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# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. XXI NO. 1

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2008

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## IN SHORT

### "Stranger Danger"

This week has been Brentwood's second annual Safety Week, and it included activities such as video and poem competitions, fliers and skits, and even visits from the Austin Police Department. All activities focused on awareness of strangers and self-defense.

"Last year we emphasized driving safety, and this year with the school implementing the new locking system as a precaution, we are focusing on the importance of being aware of others around us," coordinator Linda Riedesel said.

### Virtuoso

Eighth-grader Tien Nguyen recently auditioned for the Austin Youth Orchestra on violin and was placed in the Austin Youth Symphony, which is the highest group. She will play with students who are mostly 11th and 12th graders.

"I've been playing for only two years, so it was really exciting and I was proud of myself," Nguyen said.

Nguyen earned third prize in last January's BCS talent show, although in that competition, the versatile musician was playing the piano.

### Going Green

After dropping History and Philosophy of Science from its curriculum two years ago, at the behest of science department chair Mark Broadway, Brentwood now offers Environmental Science for juniors.

With the new class comes a new teacher, Megan Kite, who is pleased with the enthusiastic support from the juniors. She says the class is "good for the times" due to the prominence of global warming concerns, while Broadway says the class will make students "more conscious of the world around them."

# Laptops land in BCS's lap

*Alcoa Foundation's grant allows purchase of computers with webcams*

ben **LANCASTER**  
reporter

Large financial grants are hard to come by, especially for a private Christian school, but that did not stop Renee Haws, mother of two BCS secondary students, from notifying BCS of available grant money through Alcoa, where

her husband, Royce, works.

After a fairly extensive application process, Alcoa recently gave the school a grant of \$23,781 for the purchase of 24 Dell laptop computers, which arrived on campus early this month. They will be used in a new BCS program called "The World at Your Fingertips."

Karen Withem, the BCS admissions director,

and Jacob Rotich, the head of the technology department, spent a good portion of their summers putting together the proposal to acquire the grant. The two had specific roles. Withem worked to determine how the money would be used to help students gain experience that would assist them in the workplace – the end to which the Alcoa Foundation wanted the money to be spent. Rotich, meanwhile, searched for good computers and put together the budget portion of the proposal.

Withem and Rotich, who have both spent many years living in other countries, have a personal interest in the program. They want students to grow more connected to the rest of the world, so that they may be able to learn from and interact with the international community.

At Parent Night on Aug. 28, BCS president Marquita Moss was presented with a check from the Hawses, representing Alcoa. Moss went on to describe "The World at Your Fingertips," and how the program will aid the school in meeting its goal of helping students gain a global perspective.

"Our students will learn to work independently, both creating and navigating interactive websites linking them with the



photo: Kay Taylor

**CHECK, PLEASE** BCS admissions director Karen Withem (left) was instrumental in securing a generous grant from Alcoa, through the work of parents Renee and Royce Haws. BCS president Marquita Moss was pleased to accept the gift at Parent Night.

see **Computer grant**, page 8

## Library turns new page

*Elementary gets new shelves, fresh feel*

lizzy **DUPOND**  
reporter

For the first time in 24 years, the elementary library has been completely renovated. The entire project took up the whole summer, involving a lot of paint, a big truck, and 15 high school teachers. And it all started at Highland Mall.

Sandra Morrow, the elementary librarian, first encountered the opportunity in April when the B. Dalton bookstore in Highland Mall was going out of business. Morrow had been a regular customer, so she was well acquainted with the store owner, DeAnn Wilson. Since the store was closing down, Wilson offered to donate anything that the school could use. Morrow accepted the bookshelves, and that was the start of the renovation.

The journey of the bookshelves from

Highland Mall to BCS was interesting. First, the shelves were taken to an elevator which was four times the size of a common one, according to Morrow. Next, junior Zach Ellis and teacher Mark Broadway transported them to the school in a large rented truck, which was the only expense of the entire project. Once they arrived at BCS, the real work began.

When the new shelves were moved into the library, the old had to be moved out. Morrow circulated an email offering the large wooden bookshelves to the high school faculty. Fifteen teachers responded, and one got her own room remodeled from the offer. Lori Morin got seven bookshelves for the art room, and the change was outstanding.

"They are sturdy, open up classroom space, and provide nice organization," Morin

see **Library**, page 5

## BCS gets new door-locking security plan

leah **UNGLAUB-BROWN**  
reporter

BCS has a new security system called the Presence Management System.

Made by Communications Plus Inc., the PMS consists of a door lock system and a phone system. There are 12 doors with the new security locks, which includes doors from buildings A, B, C, and both gyms. The doors that have the technology open each passing period for the secondary classes, and then lock afterwards. Those who need to get in when the doors are locked must push the call button and then identify themselves to one of the various BCS staff members.

see **Security**, page 5



STORYTIME WITH LAURA PETERSON

# The adventures of Johnny Norwood

*This is the first chapter in a fictional series written by the editor-in-chief. This depiction of life in a small high school is not intended to represent any actual people or events.*

Johnny “Stud-muffin” Norwood loped casually up to the door of Hundred Acre High for the first time. He strode up to the office desk to claim his schedule and then set off to find his first class. He could feel the admiring stares of every girl following him down the hallway, accompanied by the envious glances of every boy. He ran his hand through his dark wavy hair as he deposited his gym bag in his locker, winked at the blonde girl across the hall, who sank breathlessly against the wall, and waltzed into his first class.

And then the alarm clock rang.

Johnny reluctantly wrenched open the portentous double doors of Hundred Acre High School and turned directly into the first door on the left, the office. It smelled like Kinko’s. The incredibly cheerful secretary issued him an enthusiastic “Good morning, Johnny!” and proceeded to introduce him to a student who was sitting down in one of the chairs that are

generally reserved for the troublemakers while they await their impending doom, but Johnny could tell that this kid had probably not earned his seat. “This is Myles McCrary – he’ll be your Hall Buddy for the day. You have almost the exact same schedule!” Myles smiled so big that his glasses moved up with his cheeks, and he eagerly thrust out his arm for a handshake. Then, glancing down at his bulky wristwatch, he exclaimed, “Well, we better get a move on! Wouldn’t want to be late on the first day, eh, Johnny?”

Johnny could not even begin to imagine how much sugar Myles must have eaten for breakfast. Questions tumbled out of his mouth non-stop, and as he fired away his eyebrows moved continuously up and down with unsettling speed. It was exhausting to watch. Johnny settled on a “smile and nod” approach, and gave up on actually answering any of his random inquiries, ranging from what sports he played to what type of calculator he used, as they headed towards Mrs. Gromley’s math class. As Myles was asking about the quality of the tater-tots at Johnny’s old school, Johnny, who had counted fifty-seven eyebrow movements on their walk so far, suddenly slammed into something very solid, knocking him to the ground. The next thing he knew, Johnny was two inches from a pair of massive, size 13 All-Stars, and he felt the color drain from his face as he realized that he had run into a boy. A big boy. A *very* big boy. And he was pretty sure that he was growling. “Johnny, are you all right?” asked Myles frantically. A small audience had begun to congregate to witness the commotion. “Hey, McCrary, did you just call him Johnny? As in Johnny Norwood?” barked Bigfoot. Myles timidly nodded a yes, and to his

great relief, the hulk reached down to help his new friend up, a huge smile on his face. “Johnny! So glad to finally meet you, man! C’mon, I’ll bet Coach wants to talk to you.” Johnny was completely perplexed as to why “Coach” would want to talk to him, but he followed him anyway for fear of getting beat up if he expressed even the slightest disinterest in hanging out with his new pal, the somewhat-friendly giant.

“Hey, Coach! Look who I ran into...er, well... who ran into me. This is Johnny Norwood!”

Upon hearing this name, Coach Walters jerked up from his seat, absolutely glowing as he rushed over to shake Johnny’s hand so quickly that he knocked over the life-size Michael Jordan

cut-out. “So glad to meet you, son. We’ve finally got a shot at state, Ivan! So what position do you play, Johnny?” Johnny was completely stunned. He hadn’t played basketball since Kinderhoops (if you could even call that basketball) due mostly to his general lack of hand-eye coordination. And his slightly less than average height. And weight. “Well, sir...I play the clarinet. But not basketball.” Coach Walters threw back his head with a hearty laugh, slapping his knee. “I like you, Johnny. Isn’t this kid great, Ivan?” The giant laughed too, and patted Johnny on the back so hard he knocked the wind out of him. Johnny gasped and quickly tried to explain how unathletic he was, but every time he said anything to that effect, they both burst out laughing to the point of tears. “Well, son, you better head on to class now. See you in PE this afternoon.”

Ivan pointed him in the direction of Mrs. Gromley’s classroom, still chuckling to

see **Johnny**, page 5

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*...he felt the color drain from his face as he realized he had run into a boy. ...A very big boy.*

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## 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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photo: Jessica Love

**SLAMMA-JAMMA** The senior boys enjoy a game of water basketball at the senior retreat Aug. 24-25. The extensive pool area was only part of the facilities offered to the senior class at Camp Tejas. For the full story, see page 4.

**WILES' WISE WORDS:** Jay Wiles

## Three who rise above complaining

There are so many things that we as students like to criticize: the uniforms, cell phone policy, hall passes, gum rules, and even the small size of our school. Some of you can come up with a bunch more, I’m sure.

And yet, despite all of these factors, three BCS seniors decided to return to school here after having been gone for a year.

Why would a guy leave his parents behind and travel over a thousand miles just to wear Parker uniforms and go to such a small school?

Ask Ben Lancaster. He moved with his parents to Greensboro, N.C., last year, where his dad had found a new job. His parents said if he didn’t like it, he could go back to Brentwood.

Although Ben enjoyed playing varsity basketball and soccer in North Carolina, he missed the “home-ish” feeling of BCS.

“I’ve always just fit in here at Brentwood; my friends here are pretty much my family,” Ben said.

Returning to Austin, he moved in with a friend and is now involved in cross-country, basketball, and soccer here at Brentwood.

Another senior decided to come back after spending the last year in Arkansas. Emilie Baros moved in with a family friend in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. She was having a tough time dealing with her mom’s cancer, and she said she needed to go away and reconnect with herself and with God.

Her mom later passed away on March 2 in Round Rock. Emilie came back for a short time in late February and early March to spend time with her mom during her final days.

Returning to Arkansas, she finished school on May 24 before making her final journey home.

“I really wanted to graduate with this class because I’ve been here since first grade,” Emilie said.

Many of us as her friends can understand why she wanted to come back to Brentwood. She looked past the various annoyances of being in school and decided in the end that this is actually a good place to be.

Audrei Welter spent a year in Charleston, S.C., after her dad got a job there. He later lost that job and found one back in Austin.

“I’m like a high school ‘nomad.’ I have not attended any school for more than one year, and it’s really nice to come back to something familiar,” Audrei said. “The environment here is really good – you can hang out with almost anybody.”

While some may continue to harp on rules they see as unnecessary – and I’ve been guilty of this – it’s not too hard to see past that. Each of these seniors, in choosing to come back to BCS, saw the good. They like the friends, “family,” and the good Christian environment.

They’re glad to be here, and we’re glad they’re back.



# Students go hither, yon on missions

kaalah **MANONGDO**  
reporter

Almost 70 Brentwood Christian students and faculty members ministered to others through mission trips this summer. Their ministry included Vacation Bible Schools, building houses, feeding the hungry, providing medicine to those in need, and praying with the people they were helping.

Mark and Michele Broadway made their annual visit to Zambia again this summer. They were there for a month along with former BCS teacher Renae Click and graduate Kate Click ('08). Medicine and vitamins were distributed to the Zambians, who also had the opportunity to receive spiritual teaching and prayer.

This year Mrs. Broadway worked with Zambian women rather than her usual task working with children. She provided spiritual counseling, helped with Bible studies, and read scripture with the women who had received medicine.

"It was hard because they come from rough places," Broadway said. "Everything was done in the name of Jesus, and it was rewarding."

After the medicine was distributed, the Broadways assisted the teachers at George Benson Christian College, in the Namwianga Mission.

Many Brentwood students went out of state for mission trips. Laura Combs, a freshman, traveled to Chicago, where she helped repair and rebuild churches. Eighth-grader Bree Garcia assisted with VBS in Orange County, Calif., and junior Jamie Furrer ministered in Denver, Colo. Students also went to states closer to home, such as Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Others took the Word out of the country. Juniors Adam Cammack and Andrew Beach ministered in Mexico, and senior John Cha in Korea.

"We helped poor people, building houses, cooking, and just spreading the word of God," Cha said.

Cha, who is from Korea, spent a few days ministering on the island of Wando.

The majority of students stayed local, working at Backyard Bible Clubs and Brentwood Oaks' own Camp Agape.

Bible teacher and former missionary David Peyton said he was glad to hear about the students' efforts to serve.

"I believe (going on mission trips) broadens students' perspectives about this world and allows them to see that 'Bible' is not just a class they take at Brentwood," he said.

# Enter enthusiastic new educators

*Fresh, familiar faces ready to foray into new school year*

brian **PETERSON**  
reporter

Eleven new faces join the BCS faculty this year, including new teachers, aides, and a new extended care director.

Some are walking the hallways for the first time, while others return after extended absences. Many heard of BCS through Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, and others have been sending their children here for quite a while.

Brenda Lippincott joins the staff as teacher of Physics and Chemistry. Lippincott attended Brentwood Oaks from 1989-2002 and was a good friend of Lori Morin. She left Austin to make a career change, and soon finished her teaching preparation at Fresno Pacific University in California. She then taught kindergarten and remedial math in California, meanwhile adopting a girl from Russia.

Lippincott wanted her

daughter to attend BCS, and was blessed with the opportunity to come back and teach. She moved in with the Morin family, renewing their friendship after six years away.

"It's a good school, with good kids and faculty," she said.

Megan Kite also joins the science department,

teaching Honors Biology, Health, and Environmental Science. Like Lippincott, Kite heard of BCS through Brentwood Oaks, where she has attended since she was little. She recently received her B.A. in biology with emphasis in environmental science from the University of Texas.

"It's a ton of fun," she said of her first teaching job. "I'm really enjoying it."

New faces join the English department this year. Heather Hammock is a returning faculty member, teaching junior high English. She taught English and Latin at BCS from 1996-2000 before she left for a stint as a stay-at-home mom. Prior to that, she taught in Oklahoma City for a year. She said she hopes to stay as long as possible, continuing to make a difference in children's lives, which she feels confident she is doing.

Jessica Love comes to BCS after graduating from Harding University in May. She is

see **New teachers** page 8



photo: Laura Peterson

**I'M LOVIN' IT** New English teacher Jessica Love, here with senior Jordan Cleveland, is also serving as the yearbook adviser.

# He likes it! Mr. Lee is back for more

megan **MONACELLI**  
reporter

For the first time in four years a BCS secondary principal is back for more. Jared Lee is ready to tackle this school year with some new goals in mind.

As a rookie, Lee learned some hard lessons and dealt with some tough issues.

"Last year was a year for me to get to know the

students and understand Brentwood," Lee said. "However, this year I feel more comfortable in my shoes and I hope to have more time in accomplishing my goals."

Lee said he has two main goals for this year, and he plans for these goals to be ongoing. First, he wants to build spirituality and unity among the students, as well as the faculty. Second, he wants to boost school spirit.

"My second goal is to build morale in a way that is consistent with Brentwood policy," Lee said.

One way Lee plans to measure the success of his goals will be seeing students more focused in chapel and worship times. He said he also wants to see attitudes become more Christ-like – something he is already noticing.

"I was very impressed with the Family Life Center (FLC) singing today," Lee said on Sep. 8, after this year's first gathering of what was previously called hall singing.

In the past, high school students had the option of going to a study hall during hall singing if they wished to not participate. This year students have the option of going to a devotional time, held in the chapel, if they choose not to go to FLC singing. Lee feels that this is a better alternative than a study hall.

"It will provide a place to come and still worship in a different way," Lee said.

Some students said they thought he was going to be a strict principal when Lee first came. After getting to know him, many have adjusted their perception: He definitely wants the rules to be followed, but he can also be very laid back.

Students and faculty who were asked how Lee is involved in the student body all agreed that he is very active in trying to increase spirituality in the school. He does this by working with the Spiritual Life Committee to plan functions such as Spiritual Emphasis Day. For Lee, this is a top priority.

"I take very seriously the opportunity to impact students' lives in such a way that brings them closer to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," Lee said.

Reading and praying is a part of Lee's everyday life, and he hopes to instill such habits within the student body.

Aside from Lee's spiritual goals for Brentwood, he seems to like Austin. He says he likes the convenience Austin offers, as opposed to Midland, where he formerly lived. One thing he doesn't like is the traffic.

Some of Lee's favorite places to go include Pappasito's, The Cheesecake Factory, and Super Target.

"They don't have Super Targets in Midland," he said.

Whether hanging out at a favorite restaurant or leading students, Lee constantly strives to add to his faith and be a good, spiritual example.



photo: Olivia Brinson

**RING-A-LEE-NG** Second-year principal Jared Lee aims to build unity among students and faculty.

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:** *Olivia Brinson*

*Seniors featured in The Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2009.*

# 'Liv out loud!

*Big-hearted, fun-loving, basketball "beast" leads with laugh, smile*

**eddie CARLIN**  
copy editor

Her trademark smile can be seen a mile away, and her laugh heard just as far. If you haven't met Olivia Brinson yet, it's only a matter of time before her explosive personality touches your life. Known for her easy-going and congenial personality, Olivia lights up Brentwood Christian with her enthusiasm and genuine kindness.

Born Oct. 3, 1990, Olivia grew up in Austin, where she attended Sacred Heart Catholic School until it closed in 2001. In sixth grade, she came to Brentwood, where she fit in easily.

Olivia has made a name for herself on the varsity girls' basketball team as well as by serving as the senior class StuCo representative. But no matter what she does, she is known for her kind and friendly character as well as her strong work ethic and willingness to do any job.

"Olivia has a servant's heart," says Linda Riedesel, the sponsor for StuCo. "She is always thinking outside herself."

Besides acting as a class officer, Olivia is probably better known for her prowess on the basketball court. Though she has only been playing basketball at Brentwood since she was in seventh grade, she worked her way up quickly and has played post for the varsity Lady Bears since her freshman year. On the team, she leads the younger girls with determination and fervor, and even other coaches have noticed this driven, yet genuinely Christian,

athlete.

"Other coaches have come up to me after games and told me they'd love to have ten of her on their team," says Devan Loftis, head coach for the Lady Bears. "She's set the standard by staying after school to work out often, and she helps at camps during the summer. People follow others who are excited about life, and Olivia has fun in everything. Even though she's undersized for a post, she always fights."

When her peers were asked to describe her in one word, a recurring trend appeared.

"Beast," classmates Ben Lancaster and Meghan Quinn both said.

"She's definitely a beast," agreed junior John Alan Archer.

Despite her competitive nature, Olivia is considered everybody's friend by anyone who has ever spoken with her, and her outgoing friendliness and enormous smile immediately put one at ease. Indeed, she has no enemies, and it is hard to get on her bad side.

"Her smile reflects her amiable nature," Ben says.

"She's never mean. Aggressive, but never mean," says classmate Jordan Cleveland. "She just cheers people up with her vivacious personality."

Besides her welcoming aura, Olivia is known for her goofy antics and playful sense of humor. According to Meghan, she once prepared for Sacred Heart's annual jog fundraiser by sleeping in a running position the night before.

Former classmate Tory Kaspar recounts the time in Spanish class when they had to create a Spanish news broadcast.

"The only words in Spanish she knows are 'hace mucho calor hoy' (it

is very hot today), so that's all we had her say in the video," he says, laughing.

"I'll laugh at myself," Olivia says. "Once, Brittany Martin predicted that I would trip in the hall, and I did and spilled all my books. Even people I didn't know came up to me later and mentioned it."

Though she can be silly, Olivia is serious when it comes to school. She says she doesn't know yet which college she wants to attend, but she is considering the University of North Carolina, UT, and possibly A&M.

"I want to be a doctor and go on medical missions and live in Italy for three to five years, where I'll marry an Italian man," she says, showcasing her half-joking humor and her fun-loving approach to life.

This comes as no surprise to her friends.

"She likes men ... a lot," says Meghan, her friend since kindergarten.

"And food," adds Courtney Pool with a knowing look.

"She flirts indiscriminately," adds Jordan with a laugh.

For now, though, the Italian men will have to wait while Olivia serves as a role model for many students at Brentwood, including her younger sister, sophomore Bianca, who says that she is a major influence in her life.

"Everyone has those moments (when they don't get along with siblings)," she says, "But I look up to her. She helps me with homework, and she's really fun to be around."

Olivia stands out as a significant person to her peers, and it is difficult to imagine Brentwood without her. According to Ben, she is "a cornerstone of our class." It is obvious that whatever Olivia does in life, she will do it with confident leadership and a big smile.



## Seniors retreat to Camp Tejas

**mark NESSLAGE**  
reporter

"Service!"

Hearing this word, the opposing team prepares to return the ball in a friendly yet intense game of beach volleyball. After a few volleys, the ball is spiked hard into the coarse sand, which invariably finds its way into the clothes of anyone who sets foot on the court.

This was only one of the many activities available to those who attended the senior class retreat Aug. 23-24, held at Camp Tejas, near Giddings. Along with some group activities coordinated by the Camp Tejas staff, the seniors also enjoyed Ultimate Frisbee, basketball, swimming in the pool, and a full-contact hybrid of the latter two, dubbed "water basketball."

Another activity available to the students was a zip line atop the 45-foot rock-climbing wall.

The students could also hang out in a recreation room furnished with foosball, ping-pong, and pool tables.

The seniors did more than play, though, as several discussions about the students' senior year were held during the retreat. On arriving Sunday morning, a brief church service took place in the antique Camp Tejas chapel. The students then ate a meal prepared by the Camp Tejas staff. The food proved to be a highlight of the retreat for many students.

"The food was awe-inspiring," L'nae Allen said.

After lunch, the students then had several hours of free time, in which they participated in many of the activities listed above. Before dinner, they listened to school president Marquita Moss lead a discussion about their new role as leaders.

The day concluded with a hayride out to a

campfire, where a devotional service was led by sponsor Mark Broadway. After some s'mores, the students headed for their cabins, where most were falling asleep by midnight.

The following morning, principal Jared Lee discussed the importance of "finishing strong," and he had the students set personal goals.

"The retreat helped me get my priorities straight and realize what is important during my senior year," Jae Yi said.

Lee left the retreat impressed by the new seniors.

"They have great (class) spirit and love for each other," he said.

He also said that they are "definitely" ready to lead in the new school year.

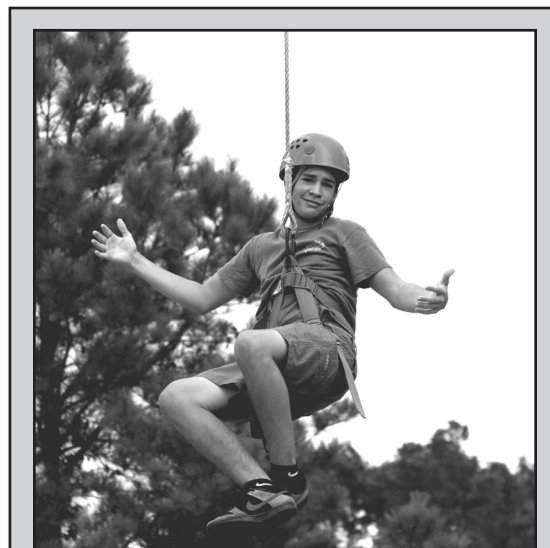


photo: Jessica Love

**"C-DIZZLE" IN THE HOUSE** Cody Iltis enjoys riding the zip line at Camp Tejas at the senior retreat on Aug. 24. Three weeks later, the freshman retreat was postponed by Hurricane Ike.



# Spirited start for StuCo includes serious silliness

rachel KWON  
reporter

From the beginning of August, long before school started, nine students were busy preparing for the year. As their first mission,

members of Student Council served their teachers pasta for lunch during a teacher workday on Aug. 15. Three days later, they also had lunch with new secondary students. On Aug. 22, their first fundraiser, "Back to the Grind," was held as they sold coffee for a

dollar during lunch. Although it failed to raise much money, president Laura Peterson said she and her fellow officers had a good time.

"It was a 'fun-raiser,'" she said.

Peterson became president in May, when junior Alex Georgulas, who won the election, decided to resign his position since he had also earned a spot in Encore. He and StuCo sponsor Linda Riedesel came up with a compromise to do both in "sort-of" ways.

"Even though I was really looking forward to being president, I am happy to take my job of upper-class rep," he said.

According to Riedesel, this year's StuCo has organized their young leaders to create positive atmosphere and school spirit. Riedesel said she really hopes graduates will look back at their years at BCS and say, "Wow! I had fun."

Peterson also stresses the need to increase school spirit.

"Our goal is to increase positive spirit and pride in the school, and we'll do that through fun and random events that will break the monotony," Peterson said.

StuCo's first "random event" took place on Sep. 5, National Be Late For Something Day. StuCo kept students from making it to their second period classes on time by constructing an obstacle course through the hallways.

StuCo's next big event, the high school Back to School Bash, was planned to take place on Sep. 12. However, due to Hurricane Ike, StuCo postponed the Bash until Sep. 26. Georgulas said StuCo plans to have DDR, Guitar Hero, movies, sports, Capture the Flag, and ultimately, much fun.

StuCo also plans to promote a positive, Christ-like attitude among the student body by honoring one student each month, nominated by teachers, who has displayed model behavior. The Student of the Month will be featured on a bulletin board and rewarded with a candy bar and a tiara.

Tonight after the volleyball game, StuCo has planned a movie: "1966 Batman." According to Peterson, students in Batman-like costumes may enter free of charge.



photo: Kay Taylor

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS** Students attempt to get through the obstacle course planted by StuCo to celebrate National Be Late For Something Day on Sep. 5.

## Security in place

continued from page 1

Brentwood's systems administrator Jacob Rotich researched possibilities last spring and presented a proposal to the school. His plan involved CPI delivering the system to BCS and programming the new phones, which replaced the old ones in all the offices and in Mel Witcher's room. CPI also worked with Mitchell's Security Solutions, who installed the door locks.

Unfortunately the system still has some kinks, and doors have not always locked and opened at the right time. The system was supposed to be fully complete in August, but according to BCS vice president Dr. Libby Weed, each company must have thought the other would do certain jobs in the installment of the system. Due to this miscommunication, it took a little longer than expected to complete the task.

"We're still working out some of the kinks, but I think it's great," safety coordinator Linda Riedesel said.

Recently the system has been running more smoothly than ever, with most doors opening and closing correctly. Many typically unenthusiastic students lit up at the chance to press the call button. When someone does so, an alert sounds in one of the offices. Of course, this has created a slight hassle for some. Constantly having to stop and ask for students' identification has been hard work for some BCS staff members, with the secondary front office alone ringing in an average of nearly 50 people a day, according to Riedesel.

There has been no major event that prompted the school to purchase this system, according to Riedesel. Still, many teachers have said they are happy with extra security, "just-in-case." Others have become a little restless with the extended completion date.

"We're still in a wait-and-see stage. If everything goes as planned, we'll be thrilled," Dr. Weed said.

## Johnny Norwood

continued from page 2

himself, and Johnny puzzled and puzzled over the situation all the way down the hall. He finally decided to forget about the whole thing as he slid into a back row desk as inconspicuously as possible, but his hopes of going unnoticed were dashed as soon as Myles burst in the doorway and ran over to his desk, sputtering his relief that he was still alive after such an encounter with Ivan Anderson, his eyebrows doing double time. "Whew, man, Johnny, I thought for sure we were goners!"

At the name "Johnny" the girl sitting two desks in front of them whipped around, her face lit up with expectation...until her eyes fell on Johnny. For a second she stared unashamedly in a scrutinizing manner, and then her face adopted a look of pure skepticism. "Myles, won't you introduce me to your friend?" she asked with a would-be nonchalant expression. "Well, sure, Cassandra! This is none other than Johnny Norwood! We're Hall Buddies!" Myles puffed up his chest proudly as he announced their relationship. (Johnny cringed.) "You're from Scotland, right?" she asked dubiously. "Actually, I'm from Amarillo." What was with these kids? "Oh," was her reply, and her face fell. She turned back around in her seat without another word. Most people would have been at least a little insulted by her obvious show of disappointment, but Johnny had already forgotten the stiff not three seconds later when a little red-haired girl danced in the doorway.

Johnny was head-over-heels in love.

## Library

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observed. "They allow for open, visual storage."

The art program greatly benefited from the library, and soon the library would benefit from the art program in return, with the remodeling of the old puppet show closet. In a hidden corner of the room, which had previously been used by the church for preschool puppet shows, there was a small closet door. The puppet show had been moved to room C129, so the old space in the library was changed to a reading corner. Morrow talked to Morin about painting the little door, so Morin charged seniors Meghan Quinn and Alexis Gardner with the job.

They masterfully re-created a scene from "The Chronicles of Narnia": a misty lamppost amidst evergreens and snow.

When Mrs. Ellis's third-graders learned that the magical scene was painted by two students, they all exclaimed "Whoa!" and stared at it with renewed appreciation. As a testimony for future aspiring artists, Quinn's and Gardner's signatures are permanently visible on the closet door.

Today, the revamped library looks more like a modern bookstore than the antiquated place it had been for the past 24 years. The new, contemporary bookshelves group books in collections of popular series, animal

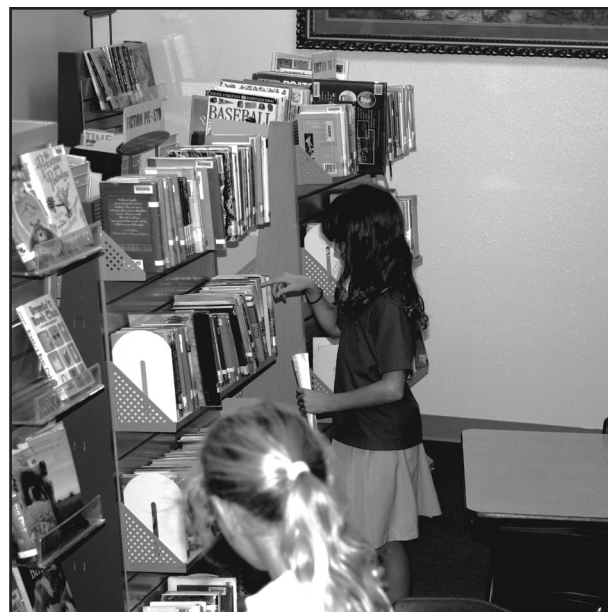


photo: Mark Nesslage

**NOVEL IDEA** Students browse through the elementary library's new shelves, which were donated by B. Dalton.

topics, and educational subjects. Unlike the big wooden shelves, which had been pushed back against the walls, these bookshelves are smaller, metallic, and double-sided. They allow people to wander about the room, and children couldn't be happier.

"It was hard to get around and find books," third-grader Callie Sailors recalled.

"The old was plain and old, and the new one is nice and pretty," classmate Veronica Beagle said. "You can also find yourself where you started."

DeAnn Wilson came to BCS on Sep. 16 to the K-6 chapel to receive a chorus of elementary students saying "thank you."



# Lady Bears win BCS Invitational

*Volleyball girls jump out to hot start, face new district opponents in TAPPS 5A*

**katie LEGBAND**  
sports editor

The Lady Bears' varsity volleyball team won the BCS Invitational for the first time ever Sep. 5-6. They also beat San Marcos Baptist in their first district game before losing to Hyde Park last Thursday, Sep. 11.

Tuesday, the girls lost to SACS, a new addition to the district, making their district record 1-2 (11-4 overall).

Senior Hannah Sinclair was named tournament MVP at the BCS Invitational.

Junior Tyla Wells also made the all-tournament team.

"We want to exceed everyone's expectations, go further than last year, and really show Christ through our attitudes on the court," Sinclair said.

After joining the coaching staff last year as JV coach, Karen Peyton has been the varsity coach this season.

Since the removal of the 5A division in TAPPS, Incarnate Word, TMI-Episcopal School of Texas, Victoria St. Joseph, and San Antonio Christian are now in Brentwood's 4A

district.

Peyton, who played volleyball at Borger High School, said she was pleased with the girls' performance at the BCS Invitational and said the team persevered and was determined to win. She is also very proud of the girls' attitudes, which, according to junior Laura Torres, is a direct result of Peyton's own attitude as a coach.

"She is a very good motivator, and she always focuses on the positive," Torres said.

Sinclair leads the team with 113 kills, 86 digs, and 46 aces. Junior Katie Miertschin leads the way with 150 "good serves," while senior Audrei Welter is tops in blocks, with 59. Wells has 40 blocks, and senior Carrie Thomas has added 66 digs.

The Lady Bears won their first pre-district game of the season Aug. 8 against Hill Country. They lost the first game but then went on to win the next three. That weekend, Aug. 15-16, the girls placed second in the Waldorf Tournament in Austin. They played four games and only lost to New Braunfels Christian in the finals.

The team beat TSD that Monday, Aug. 18, in three games, keeping their opponent under 11 points each game. The next day they hosted the Austin Royals and won in four games, losing the third by two points.

The team then went to the Bracken Christian Tournament near San Antonio on Aug. 22-23 and placed second in the silver bracket. The girls lost one out of three games to get to the semifinals,

where they beat San Antonio First Baptist. They went on to lose to TSD in the finals.

The girls had yet another rematch with TSD on Aug. 26 and won in three games, the last two involving late comebacks that led to two-point wins. The next day, the Lady Bears lost to St. Stephen's.

"I feel the pre-district games and tournament play gave the Lady Bears time to work together and gel as a team," Peyton said. "They move, talk, encourage each other, and most of all, act Christ-like on and off the court."

The Lady Bears are led by senior captains Meghan Quinn and Sinclair. Torres serves as the spiritual leader of the team.

"Laura is the spiritual leader I think because she is always nice and encouraging," Miertschin said. "She is close to God and always leads prayers before and after games and practices.

Peyton says the team's theme scripture for the year is Hebrews 12:1: "...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

## Upcoming Games

9/19 Incarnate Word	Home
9/20 TMI	Home
9/22 at St. Andrew's	Away
9/25 San Marcos Baptist	Home
9/27 Victoria St. Joseph	Away
9/30 TMI	Away
10/2 St. Andrew's	Home
10/7 Hyde Park	Home



photo: Brady Johnson

**GET SOME!** Senior Audrei Welter goes for the kill against San Antonio Lutheran in the BCS Invitational earlier this month. The Lady Bears won the tournament for the first time ever.

## Basketball teams training in weight room, at Hoop Zone

**trevor ATHERTON**  
reporter

Exhausted athletes can be seen working hard under the watch of coaches David Peyton and Devan Loftis every day in the weight room and on the basketball courts. These off-season basketball practices began as soon as school started.

Peyton's workouts for the boys' program consist of push-ups, "squat jumps," and lots of running. Peyton's motto, "The only easy day was yesterday," reminds the boys that every day they come into the gym their workout will be more intense than the last.

"There is very short rest time," sophomore Brett Withem said.

Despite these exhausting and brutal workouts, captains Jacob Cardenas and Nick Sterling push their team to give it their all and never give up. This gives the boys an extra boost when they need it.

"I'm excited about this year's season and I'm

proud of the effort that's being put out," said Sterling, a senior.

The Bears will have bigger schools in their district this year because of changes in TAPPS' classification of schools. TAPPS has taken out the class 6A and moved teams in that category into the 5A slot. While Brentwood is still classified as 4A, many bigger schools have been bumped down from 5A to 4A. The Bears' new district opponents will be Corpus Christi Incarnate Word, Victoria St. Joseph, and Giddings School.

In addition to the workouts, the boys scrimmage both public and private high schools at Hoop Zone. The teams that the Bears play vary from 4A public school Lanier to district rival Hyde Park. The JV boys play on Monday nights and varsity plays on Tuesdays.

The varsity boys won their first game there

on Sep. 9, against St. Stephen's, under the coaching of last year's point guard and current St. Edward's freshman Brady Bowman. Key players in that game included juniors Cardenas and John Alan Archer, and senior Ben Lancaster.

"It's good we play these bigger schools in the pre-season so we know what to expect for this upcoming one," Cardenas said.

*"The season will be tough... but in the end we'll come out victorious." —Olivia Brinson*

Former BCS post player Cameron Riley ('07) coaches the JV at Hoop Zone. Sophomore David Ko led the Bears with 20 points in their first game, a loss to St. Michael's on Sep. 8. These Hoop Zone games will continue though the off-season and are open to the public for a student fee of one dollar.

The boys are not the only ones working hard to prepare for the upcoming season. Under

coach Devan Loftis, the Lady Bears' training is focused on agility and general conditioning. In addition to the workouts given by Loftis during PE, the Lady Bears lift weights together after school.

"We need to out-work our opponents in this off-season," Loftis said.

Loftis added that he is excited about this season and is preparing to make another run for the Final Four. Despite the loss of two seniors, Erica Graham and Lindsay Vandygriff, the team is moving on and receiving leadership from new seniors: Olivia Brinson, Katie Legband, Laura Peterson, Hannah Sinclair, and Rebekah Singleton.

Although many of the girls are currently in the volleyball season, the small group of girls is pushing each other to get faster and stronger.

"The season will be tough," Brinson said. "It will have its ups and downs, but in the end we'll come out victorious."

# Cross country teams hope for return to state's elite



photo: Lizzy DuPond

**ON YOUR MARK** Senior Mark Nesslage, center, prepares for the gun to signal the start of his cross country race at the Belton Invitational on Sep. 6.

**benjamin INGRAM**  
reporter

Mark Nesslage placed seventh at the Belton Invitational on Sep. 6, finishing the three-mile course in 17:37. Fellow senior Nick Sterling placed 12th in 18:02.

Bruceville-Eddy placed first as a team, followed by Burnet and Salado. Brentwood Christian's boys' and girls' teams were ineligible for the overall team standings because they failed to bring the minimum of five runners each.

The course, according to guys' coach Jacob Rotich, was partly hilly and mostly short grass. They ran in mid-70s temperatures at 7 a.m.

Also running for the guys' team was freshman Jimmy Lidgley (21:32), and senior Seth Cole (22:33).

"The guys exceeded my expectations in the first meet," Rotich said.

After finishing third in state last year, the boys have high hopes. Their efforts will be strengthened by the addition of four runners who recently joined the team.

For the girls' two-mile course at Belton, sophomore Jennifer Quinn led the way, finishing 44th with a time of 14:30. Also placing for the girls were junior Lizzy

DuPond and senior Rachel Kwon.

"I am looking forward to seeing the progress these girls are going to make this year," said girls' coach Katie Smith, who has been an assistant coach in recent years but took over for the girls this year.

The Bears' next meet is The Puma Centex Invitational in Cedar Park on Sep. 20.

## Upcoming meets

9/20	Puma Centex Invitational
10/3	District Championships
10/11	Georgetown Invitational
10/18	TAPPS State Championships

# Wait for winter

## Soccer no longer fall sport in TAPPS

**jacob CARDENAS**  
reporter

Winter is a time for family, Christmas, heavy jackets, plenty of hot chocolate, and ... soccer.

The BCS varsity soccer season will begin in the winter this year as opposed to fall, in accordance with a TAPPS mandate that all schools Brentwood's size are no longer allowed to play fall soccer.

As a result of the change, the Bears will also compete in a new district. According to athletic director and soccer coach Joseph Walker, the overall competition this year will be tougher because there won't be any small schools that are "pretty easy wins."

"It'll be tougher top to bottom, but there won't be nearly as many great teams at the top as we've had," Walker said.

The move from fall to winter has brought different reactions from the players, though most would agree that playing in colder weather is a bonus.

"I'm excited about this season because it's something different than what we're used to," junior Brian Lam said. "I think I'm gonna like the cold a lot better."

With the extra off-season time in the fall, the Bears have been working hard. Every day after school, the players run three to four miles and do specific workouts from Walker.

"I think the workouts we're doing right now are going to help in the long run, and if we keep working hard I really think we have a shot at playoffs and championships," junior Alex Georgulas said.

The main focus of this offseason, Walker said, includes fitness, core strength, leg strength,

speed, and as many soccer drills as possible.

Walker said there are a few other advantages to winter soccer besides the weather: It doesn't conflict with club soccer, the teams in the new district are not as far away as in previous years, and scheduling games against public schools is now an option because it's in the same season.

Then there are the two downsides.

"It puts soccer in conflict with basketball, which is bad for some of our guys, but I think we're going to handle that very well," Walker said. "And it leaves us without a fall sport for boys besides cross country, which is a great sport, but isn't the kind of spectator sport that our school can rally around."

Seniors Nick Sterling and Ben Lancaster don't care for the idea of having to juggle both soccer and basketball.

"It'll be nice to play in the cold weather, but I don't like that it has to conflict with basketball," Sterling said.

Walker said he believes all will work out.

"They will have to miss some games, but Coach Peyton and I are on the same page on that and we have a good system in place that we believe will work well," Walker said.

The absence of soccer in the fall brought serious consideration to the addition of football at BCS, but after much prayer and consideration on the part of the elders of the church, the option was ruled out.

Still, some students play with the idea of football at BCS.

"I love slammin' these hooligans at school. Why not on the field?" senior Brad Hughes said, as he laughed at the idea.

Both basketball and soccer begin in November.

# Ready? OK!

## Cheerleaders pumped about new year

**charles KIM**  
reporter

The cheerleaders are starting their own new season.

Brentwood Christian's sports season has just started, and the varsity cheerleading squad is excited to show what they have practiced and planned for this season. This year's high school squad consists of nine members: four freshmen, two juniors, and three seniors.

Unfortunately, the squad has lost many important figures this year, including their sponsor, Laura Leigh Ewing, who led the cheerleaders for a total of three years. Five experienced cheerleaders graduated in June, but four new freshmen were selected from the junior high in April, and they all are working hard to build up the excitement and to support Brentwood sports teams in their first year of high school.

Although the girls don't expect to have an adult sponsor this year, they spent a lot of time and effort practicing during the summer break. In July, they went to Cheer Station, which is located near Brentwood, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every Monday. According to junior Megan Montgomery and senior Nichole Reinberger, they mainly worked on their individual cheer moves and cheer stunts in the station.

From Aug. 4-7, they attended the Universal Cheerleader Association camp at the University of Texas. There, they focused mostly on jumps, new routines, team moves, team stunts, and how to work as a team. They

also shared some ideas for pep rallies and games, and they had to compete with other cheerleading squads at the camp.

"We are just really excited to see how this year will turn out, and we are looking forward to it," said Catherine Marler, the captain of the squad.

Montgomery and Reinberger agreed that their main goals for this year are to find a way to get more people involved and interested in the school's sports activities, and to do their best to support the teams. To achieve their goals, they are working hard to get ready. In fact, the girls meet every Monday at Cheer Station for up to an hour and a half to practice their jumping and stunting. They contribute even more time when pep rallies are coming.

Marler said they are planning to do some more pep rallies this year. Before every pep rally, the cheerleaders actually raise the money required to produce the event. They sell T-shirts, do fundraisers, and teach elementary cheerleaders at the Little Bear Cheer Camp.

Even though they lost five seniors and face difficult circumstances, the girls are still excited and ready to bring the spirit to the school. While they have traditionally only cheered the basketball teams since basketball is BCS's major sport, they are also planning to put up posters and signs, and give small gifts to athletes on all the teams.

"Not having a sponsor isn't really difficult," head cheerleader Haleigh Davis said. "It means that we should be more responsible, enthusiastic, independent, and cheerful."



## Uniform policy extends to chairs

carter **BOYD**  
reporter

For years, multicolored plastic chairs have covered the cafeteria in shades of orange, yellow, and red. But somewhere in the lunch room was the ugly duckling, the lone black chair. Now, however, they're all black. Every chair matches every chair, and there is no lonely black chair.

Near the end of the summer, a shipment of 270 shiny black plastic chairs arrived at Brentwood Christian. At around \$6,000, the cost of the chairs was split between church and school. To help pay for the new chairs, the old colorful ones were sold to Tops, an Austin office supply and furniture company.

"The administration decided that replacing the chairs was something we needed to do," president Marquita Moss said. "We went out one Saturday and power washed them, but they were too dirty. So we had a meeting and decided to replace them. Decisions get made by people working together."

"I miss our old chairs. All of our school's 'ghetto-ness' is gone," junior Michael Sansom complained.

But look closely next time you're eating lunch. The old black chair is still there – one different chair in a sea of uniformity. A triangle hole in the back. Black legs instead of shiny silver. The black chair from last year.



**WE SALUTE YOU** Band director Travis Pollard, a member of the Texas National Guard, was ordered to report to Camp Mabry on Saturday, Sep. 12. As Hurricane Ike hit the Texas coast, Pollard and his 36th infantry division prepared to join relief efforts in the coastal towns. He will be distributing food and water until some time next week.

## Matthew Kelly: 1984-2008

*BCS alum was passionate servant of Christ, prepared for missions*

gabe **BRETERNITZ**  
reporter

BCS alumnus Matthew Kelly ('03) was remembered Aug. 26 for the full, but unexpectedly short, life he led.

More than 250 people Matthew touched came to his visitation and funeral at New Hope Church, the church he grew up in. The funeral's theme was a call to surrender all aspects of life



photo: submitted

to God, as Matthew certainly seemed to do. He was a beloved son, a loving brother, a caring friend, and a congenial acquaintance – he was a boon to everyone who knew him.

"There was grief because he was so young, but at the same time rejoicing, because he was experiencing the hope of glory in Christ," Pastor Mark Weaver said. "He had a deep appreciation for experiences, and he boasted and enjoyed God's presence to its fullest."

Matthew was 23 when he died on Aug. 20, but he lived a fuller life than most people. He was born Dec. 14, 1984, and attended high school at BCS. Teachers remember him as quiet, pensive, and smart. English teacher Linda Pimentel especially enjoyed having him in class.

"Matthew was highly intelligent, but he never flaunted it. He wouldn't talk much in class, but would stay after to talk about the book we were reading or his mission trips or some other thing," Pimentel said. "He definitely marched to a different drummer."

Matthew was somewhat famous around Brentwood for his missionary journeys. He went to Romania before his senior year and loved it so much, he continued to return as often as he could. Later, he traveled to Russia for his summer internship in cross-cultural ministry.

He received a degree in linguistics at the

Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and was preparing to continue his education with postgraduate work. According to Pastor Weaver at New Hope, he knew nine languages at the time of his death and was fluent in German, Russian, and Romanian.

Matthew had many interests aside from missions, but there was always some link to spreading the gospel. For a time, he wanted to get a pilot's license to be a missionary-pilot and fly to hard-to-reach places. He was a skilled photographer, a surfer, a skier, and according to his sister, "good at everything he did."

"He loved hikes," Weaver said. "But his real passion was God. Matt used to ride the city bus to meet people and minister to them, maybe to hand out Bibles. He made an effort to meet people most wouldn't take the time to (meet)."

Matthew was well loved by his family, his friends, and his teachers. He lived a short time, but those who knew him say he used it well. His life was spent furthering the Kingdom of God, and now he is with the God he so loved. Friends say he was unique, he was loving, he was "a true Renaissance man," and he will be missed.

"Matt's sudden and tragic death in August was a reminder that life is but a vapor. Life is a gift," Weaver said. "We need to realize all we have is this moment, so live it for God."

## Computer grant

continued from page 1

world and allowing them, through the use of webcams, to communicate face-to-face with international students and teachers in Asian, African, European, South American, and North American continents," she said to an auditorium full of parents.

Students at BCS will eventually be able to interact with students from countries like Canada, China, and Kenya via the 24 laptops' built-in webcams.

The laptops will be on a cart that can be requested by teachers, much like the TVs or projectors, for use in a lesson. They will function as a "mobile computer lab," according to Rotich, primarily for the English, Spanish, and science departments.

Teachers have expressed excitement about the laptops, but have not completely pieced together how they will use them in their respective curricula. Mark Broadway, the head of the science department, said he will try to use the computers to allow students to learn about other ecosystems from students actually living in those ecosystems.

According to Rotich, the laptops will be well equipped to accommodate the program's high expectations. They will have Windows Vista Business, which is the top-of-the-line form of Vista, and Office 2007, which is the newest version of Microsoft Office and includes familiar programs like Word and Excel. The laptops will also have enough memory and disk space to handle the sophisticated software.

Rotich said the laptops are "very good, heavy-duty, business laptops, able to handle anything."

## New Teachers

continued from page 3

teaching junior English as well as serving as the yearbook adviser. She reports having worked on her own high school yearbook team with great enjoyment.

April Hejl returns to the faculty, again teaching the second grade. This is her fourth year teaching elementary after a three-year period teaching in Children's Ark.

Cindy Nestor returns for her second semester as a PACE teacher working in autism education. Joining her in PACE as an aide is Derend Hamor, who was previously a paralegal.

Lori Nesslage, Melissa Vandygriff, and Becky Orick join the elementary as aides to the first and second grades. With 53 of last year's 54 kindergarten students returning to BCS, as well as new students, the need for aides in these classes will be met by these three BCS parents. Nesslage said she is enjoying her time here a great deal and is happy to help with the great work done at BCS.

Amber Fowler is the new extended care director. She is the mother of a BCS student and the spouse of a BCS graduate.