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THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. XXII NO. 1

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2009



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IN SHORT

Sickness Strikes

School nurse Nancy Meyer recently sent out some cautionary e-mails in response to the recent outbreak of sickness at BCS. In them, she stressed washing hands frequently and keeping them away from the face. She urged students with a fever over 100 degrees to stay home and only return at least 24 hours after their fever breaks without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Eagle Projects

Senior Charles Kim and freshman Travis Clark recently completed Eagle Scout projects. Kim designed and built the sign for Brentwood's new Memorial Garden, completing the task with a team of 12 volunteers on June 17. Clark moved a 19th-century log cabin to Pioneer Farms from nearby Fish Farm. Most of the work was done on two Saturdays in September.

Spiritual Life Update

Spiritual Life Committee, led by senior Allen Taylor, has recently played a more active role in the school. A locker in the downstairs high school building has been decorated and designated as the "Prayer Locker." Any student wishing for prayer requests can slip a prayer in the locker and SLC will pray for the request. The locker is kept locked at all times, and prayers can be submitted anonymously.

Weed Baby

Jonathan and Amber Weed's newest baby, a girl named Natalie Kate, was born by C-section at North Austin Medical Center on Sep. 17 at 7:55 a.m. Natalie weighed 7-1 and was 20½ inches long. Although Amber works at NAMC as a labor and delivery nurse, she did not deliver her own baby. The Weeds also have a son named Luke.

Acevedo visits BCS

Austin police chief makes time for safety patrol

levi **MATUS**
reporter

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo cleared his schedule and came to BCS to swear in the 22 members of the elementary safety patrol on Friday, Sep. 18.

Acevedo said it is important to police each other in the community.

"We swear the kids in because of the importance of the role – to show them it is something to take seriously," he said.

All elementary students attended the assembly, which also honored those who won

a poster drawing contest that week for the elementary Safety Week theme, "Safety is no accident."

Acevedo said he used to be a safety patrol in his elementary school in fifth grade. He was willing to move things aside in his schedule when he was contacted by Detective Jeff Crawford, a BCS parent who had been speaking with BCS safety patrol for the past year.

Crawford was originally planned to perform the swearing in, which any police officer can perform, until he had an idea. He decided to

see **Police**, page 3



photo: Kay Taylor

Solemn Oath At the Sep. 18 ceremony to swear in the BCS safety patrol, Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo administers the oath to co-captains John Hollingsworth and Chadwick Gonsalvez, both sixth-graders.

Beauty and the Beast

Revival of classic musical brings excitement to theatre department

kailey **RODDEN**
reporter

This November, the Brentwood drama department, headed by Cindy Singleton and Missy Weaver, is presenting the classic musical "Beauty and the Beast." Many people have expressed excitement about opening of this play, which features senior Abbie Boyd as Belle and senior Josh Porter as the Beast.

"We have never done a children's show like

this one," choir teacher Missy Weaver said. "I think it will be great for a school like ours that has students of all ages. But it's not just for kids. The whole show is going to be great."

Other options Weaver considered for this year's musical were "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and "The Wizard of Oz." But in the end, she believed that "Beauty and the Beast" was the best choice.

"It's funny, sweet, and suspenseful. It has everything!" Weaver said.

Fine arts center to break ground

megan **MONACELLI**
sports editor

The long-awaited "Fine Arts Building" is on its way to construction.

The groundbreaking for Brentwood Christian's new Center for Science and the Arts is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14. It is no coincidence the BCS fall musical is scheduled the same day. The ceremony is going to occur between the matinee and the evening production.

"I thought that would be a very appropriate time," BCS president Marquita Moss said.

Construction on the building won't begin immediately after the groundbreaking, however. The architect will create construction blueprints in October. These blueprints will include every detail needed for a construction firm to bid on the building and build it. Then, contractors will receive the blueprints and make bids for doing the construction. The school board will then award the bid to a contractor and construction will begin soon after. Construction will take approximately one year.

According to information mailed to parents in early September, the construction for the building costs about \$4 million, and current facility and technology developments is about \$500,000, making the total cost \$4.5 million.

BCS waited to launch the "Inspiring Hearts and Minds" campaign until after about 70 percent of the needed funds had been raised. These funds were raised through major donors who have given generously. One of these is James Baros, father of BCS graduate Emilie ('09) and

see **Long-awaited**, page 8

see **Beauty**, page 8

Totally telling it like it is with Trevor Atherton

School spirit high; needs to go further

“This is Bear Country!”

You can hear these words from a few of the more vocal fans when you enter the BCS Athletic Center. As you walk farther into the gym, you can hear cheering and feel the excitement of the game.

This year BCS spirit has been lifted to heights I have not witnessed since I started attending Brentwood in kindergarten. However, since the Lady Bears battled their infamous rivals, Hyde Park, on Sep. 8, there has been a decline in attendance at volleyball games. With basketball season right around the corner, I especially would love to see attendance at these games to go back to where it was.

Many people, especially the athletes on the court, want the attendance and support of our sports teams to increase, but it all starts with motivation. The senior class has made it our goal to bring as many people to games as we can. However, there's only so much we can do. This year, people are really starting to see that attending sporting events at this high school is, in fact, fun.

In recent years, some of the faces you would

see at games were expressionless and looked rather uninterested. Instead of watching the game, students would prefer to entertain themselves by throwing ketchup packets at each other or talk about how high concession prices were. This year, more people really seem to watch the game and notice how well our dear Lady Bears play. I have seen first-hand that when average Brentwood students come to the realization that our girls are amazingly talented, they have an involuntary urge to get up and scream, “BEAR COUNTRY!” or jump on imaginary letters that spell out “BCS” and get others involved in screaming “B-C-S” every time their feet touch the floor.

If you don't know who I'm referring to, I won't spoil it for you. Come to the game and see this spectacle for yourself. With a few home games left, we should give the girls the support they deserve before basketball seasons here and the fans really get wild.

If you're a younger BCS student, here's some good news for you: You do not have to be in high school to enjoy these events. I encourage you to come be a part of something bigger

than just going to school and going home. Be a part of the crowd and really have fun while you're there.

I personally know that the volleyball girls will appreciate it. Senior starter Tyla Wells really makes an effort to announce what time the games start – in chapel, class, the hallways ... basically everywhere. When she does this, she's not just passing on information. She really wants you to come, as does the rest of the volleyball team, who may not be as vocal. It's been proven that our girls play better when more people watch. Coach Contreras has said that his players get excited and play well when they have a big crowd eager to watch their game.

As a fellow senior, I want this year to be memorable, not just for me, but for our entire school. By coming to the volleyball, basketball, baseball, track, and softball events, you'll be doing much more than just watching a game, but rather creating an infectious spirit that will be felt throughout the school – one that will be passed on for years to come.



photo: The Bear Tracks

School Spirit Soars Senior Tyla Wells runs through a people tunnel before a game at last month's BCS Invitational volleyball tournament. See story, page 6.

From the mind of Skylar Haws

College craze

When I was a small child, I remember hearing stories from the adults about going off to college. “One day,” my aunt told me, “if you make good grades, colleges will pay you to come to their university.” While I wish the college acceptance formula was that simple, I have come to realize over the last few months that getting into college bears no resemblance to a fairy tale story.

If done poorly, college applications can cause mental insanity. Therefore, in an attempt to help my fellow students, I have created Skylar's crash course on how not to go crazy applying to college.

Planning is the most important part of getting into college. The college applications are only the first step. A lot of schools require extra things such as SAT and ACT tests, subject tests, supplement essays, interviews, tax forms, scholarship applications, resumes, and main essays.

Whether you are in sixth grade or 12th grade, I believe it is important to find out what each college requires. Not only will this give you an idea of what you need to do in the future, but it will help eliminate any surprises when applying to college. Trust me, surprises are a bad thing when applying to college. The best way to get acquainted with the school is by checking out their website. Spend a couple of hours researching everything that your college wants and then make a checklist for yourself to complete. **THIS IS NOT A WASTE OF TIME.**

Also, find out when colleges will be doing a presentation in your area and go to it. I know driving to and sitting through a college meeting might not sound exciting, but I promise that it is the best way to learn what a college offers and see if they are the right school for you.

One thing that I would highly recommend for all high school students to do right now is start thinking about your essays.

“What's the big deal?” Megan Monacelli quips as I discuss my editorial with her. “It's only a few essays.”

Well, believe it or not, the essays are probably the most important part of your entire application. There are thousands of other students who will probably have similar grades and extra-curricular activities as you; however, no one has the same personality as you. The essays are your only true chance to differentiate yourself in the eyes of the admission counselor from the thousands of other applicants, so let your personality shine through. Unfortunately, these kinds of essays are not the ones that can be written the night before.

Whatever you do, don't wait until your senior year to figure out your college plans. I do not mean to be harsh, but if you do not plan ahead or forget to turn something in, your application might not be considered at all. Give yourself plenty of time to get your teacher recommendations and transcripts sent. Neither you nor the teacher will be happy if sending recommendations to colleges becomes a crisis situation.

Applying to college is a lot of work, but with careful planning and forethought, most of the stress and craziness can be avoided... I think.

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of Brentwood Christian High School. 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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New teachers in town

BCS welcomes five new instructors, three new staff members to campus

mike **LEE**
reporter

At the beginning of every school year, it is always exciting for students to get acquainted with the new faces on campus. This year, students will recognize several new faces among the faculty, as Brentwood Christian has embraced three new staff members and five new teachers.

Kristen Berry, the new secondary chemistry and physics teacher, is in her first year as a teacher. She holds an industrial engineering degree from Texas Tech University, and she served as a tutor and a research assistant during her college years. After jokingly suggesting that her goal for the year is to "survive," Berry said that she plans to instill the knowledge of physics and chemistry into students.

"I am excited, and I am anxious, because it is my first year teaching. I want to do things correctly," she said.

Several students, however, seem to like Berry and her class already.

"She's pretty cool," senior Ryan Patterson said. "(Her class) is fun a lot of the time. But it is physics, so we have to be serious a lot too."

One of the features of Berry's class that delights many students is the fact that she gives students a week to complete all the homework that she assigns.

"Because we have plenty of time for each homework, there is no pressure, and we can ask her questions about it," sophomore EJ Sung said. "It is a great idea!"

Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth teaches Algebra I, seventh-grade bible, and Junior girls' Bible. She has a B.S. from Harding University, a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Texas, and a Master of Arts in Theology from Austin Graduate School of Theology. She has five years of college teaching and has even taught Greek.

"I'm excited about teaching students here and building relationships with them," she said.

However, Hollingsworth, who is a great sports fan, had to endure a "tragedy" as a new teacher.

"(Teaching) is a lot of work. It's cutting into my football watching time," she said. "But I like watching (BCS) volleyball and look forward to basketball."

Hollingsworth has been an Austin resident for more than 20 years, and is the mother of two BCS students.

Rosemary Henderson is the new Spanish teacher, replacing Cindy Singleton, who is now teaching drama and speech. Henderson has a B.S. in business administration from the University of Phoenix and is completing her master's in curriculum and instruction as well as ESL education. After four years of experience in public schools, she is relishing her first private-school experience.

"I'm excited. All the kids are wonderful," she said.

As a Spanish teacher, Henderson said she is looking to motivate students to speak the Spanish language. She is the mother of two BCS secondary students.

Brentwood's new Biology and Environmental Science teacher resigned on Sep. 2. Principal Jared Lee said the administration then reviewed all applications, talked with all the candidates, and ultimately made the decision to hire Tasha Walker.

Walker has taught in four different schools, including one year as an English teacher at BCS in 2001. She was born and raised in Austin and graduated from Abilene Christian and Harding University. She attended Brentwood from kindergarten to eighth grade in the "dark age," when BCS had no high school. She also recalled having a Spanish class with Linda Pimentel.

About the new year, Walker said she is excited and has been looking forward to coming back and teaching.

"My goal for the year is to give the students in my classes a successful year, and to help them learn in an enjoyable environment," she said.

Her husband, Joseph Walker, is the athletic director at Brentwood. She is the mother of two BCS elementary students as well.

When the decision was made to add a third sixth-grade class this year, BCS hired Michelle Mohrmann, another returning teacher. She taught at Brentwood for three years, before the 10-year hiatus during which she raised her children and served as president of BCS PTF for two years.

"It feels good to be back," Mohrmann said.

A graduate from the University of Texas, Mohrmann is the mother of two BCS students and a preschooler. She was born in Amarillo and has been living in Austin since 1985.

Lacy Dyke is the new guidance counselor, and the successor of Lynda Pierce, who served at Brentwood for 24 years. Dyke, who had been involved in other forms of counseling for the past five years, is happy about her first high school counseling opportunity.

"I feel like it is a very special opportunity to be a part of a very special place," she said.

Dyke, a natural Texan, was born in Abilene and has been in Austin since she was five. She holds a B.A. in geography from the University of Texas and a master's in marriage and family therapy from Abilene Christian.

Taking a brand new position, James Cogburn is the business manager.

According to principal Jared Lee, the job of a business manager includes setting the yearly budget, making sure that the expenses are coming out of the right account, and overseeing all of the accountings that take place behind the scene, "to make BCS run."

Cogburn holds a B.B.A. in management from ACU and an M.B.A. in accounting from University of Phoenix.

Successor of Karen Withem, Debora Hicks is the new director of admissions, hired on Sep. 24. A graduate of Freed-Hardeman University, Hicks has a degree in communications and is working on an M.B.A. After two weeks at the school, Hicks said she is enjoying her experience at Brentwood.

"Students are very respectful and nice," she said. "I am excited to work here and look forward getting to know everyone."

Born in West Virginia, Hicks recently worked as admissions and marketing director for Fairpark Healthcare Center in Tennessee.

As nearly two months have passes since the beginning of school, Lee said he is satisfied with the new staff members.

"I am very impressed with all the new teachers," he said. "It's always difficult to start a new job, but they've done an excellent job at the transition, and have become true assets at the campus."

Police chief

continued from page 1

see if it would be possible to get Acevedo to swear in the students. When he discovered he could, they planned for him to come during chapel the week before, but Acevedo couldn't make it that day.

It looked as if Acevedo would not be coming until elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed and executive assistant Kay Taylor decided to make a special ceremony for the swearing in. Acevedo took a look at his calendar, cleared some things up, and told BCS that he would be there.

Magazine sales

connor **SCHIESZ**
reporter

The gym is packed, rewards are being handed out left and right, and the students are wearing those furry creatures around their necks. This can only mean that it is time for magazine sales at BCS.

Every school day from Sep. 18-28, the athletic center was filled with BCS secondary students at the end of the day for the magazine sales announcements and rewards. Students had the opportunity to earn money for the eighth-grade Washington, D.C., trip and the senior Europe trip by selling subscription renewals for magazines.

Every time students sold a certain amount of renewals, they earned a fuzzy creature called a weepul. The weepuls may have seemed useless at first, but some lucky students won cash rewards related to the number of weepuls they had acquired.

Secondary principal Jared Lee decided to do magazine sales much like last year, because it was a huge success. The goal last year was to make \$6,000, but that was beaten with five times the amount at \$30,000. Lee announced that the goal for this year was to make \$40,000. However, after the selling was over, the total sales were \$24,365.

Students were encouraged to participate with many rewards such as getting to go to Austin Park and Pizza during school and prizes such as a Blu-ray player, iPods, and more.

Some of the top sellers included seventh-grader Tyler Clark with \$1,084, junior Allison Riedesel with \$991, junior Mandy Wiles with \$618, seventh-grader Matthew Scarborough with \$580, and freshman Dominic Ramos with \$512.

"What keeps me motivated is to earn money, so that I can go to Europe," Ramos said.

Lee said he sees the fundraiser as having two main purposes.

"I believe the best thing about the magazine sales is that it gives the students a break from the ordinary and a chance to have a little fun," he said. "But it's also great to give the students an opportunity to raise money for their class trips."

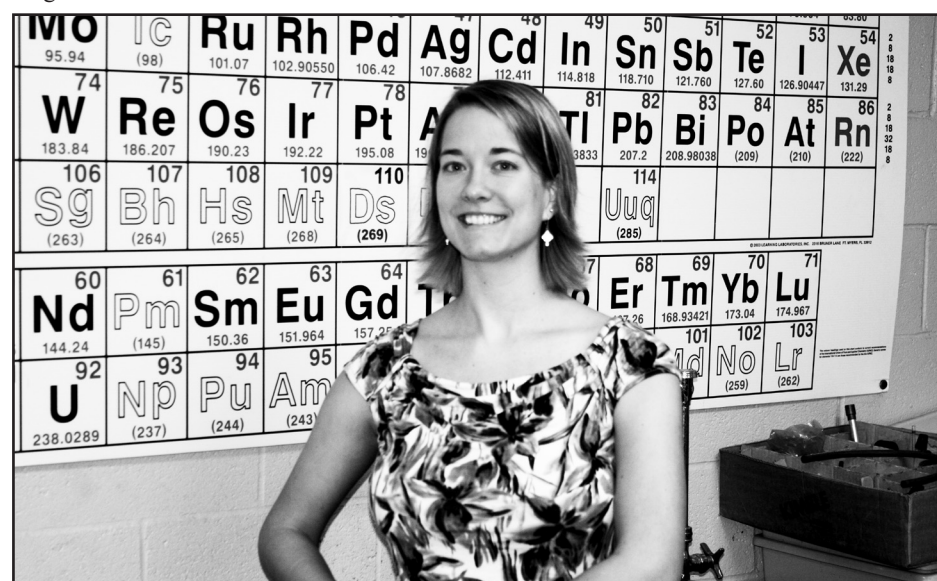


photo: Skylar Haws

Newbie New Chemistry and Physics teacher Kristen Berry smiles every time she sees the Periodic Table and goes wild when it comes to projectile motion.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Andrew Beach

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2010.

Soft-spoken senior more than meets the eye

lizzy DUPOND
reporter

“Can you give me a description of him, sir?”
“Well, he’s about this tall, got a bandit’s face, and it looks like a hurricane ran over his hair.”
“We know him. This one is very dangerous – he can squeeze into lockers.”

“(Gasp!)”
“He goes by several aliases: Jimmy, Andrew, Playa, but his real name is Beach.”

Andrew Beach is a lifelong Austinite. He attended Grace Covenant before entering the fifth grade, when he came to Brentwood Christian.

After seven years at BCS, it is plain to see that everybody likes Andrew; it’s indicated by the fact that his classmates elected him homecoming prince last year and StuCo chose him to be representative of the underclassmen in his sophomore year.

The Student Council sponsor, Linda Riedesel, knows Andrew for his humility.

“He just kinda keeps a low image,” she says. “Most StuCo members are all, ‘I’m so funny!’ but he was just very quiet.”

Andrew’s friends recognize this subdued nature but never forget his spontaneity.

“He’s reserved, but in an outgoing way,” Marisol Hernandez says.

The extrovert in Andrew is easily apparent by his wildly tousled hair. Also, his classmates recall the time when he and Henry Rhea squeezed into some lockers to prank Mr. Lee – a feat photographed and preserved in the 08-09 yearbook. Then there’s the Spanish project in his sophomore year where he

played the part of a woman reporter. It was an unabashed performance, complete with blonde wig and a high-pitched voice chattering in Spanish.

“He has like all types of humor – dry sometimes, but then he goes all wild,” Joelle Vargas says.

Still, there’s always more to Andrew.

“He’s like an iceberg,” says

Marisol, meaning there is a lot about him that people haven’t discovered.

For example, Andrew says his hobby is “music in all forms: listening, playing, writing.”

Most classmates were unaware of his songwriting until last year, when he wrote and recorded a song for an English project.

Classmate and fellow musician Chris Williams compares Andrew to John Lennon because he has talent in singing, playing, and composing.

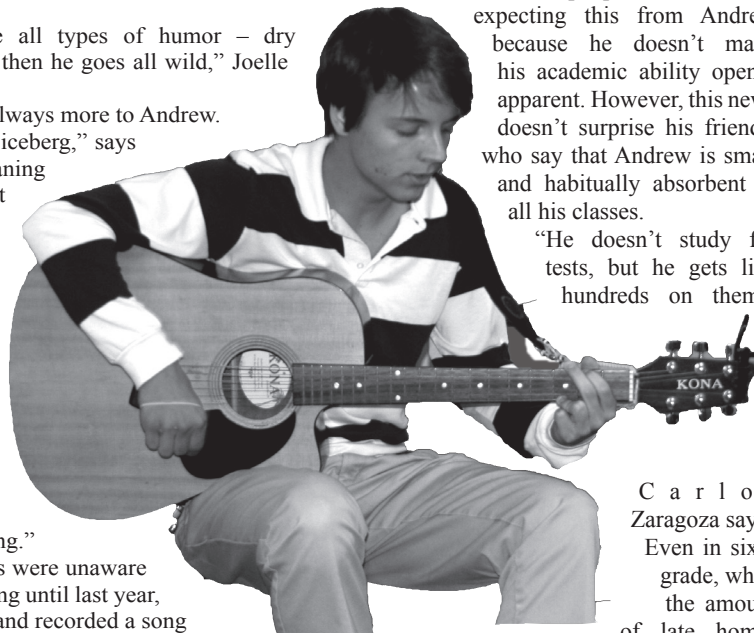
Andrew says he has six to seven works completed, but “infinite unfinished.” Three songs were for English projects, but mostly he likes to write about love for God and others.

Another surprise is the recently uncovered

news that Andrew is a National Merit Scholar semifinalist.

Several people were not expecting this from Andrew because he doesn’t make his academic ability openly apparent. However, this news doesn’t surprise his friends, who say that Andrew is smart and habitually absorbent in all his classes.

“He doesn’t study for tests, but he gets like hundreds on them,”



Carlos Zaragoza says. Even in sixth grade, when the amount of late home-

photo: Zach Ellis

work for each student was displayed, he was one of the few who always turned homework in on time. Some years ago, he said to a teacher, “I laugh in the face of due dates.”

In the future, Andrew says he would like to attend UT and study mechanical engineering. However, this is only his backup plan. What he really wants to do first is join a band. Really. But then, this is in reality a wise way to go:

Follow your dreams, but have a secure job in mind to fall back on.

For now, Andrew has a very secure job over the summer breaks. His favorite hangout spot is Beach Automotive, which is run by his father. Funny thing about his father, if you’ve ever seen him: He and Andrew look exactly alike. Andrew looks up to his paternal twin as a role model.

“I admire my dad because he is a strong man of God, and because it shows through every aspect of his life ... sharing God’s love with everyone around him.”

The thing people like the most about Andrew is that he’s very approachable. When people talk about Andrew, they all agree that he is willing to be a friend to everybody; he talks to anyone and does not constrain himself to a clique.

“He acts like y’all have been best friends since kindergarten,” Tyla Wells says.

Sometimes his best traits are the simplest. Paige Garner admires one such attribute in him.

“He listens. He always listens to what you say.”

She also reflects that the reason Andrew is so approachable is that he’s really secure with himself and doesn’t judge others.

It might be difficult to describe Andrew, given his versatile gifts and nature. If someone asked a BCS student to provide a description of Andrew as a person, what could the student say?

Mrs. Riedesel puts it best: “He’s a quality guy... easy to love.”

Secondary students welcome scheduling changes

jacob CARDENAS & matthew ONABAJO
reporters

Upcoming school years at Brentwood Christian are usually fairly predictable, but high school students didn’t quite know what to expect for the next year as they headed into summer break.

According to secondary principal Jared Lee, a new schedule and scheduling system has been implemented this year for high school students in an attempt to recover from the large number of non-returning students.

“We had to look at the schedule to see where we could utilize the talents of our staff in the best possible way,” Lee said.

Also, as a response to the accrediting team that came to BCS last spring as well as feedback on parent and student surveys received the previous year, the traditional grading scale has been adjusted and new classes have been added.

The biggest and most anticipated change this year is the option for seniors to leave campus

to attend Austin Community College classes to earn college credit. According to Lee, only five students have taken advantage of the opportunity due to the last-minute announcement of such an option. He hopes that in the future more students will plan ahead and exercise that freedom. Those who are taking the classes are grateful for the chance.

The new schedule consists of two major changes. Bible is now an everyday class in-between second and third periods, but is only 30 minutes long. On Thursdays, chapel takes the place of Bible.

The second major change is that P.E. is now co-ed and held every day. It lasts 10 minutes shorter and is optional for upperclassmen. Many students, particularly those participating in athletics, say they like having P.E. every day because it gets them better prepared for their sport. According to senior John Alan Archer, it “creates more opportunities” to work on basketball and conditioning.

Having Bible more frequently has also received positive feedback.

“I like that it’s every day, but not that it’s only 30 minutes, because we love Mrs. Pimentel,” senior Rebecca Teeter said.

Bible teacher Mel Witcher pointed out that one bonus is having every student every day – meaning no absences due to athletics.

Students not taking P.E. have the option of taking a study hall, Art Appreciation led by Lori Morin, or Personal Finance, which are both new classes offered this year. Other new classes include Math Help, Jazz Band, and Latin.

“We’re always interested to give students more elective choices,” Lee said. “Logistically, we needed more classes to accommodate the new schedule which allows students to go off campus (to ACC).”

Personal Finance is taught by Brenda Lippincott and is a course created by radio host Dave Ramsey. It is designed to prepare students for the financial world and give them practical tips on how to manage money wisely.

“It’s been one of the most rigorous things I’ve done,” Lee said. “I guess from start to fin-

ish it was a five-month process.”

Brentwood’s grading scale has also been adjusted so that it will be uniform with other area high schools, which Lee said will give students a greater chance for success when applying for college.

Grades from 90-100 will be considered an A; grades in the 80s are a B; grades from 74-79 are a C; and grades from 70-73 will be a D. Anything under 70 is still considered failing.

Another change this year involving grades is the new eligibility system, in which students’ grades will be checked every three weeks. According to Lee, the three-week check will help all students with maintaining their grades. It will help those who “slipped through the cracks before.”

Lee said students should put grades first before additional school activities and that maintaining good grades should be students’ main concern.

“Grades are priority,” he said. “All extracurricular activity should be considered icing on the cake.”

Faculty initiates healthy competition

Teachers compete to gain fitness, make Austin healthy

gabe **BRETERNITZ**
reporter

It is a well known fact that Americans don't exercise enough. With more and more jobs becoming sedentary, it is difficult to find free time to exercise. Recent studies estimate that only 31 percent of American adults participate in regular leisure-time physical activity.

BCS is aware of this national trend and has implemented a new health program for all of the faculty and staff, "to create an environment of fitness," according to secondary librarian Tere Hager. She and teacher Jonathan Weed are in charge of the new fitness measures.

The program is actually a fitness competition involving all faculty and staff at BCS. The employees have been divided into eight teams, all of whom are competing to gain the most points each week. The points are given on a basis of how healthy each team member has been that week.

Teachers can earn points in three ways: one point for every day they eat five portions of fruits and vegetables; one point for every day they do not eat any unhealthy snacks or desserts; and one point for every 20 minutes of exercise they do.

The competition is helping fulfill a larger goal: to be certified by the Mayor's Fitness Council. The Council is a city program whose stated goal is to make Austin the fittest city in the nation by 2010. Local businesses or other organizations like hospitals and private

schools are encouraged to improve their fitness and become a certified partner of the MFC. Certification by the Council can help lower insurance premiums.

One goal of the new program is to raise the school's overall index score as measured by the Austin Fitness Index, a tool designed to assess a community's fitness level based on physical activity, nutrition, tobacco-free living, and healthy weight. BCS hopes to gain certification by the Council by the end of the year.

The competition format was Weed's idea. It is designed to "encourage healthy competition and to recognize people's achievements for improving their lifestyle," according to Hager. So far, it seems to be working.

"I'm fiercely competitive," secondary secretary Linda Riedesel said, "so I've really been motivated (by the competitive format of the program)."

Riedesel, who recently recorded the all-time high score of 67 points in a week, said she's never been that into exercise, but she is very into winning. To earn the high score, she "swam (her) head off" and lawn bowled with her children, who have helped motivate her to do more.

A certain rivalry has formed between Riedesel's team, captained by Hager, and the teams captained by Karen Peyton and Linda Allen. Riedesel, claiming to help her opponents fill their vegetable requirements, sent bags of candy corn to the members of the two teams. Peyton replied with an allusion to Matthew

16:23: "Get thee behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me." The back and forth is all in jest, and it helps "open communication about fitness," according to teacher Kaleen Graessle.

With the advent of the new program, some new fitness groups among the teachers have formed. Campbell and second-grade teacher April Hejl organized a running group last May that participates in Verne's No Frills 5K on the third Saturday of each month. The entry fee is only \$1, and all the teachers and their families are encouraged to participate. The regular runners have even made themselves team T-shirts. Usually about 15-20 faculty members and family show up, but everyone is invited, and once again, the competitive nature of the race helps motivate the runners.

"My personal goal is to beat Jonathan (Weed) and Mr. Lee," Campbell said. "They're the only two who've beaten me."

Teachers have been increasingly conscious of the physical fitness issue since last year. Several teachers got together and formed exercise and health groups on their own accord. Hager's "Lunch Bunch" used the Weight Watchers program to eat healthfully.

That group continues this year, and has begun doing the P90X workout regimen as well. P90X became popular last year when many members of the coaching staff used it to get in shape; it is now being incorporated into some of the athletics teams' offseason workouts.

Final retreat renews, unites 54 seniors

charles **KIM**
reporter

"I'm very thankful that I could have spent my high school years with you guys," one girl said in front of her classmates.

The students around the campfire shared their feelings about the class.

"I think our class is awesome," another senior said. "Let's keep it that way and make this year great."

BCS seniors said they had a great time and made wonderful memories with their classmates at the senior retreat in Camp Tejas on Aug. 30-31. Accompanying the 54 seniors and sharing a great time with them were class sponsors Chloe Campbell and Devan Loftis, Michele Broadway, principal Jared Lee, and president Marquita Moss.

"I'm very thankful that I could have spent my high school years with you guys."
-a senior girl

"Food was good. I like the zip-line. I actually went upside down on zip-line," Campbell said as she began listing positive memories. "I was also impressed by (the students') acceptance and friendship among each other. I loved their singing."

During the retreat, the seniors enjoyed fun activities, had time to think about their identity, planned their goals for the future, and, most importantly, learned how important it is to be unified as one class.

Camp Tejas provided various activities for the seniors. There were water sports like kayaking and water basketball, classic sports like volleyball and basketball, and extreme sports like zip-lining and rock climbing. These activities let the seniors relax and free themselves from all the schoolwork they had already received and stress from college preparation. The activities helped the seniors bond together once again.

The seniors also had time to consider their identities both as individuals and as a group. Moss spoke about becoming leaders of this world. Lee also told them to set good examples as a class as leaders to underclassmen and to be remembered as an outstanding class to the entire school. The seniors also had an opportunity to set their personal goal and class goals for their final year.

"It gave me a new perspective about the type of change that is needed in our daily lives today - not only in the school, but also out of school," senior Brady Johnson said.



photo: The Bear Tracks

Sliding By Senior girls Abbie Boyd, Jenny Eason, Selena Castro, Paige Garner, Megan Montgomery, Joelle Vargas, Ashley Clement, Amanda Bailey, Katie Miertschin, Hanna Boyd, Lizzy DuPond, Rebekah Teeter, and Jillian Wilson enjoy the retreat at Camp Tejas at the end of August. Behind them, John Alan Archer sends a text message.

Volleyball reaches climax

Beginning at home tonight, girls need wins

ryan **BRUNSON**
reporter

Heading into the final stretch of district games, the BCS varsity volleyball team is currently fifth in district with a record of 3-6. To make playoffs, the team must be in the top four.

This week was to be pivotal for determining playoffs with district matches against San Antonio Christian on Tuesday and TMI on Thursday. Having lost to SACS already, the girls must win the match with TMI tonight.

The team began the season with one win in their first three district matches, beating San Antonio Christian after two close defeats to the Texas Military Institute and Hyde Park, each of which went five games.

Since then they have defeated two other district opponents: Corpus Christi John Paul and San Marcos Baptist; they have lost to Hyde Park and St. Joseph's. The girls have two district home games remaining against Corpus Christi Incarnate Word and San Marcos Baptist.

Brentwood's overall record is 13-14-3, which includes three tournaments played: Fort Worth, Dallas, and the BCS Invitational. The team's best tournament result was third of the 14 teams in the BCS Invitational, behind Fort Worth John Cooper and Hyde Park.

Returning to coach the varsity is Efrain Contreras, who is joined by first-year assistant Paul Sladek. When the season began, Contreras said he expected the district to be competitive, and he said Hyde Park remains the team to beat. Senior Katie Miertschin said the BCS team has improved much over the recent years from

playing these teams.

"We're a good, solid team and we'll fight for every ball," Miertschin said. "We're scrappy."

The TMI game in San Antonio on Sep. 3 was an especially hard-fought battle between the teams and among their supporters as well. BCS lost the first two games by only a few points and won the next two just as closely.

"No game was easy," Contreras said.

Senior Joelle Vargas described it as intense as the BCS fans competed against the TMI crowd, led by several senior boys, and she said that helped her team compete in the games. Contreras said the girls feed off of the crowd, and that the fans helped his team fight throughout the game. Some fans yelled and chanted while the senior boys copied TMI's cheerleading style of jumping on the initials "TMI" imprinted on their gym floor.

"They should maybe consider coming up with our own thing," Contreras said. "But I did like that they were cheering."

BCS eventually lost the fifth game 15-9.

A recent and very rough match was the game at Hyde Park on Sep. 29. The team lost a disappointing three games straight while playing in front of an unsympathetic Hyde Park crowd. The rowdy fans were almost constantly making noise except for an occasional, carefully orchestrated silence right before BCS players would serve the ball.

Contreras said the opposing fans were a little hostile. It made the game more of a struggle for the girls and it may have shown in the scores. But he said he would like the BCS crowd to be similarly more intimidating.

"We need a more difficult crowd," he said.

Hoops season nears

Boys playing Hoop Zone league to prepare

matthew **ARCHER**
reporter

As students do their homework and study for tests, the Brentwood Christian high school basketball teams are hard at work getting ready for the upcoming season, which is now less than a month away.

For the boys' team 16 guys are busy in off-season running and doing other various intense workouts to get in shape for the demanding season ahead. Head coach David Peyton said he is proud of the guys for putting in as much effort as they have and he likes the team's positive attitude. Peyton also said team captains Jacob Cardenas and John Alan Archer, both seniors, are doing a good job of leading the team on and off the court.

"Even though people think we are going to do bad because we lost some players, I think we can be better than most people think," Cardenas said. "We are just going to have to work hard."

Over the summer many members of the team went to Searcy, Ark., to participate in Harding Basketball Camp where they played three or four games a day against other high school teams. Members of the team said it was challenging yet worth it, because it helped the team play better together.

Led by BCS parent and junior high coach Greg Sansom, the team is competing in the fall league at Hoop Zone, playing against

other Austin-area high school teams such as St. Michaels and Hyde Park. The team has taken this opportunity to learn to play better as a team and work on their offense.

The varsity boys have not been to the playoffs since the 07-08 season, but they are hoping to make it back there this year.

"I think the team is showing a lot of potential to have a good season," Archer said. "We are just going to have to work hard."

The Lady Bears have also been working hard preparing for the season by running and working on basketball fundamentals. Though most of the team is playing volleyball, head coach Devan Loftis said he is pleased with the few who are in off-season.

"I expect us to do well," Loftis said. "We lost some of our more experienced players, but our seniors this year are looking good. I think we have a good opportunity to gain another district championship."

The Lady Bears have won four consecutive district championships under Loftis and are hoping to continue their impressive streak.

"I'm so excited about basketball," senior Katie Miertschin said. "Hopefully it will be a really exciting season and we will go to the Final Four again."

Practice starts on Oct. 19, and the first game of the season will be Nov. 3 at Victoria Faith.

Varsity soccer also begins practice Oct. 19, with games beginning in early November.

"Not hostile, but we're too passive."

He explained that he would like Brentwood's fans to be more encouraging to them during games. Sometimes in a game, he explained, the Bears will win the point and nothing happens in the stands. He said he doesn't want to be harsh to the other team, but more uplifting and positive to his team.

There are seven other district schools, not including BCS, and 14 district games that decide which teams make playoffs. Contreras estimated early last week that the team needs four more district wins to make playoffs and that the teams remaining on the schedule are beatable.

After a slow start, Contreras said the team has made consistent improvement through the season.

"We lack height and we're facing taller opponents, but the girls have a good combination of young and old and learn from each other because of it," he said.

This year Contreras said he has a similar coaching style to years past but has made some small adjustments.

"We've mostly been focusing on the skills to becoming better players," he said.

The girls have been working on being consistent in games with their serves and hits. He said he wants them to play an offensive yet sensible style.

"I've been switching players' positions in games and giving the younger players a chance to show what they can do," Contreras said.

The girls have been focusing not only on becoming better players but better sports. Contreras said they're working on sustaining positive attitudes and working on a team concept. He said that respecting each other is the key for good team chemistry, and that moving players around gives the girls a greater respect for the positions that others usually play.

"A lot of us are more patient and understanding when someone messes up," sophomore Jennifer Quinn said.

The team has also been trying to be more official by having both teams introduced before each district game, playing the national anthem before beginning play, praying, and wearing dress clothes during school on district-game days.

"Coach Contreras has a good mindset of what he wants the team to be," Miertschin said. "We're working on having good attitudes and not just worrying about winning."

Contreras credits the girls with the idea of wanting to be more formal, and he said it may help them feel even more like a team.

"We'll be able to tell pretty soon if we're together or not," Contreras said.

Contreras said that there is still work to be done, but that the girls have come a long way as a team in the season and are looking at a good shot at the playoffs.

"They're capable of getting the job done," he said.



photo: The Bear Tracks

Air Time Senior Laura Torres and sophomore Schuyler Hagen watch anxiously as senior Tyla Wells soars for a kill in the BCS Invitational Tournament in mid-September. The girls have faced tough competition in district, but they still find themselves in a position to make playoffs. They need a win tonight against San Antonio TMI, in a match played at Brentwood.

Elementary and JH sports

Elementary volleyball AA

Coach: Kaylee Loftis

Record: 4-1 (3-0 in district)

Coach comment: "The girls play well when they are relaxed and focused – something we continue to work on."

Elementary volleyball A "White"

Coach: Brandie Johnston

Coach comment: "The team is doing a great job, working hard and improving every day. They fight hard in every match and we play each game very close, giving 100 percent to the end."

Elementary volleyball A "Green"

Coach: Meagan Hines

Record: 0-3

Coach comment: "We haven't won a game so far, but I am seeing a big improvement since the first week."

Junior high volleyball AA

Coach: Kaylee Loftis

Record: 4-3 (3-0 in district)

The team kicked off their season going 2-1 in the Concordia Lutheran tournament on Sep. 11-12.

Coach comment: "I feel like these girls will do a great job this season."

Junior high volleyball A

Coach: Brandie Johnston

Coach comment: "This team has had a great season so far. Serving skills and great work ethic are their main assets."

Junior high cross country

Boys coach: Jacob Rotich

Girls coach: Katie Smith

Eighth-grader Kent Howell led the boys at the Oct. 3 race in Round Rock, followed by seventh-grader Jacob Orick. Seventh-grader Haley Hutson was the girls' top runner at the race in Belton.

Junior high soccer

Coach: Devan Loftis

The team beat PAYS International on Sep. 19. Seventh-grader Brodie Brown scored three goals. The team tied 0-0 against the Centex Cyclones in Temple on Sep. 26.

Elementary soccer

Coach: Jesse Jordan

Little Bear Cheer Camp brings out spirit, spunk

ashtyn **PATE**
reporter

Forty-nine little K-6th grade girls were running around the gym, all with the hope of maybe becoming a cheerleader one day. Every one of them wore matching shirts and had spirit through the roof. And all were excited for the next few hours.

On the morning of Sep. 19 the BCS varsity cheerleaders put on Little Bear Cheer Camp, a BCS tradition which was started in the early 1990s. For \$25 – and an extra \$2 if they wanted

a bow – every little girl got a shirt, snacks, and a fun-filled four hours, filled with stunts, "sidelines," and cheers.

"We're helping the girls get to know all the high school cheerleaders," sophomore cheerleader Laura Combs said, "and we also hope to raise their self confidence and help fulfill their dreams."

The camp was broken into three parts and all the girls were divided into groups by their age. Each station had something new for the girls to learn. One was "sidelines," where they learned the simple cheers like "Dominate and

Devastate."

"Learning the cheers was my favorite part," fourth-grader Mae Anne Herring said.

The girls also learned the basic stunts and some long cheers.

To burn off some energy the girls played some games. Two of them were the classics "Little Sally Walker" and "Ships and Sailors," and varsity cheerleaders Katie Clement and Shannon Lesko even got involved in the games.

At the end of their day, the girls got together as one big group and performed every stunt and cheer they had learned that day for their on-looking parents.

"I want to be a cheerleader because it's fun and shows off who you really are, and you get to do stunts and stuff," Herring said.

By the time they were released, the girls ran up to their moms and dads to show everything they had learned that day, and to enjoy some cookies brought to them by one of the loving parents.

State looms for runners

Girls third, boys fifth in district cross country

steven **BAILEY**
reporter

With one week remaining before the state meet, Brentwood Christian's high school cross country teams have had plenty of meets to prepare their young and inexperienced runners.

At the district meet in Corpus Christi on Oct. 2, the girls came in third place overall, with sophomore Brittany Brunson placing third on the two-mile course with a time of 13:45.

Senior Caleb Geer led the boys, who finished fifth overall, by placing 21st on the three-mile course with a time of 20:11.

Corpus Christi Incarnate Word won both the boys' and girls' competition.

Brentwood competed in their first meet of the season, the Belton Invitational, at Long Branch Park in Killeen on Sep. 5. Brunson came in first place for the girls, competing in the JV girls division, with a time of 13:20. Following her in

12th place was freshman Morgan Vandygriff, with a time of 14:26.

For the boys, freshman Steven Bailey led BCS by placing 30th, with a time of 20:12. Following two places behind him was Geer, crossing the finish at 20:22.

At the Cedar Park Invitational on Sep. 19, both the boys' and girls' teams placed 16th. Finishing in 92nd place for the boys was senior Stephane Montgomery, with a time of 20:42; Geer finished one spot behind him. For the girls, Brunson led the way by placing 44th overall, with a time of 13:45.

Boys' coach Jacob Rotich said his team is composed of several closely matched runners who are new to the sport. He said Geer, Montgomery, Bailey, and senior Carlos Zaragoza are all capable of leading the boys.

Rotich and girls' coach Katie Smith will lead the teams into the Georgetown Invitational on Oct. 10. The state meet will be in Waco on Oct. 17.



photo: Ashley Clement

Finish Strong Senior Carlos Zaragoza runs hard through the finish at a recent meet. Along with seniors Caleb Geer, Stephane Montgomery, and freshman Steven Bailey, Zaragoza leads an inexperienced but competitive group of Bears into the state meet in Waco Oct. 17.

Two doctors become new sports medics

kia **KHADEM**
reporter

Athletic director Joseph Walker has announced that this year two doctors will be available to treat BCS students injured during sports events. They will be ready to treat an injured student within a short time of the incident and evaluate how long the student will be gone from sports.

The medics are Dr. Mark Billante, who specializes in orthopedic (musculoskeletal) surgery, and Dr. Kerry Rhodes, a general practitioner.

Walker said the two men, when available, will be in attendance during major sports events such as tournaments.

"They're very useful," Walker said. "We have somebody we trust to help us out, to evaluate how long the athletes will be gone, to get them back as soon as possible, and to make sure they're healthy."

While the sports medics might not be at the actual game at the time of the injury, they will be ready to respond to a student's injury in no more than 24 hours.

Dr. Billante, who has a first-grade student at BCS, pitched the idea to Dr. Rhodes last year, and then both approached Walker. The plan has been warmly received by coaches.

"I think it's necessary because athletic injuries happen occasionally, and you need someone on call just in case," track coach Craig Moore said.

Freshman retreat

morgan **VANDYGRIF**
reporter

Freshmen headed out to Camp Tejas, a fun-filled Christian camp in Giddings, on Sunday, Sep. 13, for the annual retreat.

"This was the first step towards building unity," class president Niky McCaffety said. "You can't expect unity to happen overnight."

Faculty leaders included class sponsors Jessica Love and Kaleen Graessle as well as Travis Pollard, principal Jared Lee, and president Marquita Moss.

Sunday night they all took a hayride deep into the woods where they stopped to sing and roast marshmallows.

The second day was jam-packed with activities that varied from swimming to zip-lining to basketball. Three girls had an adventure while canoeing in the lake.

"I felt like I was in the Amazon and there were all these strange creatures beneath me and I was freaking out," Courtney Flores said. "It was in the top 20 scariest moments of my life."

They were all leaning to one side and the canoe tipped over. Then panic broke out among the three when the canoe started sinking, and Rachel Orick swam to shore while Brooklyn Merkord and Flores sat in the submerged canoe trying to keep it afloat.

"It was a good memory, but at the time it was scary," Merkord said.

JuCo returns

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

JuCo is back.

English teacher Heather Hammock and librarian Tere Hager have revived the Junior High Student Council (JuCo) this year because they said they believe it is important for junior high students to build leadership skills and prepare for Student Council.

The four members, who are all eighth graders, are Jacob Baker, Grace Cammack, Beth McKinney, and Avery Westerlund. In the spring they have the option of adding some seventh-grade officers to prepare them to lead next year.

Students gave different reasons for wanting to be in JuCo. McKinney said she thought it would be a "fun opportunity," while Westerlund said it would look good for college.

The officers meet every other Wednesday in the library during lunch with Hammock and Hager to discuss activities for junior high. One goal is to provide service opportunities to the junior high students.

Every quarter the officers plan an afternoon of fun and games for the students, who will have lunch and all of sixth period to enjoy activities. The first one was Oct. 2.

Hager said the idea is for JuCo to be like StuCo for the junior high, planning activities and promoting school spirit. StuCo and JuCo will meet periodically to share ideas.

Long-awaited addition to BCS coming

continued from page 1

seventh-grader Abbie. He donated in honor of his late wife Donna, and the music wing will be named in honor of her. Baros said he and his wife had planned on donating to the eventual construction before she became ill.

"I find great joy in the opportunity to partner with Brentwood on this project," Baros said.

The Center for Science and the Arts will be located east of the Christian Heritage Building. BCS faculty, administration, and board development committee members provided input into the building design. It will include a 390-seat theatre with an orchestra pit; a science wing that includes biology, chemistry, and physics labs with facilities for chemical and equipment storage and laboratory preparation; and a music wing with spacious, acoustically sound band and choir halls that include practice rooms and storage. The total area will be approximately 20,000 sq. feet.

"For the choir and band, it will be very useful to be able to rehearse on the stage more often around concert performances rather than just the few days before," BCS choir director Missy Weaver said.

For the entire fine arts department, this building will provide more space. The band will have adequate room for sectionals and small groups to rehearse, and the choir will have practice rooms. Theatre will not only have a real stage to rehearse on, but will also have plenty of storage for props and costumes.

"This campaign is so encouraging; it shows how many people care and support the fine arts department," BCS theatre director Cindy Singleton said.

This building is going to allow the expansion and upgrading of the current art classroom, relocation and upgrading of the high school computer lab, and conversion of the current band and choir rooms into academic classrooms, according to mailed material.

"The main thing I'm looking forward to is a more positive learning environment," BCS band director Travis Pollard said.

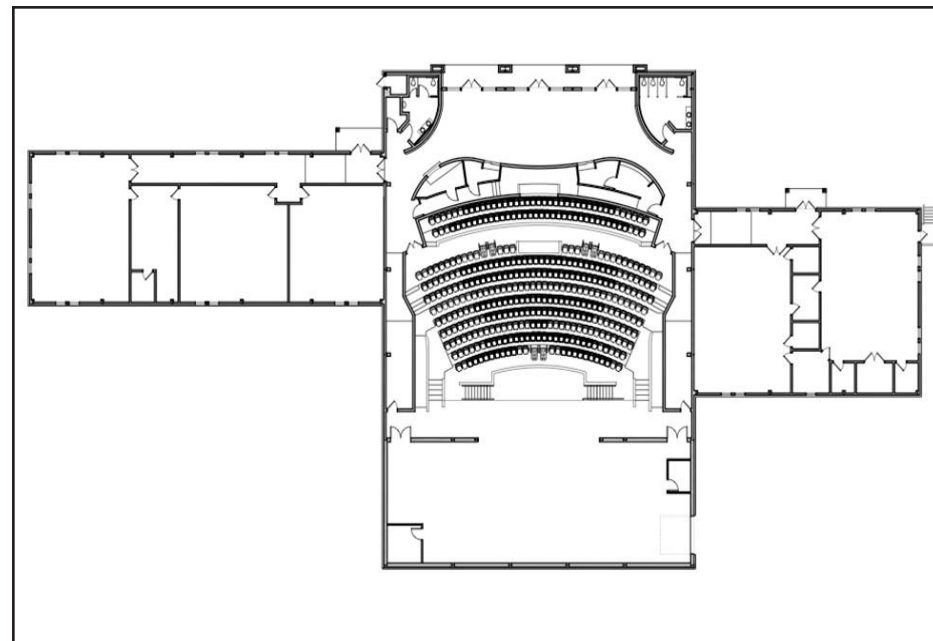
All students will benefit from the opportunities the new building will give the science department. Larger, more modern facilities will enable students to participate in more labs and hands-on learning, according to Biology teacher Tasha Walker.

Moss said she can see God's hand working throughout the whole process.

"It's exciting that the funding is coming through, but it's even more exciting to see that God is working," Moss said.

A feasibility study took place before the campaign was launched. A consultant was hired, and interviews with about 60 possible donors were done to see if this campaign was financially possible. The remaining funds will be raised through more donations.

Moss said her hope is that this campaign, and ultimately the expected outcome, will better



blueprint: Marquita Moss

Almost Here After years of planning, donations, and dedication, the Center for Science and the Arts is turning from a dream into a reality, beginning Nov. 14.

equip students to be leaders in their community, churches, and families.

"It's not about preparing kids for careers in the fine arts, though that may happen for some students; it's about helping them become well-rounded students and to explore their God-given talents," Moss said.

For Moss, her past has shaped her vision for this campaign. At the end of her sixth-grade

year, her family moved to Ft. Worth from the little nearby town of Newark. Moss said the school in Newark had grades 1-8 and probably a total of 120 students. The junior high school in Ft. Worth had about 1,500. She walked

down the crowded hallways every day with her eyes glued to words on a page; books were her friends. However, when she auditioned for the school play and acted a humorous part, she began to step out of her comfort zone.

"The play helped me relate to other students and helped other students see a side of me other than just the 'bookworm' I had become when I moved to Ft. Worth," Moss said.

She said the play enabled her to make friends and provided her an opportunity to grow, and she wants students at Brentwood to have the same opportunity she had.

One of many people on campus who are enthusiastic about this campaign and want this for the students is Weaver.

"I'm excited to be a part of this change on campus," Weaver said. "The students deserve this building for all their hard work they have done and will continue to do in the future."

Moss said she wants others, including parents, to be a part of this change and to come together to make it happen.

"By working together, we will reap a bountiful harvest in the lives of our students for many years to come," Moss said.

*"The students deserve
this building for all their hard
work they have done..."*

-Missy Weaver

Beauty

continued from page 1

Brentwood right now."

Cindy Singleton has returned to teach theatre after the departure of Lindsey Pierson. She last taught theatre in 2004 but has continued coaching humorous and dramatic duets and interpretations every year during TCSIT. Singleton's last musical was "Les Misérables" in the fall of 2003. She then went on to teach Spanish I full-time until this year.

"Mrs. Singleton is really talented," senior Alex Georgulas said. "I've had her as a TCSIT coach since my freshman year, and I've always placed. Her experience shows through her students' success."

The story of Beauty and the Beast was first published in 1740 by Madame Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve. Walt Disney Pictures turned it into an animated movie in 1991 – it is the only animated film to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture. The film was adapted to the stage as a Broadway musical in 1999; the very successful show was closed in 2007.

Practices for "Beauty and the Beast" are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. The play opens on Friday, Nov. 13, and ends Saturday, Nov. 14. There will be two shows on Saturday as well as a "meet and greet" with the characters for little children.

Between the Saturday shows, everyone is welcome to attend the groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction on the new Fine Arts building. The new building will house not only a state-of-the-art stage, but more room for choir, band, art, and science classes. The building is expected to be finished by the end of 2012.