

# Opinions

## THE ROUNDUP

### Should the drinking age be lowered?



Since July of 2008, a group of university chancellors and presidents have been signing their names on a public statement called the Amethyst Initiative, which questions the national drinking age, hoping to change the outcome of irresponsible alcohol consumption within collegiate students. In 1984, Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which encouraged a penalty of 10 percent of a state's federal highway funding for any state setting its drinking age lower than 21.

The Initiative Web site, [www.amethystinitiative.org](http://www.amethystinitiative.org), argues that, "Twenty-four years later, our experience as college and university presidents convinces us that ... A culture of dangerous, clandestine 'binge-drinking'—often conducted off-campus—has developed."

Signees include the administrators of such schools as Duke University, Dartmouth College, Johns Hopkins University, Occidental College, Ohio State University and such Jesuit schools as Santa Clara University and Saint Joseph's University.

### Initiative debate a stride forward in drinking solution

The Amethyst Initiative, a call to reopen the debate on the excessively high drinking age in this country, is a call this country must answer.

The professors who signed this initiative are among the intellectual elite for a reason. They have witnessed the culture of binge drinking that is so prevalent on school campuses first hand.

They argue that the current drinking age of 21 might reduce the number of students drinking, but those students that are drinking do so irresponsibly and dangerously.

It is a known fact that raising the drinking age has lowered the number of drunk drivers on the road. But there was an overwhelming increase in other alcohol related deaths and injuries.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported, "Alcohol misuse is now the leading risk factor for serious injury in the United States, and the third leading cause of preventable death. It accounts for more than 75,000 deaths annually."

The effect of a binge drinking culture has put many of us in danger in other ways. It has removed respect for the law in the minds of many students.

The Initiative itself argues that as young adults under 21, many of us are considered responsible enough to die for our country in war, vote and choose the next president, and sign a contract but

we can't have a beer.

"By choosing to use fake IDs, students make ethical compromises that erode respect for the law," the official statement states.

Something must be done to solve the drinking problem in our country and it can be done.

The current system, voted into action by Congress in 1984, gives individual states their option to choose the drinking age. The catch is, if a state sets the drinking age to anything lower than 21 they lose 10 percent of their federal highway funding. This law, The National Minimum Drinking Age Act, makes it impossible for states to have control on their drinking ages as few, if any, can afford to lose so much money.

If you look at other country's policies on underage drinking you will see that not only are the age limits lower, but the youth of those countries consume alcohol far more responsibly.

Then take a look at our country. Hearing news stories about irresponsible students and adults involving alcohol is commonplace. Drinking in high school is easy to find and in the college level binge drinking could be considered rampant.

I am not saying that we should abolish the drinking age all together. Personally, I think young adults shouldn't be able to drink until they are 19 or have graduated from high school, and more steps

should be taken to educate minors about troubles that come from drinking.

In fact, the initiative itself doesn't specify what age they think students should be able to drink.

The official statement of the initiative lays out their goals as, "To support an informed and dispassionate public debate over the effects of the 21 year-old drinking age. To consider whether the 10 percent highway fund incentive encourages or inhibits that debate." And finally, "To invite new ideas about the best ways to prepare young adults to make responsible decisions about alcohol."

Signing an initiative doesn't mean that we want to make liquor stores the new playground for kids. Supporters of the initiative are not demanding we lower the drinking age as low as possible, as soon as possible. They only ask that we acknowledge that underage drinking is a problem and that we must seek change in our current system in order to overcome this challenge facing America's youth.

Brophy Principal **Mr. Bob Ryan** summed it up nicely when asked if he believed any alternative to the current system existed.

"Surely there are alternatives to the current system. As a nation, we've struggled with this issue since our founding. I don't think there is a magic solution; prohibition had its problems, as did the graduated drinking age," he said. "I do think that alcohol abuse among young people is a significant issue in our society and the type of sustained and open conversation that the Amethyst Initiative calls for is an important first step."



By Phil Pachtman '09  
THE ROUNDUP

### Amethyst Initiative just an excuse for teenage binge drinking

We live in a generation where we learn how to drink alcohol from keg stands and beer pong.

Responsible drinking and teenagers is the closest thing to an obvious oxymoron.

Although I appreciate the enthusiasm the Amethyst Initiative provides to help teach "responsible drinking" to teenagers, unfortunately there is no way all 18 year olds will take this maturely.

The only reason why so many students support the initiative is

because they are excited to start binge drinking legally; no more troubles.

According to the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles, in 2006, there were 13,470 nationwide fatalities in crashes

involving an alcohol-impaired driver and in Arizona alone, there were 1,280.

After Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act in 1984, deaths have reduced drastically. In 1982, there were 26,173 fatal crashes related to alcohol. The fatalities related to alcohol were double then what they are today.

The reduced drinking age brought more under the influence teenagers to the road, causing more deaths.

Organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Insurance Institute of Highways Safety, the American Medical Association and the National Transportation Safety Board

are all opposed to lowering the drinking age as well.

The only real benefit that I foresee in lowering the drinking age is a financial benefit to the alcohol industry. The "super-pimps," as **Mr. Stephan Johnson** would say, have truly had their way with this one.

In all honesty, what is the rush to start drinking? What possible advantages are there to drinking alcohol as a teenager, yet alone an adult? The changing of the age is irrelevant; the real challenge is changing the behavior of the youth.

There is no doubt that it takes a great amount of maturity to drink alcohol.

One hundred thirty colleges have supported the initiative, including well-respected schools such as Dartmouth, Duke and even our fellow Jesuit school, Santa Clara. According the Amethyst Initiative Web site, "the 21-year-old

drinking age is not working, and, specifically, it has created a culture of dangerous binge drinking on their campuses."

We cannot deny that the previous statement is a fact. But is lowering the age to 18 allowing more immature young adults to binge drink?

A pessimistic part of my heart has me thinking that the only reason these colleges are signing this document is to protect themselves from lawsuits. I'm sure somewhere out of the 130 colleges that signed the petition, there is a school being sued by parents that lost their son/daughter to binge drinking on their campus.

By lowering of the age, it takes less pressure off the universities, therefore leaving the decision to drink completely liable upon the student.

"I think it is more the environments

of colleges and parties that leads to 'binge drinking' than the age," said Brophy President **Fr. Edward Reese, S.J.**, on his opinions of the Initiative and whether or not he thought it would cause binge drinking.

In addition, Brophy Principal **Mr. Bob Ryan** also that, "... To make it legal for students to drink while they're in high school, even at the end of their senior year, would have a negative 'ripple' effect."

The age 21 has been encrypted in stone with a list of one commandment: to get as intoxicated as possible. Even then, "adults" cannot take drinking alcohol maturely.

But in no way am I against the lowering of the drinking age for the reason that "responsible drinking" will occur and be taught, I am merely against the maturity of my peers.



By Alexander Barr '09  
THE ROUNDUP

# Mix 1 Part Dance, 2 Parts Pointless

Noises blaring in your ears, lights flashing past you in a dark room, the room temperature gradually rising, all the while you are being deprived of food and water.

To most people this sounds like a form of torture but after further analysis, it is shown to be just a regular school dance.

Although some dances are seen as outgoing events where many students can "get their groove on," others see it as a waste of time.

What makes these dances so "boring?" Could it be the lack of music variety? Or perhaps the lack of food?

One thing is certain, something is missing in this equation and because of this, dances leave many students disappointed.

Students sit in their cars on the drive home thinking, "that could have gone better" or "what just happened?" This sense of uncertainty and general bewilderment is one that is incongruous with the feeling a dance should usually impart.

Why call it a dance? According to Brophy student **Sam Fluery '10**, "It is more like a grind-fest than anything else."

Meanwhile others like Brophy teacher **Mr. Stephan Johnson** note that, "It is a dance: you are not supposed to be having sex on the dance floor."

Shouldn't we leave some room for Jesus?



By Dallas Ducar '10  
THE ROUNDUP

Yet the dancing may only be an eventuality of the situation. If we look to the cause of this effect it may trace back to the creation of the dance.

It is themes like the "Enchanted Forest" that have attracted ridicule. Yet it is events like the "Rooters Bus" that have inspired success.

Perhaps our answer is better themes, with more events. Would this end the boredom of the school dance?

Perhaps, but this does not end what some call a "black and white scenario." Meaning, people are either dancing or outside talking; nothing in between.

Of course socializing can be fun, but why not do it at a friends house or party? Why not at a location with a bit more freedoms?

Among those I interviewed, they constantly come to the dance, hoping for something better, something different, but every time they are greeted with disappointment. By 11:00 P.M. many are longing to be

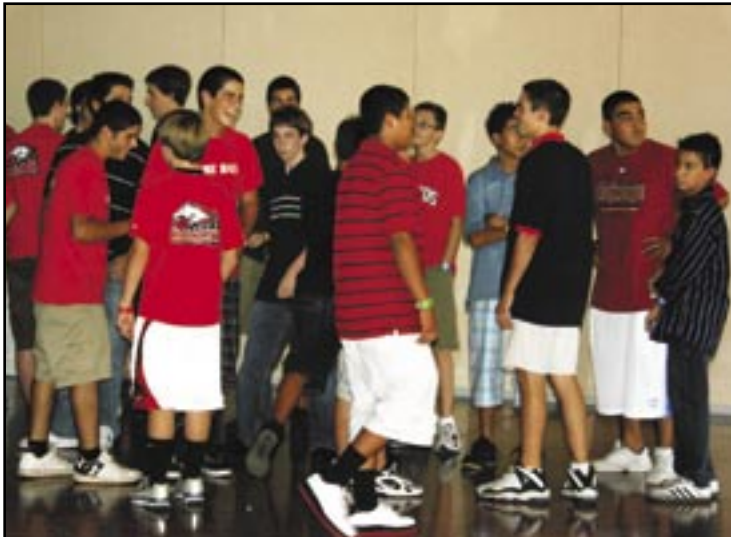


Photo by Brandon Parrone '10

Members of the freshman class do a lot of talking at the Frosh Mixer, but not a lot of dancing.

let free of the cage in which they are imprisoned.

With little options and freedoms what hope is left for these disappointing school functions?

The point is this: Something must be done to the school dances so that everyone can be incorporated. Breaking the boundaries between those who dance and those who talk could easily allow a much more welcoming environment.

Food, more water, better music, increasing activities and creative themes all can help to create a dance everyone can enjoy. If we add more options with the ingenuity of our student council, it equals one heck of a dance.

Do school dances need to be improved? If so, how?

E-mail your comments to roundup@brophyprep.org



# Loyola Project well-intentioned but flawed

The sun is shining on Brophy's front lawn, the birds are singing, and Brophy sophomores are playing with children invited from carefully selected organizations.

**Alex Ozkan '11** entertains the son of a Brophy teacher, and a young girl climbs out of a \$40,000 SUV to join in the frivolity.

Although at first glance this scene from the 2008 Summer Loyola Project may seem to be idyllic, it is in fact full of flaws.

The purpose of LP, according to **Mrs. Kim Baldwin** of the Office of Faith and Justice, is "...To provide a service to the community, to tutor the kids and mentor them..."

Certainly this is what LP is doing, but that is not to say it cannot be improved.

One of the most prominent flaws is the allowance of teachers' children in the program during the summer, a fact which **Mrs. Baldwin** confirmed.

These kids, who as the children of Brophy teachers likely come from a reasonably



By Liam Martin '10  
THE ROUNDUP

privileged background compared to the rest of the participants in LP, really have no place in a service project whose aim is to provide tutoring and mentorship to children from Helping Hands (an affordable housing organization) and Boys and Girls Club, among others.

Their inclusion in the program only serves to provide a distraction from those who truly need the attention.

More significant than that is the issue of whether mentoring children is the best way students' service hours could be spent.

We must really ask ourselves, is it more important to provide what is essentially a glorified day care service, or to feed the hungry? After all, the students only have a limited amount of hours which they are able to spend with the kids.

Perhaps the tutoring of young children should be left to professional organizations staffed with employees who are better trained than Brophy students, such as the Si Se Puede Learning Center.

Admittedly, while help from an organization such as this may not always be feasible, in an ideal situation someone with specialized training in the field of education would obviously be more beneficial in tutoring young children.

Rather than sending students to accomplish a mission which they are ill-equipped to carry out, give them the simpler and more important task of helping to feed the hungry.

There are a plethora of organizations which need the help of volunteers in order to run.

Send them there, where they can more easily make a tangible difference in the lives of other human beings.

After all, one of the most important instructions given by Jesus was to take care of the poor. When Peter told Jesus "...Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said not "run a day care center for the rich," but "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15)

*Editor's Note: The author participated in the Sophomore Service Project at St. Francis Xavier School.*

# Environmental summit should peak interest in topic, include student opinions

At first glance, environmentalism does not come off the most obvious Summit on Human Dignity theme.

While previous summits have centered on topics with a more direct connection to human life, such as war or immigration, environmental affairs seem to have a lower priority in human concern.

While we may acknowledge there is an issue through the purchasing of hybrid vehicles and "Go Green" apparel, many of us see the environment as a lesser issue, due to the view that its affairs have smaller effect on human dignity in comparison to other social injustices.

It is my hope that this year's summit changes this mindset.

A large focus of the summit will be climate change.

**Mrs. Kim Baldwin** of the Office of Faith and Justice stated, "Our main concern is human dignity. So what is the effect of climate change on humanity, and there are grave effects on humanity, both ones we are feeling now and one we're not going to experience for another hundred years, possibly. However, both need our attention."

The summit's stance will be in support of the notion that climate change is real, and is human influenced, a sentiment I wholeheartedly agree with.

During these two weeks, the phenomenon's multitude of effects on humanity will be addressed, such as rising sea levels, and their resulting displacement of millions worldwide.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "a rise in the sea level of 1-meter before the end of the next century would affect up to 300 million people."

The summit will also address the issue of environmental racism, which is the view that certain communities, usually those in poverty, are less of an environmental consequence than others.

An example of this is China's e-waste towns. The Basel Action Network and Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition estimate China receives 90 percent of the world's electronic trash, many from wealthy nations. These e-waste towns are poverty ridden areas that take in the tech garbage, which is then dismantled for raw materials in family homes, exposing laborers to toxic compounds. This has resulted in an alarming amount of disease and birth defects.

One of the most intriguing parts of the summit is the introduction of student led workshops.

"What do we do with our waste? Does it end up in neighborhoods that we think less of?" **Mrs. Baldwin** asked.



By David Sydiongo '09  
THE ROUNDUP

## Question of the Month

By Phil Pachtman '09  
Photos by Brandon Parrone '10  
THE ROUNDUP

### Who are you going to vote for (if you can) in the presidential election and why?



"McCain, he is very experienced in politics and warfare." – **Nick Glielmi '09**



"If I could vote – Obama. He is oriented on change." – **Jose Salazar '09**



"McCain. I think Obama is fake and inexperienced. Obama doesn't take a stance on any issues." – **Dustin Smith '09**



"I'll be voting for Obama because I believe he will bring better policy than McCain." – **Mark Werner '09**

"Obama, because his plans seem more effective than McCain's." – **Austin Gomez '09**



"(If I could vote) Obama, because the war on terror was a bad idea in the first place. There will always be terrorists, we can never beat them." **Evan Wankowicz '10**

## Tablet program still packed with problems

### Students still struggle with tablet program three years after its inception

How many times have you found yourself stuck in that never ending line leading right to the Technology Room?

How many days have turned to weeks and weeks turned to months only to find yourself still waiting on a tablet repair?

How many times have you found your own or perhaps a teacher's progress slowed by the use of "new technology?"

With the expansion of technology in our everyday lives, we have been granted a machine with endless possibilities, but one that can be destroyed with the click of a button.

Of course we live in an age where we must learn to keep up with the growing rate of technology and information, but is it becoming too much?

History has shown us that when people rely on one resource for too long, the results can be disastrous.

When Rome relied on Augustus for power, it found itself crippled after the death of its leader.

Even in modern days, America finds itself reliant on fossil fuels, and dependency allows an easy fall.

If we become too dependent on technology, then what happens once the Internet is down, or perhaps when limited outlets are present in a classroom?

The response becomes a cry for help; teachers find themselves limited when just a couple of years ago, they could teach fine without it.

**Mr. Mike Welty '83**, a teacher and Technology Director commented on the use of tablets, noting that "although computers have become a distraction, it is through learning that we mature."

He also noted that "tablets are not the best option in all cases." But continued to say that, "if the lecture involves going to Web site,

gathering information, computers are excellent for that."

Still tablets have proven to not be the best option for all students. Bad choices are still evident.

Perhaps it is these choices that increase our dependency. Some people spend more time on their computers than others, not knowing when to stop, increasing dependency.

Our dependency has become evident through other aspects as well.

With most assignments posted on Blackboard, computers needing charging and homework turned in via Internet, the limitations are prevalent.

As Brophy student **Gustavo Fernandez '10** put it, "I am limited because I always need an outlet which



By Dallas Ducar '10  
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How often have you found yourself sitting in class, mesmerized by your screen as time flies by? Before you know it, you look up and you are clueless as to what the teacher just said.



means I can't do my homework on the bus."

Even with batteries, most computers can only last for around an hour or two before resorting to "Standby Mode" or "Hibernation Mode."

Even the books on the tablet have become a hassle.

When online, they are met with slow Internet connection or no connection at all. Even on a disc, the books are hard to read. **William Firth '11** declared, "I don't like it, online-books are much harder to read, paper is much easier."

In my opinion, paper is just shown to have more efficiency and, as a plus, everyone can use it everywhere.

Yet while writing this article, another situation came to my attention.

How often have you found yourself sitting in class, mesmerized by your screen as time flies by? Before you know it, you look up and you are clueless as to what the teacher just said.

Or when a teacher begins to patrol the classroom, asking simple questions I find myself amazed when I actually begin to pay attention.

I tell myself, "These questions are simple, how come no one is answering?"

The answer can be found easily.

Just within arms reach, someone else can be found staring right into their glowing screen, completely zoned out from reality.

Perhaps it is because the world is right in front of them, or because glowing objects are more interesting than their teacher.

Whatever it is, it can turn a classroom of Brophy students into a morgue filled with zombies. Minus the brain-eating, flesh-rotting creature, the students have become a perfect example.

Just ask Brophy student **Danny Robb '10** who said, "The tablet only hurts our classroom environment and thus brings about worse grades."

With so many reasons as to why tablets are detrimental to our classroom environment, why do we persist with this program?

Perhaps it is the high hopes of the administration, or perhaps the will to keep up with our world.

One thing is for sure, Brophy is on a straight path to promote this program.

The question is, can the people catch up with the machine?

No one is certain, but in the words of Mr. Welty, "Viva la Computer."

Your opinion matters. Make your voice heard.

#### Letters to the Editor Policies

The Roundup provides an open forum for public comments, criticism and debate.

Submit letters to the editor to roundup@brophyprep.org or to Mr. Mulloy in room E331. Letters must not exceed 300 words and must include your full name and a phone number or e-mail address. All letters will be verified with the author before printed.

The Roundup reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, style, context and inappropriate content. Letters will be printed as space allows.

# Sports

## THE ROUNDUP

# Defense a recipe for victory

By Ryan Moroney '09

THE ROUNDUP

Defense wins championships.

The validity of these three words have been debated for years.

But for the Brophy Broncos football team, defense just might be the key to winning their third state championship in four years.

The Broncos are once again the underdog. They were the underdog last year in their state championship run when they beat Hamilton in the semifinals even though the Huskies were heavily favored in that game.

There will be many questions this year for the state champion Broncos, including whether or not they will be able to capture their second straight state title or whether or not they can recover from losing nine offensive starters.

The Broncos also lost four on defense.

Losing **Ray Polk '08**, **Drew Maggi '08** and **Bryan Berens '08** will be tough to recover from but the Broncos are poised and ready to repeat.

The road to the coveted state title will not be an easy. They have already faced two of the toughest teams on the west coast; Hamilton and Bishop Gorman of Las Vegas.

Bishop Gorman was the undefeated state champ last year and has dominated the state of Nevada in football over the last few years.

Hamilton football has had nothing but success over the last 10 years

considering that the Broncos and Huskies have combined for the last five state championships.

The Broncos opened the season against fellow state champs of Nevada, Bishop Gorman.

The highly anticipated match up was played at University of Phoenix Stadium, the same venue they won their last game, the state championship.

An excited, nervous and boisterous crowd was on hand for the game and in the pre-game warm-ups the Brophy Broncos looked to be overmatched and completely overpowered.

The Broncos set the tone early, mostly because of their stifling defense, consistent offense, and conventional play calling.

The Gaels of Bishop Gorman had a costly turnover in the second quarter which led to **Max Leonesio '10** strutting into the end zone for a five yard touchdown and an early 7-0 lead for the Broncos.

Seven points would be enough for the Broncos but they decided to tack on a little bit more with a safety and a pass from **Beau Maggi '09** to **A.J. Steimel '10** in the back of the end zone.

The Broncos would go on to easily handle the Gaels on both sides of the ball and win by a score of 16-6.

The storyline for the Broncos was the outstanding play of **Trent Murphy '09**, **Adam Holtzmeister '09**, **Seyi Adebayo '09**, and the rest of the defense who sent shockwaves over the Arizona High school football world with



Photo by Matt Hopkins '09

Max Leonesio '10 tries to escape from a Bishop Gorman defender on Aug. 23 at University of Phoenix Stadium

a dominating performance.

But the Broncos have to recover from a major blow, losing **Holtzmeister** to a broken arm. **Holtzmeister** will be out for six weeks and will hopefully be healthy and ready to go for the playoffs.

Last year the Brophy Broncos won on hard work, determination, effectiveness and resilience and this year should be no different.

"We must keep our eyes on the goal," said **Coach Gary Galante**.

**Mr. Galante** continued on to say that the Broncos "must earn the championship."

"We want to be considered one of the greatest defensive units ever assembled here at Brophy," **Mr. Galante** said.

The Broncos will also have to face teams like Basha, a team that gave the

Broncos one of their two losses last season, Mountain View, a pesky team that's always in quest for the trophy, and Salpointe, our Catholic rivals from Tucson.

The Broncos will no doubt have a difficult time defending their state title but the Broncos have been underdogs before, they know what's its like and they like being there.

## Brophy named gutsiest in America

By Ryan Moroney '09

THE ROUNDUP

The Brophy Broncos football team has been named the gutsiest team in the land.

They are one of eight teams that will be featured on NBC's Sunday Night Football where they will star in a forty-five second documentary style video that will air during halftime.

There were two episodes featuring the 2007 state champs, one on Sept. 14 and one on Sept. 21.

"We want schools that will show true devotion to the game of football," said Line of Scrimmage representative Lindsay Heimer.

"Each gutsy team profiled refuses to quit despite the odds," Heimer continued.

The goal of Line of Scrimmage is to highlight high school football traditions, rivalries and communities across the country. The Brophy Broncos have been praised for playing and practicing in unbearable conditions, namely the heat. They are noted to play in temperatures that exceed 105 degrees, and this was



Photo by Jake Kelly '0

A Line of Scrimmage crew films a Brophy football practice.

the main focus of the report.

The Broncos will be getting national recognition for the reports and will certainly bring much more precedence to the already booming program.

This is certainly an exciting thing for the Broncos who will be going for their second straight state championship and their third in four years.

## Cross Country squad preparing for a state final comeback

By Shane Metzger '10

THE ROUNDUP

Brophy athletics have started.

The football players are drilling; the wrestling team can be seen cutting weight and baseball practice is in full gear by now.

But one sports team seems to be working harder than usual: the cross country team.

Practice has stepped up ever since the loss at the state championship last year.

Last year, the Brophy team was in high spirits hoping to win the state championship, or at least be top three. But at the very beginning of the race, a trip held back six of the seven runners of the team.

While the Brophy Broncos Cross Country team tried to regain control, opposing teams ran ahead, leaving behind a panic stricken Broncos team.

By the end of the tournament, the Broncos did not place first. They

did not even make in the top five, but rather placed thirteenth in their division.

**Gabe Campbell '10**, who has run cross country since freshmen year, explained, "We got unlucky. A whole bunch of guys tripped at the beginning of the race, and so we got off to a bad start and had to make up for it."

But problems didn't stop there, as two of the top seven runners on the team have gone off to college.

"We need two new guys to step up and take their place," **Campbell** said.

Things weren't exactly looking up for the Broncos, but both new and harder training has been applied to help the team "step up" and improve.

Varsity runner **Jake McHenry '09** explained, "This year is definitely more intense than the other years passed," and **Campbell** agreed, "Our coaches definitely are making us work harder."

Depending on the day of the week, different practices switch off between

speed workouts and distance runs. At practice, speed workouts include 1,000 meters to 300 meter sprints, while distance runs are between six and nine miles.

What are the chances of winning state for this year?

**McHenry** stated ecstatically, "Its actually looking really good for us. We have four amazing runners. And all the other schools lost their seniors except us."

**Campbell** explained, "I think we have a really good chance, a better chance than we had for the past couple of years."

With the new year, the cross country team seems to have a new sense of motivation while preparing for the new season.

"I don't want to walk away from state knowing that we came in thirteenth all because we tripped at the beginning of the race," **Campbell** said.

# Swim team continues reign of dominance for 30

By Chris Wolf '09

THE ROUNDUP

This year, just like every other year for the past 20 years, Brophy is expected to dominate in the pool once again.

With a great group of senior leaders and a bunch of fresh newcomers, this seems like as good a year as any to repeat as national runner-ups and hopefully maintain their championship status.

Even though they do not have to be, the swim team remains humble about their accomplishments.

Head coach, **Mr. Pat O'Neill** said, "Any type of national ranking is an honor."

The Brophy Broncos can achieve a very high national ranking with the talented group they have this year.

The team is lead by a group of seniors, which include **Alex Lendrum '09**, **Graham Righi '09** and **Mike Johnson '09**.

They also have returning junior **John Wojciechowski '10**.

Along with the returning stars, there are also some fresh young faces on the team who are expected to come up big for the squad this year.

For starters, the team got five of the top eight eighth-graders in the state this year.

The swim team also got a state champion out of Oklahoma to transfer here. Junior **Danny Hatfield '10** will add just another weapon to this already stacked lineup of swimmers.

With all these great swimmers coming into the program, "it's just not fair," **Coach O'Neill** said.

Even though there are a lot of



Photo by Chris Wolf '09

John Wojciechowski '10 butterflies to victory at Brophy East.

great swimmers, the leader is clearly **Lendrum**. This summer he competed in the Olympic trials in Omaha, Nebraska.

"He matured a lot over there competing on the highest level a swimmer can compete in other than the Olympics," **Coach O'Neill** said.

This year seems like the year where many state records will fall.

**Coach O'Neill** said up to five records have a chance of being beaten this year. This includes in the team medley 4x100, **Wojciechowski** in the 100 butterfly and 200 IM.

Also, **Lendrum** could take down the

500-meter freestyle as well as the rest of the team breaking two other previous relay records.

As the team continues its dominance after two impressive dual meet wins, it seems that the state championship is inevitable.

"We don't anticipate a second place

team coming very close to us," **Coach O'Neill** said.

This year the quest for Brophy's 30th state championship, and 20th straight, seems like shooting fish in a barrel. There is no team out there that will be able to compete with the Broncos swimming team.

## Winners, losers, and controversy at the 2008 Beijing Olympics

By James McElwee '10

THE ROUNDUP

Another Summer Olympics have come and gone and with it came winners, losers, record breakers and controversy.

During the 17 days of the Beijing Olympics, the United States took 110 total medals, the most of any country in the games, followed closely by China with 100.

However, China won the most Gold medals, taking 51, over half of their total medal number.

**Adam Triplett '10** said he was disappointed because China won more Gold medals than the United States.

The American women's gymnastics team took silver, losing to a controversy-surrounded Chinese team. The Chinese team's members were rumored to have been too young to compete in the Olympics.

Nellie Kim is a five-time Olympic gold medalist for the former Soviet Union and is now the president of the women's technical committee for the Swiss-based International Gymnastics Federation. According to Kim in a *New York Times* interview, being younger makes the competitors more fearless and makes it "easier to do tricks," Kim said. "And

psychologically, I think they worry less."

One of the most well known American competitors, Michael Phelps, went 8 for 8 in Gold Medals in his swimming races, breaking Mark Spitz's record.

**Blake Senn '10** said he thought that Phelps made an amazing accomplishment and that Phelps is an "über beast."

Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh did not disappoint either, winning gold in women's beach volleyball.

According to *NBC Olympics*, this was their 108th straight win; it was also May-Treanor's 103rd career tournament win and Walsh's 100th career tournament win.

Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser also won gold in men's beach volleyball beating Brazil 23-21, 17-21, and finally 15-4, in their three sets.

The U.S. Men's gymnastics team took a surprising bronze medal in the team competition.

They were a young, inexperienced team and no one had expected them to come in anything higher than fourth place.

According to *ESPN.com*, when the standings came up on the screen Jonathan Horton, one of the competitors screamed: "Nobody believed in us! Nobody believed in us."



Photo courtesy of MCT Campus

Fireworks displayed at the Bird's Nest during the Beijing Olympics.

All in all, congratulations are in order for every competitor in the Olympics, medal winners or otherwise.

It is an accomplishment all unto itself

to be selected to represent your country in the biggest competition in the world.

The Olympics only come around every four years, and in four more years,

competitors from around the world will meet again in London.

The winter Olympics will start in two years in Vancouver, Canada.