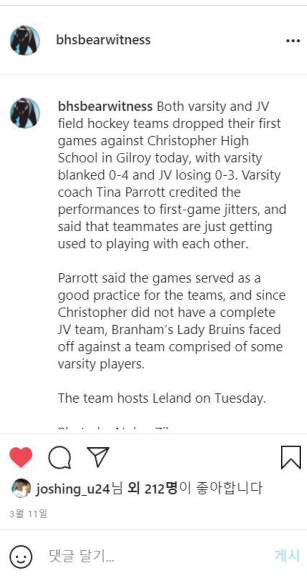
댓글 달기...

게시

# Cross Country



# Field Hockey





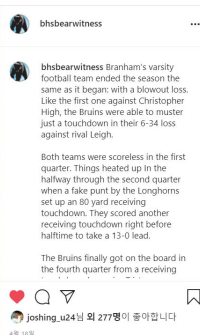
# Football



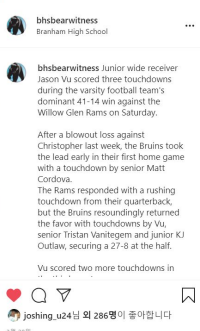
**FOOTBALL**  
BRANHAM VS. LEIGH  
VARSITY 6-34(L) JV 6-20(L)



**FOOTBALL**  
BRANHAM VS. WILLOW GLEN  
VARSITY 41-14(W) JV 21-14(L)



**FOOTBALL**  
BRANHAM VS. INDEPENDENCE  
VARSITY 34-8(W) JV 0-44(L)



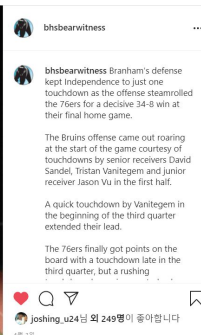
**FOOTBALL**  
BRANHAM VS. INDEPENDENCE  
VARSITY 34-8(W) JV 0-44(L)



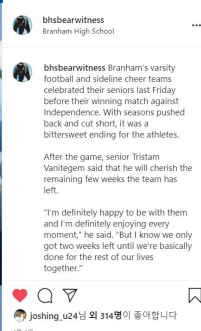
**FOOTBALL**  
BRANHAM VS. INDEPENDENCE  
VARSITY 34-8(W) JV 0-44(L)



**FOOTBALL**  
BRANHAM VS. INDEPENDENCE  
VARSITY 34-8(W) JV 0-44(L)



**FOOTBALL**  
BRANHAM VS. INDEPENDENCE  
VARSITY 34-8(W) JV 0-44(L)



**FOOTBALL**  
BRANHAM VS. INDEPENDENCE  
VARSITY 34-8(W) JV 0-44(L)



# Soccer

**SPORTS RECAP**

Junior Luke Peters takes the ball from his opponent.



**BOYS SOCCER** **BRANHAM VS. LEIGH**

**VARSITY 0-1(L) JV 2-2(D)**

**Recap:** Leigh scored with a penalty kick in the second half of the game. A tough shot to save.

Shantala Muruganjan/Bear Witness

bhsbearwitness

Swim and dive: The varsity teams split their games against Sobrato on Thursday, with the boys winning 120-44 and the girls losing 66-115. Team leaders include senior Brandon Mayekawa, who placing first in the 100 yard butterfly and 100 yard breast stroke. Sophomore Katie Harrigan placed second in the 50 yard freestyle.

Girls' basketball: The girls basketball team earned a lopsided win over Gilroy on Thursday, bringing its overall record to 7-2. Freshman Quinn Godfrey led the team with 12 points, followed by freshmen Annie Chen and Kaitlyn Williams, who brought in 9 points each.

joshing\_u24님 외 241명이 좋아합니다

5월 13일

댓글 달기...

게시

Senior midfielder Jin Lee said his favorite moment was winning the CCS Division 2 championship and winning the league in 2020.



**CLASS OF 2021**

**Senior soccer squad share memories of the game**

Shantala Muruganjan/Bear Witness

bhsbearwitness

At Thursday's senior night, graduating members of the soccer team say last year's dream season, which saw the team play all the way to the state semifinals after winning the CCS Division 2 title, were a highlight of their high school career.

The seniors were honored before their final home game loss 0-1 against Leigh. The team finished the season 6-3-3.

Reporting by Shantala Muruganjan

#bhsbearwitness

5주

joshing\_u24님 외 268명이 좋아합니다

5월 16일

댓글 달기...

게시



**GIRLS' SOCCER** **BRANHAM VS. SOBRATO**

**VARSITY 2-1(W) JV 3-2(W)**

Shantala Muruganjan/Bear Witness

bhsbearwitness

It's going to be a busy week for Branham athletics this week with 14 sports in competition, starting with softball, badminton, boys volleyball and boys soccer on Monday, and ending with Competitive Stunt Cheer, softball and baseball on Saturday. We will be highlighting as many as we can throughout the week.

#bhsbearwitness

michaelpresunka #RECOGNIZESWIM

6주 동아리 소개 달글 달기

달글 보기(4개)

joshing\_u24님 외 228명이 좋아합니다

5월 18일

댓글 달기...

게시

**SPORTS RECAP**

Freshman Evan Murphy takes the ball down the line against a Piedmont defender on Friday.



**GIRLS SOCCER** **BRANHAM VS. PIEDMONT HILLS**

**VARSITY 5-0(W) JV 1-1(D)**

**Recap:** Freshman Evan Murphy took contributed two goals in the first 13 minutes of the game.

Shantala Muruganjan/Bear Witness

bhsbearwitness

Branham High School

The girls varsity soccer game seemed to be over as soon as it began.

The team got off to an excellent start Friday evening against Piedmont Hills when freshman Mikayla Fore scored in just the first minute of play.

Branham's lead doubled 13 minutes into the game when Fore scored again from a corner kick.

In the second half, Branham continued to stonewall the Pirates, with goals by juniors Andi Franco and Lana Hirata.

The Bruins' solid backline kept

joshing\_u24님 외 267명이 좋아합니다

4월 17일

댓글 달기...

게시

**SPORTS RECAP**



**GIRLS SOCCER** **BRANHAM VS. LELAND**

**VARSITY 0-0 (D) JV 0-2 (L)**

Coach Ron Smare poses with seniors Natalie Christensen, Quinn Day, Emily Murphy, Olex Spills, Emily Thompson and Mia Fujian on their senior night Wednesday.

Shantala Muruganjan/Bear Witness

bhsbearwitness

Before Tuesday night's game against the Leland Chargers, the girls' varsity soccer team took a moment to honor their graduating seniors, and the impact they had both on and off the pitch over the years.

The team had to settle for a draw against Leland, as both sides created chances but couldn't put anything in the goal. Varsity finished the season with a 6-2-4 record and JV ended with a 2-3-1 league record.

Both boys and girls soccer will play in the first round of CCS playoffs this weekend. The girls earned the No. 4 seed in Division 1 and will host No. 5

joshing\_u24님 외 318명이 좋아합니다

5월 21일

댓글 달기...

게시

# Softball



**bhsbearwitness**  
Branham High School



**bhsbearwitness** Branham's teams were a triple threat on Wednesday hosting track and field, baseball and softball games, and winning them all. Click through to see how they performed.

Reporting by Jazy Nguyen

9주



joshing\_u24님 외 272명이 좋아합니다

4월 15일




댓글 달기...

게시

# Swim and Dive

Freshman Alex McAllister dives in for his 50 yard freestyle.

**SPORTS RECAP** Tim Daszko/Special to the Bear Witness



**SWIM AND DIVE** **BRANHAM VS. SOBRATO**

**BOYS** 120-44 W **GIRLS** 66-115 L

Recap: Brandon Mayekawa (12) won two events, while Katie Hannigan (10) is an emerging talent. Next week is its last meet.



bhsbearwitness

...



**bhsbearwitness** Swim and dive: The varsity teams split their games against Sobrato on Thursday, with the boys winning 120-44 and the girls losing 66-115. Team leaders include senior Brandon Mayekawa, who placing first in the 100 yard butterfly and 100 yard breast stroke. Sophomore Katie Hannigan placed second in the 50 yard freestyle.

Girls basketball: The girls basketball team earned a lopsided win over Gilroy on Thursday, bringing its overall record to 7-2. Freshman Quinn Godfrey led the team with 12 points, followed by freshmen Annie Chen and Kaitlyn Williams, who brought in 9 points each.



joshing\_u24님 외 241명이 좋아합니다

5월 15일



댓글 달기...

게시





# Tennis



Senior Khira Feucht leads the team's pre-game cheer Tuesday at the team's last home game.

Megan Morrison/Bear Witness

**GIRLS TENNIS**

**Varsity 2-5(L)**

**BRANHAM VS. EVERGREEN**

••



bhsbearwitness



**bhsbearwitness** The girls tennis team went down fighting during a tough game against Evergreen Valley High School on Tuesday, its final home game.

The team also recognized senior Khira Feucht, who contributed one of the wins during the match, was honored at the team's Senior Night.

With a 3-6 record, the team has struggled in the A League. this year due to last year's undefeated season in the B League. They have a shot at another win against Prospect on Friday, their last game of the season.

Reporting by Megan Morrison



joshing\_u24님 외 244명이 좋아합니다

5월 5일

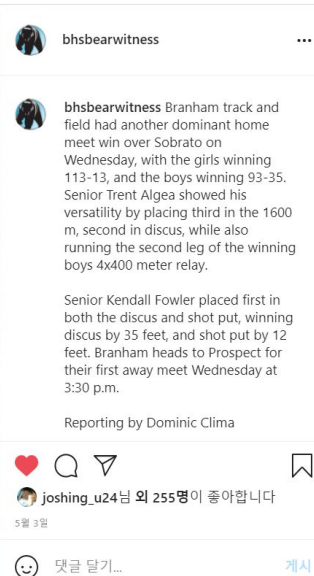
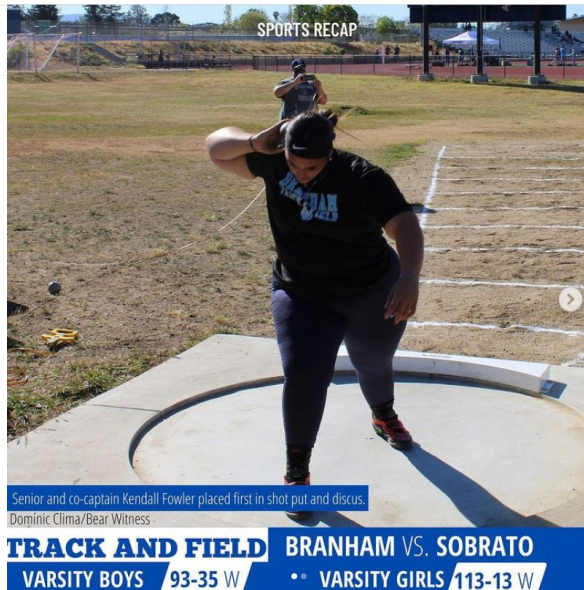
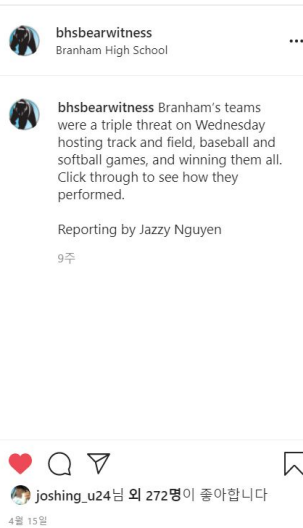
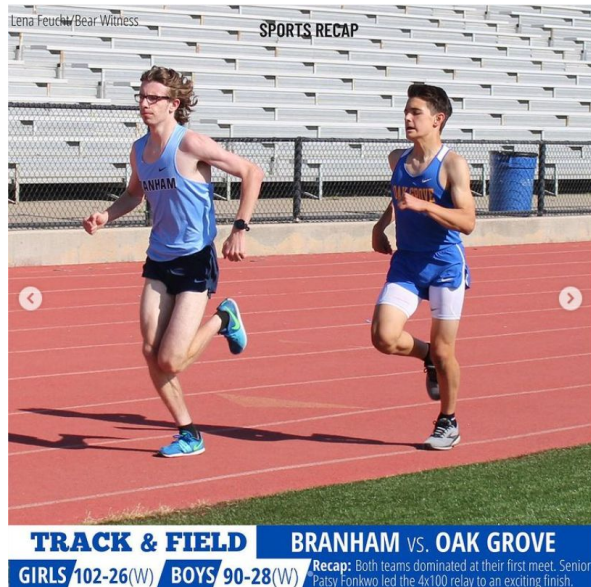


댓글 달기...

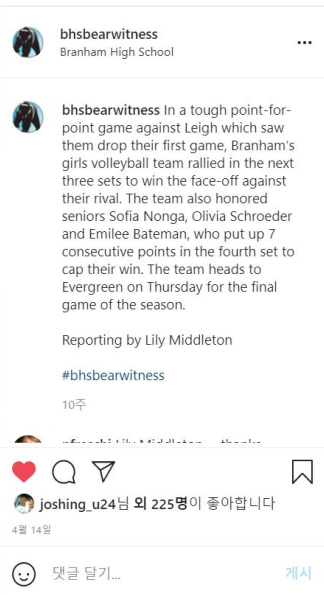
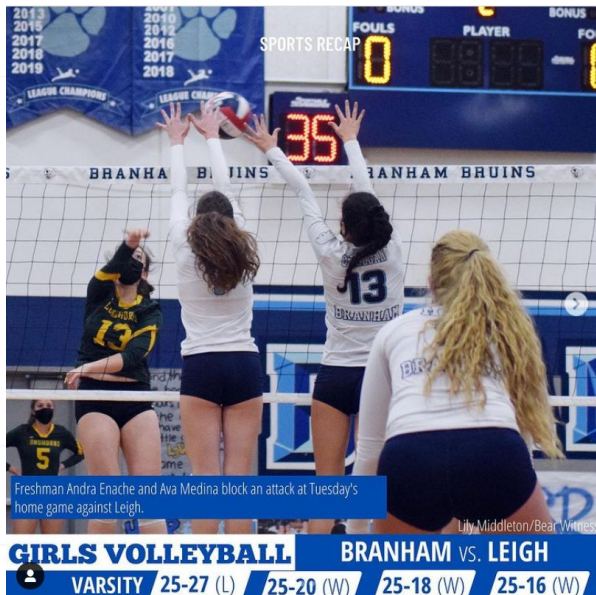
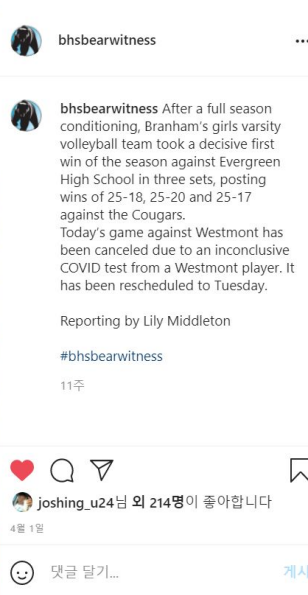
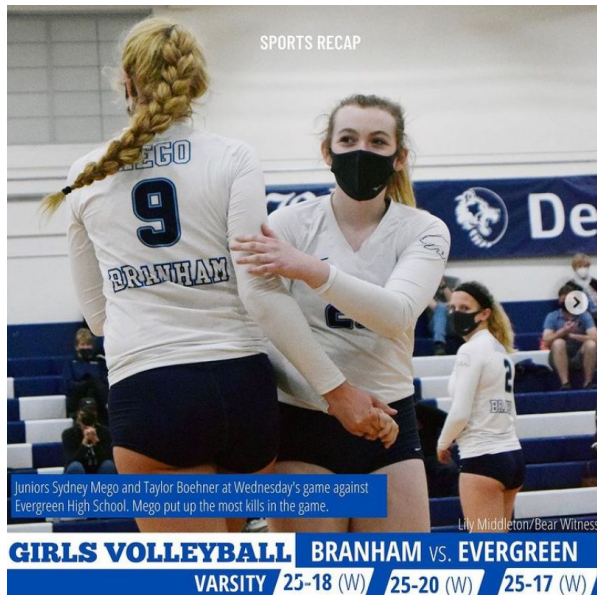
게시



# Track and Field



# Volleyball



# Water Polo

