



# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 25 NO. 1

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2012



## IN SHORT

### Class retreats

The Class of 2013 enjoyed each other's company and discussed their roles as leaders on campus at the senior class retreat at Camp Tejas on Sep. 9-10. All but two of the 39 seniors were present, and they were joined by class sponsors and school administration. Students unified playing sports and games, holding meetings and devotions, and enjoying a hayride.

Two weeks later, 50 freshmen headed to the same destination for similar activities. Their focus was on planning for the future.

### Safety Patrol

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo is again scheduled to preside over the BCS Safety Patrol swearing-in ceremony on Friday, Oct. 26, at 9:45 a.m. in the auditorium. In the event of an emergency, an assistant chief will take his place.

Under the leadership of Kay Taylor, the Patrol will install 12 fifth-graders in the elementary unit and 12 sixth-graders in the middle school. Also to be sworn in are three seventh-grade supervisors whose job is to build up, encourage, and mentor the patrol group members.

### KC Club

About 70 BCS students in grades 1-5 have signed up to be part of a new group called "KC Kids." Formed to encourage the spread of kindness and compassion growing out of the Rachel's Challenge program, these students have agreed to complete at least four school-sponsored service projects during the year.

Leaders are parents Tracy Grooms, Amy Herring, and staff member Kay Taylor. Students in grades 1-2 meet separately from those in grades 3-5; both groups will meet two Mondays a month. Meetings will include activities related to Rachel's five challenges: influence, goal setting, journaling, acceptance, and kindness.

## Secondary welcomes new principal

*With 19 years' experience, Johnson earning respect quickly*

By Hannah Kwon

After five years under the leadership of Jared Lee, Brentwood Christian School is taking a new step with its first female secondary principal since the early 1990s.

Carol Johnson, with 19 years of experience in the educational field, began as a middle school teacher and eventually took several assistant principal positions in different schools in the Austin area. This is her first time as a principal, aside from her one year of experience as a summer school principal.

"I love Mrs. Johnson," secondary teacher Mel Witcher said. "Though it's hard for a person in a new environment, Mrs. Johnson is able to make strong decisions for the good of the school and for the students."

Originally from Albuquerque, N.M., Johnson graduated from New Mexico State University with a B.A. in journalism, advertising, and public relations, later continuing her education at Texas State University where she earned her master's degree in educational administration. She has lived in Austin since December of 1997.

With two grown sons and one attending BCS as an eighth grader, Johnson and her husband

Albert attend East Side Church of Christ, where she serves on the married couples committee and the ladies symposium committee



photo: Joseph Kang

**New boss** Carol Johnson has earned praise from teachers for her leadership.

while also teaching a Bible class for middle school students.

Johnson brings a wide range of experience to BCS, including a semester as a U.S. History teacher at Dobie Middle School, and as social studies and technology teacher at Grisham Middle School in Round Rock for seven years. After that, she worked five years as an assistant principal at Grisham and CD Fulkes Middle Schools and two years as assistant principal at Rouse High School, and at CD Fulkes, where

see **Johnson**, page 2

## "Anne Frank" showing for three nights

By Nicholas Bergeron

The BCS drama department is performing "The Diary of Anne Frank," which is the school's first fall play with three acts, on Sep. 27-29 at 7 p.m. in the Ivy Lea Worley Barton Theater. The students have been working on the production since before school began, and casting was done before summer.

Creating the set for the play presented some excitement and challenges as well.

"We've never done something this technical before," said junior Grace Cammack, the assistant stage manager. "The stage has to be pretty much perfect because that's where the entire play takes place."

"The Diary of Anne Frank," set in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, is a serious play dealing with important themes, namely the Holocaust. The play, written by Frances Goodrich and first performed in 1955, received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The novel on which it is based, "The Diary of a Young Girl," is the personal journal of Anne Frank, a 13-year-old Jewish girl, who is hiding from the Nazis.

Theater director Cindy Singleton said the play was selected because it's "very important."

"We really care that we're honoring this," she said. "It's full of tragedy but hope in God."

Sophomore Haley Hutson will play Anne Frank, while sophomore Tyler Clark will play Peter Van Daan, and senior Travis Clark will play Mr. Frank.

Tickets are available from \$7-\$15 in advance or at the box office door.

## BCS partners with CrossFit, bringing renovation, athleticism

By Lanae Hollingsworth and Andrew Lee

On Monday, the wall came tumbling down.

The Brentwood partnership with CrossFit that began in the summer with the hiring of a strength and conditioning coach has led to the weight room in the athletic center being expanded. The renovation will transform the classroom next door to the weight room into an additional 162 square feet of weight room space.

When the work is completed – likely in October – BCS athletes will have better facilities in which to train for all their sports, including the newest: CrossFit.

High school athletic director Brian Thrift said he has two main goals in teaming with CrossFit, which is a fitness program that licenses its name to gyms, certifies trainers, and sponsors competitions. Thrift wants to give athletes another venue in which to compete for their school, and also to improve the functional performance of the athletes as they play other sports for BCS.

According to BCS director of development Kevin Claypool, the renovation project, which has been discussed for a month and began on

Monday, Sep. 24, is being funded by Brannon Muska, the owner of CrossFit Texas in Pflugerville.

"We're really blessed to have people connected to our school who love our students and really care about their well-being, both physically and spiritually," Claypool said.

Thrift said the transformation of the weight room will be accomplished with the help of some volunteers and through the generosity of CrossFit. New equipment, which will consist of more weights, sand bags, medicine balls, and weighted PVC, will be put in the room within a day or two of the completed renovations. Thrift said the hope is for the overhaul to be completed in three weeks.

It's the second time the weight room has taken space from the classroom. The wall was moved in 2005 to add power racks for lifters.

Thrift said Brentwood's CrossFit team will compete year-round within the Austin area, and BCS will also have the opportunity to host CrossFit competitions on its own campus.

Right now, 40 BCS athletes have been participating in after-school training, according to

see **CrossFit**, page 7



*Thoughts Worth Thinking:* Lanae Hollingsworth

# Editor suggests best way to do something that matters

Our world is filled with hate and a lack of understanding. The last few weeks have been filled with people in Muslim countries taking revenge on Westerners because of a hateful video. There is plenty of hate on both sides, and it has led to death. If instead of hating, we simply accepted the difference of belief and went on because we loved our neighbors, our world would see much less turmoil.

This summer I read "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis, and one of the points I found particularly thought-provoking was his way of looking at the commands of loving our neighbors and enemies. He talks about the fact that we are told to love them as we love ourselves, but sometimes that love includes disgust for things we have done. We can have feelings of goodwill and acts of kindness toward those people whom we see as our enemies, and still hate cruelty and treachery. As Lewis puts it, "Hate the sin but not the sinner."

God calls each and every one of us to love the people of this world. In one verse He calls us to love our neighbors; in another verse He calls us to love our enemies. Both of these are challenges to each of us as Christians. Love is

a small but powerful word; it can make and break. How can we, as Christians, use love to make a difference?

Preachers and pastors often call their churches to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We then go out and think that we want to do just that, but the problem is that we cannot figure out a good place to start. Over spring break this year, I went to Lima, Peru, to work with children in an orphanage. After I got back, I struggled with how to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In the months since, it keeps hitting me in the head that we are called to love. At least once a week something reminds me that I need to love the people I come in contact with: not just the ones I agree with, but everyone. What an easy way to be the hands and feet of Jesus and make a difference in other people's lives: love them.

In my Bible class at church last Sunday, one of the ladies who works closely with the orphanage in Peru spoke about her experiences.

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*What an easy way to be the hands and feet of Jesus and make a difference: love.*

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She told about a young man who told her the difference in what her groups did and everyone else was that they loved the children. The other groups came and left stuff, but the people with Westover Hills came and loved.

If, instead of focusing on hate and revenge, Christians focused on love and giving, our world would be a totally different place. For example, on our senior blog last week, we read an article about how the Samaritan woman at the well is perceived. It went on to discuss how less fortunate people, especially women today, are often looked down upon for things that they cannot help. Jesus could have hated her, but instead He chose to show her love and dislike her actions.

This year at Abilene Christian University instead of sending out big books to high school students, they sent out a "red thread bracelet." These bracelets are made by young women in Nepal who have been rescued from bad situa-

tions. We could choose to hate young women or the people who put them in the situations they find themselves, yet that would not get us anywhere closer to helping the problem. Two students at ACU chose to do something and show love to people in need; they started an organization that helps the young ladies survive.

Do not complain about loving others being hard. Smile at someone with whom you would not normally associate, give them a hug, or start with simply not saying something negative. Do not stop there; allow God to expand your love to where you enjoy loving others. Ask God every morning to help you love others like Jesus did.

I was recently reading an article about the late Princess Diana of Great Britain. The author included this quote of hers:

"I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved. I know that I can give love for a minute, for half an hour, for a day, for a month, but I can give. I am very happy to do that; I want to do that."

The disease Princess Diana talks about has an easy cure. We can be aware of those people who feel unloved and show them Jesus' love.

## Johnson impressed with BCS students

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she was also a summer school principal for a year. She was selected as the 2001 Teacher of the Year at Grisham, and has been a performance excellence examiner for the University of Texas.

"I love working with secondary students," Johnson said. "They can make their own decision, have conversation with me, and are very mature."

Johnson said she thinks highly of the students of Brentwood, especially the secondary students she is dealing with every day.

She said her job description as the secondary principal consists of supervising students' academics and behavior, and making sure they are socially and academically secure. Moreover, Johnson sometimes appears during classes to observe the classroom behavior.

"It's delightful to see Mrs. Johnson respond to BCS students in such a positive way," secondary math teacher Kaleen Graessle said. "I can see how Mrs. Johnson is overwhelmed with the amount of good students in BCS. She keeps saying this intrigued 'wow!'"

A similar response came back from art teacher Lori Morin.

"Mrs. Johnson is open to learning who we are as a school," Morin said. "The important thing is to find out weaknesses and provide solutions to pull us together and to make a better school, and she is doing good job of it."

According to Johnson, BCS differs from other schools in her past in the way that students realize how important learning is while still being very respectful. She also observed that the teachers teach students the wisdom of Christ and his integrity and love.

Johnson has some goals she is hoping to

achieve at BCS, and among these are her desires bring college testing activities to BCS and to elicit school spirit from students as much as possible. Through more pep rallies, grade levels competing with each other in a challenge, school spirit days, and tailgating before games, Johnson is hoping to achieve great involvement among students and their parents, and to bring out school spirit.

Students have noted that their new principal has a personality that allows her to make strong decisions without faltering. They also said they see her during classes a lot, and sometimes they don't even realize she sneaked in because she moves so quietly.

"She is very inviting," senior Matthew Onabajo said. "Mrs. Johnson is straightforward yet friendly... She's a great person."

### Senior retreat



photo: Jessica Love

**Row, row, row your boat...** Seniors Ben Willingham, Matthew Onabajo, Ben Vergese, Joseph Kang, Jackson Graessle, Tiffany Truong, Michelle Dembosky, Desiree Tresslar, and Danielle Riedesel try to keep the "boat" from sinking during a team-building activity on the senior retreat at Camp Tejas, which was Sep. 9-10.

## 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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The Bear Facts is available online at  
[www.brentwoodchristian.org](http://www.brentwoodchristian.org).



THE BEAR FACTS SEPTEMBER 2012

# New teachers, administrators make BCS home

By Morgan Ann Gage

Another school year has begun, bringing with it the shine of new faces – but not just among the student body. This year there are six new teachers, all in the secondary school.

## CHRIS ALLEN

Chris Allen graduated from Abilene Christian University with a B.S. in journalism and mass communications. Staying in the area, he worked as a videographer and editor for a local digital media studio. He later moved to Austin in search of new opportunities, and he soon heard that there was a teaching position available at Brentwood Christian.

“I just thought, how awesome would it be to be able to teach and be passionate in a different light?”

Allen currently teaches Computer Applications, Computer Literacy, and Personal Finance.

“I think having a basic knowledge in electronic media is a great skill set to have when entering into collegiate studies,” he said.

Allen said he has appreciated the hospitality of the faculty and staff.

“I have been overwhelmed by how kind and compassionate the faculty is here and how quick they are to help instead of becoming frustrated with me.”

## KENDRA DEAN

Kendra Dean graduated from Texas A&M University, attaining both her math and Spanish teaching certifications. Before her time there, she traveled on mission trips throughout South America, covering a total of nine countries including Brazil, Mexico, Honduras, Peru, and Chile.

After graduating she moved to Fredericksburg and taught both Spanish and AP Calculus before coming to Austin. But Dean had not always wanted to teach. She admits to having

her college application completely filled out to study pre-med and become a doctor.

“Then I went on a mission trip to El Salvador,” she said. “I just loved it, and decided to teach after that. I do not regret it!”

Dean said she someday hopes to take students from Brentwood on a mission trip of their own, so they can have the same experience she had,

she is excited to be at Brentwood.

“Something new happens every day that makes us happier and happier we’re here,” she said. “I realized that God needed me somewhere else, so I came to be a part of Brentwood.”

Mallet currently covers Biology and AP Biology, and she has also introduced a Forensics class. She is the mother of two BCS students.



photo: Joseph Kang

**New to BCS** From left: Danielle McGhee, Chris Allen, Michelle Mallett, Stephen Colwell, Valerie McBride, Kevin Claypool, Kendra Dean, and J.D. Robson. Colwell and Claypool join the administration.

working with VBS groups and building houses.

Along with teaching Spanish II and III, Dean will also be varsity cheer sponsor.

## MICHELLE MALLETT

Michelle Mallett graduated from Oklahoma Christian University, originally planning to become a doctor like the rest of her family but walking out with a B.S. in pre-med biology instead. She currently has 19 full years of teaching experience on her side, all of which came at her previous school, Oklahoma Christian Academy, where she was named Dwain Hart Christian School Teacher of the Year in 2011.

While she loves her old school, Mallett said

## VALERIE MCBRIDE

New English teacher Valerie McBride graduated from Texas A&M University in May, and is now continuing to work through Texas Teachers while at Brentwood.

“I love Brentwood,” McBride said. “The kids are great, I love the building, love my room, and I get to teach English, which is my passion.”

But McBride says English is not the only thing she has interest in. Over the summer, she worked in Hong Kong to complete a column

see **New**, page 5

# Claypool brings skill to development director post

By Charlie Sinclair

Kevin Claypool is Brentwood Christian’s new director of development, taking on the task of raising money for the school. He already began the big changes he has in store for students by changing the cafeteria food provider. He is a big hit with his sophomore Bible class, and the boys have redubbed him his nickname from college, “K-Swag.”

Previous director of development Brandon Tatum left Brentwood in June, as he accepted the job as the president of Oklahoma Christian Academy in Edmond, Okla. Tatum said he was sad to go and said that the hardest part about departing was leaving the boys’ basketball team.

Claypool has a bachelor of arts degree in Bible from York College, a master’s in higher education with specialization in conflict resolution from Abilene Christian University, and is completing his doctoral studies in organizational leadership online through Pepperdine University. He also is friends with Stephen Colwell, the new director of communications, who referred Claypool to Brentwood after taking the job as director of communications in June. Both attend Westover Hills Church of Christ.

Claypool came to Austin in April of 2011 to a job as a consultant for a tech firm. Before that he worked the director of the first year program and director of residential life at ACU, where

he was also a professor. He also served as a director of residential life at Pepperdine University.

Claypool said he accepted the position because he wanted to be at a place where “both personal mission and institutional direction aligned.” He also said that at BCS, both his passion for a Christ-centered education and working on strategic development are found in the scope of his current position.

“I love being at BCS! It’s such a great place to apply my talents, skills, and passion for education,” Claypool said. “Each and every person that I have had the chance to meet has been such a blessing and joy to get to know.”

# Colwell returns to Brentwood, takes new roles

By Grace Cammack

Two years ago, Stephen Colwell led the first-ever Brentwood Christian girls’ soccer team into the playoffs. This year, he aims to do much more for the school.

After one year away from BCS, Colwell has now returned to be the director of communication and student life. He will also coach the high school girls’ soccer team again.

When asked about his rather vague title, Colwell laughed and boiled it down to basic principles: He wants to let more people know about Brentwood, and he wants to enhance the spiritual atmosphere on campus.

So far he has been “cleaning up the social media face” of the school, creating a new Facebook page and establishing a Twitter feed for the school (@BCSBears), both of which will direct traffic back to the Brentwood website. In the next five years, Colwell said he hopes to expose Austin’s “best kept secret” that is Brentwood.

Initially hired part-time, Colwell just accepted the “student life” position, which he will begin in October as a full-time employee of the school.

Colwell describes himself as a mountain man, born in Montana. He started high school in Grand Forks, N.D. His father, who was in the Air Force, was transferred to Wyoming after Colwell’s freshman year, moving the family to Cheyenne.

Colwell played soccer through his high school years and into York College in Nebraska until an injury during a game fractured two bones in his back. Fortunately, he has been able to stay in the sport through coaching.

Besides soccer, Colwell has been actively involved in tennis, theater, and choir.

Included in his bachelor’s degree in communications is a bit of journalism background. He was a sports writer and photographer for the Marble Falls area newspapers, which also included Llano and Burnet counties. He worked there for four years, leaving for the coaching opportunity at Brentwood and to be a communications specialist for Pflugerville Independent School District.

Colwell, his wife Joy, and their three-month-old daughter June attend Westover Hills Church of Christ. He said he loves the outdoors as well as live music and coffee. He and a few others around his office chipped in to purchase a new espresso machine.

Colwell has known Kevin Claypool, also new to the Brentwood staff, since their days at York College. The Colwells moved to Austin in 2008, followed by Claypool in 2011. After Colwell got his job at Brentwood, he directed the school toward Claypool for development director.



**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Travis Clark**

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2013.

# Renaissance man sings, acts, tests, runs for God

By Jonathon Reich

If someone were to ask you what qualities would define a good Christian leader, what would you answer?

Encouraging? Faithful? Dedicated? The list could go on.

But the more you pried into the essence of the true Christian leader, the more you might find that many of these qualities describe BCS senior Travis Clark, to the point where you might actually be surprised that he does not have his own manual for true Christian character.

To get a good idea of who Travis is, it helps to realize how much he does. His list of activities includes track and cross country, as he has steadily improved his running to the point that he has become the team's best long-distance runner; theater, as he will perform in not only "The Diary of Anne Frank" but also the one-act play later in the fall; choir, which includes Encore and an a cappella group with four other seniors called Harmonics who sing at nursing homes; and band, as well as being a member of Brentwood's Jazz Band. Travis is an AP and honors student, and is active in the Brentwood Oaks youth group. He is also a Boy Scout, and has recently obtained the honor of being one of Brentwood's newest Eagle scouts.

"He's an intense individual," self-proclaimed best friend Rachael Wells says.

For the average person, the amount that Travis engages in might be seen as overwhelming. And while others think he may be overcommitting himself, or stretching himself too thin between all these activities, Travis takes a different view on it.

"Sometimes I ask myself (why I choose to do all this)," Travis says. "And the answer always ends up being that I feel so accomplished being able to do these activities. It's just so fun to me."

Regardless of how many activities he's involved in, Travis admits that some are more prominent in his life than others. For instance, his involvement in musical electives such as choir and band find their way to the front of his list, as seen by his singing in the school hallways and his general passion for them.

His love of running makes cross country one of his favorites as well, even if it might not seem like his forte at first. Due to his poor eyesight, many sports have always been difficult for Travis. He says he never thought that participating in any sport would be plausible for him. But after doing the personal fitness merit badge for Boy Scouts, Travis says he realized he had a passion for running. That passion has

continued throughout high school, and has helped him attain the spot as the top runner of the boys' cross country team.

"I love what I do, and I love seeing God in it," Travis says.

Travis does have interests outside of school as well. One of his favorites is spending time with his friends, who he says are a central part of his life. Although he doesn't get to spend much time outside of school with them, they do participate in many activities in

But even if you don't know Travis well enough to be considered a close friend, that won't stop him from being willing to help. Some of Travis' close friends say that even if he doesn't know someone very well, he will do his best to help a person with whatever he or she is needing.

"He has a caring heart," self-proclaimed best friend Priscilla Glenn says. "He will take time out of his very busy schedule to help anyone."

While his friends have had a tremendous influence on Travis' life, Travis says he believes that simply being at Brentwood has made as much of an impact on his life, if not more. Travis has been around Brentwood since Children's Ark, even though he also attended another preschool.

During his elementary years, Travis says he didn't realize how much of a blessing Brentwood was, but after his first few years of high

elective, or having as much time commitment to one activity, which Travis says he really appreciates.

"I think a lot of students don't realize what they have," Travis says. "I am so blessed. (Brentwood) is like my second home."

Another aspect of Brentwood Travis says he is grateful for is the atmosphere of faith. He says he believes that at a public school, his faith would be discouraged, while at Brentwood it is greatly encouraged for students to be open about their faith. He also believes being here so long has allowed his faith to mature.

"I've matured from being the 'Sunday School Kid,'" Travis says.

He says his faith is not a self-centered one; that he always thinks about how his faith and actions affect others. He also described it as more of a relationship between God and himself, rather than him simply believing that God is there.

"Putting my faith into words is really hard," Travis says. "I'm simply in a state of amazement as to who I am and where God is compared to that."

Other relationships that define Travis' life would definitely be the ones he has with his family. Travis says his family is one of high standards, and that a lot of their family life is driven by that. He says while he sometimes feels exasperated by the feeling that he can't live up to his parents' expectations, they are also very supportive of him, and often come to his musical performances and cross country meets.

"Our parents support us," Travis says. "(They're) what make me push."

Travis also says he has good relationships with his brothers, sophomore Tyler and kindergartner Tanner. Travis says that the relationship between him and his brothers is less complicated than the one with his parents. He says the age similarities play a part in this, especially with Tyler, since the two share many interests. Even though Travis admits that at times the family is heated, overall they will always support each other.

"We're not a perfect family," Travis says. "We have our bumps, but overall we're pretty good."

After graduating, Travis says he wants to get a computer engineering degree from Oklahoma Christian, Texas A&M, or Texas Tech. Some of the reasons he wants to attend OCU include the campus, the "Brentwood-like feel," and the fact that both of his parents went there. Because of his eyesight, however, Travis is allowed free tuition to any in-state public school, which he is thinking of using to his advantage.

As Travis moves on through his life after high school, it is certain that he will try new things and inspire new people with his character. But the experiences he's had that have developed his character will not be forgotten, and neither will Brentwood or the friends he's made at BCS.

"I couldn't ask for a better friend," Priscilla says.



school together. He says his friends are not only good influences for him, but will also "hold him accountable, celebrate in his victories, and be there in times of trial."

"They change me in a way that blesses me," Travis says. "I could not be the person I am without my friends."

school he began to see how many opportunities it offered him.

For instance, at public school, to be in a certain elective, the time commitment is much larger, and managing more than two electives at a time

while keeping up with schoolwork is almost impossible for most students. But at Brentwood, students don't have to devote as much time to one elective; they are free to try more, without having to be in the class for a certain



# Several teachers switch positions

By Becca Willingham

For some teachers, the new school year brought more than just a classroom full of new faces. It brought a whole new classroom, lesson plans, and curriculum.

During a meeting with former secondary principal Jared Lee at the end of last year, Chloe Campbell found out she would be teaching middle school English and drama, and become the eighth-grade sponsor.

Campbell, who has been teaching at Brentwood for eight years, taught middle school drama and high school speech classes when she began. Since then she has taught freshman English for six years and junior English for three years.

Campbell moved from her room upstairs to a more spacious room on the ground floor of the "C" building. She said she enjoys the bigger classroom, since there is more room for her drama class to rehearse.

She said she really loved the curriculum of ninth-grade English, but she is also excited to be teaching middle school.

"I loved teaching the unit over 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Great Expectations,'" Campbell said.

The middle school position became available for Campbell because Cindy Nestor moved on to teach fourth grade, after the retirement of Jodie Coyle. Nestor has been working at Brentwood for a total of eight years including time spent with Children's Ark, one year with the Private Alternative Christian Education program, and the past two years teaching middle school English.

Nestor said she really misses all the kids she taught in middle school, but she loves teach-

ing the fourth graders.

"I can sing and do silly things, and the kids enjoy it," she said.

Nestor said the kids are very energetic and excited to learn, which makes her job very fun. She also said the transition from middle school to elementary was difficult because of the very different schedule, but she is really enjoying

her new job and all the students.

Sandy Wiles, who has been at Brentwood for seven years, has been hired as the new academic adviser and moved from the B building into the C building. She previously taught elementary and secondary computer classes and personal finance.

Although she said she does miss teaching about computers and seeing students' interest in the subject, Wiles enjoys being able to interact with all of the secondary students.

"The beginning of this year was very hectic, but it was fun to meet with each student, both old and new, to figure out their schedules for the year," Wiles said.

Tere Hager, who has been the secondary Brentwood librarian for six years, has now been hired as the elementary librarian, which she said is what she has always wanted to do.

"I love reading stories to the younger kids," Hager said. "Our students love to be read to!"

Although she does miss seeing the secondary students and teachers, she said she loves the elementary students' excitement and eagerness for reading.

Summer Best, who has been working in the Children's Ark pre-school program for eight years, has been hired as the elementary computer teacher and the third-grade teacher's aide. Best loves the fact that she is able to teach all of the elementary.

"Learning 310 names was a bit of a challenge, but it has been so rewarding to get to know each student on a more personal level," Best said.

Best said she still has to get used to the children calling her "Mrs. Best" since in Children's Ark they called her "Miss Summer." Although she does miss the little kids and singing songs, she said she really enjoys the elementary students' excitement toward computer techniques.

DeShondra Booker, who was an extended care aide last year, is now the director of the program. Booker said she does miss playing kickball with the kids, but she likes how she can make a difference with her new position.

"The extended care director wears many hats," said Booker, who has a marketing degree from the University of Texas. "At the end of the day, I pray I wore the hat God would have me wear, when He would have me wear it, and for the amount of time He would have me to do so."



Right here Cindy Nestor says she misses middle-schoolers, but she likes being silly with her fourth-grade class.

## New cafeteria provider brings changes

By MJ Sung

After serving cafeteria food with CC & Company since 1995, BCS switched to Valley during the summer. The administration wanted to offer more options to students, according to business manager James Cogburn, and found a new company that can provide that service for the school.

Valley is headquartered in Jackson, Miss., and also serves a number of other private

schools around the country as well as two other Austin non-profit organizations.

"BCS wants to expand and improve our service to students," Cogburn said. "Valley offered the service we have been looking for."

Cogburn said the school expects to use Valley as long as it is serving quality food and offering food choices at a rate favorable to the students and faculty.

The cafeteria is now giving students more choices of foods each day than it did in recent

years. This year's food company has introduced a four-week cycle menu. It will prepare 20 different entrées, vegetables, and starches during a typical month.

"I like that it has more options, because last year they didn't give much," junior Tiara Henderson said. "The prices are too high and I wish they could go little cheaper, but I still like this year's lunch."

see **Cafeteria**, page 8

## New teachers

continued from page 3

covered in yarn for a company called Knitta Please, which pays \$10 an hour to accomplished knitters and crocheters for them to "Yarn Bomb" random things as a form of art.

Along with this hobby, she also minored in theater, acting in several musicals and plays including "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "1984," and "My Children! My Africa!" She worked in many more as a costume technician and designer.

McBride now teaches all periods of English I, English III, and Grammar Help.

### DANIELLE MCGHEE

A Round Rock native, new secondary librarian Danielle McGhee lived in Durham, N.C., before moving back to start her job on the Brentwood campus this year. She graduated from North Carolina Central University, working in their library and information sciences department dealing with the university archives and serving as a graduate research assistant. She found BCS through a posting on the Texas Library Association job search.

"I saw what the preferred requirements were, and that they wanted someone who had a master of library sciences degree and somebody affiliated with the Churches of Christ, and when I saw that I just thought, wow - that's me!"

McGhee was studying fashion merchandising as an undergrad when she became steadily fascinated with her college's library and the archives that they had.

"That's what kind of altered me to see that maybe it might be something I'm interested in," McGhee said.

As for working at Brentwood, McGhee said she is happy with her role.

"So far so good!" she said. "I just know that this is where I'm supposed to be!"

### J.D. ROBSON

J.D. Robson graduated from Abilene Christian University in May and received an interdisciplinary degree in history, social sciences, Bible, and education.

"I remember it was about my sophomore year in college that I knew I wanted to be a basketball coach or a teacher, and Brentwood has really given me that opportunity," he said. "I see myself doing this kind of thing for awhile."

Robson worked at Pine Cove Christian Camps in Tyler for five summers, this past summer as the program director. As for his basketball history, he played at Cedar Park High School and then at ACU, also helping coach basketball at ACU last year.

"Basketball is kind of my passion," Robson said. "It really has driven me in a lot of areas and taught me a lot of things that I would have not learned otherwise, and really opens the door to do ministry through basketball. That's why I love it so much."

Robson said he is excited for the rest of the school year.

"I've been blown away by the hospitality of the parents, the students, and everyone around."



# Volleyball girls jump out to fast start in district

By Maddie Ashworth

The Lady Bears volleyball team is currently 3-1 in district, after winning road games against Texas School for the Deaf on Sep. 22 (25-12,

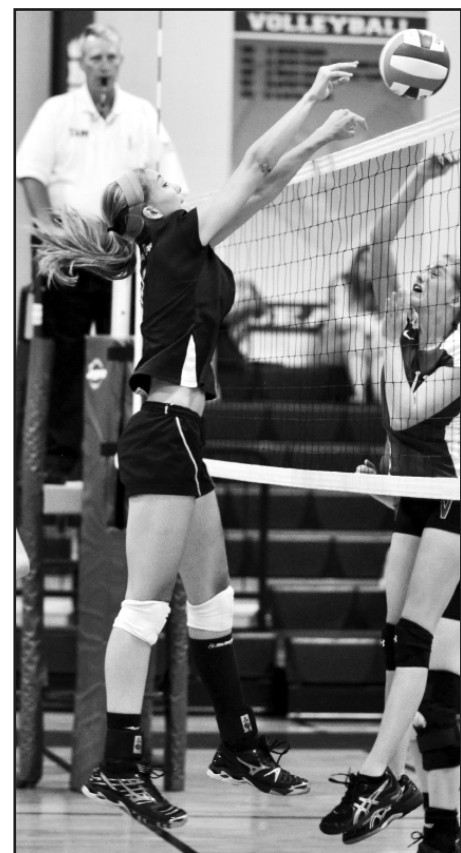


photo: Mark Merkord

**In your face** Freshman Blair Westerlund blocks a ball against Veritas on Aug. 21.

25-10, 25-11) and San Juan Diego on Sep. 24 (25-8, 25-7, 25-5).

Their first district game was a three-set sweep of Central Texas Christian (25-16, 25-11, 25-18) on Sep. 13. Then they traveled to Round Rock Christian and lost a four-set match (25-11, 17-25, 25-21, 25-14) on Sep. 17.

Brentwood began the season with pre-district wins against Hill Country, Veritas, San Marcos Baptist, and St. Andrews, and losses to St. Dominic Savio and Hyde Park. They also traveled to tournaments in Ft. Worth on Aug. 24-25 and San Antonio on Aug. 31-Sep. 1.

"This year is going very well, and there is a lot of progress from last year," coach Britt James-Sauceda said. "Last year we established basic skills."

Returning players are junior Avery Westerlund, who made first-team all district last year; seniors Michelle Dembosky, Masha Heins, Brooklyn Merkord, and Morgan Vandygriff; and sophomore Nicole Glenn. This year's team also includes three freshman starters: Brenna Decker, Keely Hardin, and Blair Westerlund.

Of those, Hardin and Westerlund have played in Junior Nationals the past two years.

"The three freshmen on varsity have brought the level of play up this season due to their year-round club volleyball experiences," James-Sauceda said.

The girls have set goals to make it to playoffs and to win more games than they lose.

Captains this year for varsity are Merkord and Avery Westerlund, and the chaplain is Vandygriff.

"Our team has great chemistry, and we have the drive to go very far," Avery Westerlund said.

The girls placed third in the gold pool dur-



photo: Mark Merkord

**Set, please** Freshman Brenna Decker sets for freshman Blair Westerlund in a pre-district win over San Marcos Baptist. Brentwood has three freshman starters.

ing the Brentwood Invitational on Sep. 7-8. After opening with two wins on Friday, the team played their last two games Saturday afternoon against Bay Area and TSD. The girls lost against Bay Area in three sets, including a very close game, and then went on to beat TSD to get third place, winning in two sets.

"We have a lot of potential for this season

because we have strong leadership and a lot of volleyball knowledge from the younger girls," Merkord said.

Tara Hatfield is the new assistant coach for varsity and head JV coach. She brings many years of coaching experience, including two seasons as the assistant coach at Southwestern University. She was a setter at SMU where she was ranked in the Top 20 in assists in the nation. Hatfield played nine years of club volleyball and four years of high school volleyball prior to playing in college.

"I'm so excited to be a part of BCS volleyball," Hatfield said. "We have had a good start in district. The three freshmen have had a good impact on the team, and we are looking forward to going into playoffs."



photo: Mark Merkord

**Bump...** Senior Brooklyn Merkord hits a ball in a recent victory.

## Led by seniors, cross country teams one month from state

By Connor Crowe

As the state meet in Waco is only three weeks away, the high school cross country runners are continuing to improve their times in every meet.

With eight freshmen, four sophomores, one junior, and seven seniors, this year's team, again coached by Jacob Rotich and Katie Smith, had their first meet in Belton on Aug. 31. Senior Travis Clark was the top runner among the BCS boys on the 3.1-mile course with a time of 20:13, and sophomore Evan Herring followed in 20:28. The boys' team participated in the JV division, placing 12th overall against 13 public schools.

On the girls' two-mile course, junior Marisol Lawson was the top runner among the BCS girls with a time of 13:39, and senior Priscilla Glenn was next in 14:57. The girls' team ran against 1A-3A public schools and placed 10th overall against 12 public schools.

Although the team hosted an invitational at BCS on Aug. 25, Smith said it was really more of a practice meet. This meet was mainly in-

tended for middle school cross country teams, although Round Rock Christian Academy brought one girl and a few boys from their high school team.

The varsity also had meets in Pflugerville on Sep. 14 and in Cedar Park on Sep. 22. At the



photo: Jeff Clemm

**Mud run** The high school girls' cross country team smiles after the rainy Pflugerville meet on Sep. 14. Morgan Vandygriff (second from left) was the team's top finisher.

Pflugerville meet, senior Morgan Vandygriff was the top girl runner on the team with a time of 13:56, and Glenn was next in 14:04. The girls' team ran against 1A-3A public schools

and placed fourth overall against six public schools.

Although it rained at Pflugerville, Smith still felt great about the meet.

"We ran much better at the Pflugerville meet, even with all the rain," she said. "Both meets

are preparing us for our end goal of the state meet."

On the boys' team, Clark was first with a time of 19:29, and freshman Nick Pittner was

next in 20:07. The team placed seventh overall against nine 3A public schools.

At the Puma CenTex Invitational in Cedar Park last weekend, Vandygriff was first on the girls' team with a time of 13:49, and Lawson was next with a time of 13:57. The girls ran in the varsity two-mile division.

On the boys' team, Clark was the first BCS finisher with a time of 19:11, and Herring was next with a time of 19:39. The boys ran in the 4A-and-under division.

The meet was the largest Brentwood has run in so far, with at least 20 schools competing, mostly public schools.

The team plans to compete in two more meets before the state meet in Waco on Oct. 20. They will run in Old Settler's Park in Round Rock on Oct. 6 and in Georgetown on Oct. 13. The first of those will be the biggest meet of the year, with runners from all over Texas.

Smith and Rotich said they feel good about the rest of the season.

"I feel the future is very bright," Rotich said. "We have a lot of freshmen, and they are very strong."



# Football teams strive for excellence, off to fast starts

By John Hollingsworth

The middle school flag football team is 2-1 after a double-overtime loss on Sep. 25, while the elementary 3A team has jumped out to a 4-0 start.

Tuesday's middle school game at Redeemer Lutheran was tied at 13 at the end of regulation. Seventh-grade running back Dillon Smith threw a touchdown to eighth-grade quarterback Jordan Johnson on a trick play, and Johnson connected with Smith for the extra point. Johnson threw to eighth-grader Michael Hickl for the second touchdown, and the extra point was no good.

Overtime rules call for both teams to get two play attempts from the 10 yard line, but neither team scored in the first extra period. In the second, Johnson ran for a score on the second play. Redeemer then converted on both of their plays to escape with victory.

The Bears took a 7-0 victory over Waldorf on Sep. 18. Johnson threw a touchdown to Smith on a fourth-down play late in the second half for the game's only score.

The boys won their first game of the season 14-7 against Paragon on Sep.

7. Eighth-grader Joseph Mohrmann caught a touchdown pass from Johnson, and Smith returned an interception for a touchdown in the second half, which was the difference in the game.

Coach Brian Hall said his team's theme for this year is Philippians 4:8, which challenges the team to think about "whatever is true, noble, and pure."

"My expectations for the season are to strive for excellence," said Hall, who is the father of a BCS freshman. "Do the absolute best we can, and be the best we can in all that we do both on and off the field. Hopefully that will translate into wins."

One of the team's strengths is defense, as they have intercepted five passes through the first three games.

According to Johnson, the team wants to be disciplined, to execute, and to achieve victory all season long.

The middle school team is completely brand new to playing for Hall except for eighth-grader Garrison Ryberg, the only returning member

of the team. Middle school boys who are new to Brentwood but not new to football include Johnson, Smith, and seventh-grade wide receiver Carey Sailors. They all seem to like flag football so far.

"I am excited about starting at quarterback," Johnson said. "We have a good coach, and I love having fast running backs and wide receivers that can catch."

For Smith, who has played tackle football, the hardest part at Brentwood is the no-contact rule.

"You want to put your shoulder down, but



photo: Kay Taylor

**Ready? Catch!** Eighth-grade quarterback Jordan Johnson explores his options as seventh-grader Garrison Arbuckle is ready for the ball. The middle school team is 2-1, while the elementary 3A team is still undefeated with a 4-0 record.

you can't," he said.

One difference for this year is the plan to have a post-season tournament.

"This will be fun for the players and fans," Hall said.

The middle school team's next game is Oct. 2 against St. Austin at 6:30 p.m. at Brentwood.

Elementary has started strong, with the 3A team still undefeated. The 1A has started slowly, posting a 0-2-1 record.

The teams are coached by David Trevino for the elementary 3A, and David Peyton and J.D. Robson for the elementary 1A. However, the teams practice together, and Trevino runs most of the practices.

The 3A team is led by sixth-grade quarterback Connor Troutman, who played quarterback last year as well.

The 3A, made up of mostly sixth graders, won their first game 20-6 against Paragon on Sep. 7 under the direction of Trevino and leadership of Troutman. The offense scored on a pass from Troutman to sixth-grader Micah Best and a run from Phillip Peyton. Nathan Ging

# CrossFit supplying BCS with trainer, equipment

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Thrift. He also said BCS is going to make an announcement soon, looking for students who are interested in joining the CrossFit team. The team will consist of anywhere from 12-16 athletes, including boys and girls.

Thrift said he had wanted to add a weightlifting team, but there was no room for another winter sport. Then Claypool suggested CrossFit to Thrift and hooked him up with Muska, who recommended a trainer named Ryan Christian. After talking with Christian several times, Thrift knew that he was the right person to add to the staff and help coach Brentwood athletes.

"After talking with him for just 10 minutes I could see his heart for serving Christ by teaching people the importance of taking care of our bodies," Thrift said. "He was excited to be able to share his love for Christ to our students through physical fitness and nutrition."

After deciding to work with CrossFit, both Thrift and Claypool knew that the space in the weight room was not big enough.

"We knew it was inadequate for what we wanted to do, so we looked for the partnerships and sought donations to have enough for the flooring," Claypool said.

According to Thrift, CrossFit involves "constantly varied, high-intensity, functional movement." Functional movements are performed in a wave of contractions from core



photo: Lanae Hollingsworth

**Tumbling down!** The high school boys' basketball team works to clear away sheetrock and insulation in the weight room while coach Brian Thrift watches.

to extremity, and are multi-joint movements. Competitions would involve racing against the clock to complete a set number of repetitions in various exercises as well as running various distances.

Rather than competing against teams from other schools, BCS students will compete against times posted by age-level competitors across the nation.

"A Crossfit team will add to our athletic program, and the workouts will strengthen our athletes," Thrift said.

had an interception as well.

In their second game, Peyton led the way with three touchdowns in a 26-12 win. Troutman threw touchdowns to Peyton and Best.

Peyton and Troutman led the team to another victory, beating Regents 19-8 on Sep. 18. Peyton ran back a punt for a touchdown, and sixth-grader Adrian Battle caught a touchdown. Sixth-grader Chase Blackman had two interceptions, and Best had another touchdown reception.

On Sep. 24, the boys defeated St. Gabriels 25-0. Troutman threw touchdown passes to Best, Ging, Graham Singleton, and Riley Walker.

"These guys are beasts; they finished up last season strong, winning their first playoff game and really coming together," Trevino said about the 3A team.

"The defense has really come together after switching to a different defensive set - a 2-5-1, which the kids love," Trevino said.

The 1A team is led by fifth-grade quarter-

back Sam Orick. Orick is new to playing quarterback, but according to coaches his skills are improving.

"I really like playing quarterback; the pressure is always on you, and it makes you work extra hard," Orick said.

A consensus among the 1A players is that both of their coaches are "awesome." Robson is new to flag football but sees that the kids are working hard all the time.

"They are playing hard; all of them have great attitudes," Robson said. "All we can ask is that they play as hard as they can, and if they do that, the wins will start coming."

Both elementary teams play at Brentwood on Oct. 2. The 3A team plays Holy Family at 4:30 p.m., and 1A plays St. Andrews at 5:30 p.m.

Robson and Peyton are both teachers at BCS. Trevino has two boys at Brentwood, one in sixth grade and the other in third.



# Cell phone policy loosens

By Jin Ha Jeong

New BCS secondary principal Carol Johnson announced to the students several changes in BCS policy in the opening assembly on Aug. 21 in the theater. The most significant change involves cell phone usage.

High school students may now use cell phones freely during passing periods and lunchtime, and middle school may use cell phones only in lunchtime. Furthermore students can use cell phones during class for class-related purposes if their teacher allows. If any student is caught using a phone at the wrong time, a teacher will collect it, and the student can pick it up from the office after school. On the second offense, BCS will contact the student's parents to pick up the phone. The third offense includes a \$15 charge.

Some teachers have expressed concerns about students using cell phones in the class. Art teacher Lori Morin is one of them, and Morin said that the freedom to use phones can be abused. Students can be disturbed by texting and games, and even more they can cheat on a test or quiz by sending answers by text or photos.

Since school began, math teacher Kaleen Graessle said she has not seen anybody using a phone in her class. But Graessle said she thinks it is good to have phones available during class,



because students can use them for research. Band teacher Travis Pollard said he thinks it can be beneficial to both students and teachers; using educational smartphone apps such as a Bible app, the teacher and the students can study efficiently.

Johnson said that the BCS faculty is giving more privileges to students, showing them they trust the students. She said this is kind of a trade-off system because the teachers give trust, and the students can respond by showing good results.

A significant change in dress code policy was about to be made, Johnson said, until complaining parents encouraged her to reconsider. Starting in the spring semester, students would not have been allowed to wear jackets that are not BCS uniforms. Such a rule was the plan of BCS leadership many years ago, and Johnson said she felt the time was right to make the change. But she compromised with the parents and agreed to delay this amendment to dress code policy.

Johnson said that she wants to accomplish more equality among students.

"We want all kids to feel the same and feel like they are equal," she said. "We don't want one kid wearing nicer clothes than any other students."

# Cafeteria changes bring mixed reviews

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In the past, students could order trays or get sub sandwiches, pizza sticks, pretzels, peanut butter and jelly, or salad. This year, additional food options each day for secondary students include hotdogs, hamburgers, tater tots, chicken tenders, and corn dogs.

"The food has more variety," senior Long Ho said. "I believe the food quality didn't change much, but overall it is still better than last year."

Other students have stronger opinions. "The quality has gotten better and there are more food choices," eighth-grader Morgan George said. "This year's lunch is awesome."

With all these improvements, some students are concerned about the increased food prices. The price of a tray for secondary students has increased 30 cents from last year's \$4 tray; elementary students receive a smaller portion and pay \$3.80.

"The food has gotten a lot better than last year, but it got expensive," junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer said.

Most students are happy that this year's lunch provides additional options.

"I like that it has more food choices," sixth-grader Blaine Barker said. "The prices are somewhat more expensive than last year though."

Some students have expressed concerns about more than just prices. Many of Evelyn

Ellis' third graders said they would like the option of salad. Older students who can order salad have expressed a desire for larger portions. Students of all ages have complained that the bread is hard.

Still other students said that the cafeteria provides foods that are mostly fried. Offering students pizza, burgers, fries, and ice cream every day, they say, is not helping to form healthy habits in students.

"The food is very greasy," sophomore Duc Minh Phan said.

Unlike in past years, students have not had to place orders in first-period lunch counts. They get to choose foods as they order lunch from the cafeteria.

Without orders being placed in advance, the cafeteria will certainly have more leftovers at times. Cafeteria service director Cyril Shwartz said Valley's policy on leftovers is to discard them after two days. He also said items that can be reworked into another menu such as chicken salad made from chicken breasts follow the two-day discard rule.

When all positions are filled, the BCS cafeteria will have one food service director, three full-time employees, and two part-time employees.

Parent volunteers are helping by serving food and taking student names whenever the line gets long.

# Chapel pairs tall and small

By Joshua Sass

On a Thursday morning in early September, students of all ages are filing into the auditorium for all-school chapel. But this year something is different, as the tall and small are walking side by side and sitting together.

For each of this year's seven all-school chapels, younger classes will be paired with students approximately six years older, beginning with a match-up of kindergartners with sixth graders.

Elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed spearheaded this plan, and she said she wants it to become a Brentwood tradition that lasts for a long time.

Dr. Weed said she hopes the new plan builds relationships across campus between older and younger students. Already, some of the class pairings have started to plan additional activities together.

Michelle Mohrmann's sixth-grade English class is paired with Sharon Howard's kindergarten class, and they have already read books together. The kindergarten then made "thank you" cards for their older buddies. They plan to get together more for recess and reading, and eventually in the spring the kindergartners will read to the sixth graders.

Dr. Weed said she thinks the new format will encourage both older and younger students to sing along in chapel and learn the songs that each group sings. She said she expects this to also encourage students who are not normally well behaved to be good, because they want to be role models.

Secondary principal Carol Johnson said she also expects this to be a permanent Brentwood tradition.

"(The students) really rose to the occasion with this," Johnson said. "I'm really proud of them."

Many students in the middle school say that their elementary buddies are energetic and happy to meet someone in middle school, which seems so far away for them. High school students have called their elementary buddies adorable and well behaved, and have said they hope the plan will continue.

Teachers have also been very supportive of the change.

"I like the new arrangements," Cissy Johnson said. "I think it's good for the older students to realize that wherever they are, other people are looking up to them to see how they act in certain situations."

# Students break sales record

By Madalyn Garelick

Brentwood Christian's annual magazine sales ended on Tuesday, Sep. 25, bringing in a record-breaking amount of \$28,660.

A total of 154 secondary students contributed to this grand total by selling magazines to friends, family, and neighbors for 11 days. The top sellers were senior Danielle Riedesel, sophomore Tyler Clark, and sixth-grader Michael Best.

Part of the money that individual students brought in goes into their account to pay for the D.C. trip for the middle school and the Europe trip for high schoolers.

"My goal is to have my Europe trip paid off by senior year," Clark said.

The sales kicked off during an assembly on Friday, Sep. 14, during eighth period with the first of many daily rallies in the athletic center. A representative from QSP used different videos to explain the process of selling magazines and described the new incentives. Students who sold \$150 worth of magazines are allowed the privilege to leave campus on Oct. 24 and go to Austin's Park. Other prizes students won included pillow pets, iPod Nanos, and cash.

Some students said the rallies were different this year without the enthusiasm of Mr. Lee during the daily weepul games. But new secondary principal Carol Johnson was a fresh face for the fundraiser. During the duration of the magazine sales Johnson went by "Coo Ms. J," often sporting a bright pink disco wig with groovy sunglasses.

"At first I wasn't sure about the magazine sales," Johnson said. "But after the first couple

of pep rallies I got into the hang of it and now I really enjoy it."

Some changes were made to the event, including the replacement of weepuls with frog keychains. Several of the games played at rallies were different, and rather than having all rallies scheduled for the end of the day, Johnson scheduled some for a morning assembly period.

"Mrs. Johnson was such a good sport about the magazine sales," secondary office worker Linda Riedesel said. "She did a fabulous job, and I would say it was a successful sale."



photo: Joseph Kang

**Money!!!** Senior Dominic Ramos fans the money he won during one of the games at a magazine sales rally.