

H.A.S.P. Newsletter

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Early Release Day

For February's early release day, one group took a trip to Chinatown for the Chinese New Year. They took the train into the south end and did some exploring around the area, enjoying delicious Chinese pastries and bubble tea. Since bubble tea has an acquired taste, it was liked more by some than others. That being said, the students were quite adventurous and willing to try something new.



The group of students that stayed back at the Brigham House learned how to play a new board game called King of Tokyo. Eureka!, a game store located in Coolidge Corner in Brookline, ran the demo for any students interested. The rest of the afternoon consisted of a movie, and games at the gym.



A Month of Sweets

Much like the cookie bake-off we had last month, there was a brownie competition in February. Students were presented with a number of brownie recipes and extra ingredients. The extra ingredients included chocolate chips, cocoa powder, marshmallows, whoppers, caramel squares, and candy hearts. There were six teams of 2-4 people, each team picked a recipe and any extra ingredients they wanted to cook with. Some teams followed their recipes closely while others did quite a bit of improvising. One team filled their batter with jumbo marshmallows which made for some very puffy brownies. Another team made chocolate frosting for their brownies (this was one of the two winning teams). The other winning team chose a very complicated recipe that involved a layer of cookie below the brownie. The winners were determined by a very large panel of judges, which included almost every student who did not participate in the baking.

Shortly following the brownie bake-off, we spent an afternoon decorating heart shaped cookies for the Valentine's day bake sale. Students got quite creative using purple, white, pink, and red frosting. Thank you to everyone who purchased some sweets at the sign out table on Valentine's Day, we completely sold out!



Smash Bros Tournament

Round Two

Round two Smash Bros champion, Liam Connolly, being interviewed by Francis Henk.



Francis: Alrighty folks another month has come and gone and another Smash Brothers tournament is in the books. I am sitting here with the now reigning champion, Liam. Liam, thank you for taking the time to sit down with us for this interview today.

Liam: Yeah, no problem.

Francis: So, I want to start by asking you, what was your thought process behind choosing Kirby as a character as opposed to other characters?

Liam: Well usually I would just play with my brother because we had at the time (on my Wii). You know, just playing and in different months I would choose specific characters. So one month I would choose Falco, one month I chose Kirby, and this month I'm currently using Meta Knight whenever I play because of all his tactical moves and his recovery is very very useful. But I chose Kirby because I kind of had the same idea with Meta Knight, I played him before and I kinda got the basic moves down with him. So that's why I chose Kirby.

Francis: Alrighty, and I want to go back to a couple of your matches throughout the tournament. There were a couple points where you got put up against other fellow Kirby players; what's going through your mind when you have to face someone who's using the same character that you're using?

Liam: Well as I'm using the character that my opponent is using, I kinda got the basic moves down, the tactics of Kirby. And so, I wanted just to use mine so for example I did the down 2 and then I wanted to hammer him out. So what I did when I down 2ed, I would quickly press 2 as he got hurt and quickly just hammered him. I got the moves down, I pretty much knew what my opponent was gonna do.

Francis: Alright, and I know you and your opponent in the finals both had sort of an easy path through the tournament, playing I believe 2 matches each. I want to get your thoughts actually on that last match. It came down obviously to the wire, where essentially next hit decided the win. What were your thoughts in that last match?

Liam: Well actually, I did 2 matches before the finals where I played against a Kirby. Which luckily, I won that round. I was really pumped because it was the first tournament I actually ever played in a brawl. Which was really surprising 'cus I was expecting, you know, just a normal game, on items, even the smash ball. Anyway, I was really pumped, I didn't care if I lost or not, I thought I as gonna lose, because of the hammers that my opponent did. But, my friends were cheering me on and I was really excited and happy and I just felt good that I actually got to play in brawl tournament.

Francis: I definitely noticed there was a lot of cheering during that final match. My final question to you would be, what advice would you give to other players for the tournaments moving forward?

Liam: My advice, I would say, is to never give up, experiment with different characters, different moves, different styles almost. For example you could play melee with maybe Falco or whatever and you could get the gist of how fast paced it is, and then you can just play the Wii you version, and you would say 'Oh wow, it's really slow moving and just like, poppy almost, just slow moving'. But yeah, my advice: experiment with other characters, their moves, maybe just practice with that character with their moves against just AI's. Just keep moving on, if you fail, know that you can get better, you

can use other tactics against your enemies. That's the basic idea.

Francis: Liam, thank you once again for agreeing to this interview, and that'll do it for us here with our second tournament. Tune in next month when I will have an exclusive interview with the third winner of our third monthly Smash Brothers tournament.

Newton Free Library

As many of you know, Tuesday's are very busy here at the Brigham house, so we always make an effort to get a group out of the house. One Tuesday this month, a group took a trip to the Newton Free Library. It was gently snowing that afternoon so the group had a nice walk to the library.

While at the library, some students worked on their knitting projects with Rochelle. Others did homework, and there was even a group that played a quiet game of hide and seek. It is always nice to get out of the bustling Brigham house, even just for a little while, on a Tuesday afternoon.



Important Upcoming Dates

Early Release: March 9th

Applications for 2017-18: Due March 21st

Open Houses for new families:

March 12, 18, 26 5:30 – 6:30pm

We are closed on Friday, April 14th

Tax ID #: 04-2707265



