



# THE BEAR FACTS

Vol. 32 No. 3

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2019



## Realignment keeps BCS 5A, adds teams

By Aurora Tyson

Athletes and coaches around campus are beginning to hear about the TAPPS district realignment that will add new teams and longer trips to next year's games.

At the biennial TAPPS meeting in Fort Worth last month, it was decided that the Bears athletic teams will remain in district 5A, but will greatly expand their district size. BCS will continue to go up against the same three teams from the current district, facing again Hyde Park, Regents, and St. Michael's. However, several new teams have been added from schools in San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Boerne, and Brownsville.

This calls for more lengthy bus rides and more travelling to be added to the district season for each team. The farthest drive resulting from this realignment has been given to the football team, which will take a six-hour drive to Brownsville, a town that lies at the southern tip of Texas.

For most sports, the Bears and their opponents will continue to face each other twice per season, meaning that some adjustments to the teams' schedules must be made. The district season will be required to start much sooner, allowing less time for pre-district games.

"It will surely make for more interesting district play. Lots of things can happen when you have that many teams in one district," volleyball and softball coach Rory Tyson said.

The number of teams in the district will vary slightly depending on the sport. Volleyball and basketball will now play Providence (Dallas), Geneva (Boerne), and St. Anthony's, St. Mary's Hall, and TMI (all in San Antonio), in addition to the three Austin teams. Football will play John Paul II (Corpus Christi), Geneva, St. Anthony's, and St. Joseph (Brownsville), in addition to their current three opponents.

Overall, Brentwood's coaches have responded with enthusiasm toward these ad-

see **REALIGNMENT**, page 5

## Christmas cheer consumes campus

By Keira McCormick and Kaitlyn Weilemann

Even though you don't see snow falling from the sky, there are Christmas lights and Santa hats that decorate classrooms, "Sleigh Ride" echoing through the halls of the CSA, and many themed events that make December a fun month at BCS.

Early in the morning of Dec. 4, the first graders climbed into the bus to embark on the annual field trip to a Christmas tree farm. Before they picked their tree, the first graders had a picnic in the wonderful weather, played on the playscape, and learned about evergreen trees.

"Honestly, the weather was perfect! We had a beautiful day to spend on the farm," first-grade teacher Sylvia Burcham said.

Over in the B building during the week of Dec. 2-6, the fourth graders studied etiquette in preparation to view *The Nutcracker* on the morning of Dec. 10 after a detailed introduction by a Ballet Austin docent the previous day.

That afternoon, students returned to a formal dinner made and served by parents, where their manners were evaluated at each table. Judges this year included school president Jay Burcham, elementary principal Mara Ashley, church children's minister Jackie Boyd, former principal Libby Weed, and newcomers James Henley and Nancy Tindel.

Fourth-grade teacher Summer Best said her students did a great job displaying their manners and etiquette as they had practiced. She also said she was extremely grateful for the help of the parents at the dinner.

"Our fourth-grade parents went above and beyond to make everything perfect," she said.

Pre-K through eighth grade participated in the annual charity tradition of Angel Tree, which is part of the Prison Fellowship Ministry. Students did chores at home to earn money for donations to purchase gifts for 30 children in the Austin area. The money collected is given to volunteer parents who buy gifts and deliver them to the children.

The elementary class who raised the most money won the Top Angel Tree Collector bear to display proudly in their classroom, as well as an ornament commemorating the fundrais-

er and a small treat from coordinator Cristal Lange. Middle school students adopted a single family, focusing on learning about "their" child.

"From the way our amazing BCS students come together to pray and collect for these families, to the conversations I get to have with the parents each year, to the BCS families who take time to deliver gifts, smiles, and love, it is the definition of spreading the love of Christ and it is awesome to watch!" Lange said.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students were given

see **CHRISTMAS**, page 8

photo: Brandy Gauthier

**Jolly St. Nick** Santa Claus, here with the Lengyel children – Tristan, Isabella (2nd), and Emma (K) – made an appearance at the Don Irwin concert in the CSA on Dec. 3

## Caffey to retire after 42 years coaching

By Aurora Tyson

After 42 years of coaching high school football, five of which were spent as the first head coach of the Brentwood Bears, Stan Caffey has decided to end his coaching career and begin his retirement, which will be full of family time spent with his three children and five grandchildren.

A successor for Caffey, who is also the school's athletic director, has not yet been named by school administration.

In Caffey's first year at Brentwood in 2015, the school had just added football to its ath-

letic program. Out of the boys who decided to come out and play, only a small number had ever been on a tackle football team before.

"We started with a group of guys who didn't even know how to put equipment on," Caffey said, "and we've grown to become one of the most respected programs in 5A."

It was an uphill climb, but Caffey coached the team so that they would improve each year. After the first year, they progressed from six-man to 11-man football. In their first year of 11-man, the team made the playoffs, and in the second year, they won their first playoff game. In Caffey's fourth year of coaching the Bears,

they were moved up to 5A.

"Every year has gotten tougher, but we've stuck through it all and gotten better and better," Caffey said.

Caffey said he is proud of the team from this current school year, and honors them by saying that they were "one of our best teams ever."

"It took a lot of hard work and dedication to jump from no football at all to 5A in just five years," Caffey said.

Players say Caffey is a great coach with a

see **CAFFEY**, page 8

You Can Believe: Genevieve Graessle

# 'Save the turtles' about more than just straws

In the eventful year of 2019, there were hundreds, maybe thousands, of new trends that arose each day. Whether it was new TikTok songs, *Avengers: Endgame* spoilers, or even Minecraft memes, the year was full of constant new crazes, like each year always is.

Interestingly, ingrained among these trends was the sudden new desire of young people to recycle. There could be many reasons why recycling and producing less waste became so popular just this year; one of these reasons is the metal straw, which erupted in popularity. If you have heard of this new metal straw trend, I am sure you have seen a video or an image of a turtle with a straw stuck in its nose. This media, combined with the phrase "save the turtles," has seemingly convinced young people that plastic straws are the be-all, end-all of modern pollution. Sellers have utilized this one horrible

fact about waste displacement to get buyers to sympathize and purchase a reusable straw. I am unashamed to say that I have six of these myself; I keep them in my car, in my purse, in my backpack – anywhere that I might want a straw.

This passion for metal straws is part of a sort of recycling renaissance. While I am glad that there is a newborn love of people to help save the planet, simply saying that "recycling is cool" is not really enough to turn back climate change. I have noticed that a lot of modern activism has become similar to this. People say one thing a little bit controversial or even trendy or maybe "woke" – like this year's "recycling is cool" – and they think they have done their part. However, being woke, or having awareness of issues of social justice, is not enough to make a change. So-called "wokeness" is definitely a start, but another step is required.

Having a reusable straw is part of this modern culture where it is cool to be woke. But do people actually think it's cool to recycle? I am optimistic that there is a growing understanding of the dire need for everyone to do their own part and recycle. However, metal straws are not going to save the planet by themselves.

For some reason, the claim of global warming has been pinned as a primarily liberal position. However, I think the direction that our planet is going in is just a statement of fact. I know everyone has pretty varying opinions about climate change, but the scientific proof of the world's ecosystem's decline cannot be denied. Christians – liberal, conservative, and in between – have a duty to protect God's earth in whatever ways they can. John Dickson, a well-known Australian writer and speaker, is one of many Christians who have spoken up on this topic. He says, "Christians have a deep responsibility to respond to climate change. This creation is an intended, beautiful work of art, and humanity is here to care for it."

I have heard some Christians say that we should not have to worry about the effects of global warming, because this is not our true

home. Why should we be concerned about the future of the planet if we have faith that there is a better and more glorious kingdom waiting for us? While I agree that we do not have to worry because of the sweet promise of Heaven after death, this earth is a gift from God!

I know that I want to have children, and my children might want to have children, and their children might want to, too! With the status of the earth as it is now, my grandkids, or even my kids, may not have a sustainable, safe planet to live on. To ensure that all of our kids still have a livable earth, here are a few things each of us can do every day:

Use reusable shopping or packing bags. Plastic grocery bags end up in landfills and can often suffocate animals. Many stores even offer discounts for bringing your own bags.

Bring a reusable water bottle or cup everywhere you need it. According to the EPA, Americans buy enough plastic water bottles to circle the earth five times each week. Buying

one water bottle is one of the easiest ways to reduce waste. (And many coffee shops offer discounts for reusable cups.)

Recycle everything that you can! Paper, batteries, plastic, glass, cardboard, metals, used technology, and more. Try to recycle waste more than you put things in the trash.

Save electricity and water as much as you can. You can do quick things like turn off lights when you leave a room, don't leave the water running when you brush your teeth, cut back on air conditioning when you don't need it – another environmentally friendly habit that will save you money.

Buy a metal straw. Although they are not the only thing one should be doing to be eco-friendly, it is a pretty good start. Reducing plastic waste – which does include straws, but also cups, to-go containers, and all kinds of packaging – is one easy way to start living more green.

## THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of BCHS. The paper is a learning tool which informs the student body while teaching students to become critical observers of their environment and to validate Truth within the context of the Christian world view.

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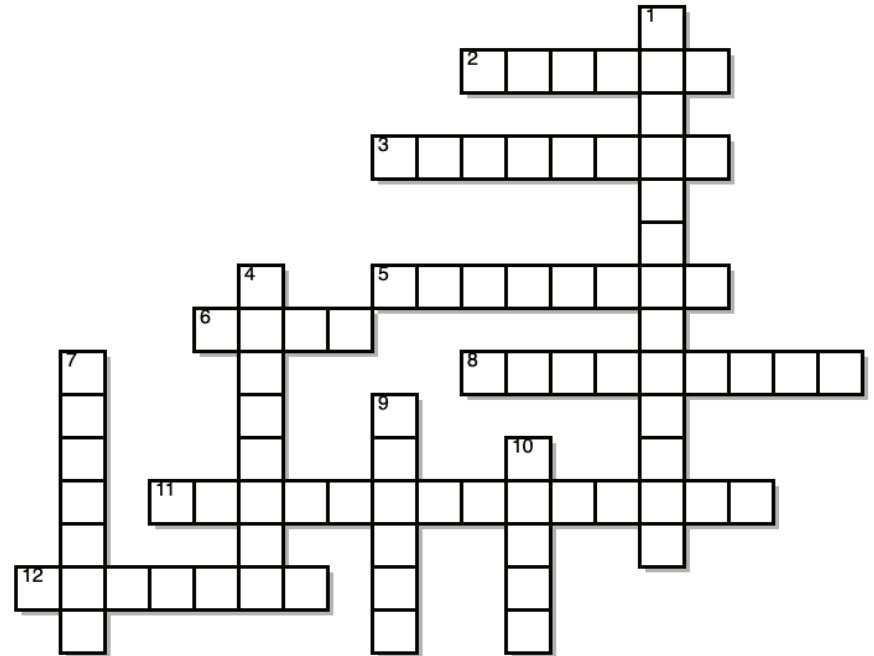
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The Bear Facts is available online at  
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## December News Crossword

Answers on page 8



### ACROSS

- 2 Date you can see the high school one act
- 3 Where juniors served on Spiritual Emphasis Day
- 5 Claw Crew's Grandmaster of Hype
- 6 How many grandchildren Coach Caffey has
- 8 Date of next varsity girls soccer game
- 11 Jazz band song with Nathan Morgan solo
- 12 Boys soccer top goal scorer

### DOWN

- 1 Play the fourth graders saw on Dec. 10
- 4 Football player with most receptions
- 7 Top 5K finisher at Jog-a-fun
- 9 Where featured senior was born
- 10 Theme of this year's elementary pageant





photo: Kaleen Graessle

**Serving seniors** John Choi, Michael Milicia, and Jun Park cleaned and organized records at St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store during Spiritual Emphasis Day on Nov. 6.

## Students serve community

By Aden Mann

As freshmen dashed to get out of the building and into the van as rain began to fall, they were soon able to reflect on their day of service to the community.

On Nov. 6 and 7, all BCS high school students were able to participate in a multitude of service-related activities for the annual Spiritual Emphasis Day. On the first day, the seniors and juniors departed in the morning to serve. Juniors left at 8 a.m. in the charter bus to work at the Central Texas Food Bank in Round Rock, where they helped sort food for different sections of the bank itself.

Seniors were assigned to five groups by teacher Jimmie Harper, each visiting one location from a list that included Crowe's Nest Farm, Gracy Woods Nursing Center, Parmer Woods at North Austin Assisted Living, and the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store.

Teacher Kaleen Graessle joined Harper and six students at a fifth location, called Mike's Place. At this daytime residence for people with Alzheimer's and dementia, seniors Adrie Gruis and Lorenzo Rivera performed songs from the Beauty and the Beast musical, and some of the residents were able to sing along.

"I think God is using our kids to do special things by creating moments that honor God," Harper said.

The following day, the freshmen served at

a Head Start preschool, Tech Ridge Oaks Assisted Living, Parmer Woods North Austin, and Texas Baptist Children's Home. Some students assisted in educational classroom activities and were assigned their own preschooler. Other students were able to spend time with the elderly and help clean and care for the premises.

Sophomores traveled to Village Christian Apartments, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Community First!, and Wyoming Springs Assisted Living and Memory Care. Students at VCA shared time with the elderly residents, conversing and enjoying refreshments. The others did jobs pertaining to each of the locations' needs.

For lunch, students had a variety of fast food locations to choose from. On the first of the two days of service, seniors met with their freshman buddies when they returned to campus. They had a small devotion in the youth center, and every grade participated in group activities.

After each class met, all high schoolers split into groups in classrooms around campus for some small group activities. Students made "mind maps," on their own and then together, thinking about what service means to them. Then to finish out the day, high schoolers met in the CSA for chapel, and juniors and seniors from each location shared what they had done during their day of service.

## Plays to feature Sherlock

By Evelyn Lee

The middle school drama department is taking a new perspective on Sherlock Holmes in one of their upcoming one-act plays, scheduled to be performed in Brentwood Christian's Night of One Acts in the school theater on Feb. 7.

Entitled "If Sherlock Holmes Were a Woman," the play is focused on a girl named Shirley Holmes living in a college dorm. Shirley is obsessed with the fictional detective and longs to be like him. When a suspicious death occurs in the dorm, she and her sidekick Dottie Watson take a chance and try to solve the mystery.

"I wanted to pick a comedy, and I really liked that it's a who-done-it mystery as well," director Vanessa Maleare said.

The play, written by Samuel French, was originally made for an all-female cast; however, Maleare made alterations to the play to accommodate a co-ed class. The play stars eighth-graders Lena Cogburn, Darin Fowler, Macie Griswold, Landon Hejl, and Tabor Tyson, and seventh-graders Shaye Maleare and

Taia Robinson. It will be performed at PSIA competition in February and at Brentwood's Night of One Acts.

Students have expressed great enthusiasm and have high hopes for the play's success.

"I'm very excited for the play and I think that Ms. Maleare has a great vision for everyone," Griswold said.

The middle school classes will also be presenting a teacher-student role-switch story, "Storming the Teacher's Lounge," in the Feb. 7 show. The play features an ensemble cast, starring the eighth-period drama class, and will be performed at TCSIT competition in April.

High school students are also preparing their one-act play for TCSIT, "The Importance of Being Earnest," by Oscar Wilde. While the play is in three acts, it will be trimmed down to accommodate the time requirement for TCSIT competition in Abilene on Jan. 10. However, the play can be seen in its full three acts at Brentwood on March 3.

The play will star Adrie Gruis, Emma Ayers, Isaac Copeland, and Lorenzo Rivera.

## Bands, choirs bless campus

By Zoe Cooper

The holiday season has always been filled with carols at Brentwood, and when it comes to Christmas-themed music, this year's concert season didn't disappoint. Starting with the beginner musicians on Nov. 14 and lasting through the seventh-annual Don Irwin concert, secondary choir concert, Encore showcase, and secondary band concert on Dec. 12, students from 4th-12th grades have participated in various performances to culminate the first semester with a musical flourish.

Irwin's concert featured three other musicians: father and son Steve and Hunter Behrman playing the bass and guitar, respectively, and Brentwood's own Ronnie Green on the drums. The songs ranged from Irwin's ever popular "Snow" and some more traditional Christmas music to two Latin American pieces. Before the concert there was an opportunity for children to take pictures with Santa, a tradition continued from last year. Elementary choir teacher Amanda Stanglin also sang at the concert.

Two days later, the middle and high school choirs performed. They began with Encore singing, before the sixth-grade mixed choir took the stage to sing their three songs. Encore sang again before and after the middle school

boys sang three songs, which included a traditional Puerto Rican song "A la Media Noche."

Next, the middle school girls sang three songs, which included "Stille Nacht," featuring a solo from eighth-grader Lena Cogburn, before Encore sang "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays" with junior Mason Hejl soloing. The concert ended with five songs by the high school choir, including "Taladh Chriosda," with senior Emma Nguyen on flute.

On Monday, Dec. 9, Encore had their showcase in the CSA lobby.

"It was acoustically a better place to be," choir teacher Emily Borbon explained.

Although they performed at the secondary choir concert as well, Borbon said the showcase was a way for them to show off their skills in a concert focused solely on them.

Thursday, Dec. 12, was the night the 6th grade, 7th/8th grade, high school, and jazz bands played in the CSA. The concert began with the jazz band playing Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely," featuring Nathan Morgan soloing on the sax, and "Africa" by Toto. This was followed by the sixth graders and then seventh and eighth graders. The concert ended with the high school playing five songs, including "Sleigh Ride," which featured several BCS

see **CONCERTS**, page 8



**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Sam Orick**

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2020.

# ‘All-around great dude’ works hard, leads with joy

By Cade Young

After a long day of running through plays at football practice on a really hot day, players straggle into the new locker room, ready to shower and change before heading home. Suddenly, a deep voice busts out into song from the showers in the other room. The voice continues for a couple more songs before finally stopping. While Sam might have been hard at work just a few minutes ago on the field, now he’s all jokes and smiles as he entertains his teammates.

Samuel Roland Orick was born in Austin in 2001, where he has lived ever since. He began attending pre-school at Brentwood Christian at only four years old as he enrolled in Children’s Ark. However, Sam has had ties to the school for even longer than that, as he’s had two older siblings graduate from Brentwood, as well as a mother who taught there, meaning Brentwood has been a part of Sam’s life since birth.

Throughout this time, it has become obvious to anyone who knows Sam just how many qualities of a strong leader that he naturally possesses. Specifically, it’s Sam’s big heart and intense work ethic that have caused him to become a key role model for both the Class of 2020 and the entire student body as a Christ-like leader on the athletic field, in the classroom, and in everyday life.

Sam has been involved in a number of different activities and leadership positions. He has been a player on multiple varsity sports teams and is the grand master of hype for Claw Crew, a member of the National Honor Society, and captain and quarterback of the football team, where he led the Bears to an 8-3 season. Despite all of his many responsibilities, Sam is known as someone who is always willing to crack jokes in order to make those around him smile or laugh.

“Sam is just genuinely such a good guy,” senior classmate Alyssa Mancias says. “He’s someone that I know I can always count on for his honesty and kindness. I still remember when I first came to Brentwood, how he made a special effort to welcome me into our class, which he definitely did with his big smile and friendly personality.”

Sports have played an immensely important role in Sam’s life. Here at Brentwood, Sam has been a leading athlete on the football team for

the last four years, where he has just completed his senior season. He’s also been a member of the varsity basketball, baseball, and track teams. Sam says he is extremely grateful for the many life lessons and memories he’s gained from his experiences on the field, and says that the friendships he has formed with his teammates throughout the years will be the ones that he knows he can count on for years to come. Sam’s tremendous success as an

athlete is due in large part to how much time, work, and energy he is willing to put in during practices and games on a consistent basis.

“Sam’s a natural leader on and off the field, while also being one of the hardest workers I know,” teammate Lorenzo Rivera says. “After (practice) you’ll still see him going through routes with his receivers. Sam’s an all-around great dude and someone I’m blessed to be able to call a friend.”

Sam’s work ethic translates to the classroom as well, where he maintains good grades and is known for being a serious student. He has applied to Texas A&M, Abilene Christian, Harding, and UMHB, and is currently waiting to make his final college decision. While he is still undecided about exactly what type of career he’s interested in pursuing, Sam plans on

earning a business degree.

Many people have probably seen Sam with an intense and focused look on his face as he dominates the field during football games or powers down the court during basketball season, but most of Sam’s peers don’t tend to see this side of him very often. While he might be frightening to his opponents on the field, Sam’s loving presence and joyful demeanor is a big comfort to his friends. He is characterized as someone who is consistently loving and friendly, while continuously cracking jokes and making people smile.

“In the hallway at school, Sam always goes out of his way to smile and give me a hug,” says his little sister Sarah, a sophomore. “When Sam and I were little, he couldn’t walk through a room without stopping to give me a kiss on the cheek. He has always been a lover, and always will be.”

Sam is appreciative of all the support that his family provides for him, and he says that they all maintain a close relationship. His family includes his father Jeff, mother Becky, brother

Jacob (BCS ’15), sisters Rachel (BCS ’13) and Sarah, and his two dogs, Tucker and Piper. He also credits them with instilling a strong sense of faith in him from a very young age, which is apparent to everyone who knows him. Sam’s relationship with God has played a significant role in his life, especially over the last few years, as he says that his perspective on God has really matured. After going through a rough patch in the first few years of high school as he struggled with his faith, Sam says that he’s now able to see how God is constantly working in every aspect of his life, even the hardships. Sam is particularly grateful for being blessed with the opportunity to show God’s love and to carry out His will through his interactions with the guys on the football team this year. Sam and his family are active members of the Hill Country Bible Church, where they’ve been attending for the last two years. Sam’s strong faith is clearly evident to students and teachers alike, as is his dedication to always speaking up for what is right.

“Sam is the type of leader who leads by example,” teacher and basketball coach Brandon Greene says. “He’s the hardest worker in the room who’s also not afraid to speak up for his faith or to do the right thing, regardless of what it might look like to others.”

When Sam’s not busy with school responsibilities or after-school practices, which is rare, he says that his hobbies include playing lots of video games, singing in the shower, spending time playing with his two dogs, and of course, weight lifting. While Sam likes to be goofy and have fun a lot of the time, it’s apparent to anyone who knows him just how hard he’s willing to work when the occasion requires it.

“In regards to work ethic, I think it should be clear to anyone who has been to a BCS football game in the past three years that Sam’s work ethic is of the highest caliber,” teacher Jimmie Harper says. “Amidst all his hard work as an athlete, he has also done a great job maintaining good grades as a student.”

Sam’s natural ability to lead others is a culmination of his fun-loving nature, his intense desire to bring others to Christ, and when the time is right, his sense of seriousness and dedication that enables him to take things to the next level. His drive to become a man after God’s own heart shines through in any activity he chooses to participate in, which serves as a true inspiration for many students seeking positive examples. Sam’s charismatic personality, loving heart, and desire for success have enabled him to become a top-notch athlete, a strong student, and an even better friend. The students and faculty at BCS are all better off for knowing Sam and the joy he radiates in all that he does.





# Artistic Stanglin loves music, fun, helping others

By Natalie Barry

Years from now, you'd likely see her parked at a national park in a "hippie van." Perhaps she'd be standing beside a scenic overlook, singing along to songs by Journey at the top of her lungs.

But for now, you may have seen her as she leads the elementary students in song during the Christmas and Grandparents' Day programs. Maybe you recognize her for her angelic voice. You may have been greeted by her bright smile and positive attitude as she walks through the Brentwood hallways.

Those who know Amanda Stanglin are grateful for her dedication to her students and her bright, passionate attitude toward teaching.

Born in Linton, Indiana, Stanglin grew up in the country and enjoyed fishing, exploring, and wandering outdoors in the nine acres that surrounded her childhood home. The future art teacher fondly recalls memories of "corning" and "soaping" where she and her friends would collect corn kernels and throw them at oncoming cars on Halloween and write on cars with bars of soap.

She attended Linton Stockton High School and was very active in fine arts as she participated in choir, marching band, flag team, and theatre. She met her husband of 22 years, Keith, at Oklahoma Christian University, where he began an academic path that would lead to a Ph.D. in post-reformation historical theology. She supported her husband as he continued his advanced academics at different universities in different states, and she later received a bachelor's degree in general studies with an emphasis in arts and humanities at Harding University.

Stanglin and her husband have three children together: Paul, a freshman at Texas A&M; Isaac, a junior at BCS; and Rachel, a freshman at BCS. Stanglin and her family make it a priority to visit Linton often, and she refers to it as her home away from home, as her parents have lived in the same house for 47 years.

Stanglin accepted a position at Brentwood Christian in 2014 after working for the Pflugerville ISD autism unit. She

said she was grateful for the opportunity Brentwood gave her, and the fact that it allowed all of her kids to attend the same school.

After teaching first grade for one year, fellow first-grade teacher Sylvia Burcham suggested that she should consider applying for the elementary music teacher position.

"It took her by surprise when I told her she should apply, but I just knew she was a music teacher at heart," Burcham says. "She is now able to use her God-given talents every day that she goes to work, and her elementary programs have been amazing."

Stanglin teaches music and art for K-4 through third grade, art for the fourth grade, and ukulele to kindergarten through third grade. She says that while she enjoys the friendly environment she gets to work in every day, she most enjoys the joy and curiosity her students

have for learning new things. Her favorite part of her day is when she walks into the cafeteria and is greeted with hugs from all of her students.

"They are so excited to be here, and it makes it very hard to not be excited to be here as well," Stanglin says.

When not teaching at Brentwood, Stanglin puts her artistic ability to work in the kitchen, where she enjoys baking and decorating cakes and cooking; she also loves nature. On Sundays and Wednesdays, the Stanglins can be found at Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, where Keith is a regular Bible class teacher and Amanda is currently getting the younger children ready for next week's Christmas pageant. The family also serves as Home Group leaders.

Stanglin is very passionate about singing and music, and she enjoys incorporating that into her classes. Her favorite part of music is performing and getting to see months of hard work come together.

Fellow teachers and friends are grateful for her passion toward teaching, and

many have expressed admiration for her "genuine servant's heart" and her enthusiasm to always lend a helping hand.

"She is always willing to step up to help in anything she can, which usually involves baking a cake or making cards for someone," kindergarten teacher Diane Troutman says. "She is one of the most thoughtful people I have ever met."

Besides being known for her humble spirit and caring attitude, she has also been described as having a "great sense of humor," which has led to many funny stories like sneaking up on teachers with Halloween masks on.

"She will sometimes have my class come in banging on bongo drums because she thinks it is hilarious to see my reaction," Burcham says.

Whether she ends up traveling around the United States in a "hippie van," performing as a backup singer for a band, or just enjoying time with her family, you know Stanglin will continue to always lend a helping hand whenever she sees a need and take her love of music wherever she goes.

## Realignment

continued from page 1

ditions, and are looking forward to some new competition.

"I'm excited to see how we respond to these new teams," assistant football coach Correy Washington said. "The eight-team district will help us for playoffs as far as seeding goes."

The athletes who have heard about the realignment are also eager to face new teams with new players on them. One unanimous response to the longer bus rides is thankfulness for the opportunity for more team bonding among players.

Sophomore volleyball and basketball player Tynneson Allen said she is excited to get closer to her teammates on the bus rides.

"It will be fun to spend more time with them before and after our games!" Allen said.

Some students have expressed concern about the effects that the longer bus rides will have on missing school time and creating make-up work.

"Our goal is 'don't change,'" varsity boys' basketball coach Brandon Greene said. "I may drive the bus a little further, but we go up against whoever is on the schedule and aim to win every game we play."





# Varsity boys go toe-to-toe with state champs, gain confidence

By Jackson Baird

The Brentwood Christian varsity boys' soccer team has a 3-2 record after their 3-1 loss to defending state champions Texas Military Institute on Monday.

TMI got off to an early 2-0 lead in the first

half. But Brentwood fought their way back into the game with a goal from junior Joey Seo. Much of the second half was a back-and-forth, physical game with each team getting quality looks at goal. With 10 minutes left, the Panthers put the nail in the coffin with a third goal.

"The fight that we put up against TMI proved

that we belong with the best teams in the state," senior Jose Real said.

Through the first five games head coach Jesse Jordan is pleased with the team's play.

"One of the main things is that they are enjoying the success of their teammates," Jordan said. "I've seen a lot of unselfish play and collaborative effort in all areas of the field."

Seo leads the team with six goals, followed by seniors Jackson Baird, Elias Qussad, and Real, who each have three goals. Baird leads the team with five assists.

Defensively, goalkeeper Asher Gentry has made 12 saves.

Following are their game results thus far:

**11/19: @ San Antonio Christian 2-0 L**

The Bears opened up their non-district schedule against a state semifinalist from last year. It was a tight game in the first half with each team missing chances to score, but the Lions struck first, late in the half. In the second half BCS controlled most of the possession but could not find the breakthrough goal they needed. Midway through the period, SACS headed home another goal off of a corner kick.

**11/22: @ John Paul II 2-0 W**

Brentwood got off to a quick start, scoring

two minutes into the game with a goal from Seo. The Bears controlled most of the possession but struggled putting the ball in the net. In the second half BCS extended their lead when senior Blake Juranek scored on a low driven shot to the bottom corner of the goal.

**12/2: Hill Country 9-1 W**

Brentwood dominated in all aspects of this game, with seven different players scoring goals. Seo got the scoring started 10 minutes into the game, and Qussad added to the lead with a headed goal off of a corner from Baird. Baird then got on the scoring sheet with a shot to the bottom corner of the goal off a rebound. Following an own-goal by Hill Country, BCS went up 4-0 before giving up a goal right before the half. In the second half, Real extended the lead with two quick goals before Jordan pulled the starters.

**12/3: San Juan Diego 9-0 W**

BCS got on the scoreboard 10 minutes into the game with a goal from Baird and an assist from Real. Seo extended the lead to three goals with two scores right before the half. In the second half the Bears' offense exploded for six goals, scored by senior Jonah Connor (2), Real, Baird, Qussad, and junior Mason Hejl.



photo: Ava Alvarado

**On the move** Junior Andrew Geevarghese prepares send a long ball across the field during the varsity soccer team's 9-0 victory over San Juan Diego on Dec. 3.

# New coach leading Lady Bears to daily improvement

By Natalie Hargrove

Heading into the Christmas holidays, the varsity girls' basketball team has a 6-10 record and is learning to play with consistent effort under first-year coach Ariana Marks.

On Jan. 3-4, the girls will be playing in Brentwood's annual tournament, traditionally held before Thanksgiving since its first year in 2000. They have already played in three other tournaments, coming away with a fifth-place trophy in Tyler, and an overall record of 6-9.

But for Marks, the most important thing is the experience gained as they prepare for district, which starts on Jan. 21.

Marks said the team has made so much progress, having improved on teamwork fundamentals and game situations.

"My goal for the day-to-day is to be better than yesterday," Marks said. "I believe our team is doing that, getting better every day. We still have some schemes and fundamentals to work on that come with repetition and time."

Senior Kelli Tindel is leading the team with 11 points per game, and senior Jenna Riley is leading with six rebounds per game.

Tindel said she loves how much the team has worked together.

Following are the team's game results:

**11/11: Thorndale 56-25 L**

Playing their first home game, the girls start-

ed out strong but could not keep up.

**11/14-16: @ Boerne Geneva Tourn L L W L**

Opening up against Comfort, the Lady Bears were down at the half by 12 and continued to struggle with offensive rebounds, which led to a 48-18 loss. In their second game on Thursday, the girls faced San Antonio Christian. They played a strong first half and were only down by three, but they ended up losing 50-35.

Playing Bandera on the second day of the tournament, Brentwood was disciplined on defense and strong on offense. Riley led with 14 points, and the Bears won 37-35. The girls lost to Wimberley in the final game, 35-31.

**11/19: Lanier 43-34 W**

The Lady Bears faced one of their neighboring public schools, and both teams got in foul trouble early, eventually totaling 54 fouls. Both Riley and sophomore Alicia Gardner fouled out, but the girls battled back and pulled out a difficult win. Gardner led with 11 points.

**11/22: San Marcos Home School 49-36 L**

The Lady Bears played a consistent came in the first half but were unable to compete in the second. Gardner scored 11, and Tindel had 10.

**11/25-26: @ Lake Country Tourn W L W L**

Playing in Ft. Worth, the girls went up against Thesa in their first game and played strong on both ends, pulling out a win 51-40, with 17 points from junior Alyssa McLain. In their second game against Nolan Catholic, they

faced a difficult press and lost 56-5.

The next day, the Lady Bears faced Oakridge. McLain hit six 3-pointers, and Tindel scored 15 points, leading BCS to a 51-34 win. In the final game, the girls struggled to keep up with Ft. Worth Country Day, losing 54-21.

**12/3: @Savio 40-39 L**

BCS played a back-and-forth battle, coming out with strong defense. Gardner scored 11, but it was not enough.

**12/5-7: @ All Saints Tourn. L W W**

The Lady Bears traveled to Tyler to play in the annual Brookshire classic. BCS started with Frisco Legacy Christian, but they lacked energy, and both Gardner and Riley got into foul trouble, which led Legacy to a 44-25 win. Gardner had 15.

In game two, they faced long-time BCS head coach Devan Loftis and the Tyler Grace Cougars. The Lady Bears pulled out a huge win,



photo: Brandy Gauthier

**Christmas clowning** Lady Bears head coach Ariana Marks created a fun holiday pose with her basketball players in the CSA.

44-37. Tindel and McLain each had 13.

In their final game in Tyler, the Lady Bears were without McLain. But freshman Celeste Flores stepped up and played strong varsity minutes to help the Lady Bears win 35-28 against Cypress Christian. Tindel scored 17 points. Afterward, she was awarded a spot on the girls' all-tournament team.



## Soccer girls ready for challenge

By Jackson Baird

The Brentwood Christian varsity girls' soccer team tied San Juan Diego 2-2 on Dec. 3 in their first and only game of the season so far. The team's next game is Jan. 14 against Hyde Park.

The Lady Bears took an early 1-0 lead midway through the first half when junior Hailey Reich converted from the penalty spot. Junior Julia Glenn gave BCS a 2-0 lead in the second half, but the Saints came storming back and scored two goals late to earn a draw.

"We probably should have won this game," senior Genevieve Graessle said. "But we got tired and a little unorganized in the second half and allowed them back into the game."

Glenn and Reich lead the team in scoring with one goal each.

Communication is already proving to be a strength for the girls, which will be important as the season goes on, since many players are completely new to the game. In Brentwood's

first season competing at the 5A level last year, the team struggled against strong programs. This year's group is determined to win a few games against district opponents.

It may be head coach Nick Marquez's first year with the team, but he brings a lot of coaching experience. He has encouraged the girls to work together, maintain positivity, and continue to build team unity.

With his enthusiasm, Marquez has scheduled a three-day tournament for the team in Cameron on Jan. 9-11. Many players have never been to a soccer tournament before, so they expect the weekend to be a great learning experience.

Besides organization and unity, the team is working on endurance and being able to last the whole game.

"I am so pumped about this season, and I think that will all of the girls' effort, we will do great things this year," junior Rebecca Schmitz said.

## Boys take road win at TSD

By Natalie Hargrove

After falling behind by double digits early, the varsity boys stormed back to a 33-28 victory over TSD in South Austin on Tuesday night. With intense full-court pressure, the Bears forced turnovers and prevailed against a former district opponent.

With a 4-5 record, the boys are playing in a tournament in Jarrell this weekend. At the end of the holidays, they will play in the annual Brentwood Invitational Tournament on Jan. 3-4.

The team started out with 10 players on varsity, as several key players were still playing football. Without their football teammates the boys played one game and lost against San Antonio TMI.

"We're playing well," head coach Brandon Greene said. "I think there are always things we can improve on, but now that we've gotten the entire program together, we're starting to gel as a team."

On Nov. 18, the team added seniors Coby Best and Sam Orick, as well as sophomores Cason Best, Keller Jackson, and Connor Rohlack.

"Our team has a lot of talent, and we're starting to click and figure each other out as we play more games," Coby Best said. "Coach Greene plays a huge part in this, by showing us we can trust each other and play as a team, not as individuals."

Greene said the team plays extremely hard, but sometimes this means picking up extra

fouls.

"If the guys cut out some fouls and do a better job getting to our spots, the defense will be fine," he said.

Assisting Greene this year is Cody Hunt (BCS '15), who has returned to Austin after playing basketball and graduating from Gordon College.

Sophomore Seth Taylor leads the team with 16.5 points per game, and senior Daniel Hickl follows with 10.5 points. Hickl is leading with 4.0 defensive rebounds a game, and Coby Best leads with 2.3 offensive rebounds.

Following are the team's game results:

**11/12: @ TMI Episcopal 81-42 L**

The boys played without five of their varsity players and had a difficult time keeping up with TMI in spite of a strong start. Both Hickl and Taylor led with 14 points.

**11/19: Savio 91-49 L**

The Brentwood boys played their first home game back with their regular starters. They had a strong first half, only trailing 35-24, but Savio sealed the win with 24 points in the fourth quarter. Taylor led with 20 points, and Hickl had 14.

**11/22: @ Manor New Tech 45-27 W**

The boys came out strong in the first half and pushed through the second half for their first win of the season. Cason Best led with 9 points, while Hickl and sophomore Chris Mayo each had 8.

**11/26: @ Faith Academy 69-59 W**

The Bears were down 12 in the first quarter

## Boys make coach proud in loss

By Jackson Baird

The football team wrapped up their season on Nov. 15 in Houston with a hard-fought 43-29 loss to undefeated Houston Second Baptist in the first round of playoffs. BCS finished with an 8-3 record, 2-1 in district.

"I have never felt better about a loss than I did about our playoff loss," head coach Stan Caffey said. "Even though we got behind, we fought to the finish."

Coming into the game as underdogs, the Bears fell behind 14-0 early in the first quarter but fought back to take a 15-14 lead following a "pick six" from sophomore linebacker Cason Best and a touchdown run on a jet sweep by senior quarterback Sam Orick.

The Eagles quickly responded with two unanswered scores, taking a 28-15 lead into halftime. In the second half Orick connected with senior Coby Best on a 38-yard touchdown pass to draw BCS back within seven points.

In the fourth quarter Brentwood found themselves trailing 36-22, but they responded with another TD run from Orick. The Bears' defense couldn't get the stop they needed as the Eagles put the nail in the coffin with one final score.

Orick completed 9 of 17 passes for 115 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 181 yards and another TD in the loss. He said he was disappointed about how the season ended, but he was proud of the Bears' effort.

"We had a good season this year, but we didn't finish where we wanted to," Orick said. "Despite the loss, I was proud of the fight we put up and how hard everyone – especially the seniors – fought till the end."

For the season, Brentwood was led on offense by Orick, who had 1,360 rushing yards and 19 touchdowns. Sophomore Connor Rohlack rushed for 529 yards and seven TDs.

Orick also passed for 1,131 yards and 10 TDs.

Junior Zack Billante led the team with 32 receptions for 463 yards and three TDs.

"I was impressed with the play of our offense this year," Caffey said. "Our line played great, and our backfield was strong."

The defense was led by junior Aaron Lilya, who had 97 tackles, followed by senior Isaac Copeland with 84. Copeland led the team with 11.5 sacks, and junior Baley Cordes had three fumble recoveries. In the secondary, Coby and Cason Best led with five interceptions each.



photo: Giselle Reynolds

**Facing a challenge** Junior Grant Martinez looks for a pass in the Bears' game against Northeast Early College High on Dec. 3. The boys are playing in Jarrell this weekend.

but stormed back to tie the game at halftime. Taylor led with 28 points.

**12/3: Northeast Early College 77-40 L**

The boys played a strong and athletic team with a difficult press, and they fought hard to keep up. In spite of Coby Best's buzzer beater at the end of the half, the boys fell short.

**12/5-7: @ All Saints Tourn. L W L**

Playing in Tyler at the annual Brookshire classic, the Bears started off with St. Thomas

Episcopal. They played hard, but both Hickl and Best got into foul trouble early, which led to a loss, 77-40.

On Friday, the boys played Elysian Fields. They had a strong lead in the first half but were not able to keep it. But thanks to a strong fourth quarter, they pulled out a win, 69-62.

In their last game of the tournament, the Bears faced the host, All Saints. It was tight all the way, and Brentwood lost 49-48.



# Jog features perfect weather

By Hailey Stromberg

Not only did students run more than 2,500 miles on Jog-a-fun day, but they also got to enjoy volleyball, board games, snowcones, movies, and other fun activities.

Meanwhile, it was reported this week that the jog has brought in \$98,128 so far.

Originally scheduled for Nov. 13 but moved to Nov. 20 because of cold weather, the day started off at 8:30 a.m. with perfect weather for the annual 5K run by secondary students. Jog coordinator Sarah Wilson said the early start time for the 5K helped not only with the traffic flow but also kept the elementary and secondary from getting in each other's way.

"I really liked moving the 5K to the morning," Wilson said. "It went smoother, and the kids seemed to enjoy it more."

Secondary students ran a slightly new path this year – the same one used by cross country teams. This route consisted of three laps that snaked around the campus and through the woods beside the baseball field. Many runners found the run challenging with the uphill stretches and difficult footing.

In addition to the course change, this year's run had a new feature. Instead of doing the col-

or run or bubbles, Wilson decided to use different colored beads. Students earned beaded necklaces each time they finished a lap: first white, then black, and finally green. There were also two additional beads – a red one for doing the Jog-a-fun 5K Challenge Run, and a gold one for finishing in the top 100.

The top runner for the 5K was junior Min Yoon, finishing in 19:22, followed by eighth-grader Renne Cooper, who finished in 19:29. The top female runner was sixth-grader Harper Counts (23:22), closely followed by her sister Hailyn (23:53).

Elementary students began running laps on the baseball field, beginning with the K4 and kindergarten students at 9 a.m. With extended-day worker Ronnie Green behind the music and on the mic, students had plenty of encouragement throughout the day.

The top lap runners in grades K4-2nd were second-grader Evan Gittinger (30 laps) for the boys, and second-grader Sloan Magee (25 laps) for the girls. The top runners in 3rd-5th were fifth-grader Levi Baron (38 laps) for the boys, and fifth-grader Lynden Worley (31 laps) for the girls.

When their 30 minutes were up, elementary students enjoyed snow cones, bouncy houses,



photo: Brandy Gauthier

**Jog spirit!** K4 student Caroline Pollard runs with passion as kindergartner Langston Poe comes around the outside on the morning of Jog-a-fun, Nov. 20.

book-ins, and other fun activities.

After their race, secondary students experienced a variety of activities in several locations. High school students enjoyed the annual "buff puff" volleyball game in the AC. Later

they gathered in the CSA for a game of family feud, won by the cheerleaders.

Middle school students played cards and board games, were led in team-building games, and watched Peanuts movies in the theater.

The day was concluded by the annual Thanksgiving all-school chapel, held in the FLC. Students sang the traditional rounds, and the winners of the food drive were announced.



photo: Summer Best

**Spiffy singers** The high school choir concluded the winter choir concert in the theater on Dec. 5. This show marked the final concert for director Emily Borbon.

## Concerts

continued from page 3  
alumni.

This concert season, although an exciting one, is bittersweet for many due to the fact that it will be Borbon's last at Brentwood. Her short one-and-a-half year career at Brentwood will end with her and her husband's move to Abilene over the Christmas break. Although still finishing grad school, he has been invited to work on a Biblical re-

search team.

"It's hard to leave so many amazing people and students that I love," she said. "However, I'm also leaving with confidence and excitement for the future, knowing that God has plans for my life and for all of our lives."

It did not take students long to develop a deep affection for their teacher.

"I've really loved working with Mrs. Borbon, and I'm very sad that she's leaving. But I know she will have amazing opportunities in Abilene," freshman Ocean Peterson said.

## Christmas

continued from page 1

the opportunity to go caroling in the C building on the mornings of Dec. 12 and 13. Choir teacher Emily Borbon allowed them to wear festive Christmas accessories as they went from room to room bringing holiday cheer to secondary classes.

Choir teacher Amanda Stanglin is directing this year's Christmas pageant at 7 p.m. on Dec. 13, including K-4 through third grade. The theme is "Glory," and the children will sing a variety of traditional Christmas songs and newer ones.

Brentwood's cheerleaders and Lady Bellas practiced intricate routines to songs like "Drummer Boy," "Here Comes Santa Claus," and "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" for the winter sports pep rally on Dec. 9, where they also tossed blankets to lucky students in the stands. Soccer teams were introduced, and several players took part in Christmas-themed games while students cheered for their peers, and the band played festive Christmas music throughout the event.

"It was nerve-wracking but really fun to celebrate Christmas with everyone," freshman cheerleader Lydia Dowell said.

## Caffey

continued from page 1

lot of heart for his team and for the game.

"Coach Caffey helped my grow not only as a player, but as an individual too," senior football player Luke Jackson said.

Coached by Caffey since the eighth grade, Jackson said Caffey has always pushed him to be the best athlete and person that he can be.

Caffey has three children and five grandsons, with whom he is looking forward to spending time. All three of his children are coaches, and Caffey says he is going to all of their games to watch and see them carry on the tradition of the "coaching Caffeys."

## Crossword answers

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>       | <b>DOWN</b>      |
| 2 March 3           | 1 The Nutcracker |
| 3 Food bank         | 4 Billante       |
| 5 Sam Orick         | 7 Min Yoon       |
| 6 Five              | 9 Austin         |
| 8 January 14        | 10 Glory         |
| 11 Isn't She Lovely |                  |
| 12 Joey Seo         |                  |