

unprecedented CHANGES

Canceled homecoming dance opens door for celebrity guests at movie night

Homecoming. A week filled with school spirit, a Friday night football game, and a homecoming dance. Every year this tradition remains unchanged. But this year was different. There was no homecoming dance. The grand finale of the week wasn't going to happen.

Due to the dance's cancellation, Student Council adviser, **Hannah Brandel** had to come up with an equally, perhaps even more exciting replacement. After long consideration, an idea was set into motion: an outdoor movie night.

"It definitely made me sad. But once we got approval for the movie night, it kind of started to turn from sadness to excitement because it's like alright, we're still doing something," Brandel said.

This homecoming was already something special because of the hard work put into it, but a unique surprise was in store for those who attended. Administrator **Kristy Williams** had an unexpected encounter with Jonathan Davis, Sr., father of the actor who plays Pope in the famed *Outer Banks* Netflix series. Williams saw an opportunity to do something exceptional for her school, and that's

exactly what she did. Williams, in collaboration with Brandel, managed to bring the six leading cast members of the TV show to Wando's movie night.

"The most exciting part was... how excited the kids were going to be. To me that's why I do what I do. [It] is for the kids and I knew this would be something exciting, especially in a time of COVID-19 when everything is so down.

"A LOT OF PEOPLE ENJOYED THE HOMECOMING WEEK, I THINK THAT NEEDED THAT. EVERYONE NEEDED JUST A LITTLE BIT OF NORMALCY."

Surprising them with something they totally didn't think would happen was... exciting for me," Williams said.

Since this night was in place of the dance, it had high expectations and was brought to fruition with the work of Student Council. As a finale to Spirit Week, the outdoor movie had the intended effect of being a

memorable experience.

"A lot of what [Student Council does] people love, like Spirit Weeks and PowderPuff and everything is kind of the same usually... but I also think it was kind of cool to have something new that we hadn't had before... I think it was just fun to have a new challenge," Brandel said.

Emmy Thayer, 11, junior vice president of Student Council, was proud of the final outcome.

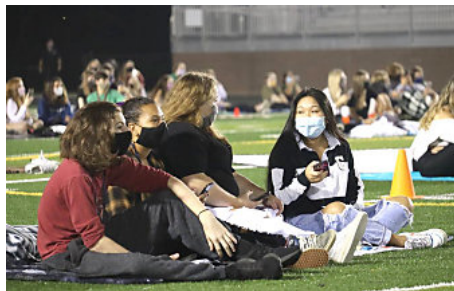
"The movie turned out great, and I think just a lot of people enjoyed the homecoming week, I think everyone needed that. Everyone needed just a little bit of normalcy and we're happy we could help give it to them," Thayer said.

In a time like this, normalcy may seem far away. But Brandel felt events like this outdoor movie night help life seem ordinary.

"I just think seeing everyone together again was probably the best part. We love putting out events and we love bringing the student body together... [and] seeing them have a good time," Brandel said.

**Story by Nicole Breen
Designer Katie Brown**

movie NIGHT



FAN GIRLS: (left) **Sienna Cameron**, 12, **Christina Tang**, 11, **Bryant Clayton**, 9, and **Samantha Lembo**, 12, await the special guests. "I was very excited; I tried to mentally prepare myself to see celebrities," Lembo said; photo by e. chadwick



MAGICAL MOVIE: (left) Laying on the football field, **Braelyn Banning**, 12, and **Levi Sell**, 12, watch the movie on the big screen. "It was a good opportunity to interact with people you don't get to see much in a fun and safe way," Banning said; photo by e. chadwick

SHOW-TIME SPECIAL GUESTS: (above) Wando's Student Council surprised students that attended the movie night with the stars of *Outer Banks*. Movie goers were able to meet, talk to, and take photos with the cast while watching the film on the big screen. They told the students about the upcoming season of the show and what to expect. photo by o. potter



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