Support System

It all started the day before Halloween. I was on the turf at lunch, tying my shoe and *WHAM!* I was hit by a volleyball in the back of my head. I went to the nurse and she suspected it was a concussion given the symptoms I had. I was officially diagnosed with a concussion on November 8th 2023, and when my symptoms never went away I was diagnosed with post concussion disorder on December 4th 2023 and was told I should go to a doctor who specializes in concussions. He helped me with my close vision and told me I should go to physical therapy for my post concussion disorder to help my vision and my unsteadiness.

A few months later, a new symptom began. The first time I fainted was January 2nd 2024 in English class. I had no clue what happened one moment I was watching Twilight and the next thing I know is I was out like a light. Then, I was awake, confused and disoriented and I headed to the nurse and described clammy hands and I felt hot, nauseous and dizzy before I passed out and my vision kept going in and out and I couldn't concentrate. The next day I went to my pediatrician and she thinks it could have been anxiety but I had nothing stressing me out. She also thought it could be hormones so she put me on birth control, and she booked an EKG at the cardiologist for me to make sure it wasn't anything cardiovascular. She did all she could and I'm glad that she tried everything and she ended up diagnosing me with vasovagal syncope.

A month later I fainted again. So still it could be hormones but my heart was normal. Then in March I started fainting every week, so most likely wasn't that. May 10th at the ER I was diagnosed with silent migraines which they think is causing my fainting. Somewhere in between those dates when I would forget stuff such as how to tie my shoe, how to read, or everything about me.

In July I started experiencing migraines that sometimes would have migraine auras that would make me temporarily colorblind. On July 22nd 2024 I had an episode and had the colorblind aura and have been colorblind ever since. Now my oranges appear pinkish-red, yellows are pink, greens are blue, and purples between pink, red, or blue. As someone who loves art it's been hard to adjust to this change. September 12th I received another diagnosis Functional Neurological Disorder (FND). Functional Neurological disorder is when my brain and body aren't communicating. Day to day it varies. I could have an almost full symptom free day with just a migraine or I could faint multiple times.

I'm so thankful for all the teachers, doctors, nurses, and friends that have stayed with me through this. Who never thought I was faking and always helped me re-remember the things I forget and always trusted my word. The people who thought I was faking made me feel hurt because I shared some deep information with them and they didn't even think it was true but they are the right people for me. There are only a few people who have thought I am faking my condition but most of the people I meet are accepting of my FND and I’m glad that is what is in my world.