

Remembering Brittney

Brigl and I played volleyball together and had so much fun. Everyday before practice we bought a pack of five Laffy Taffys. We would go into the locker room and laugh so hard while trying to solve the jokes. Every time I read a Laffy Taffy joke now, I smile and want to laugh.

~Steffy Hildebrand

One of my fondest memories of Brittney was comparing stories of her niece and my daughter. They are close in age and we would laugh at how similar and cute they are. It was clear how much Brittney loved kids and enjoyed working with them.

~Mr. Dann Jacobson

Brittney was so tiny she was always swimming in her softball jersey. And Brittney always had her jeans specially hemmed to fit because she was too short for them. ~Amy Sennett

One of the most vivid memories I have of Brittney was her out-going attitude towards learning every coordinated dance at camp. She was always so happy practicing, performing, and teaching others the dances too. When I'm in the mood to liven up a crowd by doing these dances I still look for her because she inspires and leads me to dance like I've never danced before. ~Joey Barnett



She enjoyed telling everyone's favorite baby story about her rolls and Cheerios.

She was known to refuse to dress up for games.



Brittney loved music. She couldn't sing, but that didn't stop her. I can just picture her singing along and dancing to Bon Jovi in the locker room before basketball games. Brittney loved to make sketches and designs during class. Give her a pencil or some of my colored pens or highlighters and she could draw boxes, stars, and patterns galore. ~Kyla Brydon

Alexis, Alyssa, Brigl, and I would all pile up into someone's car and drive to Cousin's. Brigl would make her usual comments about the game while filling up her unique concoction of Sprite and pink lemonade. We went to Gus's and watched the tape of our basketball game. Brigl sat in the smallest chair of all. It was barely three feet tall. It fit her well.

~Regina Salvat

I remember the way Brittney used to say "Uhh, you actually studied?" and her little sneering face that went along with it. ~Kyla Brydon

She hated her chick in biology.



When I saw Brittney's name in one of my classes [this year] I said aloud, "Oh good." I was looking forward to working with her again. She cared about doing homework, she cared about understanding the material, she cared about doing well on tests. She cared. Yet, Brittney did not have to be the best in the class, she just had to be the best that she could be. ~Mr. Mike Weidner

"The most wasted day of all is that during which we have not laughed."

~Sebastian R. N. Chamfort

Memorials to a friend

Some will always remember her as a volleyball player. Some will recall her as a fellow camper. Some will always refer to her as Brigl. Some will look back and see her as a great student-athlete. Many will look back and see her as a good, fun friend and wonderful person.

On August 15, Brittney Gigl, who would be a senior at Nicolet, passed away from encephalitis. Brittney was an honors student who was ranked in the top four percent of her class. She participated in a range of extracurricular activities, including varsity basketball, softball and volleyball, National Honor Society, and Spanish Club. During the summer, she was a counselor at Camp Interlaken.

Brittney's death was shocking and saddening to many members of the Nicolet community and beyond. Many individuals came together as a community after her passing to forge some positives from such a difficult experience.

The optional assembly on Friday, August 24, was one of these displays of community. During the assembly both poems and original works were recited. The choir and the quartet also participated in the ceremony. According to Associate Principal Mr. Michael Fesenmaier, the goal of the assembly was to "be a tribute and to recognize Brittney and help people continue to honor the things she stood for throughout her life." He also said that it let people be together and deal with the loss as a group. "From talking to people, both students and staff members, the things I heard were

positive on the assembly," said Mr. Fesenmaier.

The recently established Brittney Gigl Memorial Scholarship is another example of a school-wide effort of remembrance. The idea for a scholarship was talked about through staff, students, athletic teams, student council, and family, according to Mr. Fesenmaier. Although the inspiration for a scholarship emerged from so many different avenues, one scholarship fund will be created. It is now being organized through the Nicolet Foundation, however, parameters for the scholarship have not yet been established. "This is really going to be a family bill as far as honoring their wishes as to what they want," said Mr. Fesenmaier. Many different entities are contributing to the scholarship fund, including student council, athletic teams, and the general community.

Beyond contributing the proceeds from their Entertainment Book sale to the scholarship fund, the volleyball team has also memorialized Brittney in many other ways. Mr. Dann Jacobson, head coach, said that they will retire her number, the number three. Also, they renamed the Fall Classic Invitational to the Brittney Gigl Memorial Tournament. "Hopefully that will carry on," said Mr. Jacobson. Special arm bands and ribbons are worn by the players in honor of Brittney, and "BG3" is sewn into all the shorts. "We say Brigl at the end of every match," said Mr. Jacobson, who said he thinks about her during every

practice and every game.

According to Mr. John Gustavson, the head varsity basketball coach, similar plans are under construction for basketball season upon its arrival. Already, the team has participated in the Entertainment Book sale. The team and coaches are also considering a raffle to raise money for the scholarship fund once the season begins. Brittney's basketball jersey may also be retired during the season. Other plans are not, as of yet, fully formulated.

The student council sold ribbons to wear to the homecoming dance in place of corsages and boutonnieres, with proceeds going to the scholarship fund. "I'm sure we're going to come up with other things, [too]," said Director of Student Activities Mr. Alfred Bell of other student council plans.

Beyond Nicolet there is also an effort to memorialize Brittney in positive ways. Camp Interlaken has started a fund in honor of her. What the money will be used for has not been decided upon yet, however, many people are contributing, according to Mr. Howard Wagan, camp director.

All these efforts to honor Brittney and memorialize what she stood for stands witness to what kind of person she was and how many people she touched. She helped to create a community of kindness and to bring people together. Many will always feel an emptiness and a loss. She will always be missed, but thanks to many people, she will always be remembered.

-Alyssa Fine

"...But that man who has known the immense unhappiness of losing a friend, by what name do we call him? Here every language is silent and holds its peace in impotence."

-Joseph Roux