

# THE BEAR FACTS

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VOL. 25 NO. 2

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2012

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CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

## IN SHORT

### Commended scholars

Seniors Travis Clark, Anthony Milan, and Hannah Witcher have been named Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. They were recognized by secondary principal Carol Johnson in all-school chapel on Oct. 11. The students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition by taking the 2011 PSAT. In BCS history, there have been 34 Commended Students and nine National Merit Scholars.

### Blood drive

Nineteen people donated blood in this fall's blood drive, according to student liaison Dominic Ramos, a senior. The Blood Center of Central Texas bus was at BCS from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 18. Participants, who were mostly seniors and a few adults, were given free shirts, snacks, and drinks after donating. Many more students were willing, but they did not meet the qualifications of being at least 17 and at least 123 pounds.

### Vitamin counting

For two days straight BCS students were counting vitamins to be given to children in the 2013 Zambia Medical Mission. The annual pill-counting set up shop in the Youth Center this year and could accommodate about 100 students working at a time, including some as young as first grade. Student Council counted for both days to help those new to the process. High school students sometimes ended up using as many as three class periods a day for the cause.

## Season to remember

*Volleyball girls finish best season in 20 years*

By Maddie Ashworth

Brentwood Christian's best volleyball season in 20 years ended Tuesday night in Bellville, as they were defeated by Bay Area Christian in three sets.

The girls finished second in district with a 9-1 record, and they advanced deeper in the playoffs than any Brentwood team since the Bears were state runners-up in 1992. BCS last won a playoff game in 2003.

With a bus full of Brentwood students in attendance, the Lady Bears began their playoff game against Bay Area in a hole, but they tied the score at 11-11. The teams went back and forth until the Lady Broncos took the lead 20-19 and went on to win the first set 25-22.

In the second set BCS tied the score at 3-3 be-



photo: Mark Merkord

**Smash!** Junior Avery Westerlund spikes a ball during the girls' playoff win over Keystone on Oct. 26.

fore Bay Area took the lead and held on to win 25-17. The Lady Bears took the lead 3-2 in the third set but then lost the lead. They came within one point of tying the score, 22-21, but lost the set 25-22.

Junior Avery Westerlund led the girls with several rallying serve sequences.

The Lady Bears became area champs last Friday, Oct. 26, when they traveled to San Antonio and beat Keystone School in three sets (25-8, 25-15, and 25-13). There were two buses of Brentwood students at the game who came to support the girls, and they arrived back on campus about 9 p.m.

"We expected the game to be more competitive than it was, but as a team we didn't make many mistakes," senior Brook-

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## Cross country girls take third in state meet

By Joshua Sass

At about the 14-minute mark of the state cross country meet, a large group of runners can be seen nearing the finish line with the same color jersey. As they come closer, the letters "BCS" become clear.

In an amazing show of teamwork, Brentwood Christian's varsity girls' cross country team's top five runners finished within 16 seconds of each other. This helped the girls finish in third place in TAPPS 3A at the state meet in Waco on Nov. 20, tying their best-ever finish in 2006.

The guys finished 13th out of 31 teams in the state competition, led by sophomore Evan Herring, who finished in 19:46. The best-ever finish for the boys was also third place, which they did in 2006 and 2007.

The girls' top five runners all got in the top 25 out of 89 on the two-mile race. These runners and their times were junior Marisol Lawson (14:12), senior Priscilla Glenn (14:15), senior Morgan Vandygriff (14:19), freshman Hailey Miller (14:23), and sophomore Haley Hutson (14:28).

"I am so proud of these girls," coach Katie Smith said. "We truly outperformed expectations and have continued the high standard set for this team and this program."

Herring finished 25th out of the 119 runners for the boys; the next BCS finisher was freshman Joshua Sass, who finished 59th. The remaining finishers were senior Travis Clark, freshman Nick Pittner, senior Matthew Onabajo, and freshman Garrett Shake.

Clark, who has been the Bears' top runner at most meets this season, fell and injured his leg early in the race. His time was 22:32, which is three minutes slower than what he had expected to run. Coach Rotich said the guys did really well, considering Clark's misfortunes and Pittner's hip injury.

"The guys did really well at the state meet," Rotich said. "I hoped that they could get top six, but with Travis's injury the team couldn't do as well with one of their best runners gone and Nick still recovering from

see **Cross country**, page 8

## Election 2012: two opinions

Nicholas Bergeron's pick: Obama

Barack Obama should be re-elected as president for many reasons. His past policies regarding the economy, government spending, and the military, and the goals and ideas he has suggested for the next four years make the most sense and will lead to the best results.

First, Obama's policies on defense are very logical and modern. While being heavy-handed on terrorism, authorizing the Navy SEAL team to neutralize Osama Bin Laden and introducing unmanned military drones, both his stated stance and previous actions will lead to removing the US presence from the Middle East, though not before the situation is clearly safe.

see **Election/Obama**, page 2

Hannah Kwon's pick: Romney

Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney should be elected as the new president. Romney's five-step plan to create jobs, the "cut, cap, and balance" pledge, and his tax policies are only a few examples of his many policies that will revive America.

By reducing taxes on investment income, Romney is seeking to stimulate economic growth. The loss of this tax revenue would be offset by closing loopholes and reining in tax deductions and credits available to taxpayers with the highest incomes.

Jeffrey Miron of CNN.com points out the danger in Obama's tax policies.

see **Election/Romney**, page 2

# Election pits differing views on taxes, budget, foreign policy

**OBAMA:** continued from page 1

Indeed, with the situation in Iran – the possibility of nuclear weapons and mounting tension – Obama is prepared to “deal a serious blow to Iran’s nuclear ambition.”

“If we ever have to take action, unlike when we took office, we’ll have the world behind us. And that matters,” Vice President Joe Biden said in the vice presidential debate on Oct. 12.

It is important to note that defense spending was cut under Obama’s presidency. Here’s why that matters: Our economy is struggling, so spending more on military defense when it isn’t necessary only increases national debt. It’s a tough balance between overspending on military and making the country vulnerable by paying too little attention to national security, but Obama has proven himself capable of the task.

The US economy has been failing at an alarming rate, due to mounting debt, military spending, outsourcing, and market collapse. However, Obama has taken actions, such as the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to increase job opportunities. And they’re working; indeed, the unemployment rate is down to 7.8 percent, having dropped 2.2 percent since its peak in October of 2009. Obama and Romney both propose spending cuts to lower national debt, but according to candidate-comparison.org, Obama’s plan is more drastic, projecting \$400 billion savings over the next decade.

The middle class is a key element of any economic plan, and virtually every politician has stated their desire to facilitate growth in that area. However, not all agree on what “middle class” means. Romney’s economic plan defines it to mean households making \$200,000 or less yearly. However, the census department states the median income for American families was less than \$50,000 in 2006-2010. With this philosophy, Romney’s plan would benefit wealthier Americans, but not much would change for the actual “middle class.”

Obama’s past policies and future plans are both modern and well designed. Another four years in his direction would be a good future for America.

**ROMNEY:** continued from page 1

“Obama’s focus on redistribution sends a chilling message to entrepreneurs and innovators, and any negative impact on growth makes the debt situation worse,” Miron said.

Though Obama has insisted that the increase in taxes for the ordinary citizens is part of any deficit reduction deal, the real problem lies in excessive spending. With last year’s shortfall of \$1.65 trillion in Obama’s budget, any additional imbalance will create even more money problems this year. Therefore, Romney’s approval of the Cut, Cap and Balance Act was a smart move to prevent any more preposterous squandering.

Brandon Greife of FoxNews.com agrees on the need for a balanced budget.

“Such an amendment would not only require the government to square its finances under most circumstances, it would also contain specific limits on tax and expenditure increases that Congress could not override without a two-thirds ‘supermajority’ vote,” Greife said.

The PPACA, or “Obamacare,” is not the so-

lution for the nation’s health care problems and will burden citizens. Romney proposes a self-regulatory market competition to take down medical costs which doesn’t burden the government or individuals with extra loads of taxes.

Lastly, Romney is more capable of leading our nation to its potential. While Obama wants the U.S. to take a role more equal to that of other countries in the global community, Romney undoubtedly sees America as a country that holds something different and therefore needs to have a special role.

Norman Podhoretz, the former editor-in-chief of “Commentary” magazine, recalls Obama’s pledge of four years ago to usher in “a fundamental transformation of America” that Podhoretz says will “turn this country into a facsimile of the social-democratic regimes of western Europe.”

“I hope and trust,” Podhoretz concluded at a speech in September, “Americans will reject such a transformation, and elect instead to return to the principles that have made this nation so exceptional – yes, exceptional – a force for good both at home and abroad.”

## 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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*Thoughts Worth Thinking:* Lanae Hollingsworth

## Be the change you envision

“We are the light of the world. We are a city on a hill.”

These words from the song by Kari Jobe have been resounding in my head for three days. They bring to mind an image of many lights, together, creating a beacon for the world to see; lights set out as an invitation to the rest of the world to come and see what makes them shine so brightly.

One of the colleges to which I am applying, Seattle Pacific University, has a mission statement that describes how we, as Christians, are called to interact with the world. It is “engage the culture and change the world.” Thus I have spent a lot of time over the past few weeks thinking about how the phrase impacts my life. What does it look like when we “engage the culture and change the world”? I believe that living out the statement entails two parts, both of which are necessary: We can engage the culture intellectually and actively.

Intellectual engagement also has two parts, our own personal thoughts and the discussions we have with other people. Individuals have to think about their beliefs and the guidelines by which they are going to live. But if all they do is think about their principles, then nothing has changed or been decided. Intellectual interaction with other people is also critical. Having discussions and conversations with people becomes a very important aspect of effecting change. Thinking through an issue with someone will help not only them, but us as well.

The other part that I believe is necessary to create the largest effect in the world is active engagement. This could be serving in an orphanage or taking food to someone in need. By doing these things we are showing people that we care, and that we are willing to spend time to change their world. We have decided what we believe our perspective on life is and have begun to take initiative in sharing it with the world. My hope when I am interacting with society is that other people will see what I am doing and want to follow my example.

I want my acts to be followed by reflection. For me the reflections would be investigating whether my acts were representative of my beliefs. I might find that they were not good representatives of my faith, but I also might find that I do not believe what I thought I did. The reflection would help me as I grow in my beliefs and faith. I hope that the people I encounter in living out my beliefs will begin to think about my actions and how they intersect with their beliefs.

I want to be a force of change in this world in a positive direction and, more specifically, for Christ. This means I will have to engage and share my faith with others before I can hope to impact them. Then I hope that they will begin both to think about things and to act, starting the pattern that will lead them to engaging the culture.

So as Jobe sings, go out and shine your light to the world. Allow others to question you and think with you. Then together we can lay the threshold for change.

## First graders fish



photo: Geri Archer

**For you!** First-grader Natalie Petrik holds up her catch during a field trip to East Metropolitan Park on Oct. 18. With help from lots of volunteers, both first-grade classes fished for perch and even a few catfish stocked by park staff. The next day, they ate fried catfish. Teacher Geri Archer called it “the best field trip ever.”



## New course deals with blood, death

By Grace Cammack

Imagine walking into class only to see a dummy with a huge hole in its head, blood splattered on all the walls, and a hammer lying next to the "corpse." What would you do? The 18 students in the new Forensics class would know exactly what to do.

New teacher Michelle Mallett brought with her a new addition to the Brentwood Christian science department: Forensic Science. The class teaches juniors and seniors everything from DNA and fingerprints to securing and preserving the crime scene.

However, it not only educates the next generation of crime stoppers, but also about a process of thinking. Mallett says the class makes students think more and broadens their use of science. The State of Texas recently approved Forensics as a science credit, so the transition from Environmental to Forensics was smooth sailing.

Secondary principal Carol Johnson said Forensics is more "student friendly," and the topic is very popular right now in the media.

"I love it," junior Erin Atchley said. "It's my favorite science class so far. We get to learn about dead people."

In this new class students can often be seen laughing and learning, a combination not as frequently seen in the typical high school course.

"(Forensics) is not a fluff class," Mallett said. "You will use everything you learn."

All the labs the class does throughout the year lead up to a "real" crime scene in April, complete with fake blood, weapons, a dummy, DNA, and fingerprints. The students will then be set free to answer the question: Who dunnit? After answering this question, they then have to prove it by taking it to a "court" set up by none other than Mallett herself.

"It's more 'hands-on' than Biology. The class actually produces results," junior Jackson Hager said.

Those enrolled in Forensics are not only told about the ins and outs of the crime scene, but actually have opportunities to get their hands dirty with a field trip to the Austin Police Department. The students will be venturing out on Nov. 7 to the real world of forensics where they will see documents, evidence, and might even take a trip to the morgue.

"If you have the opportunity, take it," senior Niky McCaffety said. "It's not pointless."

## NHS celebrates with Cool River, candles

By Joseph Kang

Sixty-five high school students with 41 parents and seven teachers attended the NHS induction ceremony at Cool Rive Café on Oct. 10. Two days later, it was time for the seventh and eighth graders to be inducted into NJHS.

With the welcome and prayer of new secondary principal Carol Johnson, Brentwood Christian's 30th NHS induction ceremony went along with tradition, including an Encore performance, candle lighting ceremony with school president Marquita Moss and five officers, and the NHS pledge. This year's ceremony also featured a guest speaker, Cyndy Miller, who organizes mission trips to the orphanage in Peru where several NHS members served.

This year's NHS president is Lanae Hollingsworth, while the vice president is Grace Cammack. Also serving as officers are historian Amanda Conway, secretary Anthony Milan, and treasurer Ginger Huh.

Fifteen sophomores were inducted along with six juniors and five seniors; 15 juniors and 24 seniors returned, making a total of 65.

"I was impressed that many inductees have already shown their leadership and service by

participating in mission trips to four states and four different countries," NHS sponsor Kaleen Graessle said.

To qualify for NHS, students must have a cumulative grade average of 92 or above, appear

NHS members have opportunities to participate in planned NHS activities, which usually involve service. They can also get an extra day of off-campus lunch on Friday. But they do have responsibilities, upholding the standards

by which they were selected.

According to Graessle, NHS will also continue its partnership with Rosedale School, including their fall carnival, Christmas sing-a-long, field day, and Easter Egg Hunt.

The NJHS induction brought a lot of changes from last year. The ceremony was held in Brentwood's Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater, in the morning, with a reception in the lobby instead of at Cool River Café.

According to NJHS sponsor Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, the change of the place was made in consideration of parents who have children in both NHS and NJHS; they would have to go to the same high-priced restaurant twice. Also, she said the school theater is a close place where all the middle school students are able to attend the ceremony and are motivated to be in NJHS.

NJHS also changed that now seventh and eighth graders are able to join the program, whereas ninth graders should establish their high school grades for NHS.

There were 46 inductees and one transfer into NJHS.



photo: Kaleen Graessle

**Three amigos** Senior Jackson Graessle and juniors Jackson Hager and Skylar Treut-Shaffer clown around after the NHS induction on Oct. 10.

on at least one citizenship honor roll during the previous year, and have no more than two "S-" grades for citizenship throughout the previous year. Students must also demonstrate outstanding performance in the four criteria of NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

## BCS to host this month's TAPPS one-act contest

By Jin Ha Jeong

Brentwood Christian is hosting the TAPPS Division II District 4 One-Act Play Contest in the Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater on Saturday, Nov. 17.

Director Cindy Singleton said it is the first time to hold a TAPPS competition on the BCS campus. On the day of the contest day six schools besides BCS will be at Brentwood: Austin Hill Country Christian, Round Rock Christian, Round Rock Concordia Christian, Bryan Brazos Christian, Austin Veritas Academy, and Temple Central Texas Christian. Each of the schools will perform different plays.

After finishing "The Diary of Anne Frank" on Sep. 29, the BCS theater department went into preparation for the one-act contest. Brentwood will be presenting "The Curious Savage" at the contest, and 11 students are going to be

in the play.

Two days before the contest day, students will perform "The Curious Savage" at the BCS theater on Nov. 15. The ticket price for the 7 p.m. show will be \$5 for everyone. Season ticket holders may attend this performance at no charge.

On the contest day, seven schools will perform their plays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ticket prices are again \$5 for everyone.

On Sep. 8, directors from TAPPS schools had a meeting in Salado, and Brentwood was selected to host the event for the district. Singleton later hosted a planning meeting for the one-act play directors in the district to organize the contest and to allow them to tour Brentwood's theater facilities to get familiar with the stage.

Before the contest starts, there are a lot of things to be prepared. Singleton said BCS needs

to gather a contest director, a technical director, and many volunteers for the contest. She said she also needs to have stage lights adjusted for the contest and organize a full day of rehearsal times for each school to "load in" their things for their play and rehearse for an hour.

Singleton said BCS is hosting the contest for many reasons. One of the reasons is that BCS now has a better theater compared to some places where the hosting stage is at a church or in a cafeteria or gym. Also the theater already has a unit set that was purchased last year.

Furthermore, Singleton said that by hosting the contest BCS can benefit by not having to travel and by "hopefully" having an audience. When they compete at the TCSIT one-act play competitions each spring break, they frequently have no audience besides their sponsors and drivers.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Lanae Hollingsworth

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

# Brainy athlete catches on with all groups

By Madalyn Garelick

High school students often divide themselves into an array of social groups. There are the jocks, the thespians, the gamers, the band, the choir, the studious students, the socialites, and many others. It is rare to find someone who does not try to be in one of those.

Senior Lanae Hollingsworth is that type of person. She will not go out of her way to make herself stand out; instead she is well known for being a quiet leader who demonstrates consistent excellence.

Lanae began at Brentwood Christian as a shy kindergartner in 1999. Even then, she was willing to offer help where it was needed.

"I still remember when I missed the first day of kindergarten, Lanae showed me all around the second day," classmate and basketball teammate Rachel Orick says. "That is what began our friendship that still lasts today."

A standout athlete, Lanae has been a member of the varsity basketball team since her sophomore year of high school and has become a strong, effective leader among the girls.

Her first love in sports, however, is softball. Lanae has been on the Lady Bears softball team since her freshman year. But this was not the start of her softball career. Lanae became interested in the sport at the age of seven. She began playing on a recreational team and then progressed to a select team at the age of 10. Now she is devoting her time just to the Lady Bears, which has paid off. She has earned many achievements including district MVP and first-team all-state her sophomore year.

Not only is Lanae a strong leader on the



Caffety describe Lanae as a committed and focused leader who always stays positive. She pushes her classmates and teammates to be the best they can be.

She also attends Westover Hills Church of Christ where she participates in the youth discussion group.

"My faith is growing each and every day," Lanae says. "It keeps me sane and helps me to keep going."

Outside of her hectic extra-curricular

schedule, Lanae always finds time to bond with her family and friends. She said she loves to curl up on the couch and watch old TV shows with her mom or read a book. She also enjoys traveling. During the summer of 2006 the Hollingsworth family ventured to New Zealand and Australia for a fun family vacation. And last year Lanae participated in a mission trip to an orphanage in Peru during spring break with some of her classmates.

Lanae does not come to school alone. Her brother John is a member of the freshman class and shares a love of sports with his sister. Her mom, Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, is a math and Bible teacher.

Many high schoolers can get caught up in the

stereotypical cliques, but Lanae makes an extra effort to make sure her peers always know they can come to her for anything and she will always make time for them. George recalls a time when Lanae would go to the Spiritual Life Committee meetings partly as a way to spend time with classmate Hannah Witcher, whom she does not often get to see.

"Lanae is one of the sweetest girls I have ever met," senior Dominic Ramos says. "She is a genius, she always keeps a cool head, and she's well organized."

Dr. Hollingsworth says she has enjoyed watching her daughter turn into an adult, growing in the way she thinks, the way she makes decisions and handles herself. She says she hopes Lanae will find a job where she can use all the talents she has been given. But she will never forget the memorable experiences she has had throughout Lanae's childhood.

She still remembers when Lanae went to the movies with some of her friends in elementary school to see "The Emperor's New Groove," and told her parents that she thought the movie was going to be about Emperor Penguins.

Her mom is not the only one who recalls some classic memories. McCaffety recalls spending 10 minutes at the kindergarten campout explaining to Lanae what a S'more was because she had never tasted one before.

Lanae is currently in a battle for the top spot of her class with Travis Clark and Ginger Huh. As for her future, she is not quite sure yet where she wants to attend college, but she has picked her top three choices: The University of Alabama and ACU, where she has been accepted, and Seattle Pacific University. She does know that she would like to continue her passion for sports into a coaching career and follow the steps of her mom and become a teacher.

"I want to change people's lives through relationships," Lanae says.

In the months that she has left Lanae would like to leave her fellow high school students with some parting wisdom.

"Take advantage of the sleep you get, and then spend your extra time just living life. Don't just let it pass by."

# Photo sharing taking off with new programs

By Becca Willingham

Pinterest and Instagram are social photo-sharing phenomena that have taken this nation by storm, and Brentwood Christian is no exception.

With Pinterest, users can create themed "pin boards" with recipes, clothes, crafts and more. The boards are where users can organize their pins, which are the individual images that contain links to the websites from which they originate.

"Pinterest is really fun, and I usually pin things about food because I really, really love food," said freshman Hope Kronke, an avid Pinterest user who also uses the site to get ideas for gifts and decorations.

With Instagram, users can apply different filters to alter their photos for a retro feel. For example, they can implement grainy effects, retro borders around photos, and contrast. Then they share their new creations with other users.

The app was created in October 2010, and since

then 100 million users have joined.

"I like Instagram because you can post a lot of pictures and no one can get annoyed with you," freshman Tori Troutman said.

Most students say they use the app to look at other people's lives and to see what they are doing.

"The only reason I have Instagram is to creep on other people and let them creep on me," sophomore Jacob Orick said.

A few Brentwood teachers said they use Pinterest to get ideas for their classroom. Sixth-grade teacher Karen Peyton said she has pinned recipes, organization ideas, cleaning products, decorating ideas, fashion, and education ideas.

"I enjoy seeing creative ideas that other people have shared," Peyton said.



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THE BEAR FACTS NOVEMBER 2012

# Fun-loving, loud librarian thankful for BCS family

By Jonathon Reich

When you think of a librarian, you may picture a quiet, older woman, maybe with circular glasses and graying hair who loves reading. But except for the fact that elementary librarian Tere Hager does love to read, this image does not describe anything else about her.

“(She’s) hip and cool,” junior and firstborn son Jackson Hager says. “And in with the young crowd.”

Hager confessed that she doesn’t fit the librarian stereotype well. She has described herself as “not very quiet,” and other teachers who know her agree with this. Hager also describes herself as not very artistic, even though she says she tends to spend a lot of her time involved with the fine arts, due to her children’s involvement in them and the friendships that she has with the teachers in this department.

“I’m not very artistic. Mrs. Morin will attest to that,” Hager says. “But it’s nice getting to spend time there.”

But her lack of artistic abilities is surely made up for by her “warrior maiden” characteristics. After struggling to find the right words, Jackson did admit that his mom is a hard worker who is able to carry a lot with her, as shown by the way she handled her husband’s accident several years ago.

“She’s my mom,” Jackson repeats. “She can handle it all.”

Hager grew up in the Dallas and Ft. Worth area as Tere Anderson, where she lived until she went to college. In 1989, Hager graduated from ACU, where she majored in elementary education. In that same year, she married Mark Hager, whom she met on a blind date set up by a family she babysat for at the time.

After staying in Texas for three years, the Hagers moved to Colorado in 1992, where they stayed until Jackson was born in 1995. Less than a year later, after Mark changed jobs, the Hagers moved to Oklahoma, where sophomore and avid Sooners fan Joshua Hager was born in 1996.

Hager says she remembers the time the boys

were both toddlers as “nuts” due to their closeness in age. But Hager says because she lived with a big family that included four older brothers and their children for the majority of her life, she was able to deal with the chaos and noise.

After Mark changed jobs again in 1999, the Hagers moved from Oklahoma back

While Hager says she has not always wanted to be a librarian, she does say that she has always wanted to be a part of the school system. Before coming to Brentwood, Hager worked as a sixth-grade teacher in Arlington, an assistant director of a day care, and a full time stay-at-home mom. Around the same time she was teaching sixth grade, Hager says she was also attending Texas Woman’s University, where she got her master’s in library science.

In 2007, Hager joined the Brentwood staff as the secondary librarian, a few years after her children were enrolled. That same year, her husband was hit by a truck while running down Braker Lane. But while this could have turned

In fact, the only thing that seems to have lingered from this experience is good. While Hager says she stayed with her husband in the hospital for six weeks, other people helped keep up with her kids’ schedules by taking them to and from school and their many practices and other appointments. Hager says that because of all the care she got from the people who helped her and her family, she felt like they had become more a part of the Brentwood family.

“She was so thankful for the help from her family and friends,” Jackson says.

And while the Hagers’ schedule was certainly busy back when that occurred, it could be said that it is even more hectic now that her kids are older. Hager says that all of her children enjoy being involved in extra-curricular activities, which causes most of their family life to revolve around school.

Last spring, Brentwood’s long-time elementary librarian Sandra Morrow retired. While it might seem odd to some that Hager moved to the elementary library instead of staying put, Hager says that the elementary library was where elementary principal Libby Weed wanted her to be. But even though this change may not have been her choice, Hager says she has enjoyed the move a lot.

“I love it,” she says. “I love getting to see all the elementary kids once a week, I love reading to the little ones, and I love not having to kick kids off of Facebook.”

Hager’s interests outside of school include reading books and blogs, and running, although she admits she doesn’t truly enjoy running. She also says that she and her husband love to travel, which might explain the many moves they have gone through while the Hager clan was still young.

And just maybe after working at Brentwood for a much longer time, Hager’s hair will begin to gray, and her eyes might need those wonderful circular glasses that could be seen on the “typical” librarian.

“I don’t have any plans to go anywhere else,” Hager says. “At least until Corrie’s out of college.”



to Austin, where they received their last child, Corrie Pearl Hager.

into a traumatizing experience, it seems like this wasn’t the case.

“It was God’s perfect provision for us,” Hager says. “I could almost forget that it happened.”

## Buddy program helps freshmen integrate, encourages seniors to lead

By Connor Crowe

Imagine you’re heading to lunch, but in a car, with a buddy three years older than you, and you’re going to a restaurant. That’s the BCS freshman/senior buddy program in action.

Headed this year by Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, who teaches senior girls’ Bible, the program’s purpose is to help freshmen integrate into high school and to help seniors to grow in leadership while they pass on some knowledge and skills to the freshmen.

“It’s a way of reminding our seniors how much influence they have,” senior boys’ Bible teacher Mel Witcher said.

One of the goals of the program is for seniors and freshmen to share each other’s strengths and weaknesses. The students are encouraged to build relationships, which many do by going off campus for lunch. Some of the girls even place cookies and other treats in each other’s lockers weekly.

“I take one of my freshman buddies off at least once a week, and we hang out outside of

school occasionally,” senior Brooklyn Merford said.

The way Dr. Hollingsworth prepared the buddy groups was by matching freshmen and seniors with similar interests and then praying about making the right choice about whom to pair up with whom.

Overall there are 39 freshman/senior buddy groups, with 39 seniors and 50 freshmen participating. Some seniors have two or three freshman buddies.

“They did a good job pairing people,” fresh-

man Morgan Gage said.

The first meeting of the buddy program took place on Oct. 3 during Bible period. In the meeting, the freshmen and seniors introduced themselves. Everyone shared their likes and dislikes and passed around snacks brought by the seniors.

Dr. Hollingsworth said she plans to have one freshman/senior buddy meeting every quarter. The senior girls are also planning a Christmas party for all the seniors and freshmen.

# Basketball begins with girls looking to return to state tournament

By MJ Sung

The varsity girls' basketball team started their season with a 47-36 scrimmage win over Waco Reicher on Oct. 29. Their next game will be Tuesday, Nov. 6, at Thorndale.

The varsity boys tip off their season with Waldorf on Nov. 6 at home.

Both teams have high hopes – especially the girls, who made it to the Final Four in the TAPPS 3A state tournament last year. They lost to eventual champion Amarillo San Jacinto 34-32 in overtime.

The girls have made playoffs eight years in a row, and 10 of the last 11 seasons. They also reached the Final Four in 2006 and 2008.

Head coach Devan Loftis said he wants to see the girls come in with a lot of confidence and the desire to work hard and get better each day.

"I expect them to be hungry for another shot," Loftis said.

Brittany Brunson, Megan Gum, Kat Taylor, and Celeste Cole all graduated last year.

"We lost many gifted players last year, but I'm excited about this year's season because we've got many gifted players returning," senior Morgan Vandygriff said.

This year's returning players include Vandygriff and senior Rachel Orick, both of whom received honorable mention all-state last year. On the second team were senior Brooklyn Merckord and sophomore Nicole Glenn.

The team also picked up junior Ariana Marks, who played at Pflugerville High last year and, according to Loftis, will be a key player.

Orick tore her ACL late in the summer, and the point guard has been unable to practice. Loftis said he hopes she will be back during district play. Regardless, he is optimistic about the season.

"We'd like to add another district championship and get back to the Final Four," said Loftis, whose team has won six district championships, all in the last seven years. "Most importantly, we want to work hard to honor Christ and represent our school well."

The first district game for the girls' and boys' teams is Jan. 4 against Round Rock Christian.

The varsity boys ended their season with a 67-37 loss to New Braunfels Christian Academy in the first round of playoffs last February.

Having lost only one senior, returning players include senior Matthew Archer, who made first-team all-district, and juniors Mike Taylor and Wesley Mory, who made the second team. Junior Kent Howell and sophomore Cody Hunt were given honorable mention.

"We've been really working hard this year in off season," Archer said. "Everyone's gotten a lot better, and I think we are going to do well."

Last year, Brandon Tatum was the boys' varsity coach, but in June he took a job in Oklahoma. Brian Thrift, the high school athletic director, became the new varsity head coach, with David Peyton, J.D. Robson, and Jared Lyons as his assistants.

"I expect the returning players to come to practice every day to be willing to learn our system and to be leaders to our younger kids

on the team and in the classroom," head coach Brian Thrift said. "I also expect them to think that we deserve to win every game."

Thrift is a former basketball coach at Olivet Nazarene University, Abilene Christian University, and Rochester College. He was an assistant basketball coach at ACU and an assistant athletic director at Rochester, which is in Michigan. He was also in charge of monitoring athletes' academic progress, as well as facilities and sports marketing.

"Our goal this season is to get better each game, building towards a chance at a district championship," Thrift said.

Peyton is beginning his seventh year with the team, while Robson and Lyons are new. Robson, a student assistant coach last year at ACU, said he is very excited to be a part of the thing he loves while doing it in a Christian environment.

Lyons played basketball at the University of Houston and is a member of the East Side Church of Christ.

# Football seasons conclude with postseason tournaments

By John Hollingsworth

Brentwood's middle school flag football team wrapped up their season last week at 6-4, taking fourth place in the AIPL tournament.

The elementary 3A team, composed of sixth-graders, finished their season 7-3 after a disappointing loss in the opening round of their tournament on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

The middle school team opened its tournament with a 19-7 win over St. Austin on Oct. 23. Seventh-grader Dillon Smith had a touchdown run and a touchdown catch. His classmate Carey Sailors had a touchdown catch as well. Both passes were from eighth-grader Jordan Johnson. The defense came up with three interceptions, including one each from Smith and eighth-graders Michael Hickl and Garrison Ryberg.

Two days later the team had its hands full and lost to St. Ignatius 21-12, which knocked them into the consolation game on Oct. 27.

The Bears' first score came on a pass from Johnson to Sailors. St. Ignatius was ahead 12-6 late in the second half and driving when seventh-grader Zach East made an interception in the end zone to stop the touchdown drive. He tried to run it out and was stopped on the one yard line. On the next play, Johnson was sacked in the end zone for a safety.

After BCS kicked the ball off, St. Ignatius drove down the field and scored. Brentwood then answered with a touchdown, as Smith scored on a reverse to make it 21-12.

"We played well, just not well enough," head coach Brian Hall said. "As has been the case all year long, we had some lapses that hurt us."

In Saturday's consolation game, Brentwood lost 18-13. Both Brentwood touchdowns were scored on option runs by Smith, who was stopped short of scoring a third time on the final play of the game.

"They played with honor and character, and I told them I thought they were an excellent team, which was our goal for the season," Hall said.

The team's last victory before the tournament was against St. Francis 18-6 on Oct. 16, as Johnson threw a touchdown to Sailors and ran for two more.

The team also beat the St. Francis B team 20-13 a week earlier. Johnson threw three touchdowns, one to Sailors and two to Smith.

Brentwood won in dominating fashion 26-0 against St. Austin on Oct. 2. Johnson threw touchdowns to Ryberg and Smith, while Johnson and Ryberg also had touchdown runs.

After starting the season with a 7-0 record, the elementary 3A team lost their final three



photo: Stephen Colwell

**Think fast!** Sixth-grade quarterback Connor Troutman looks downfield hoping to hit one of his receivers in stride.

games, including a 13-12 overtime heartbreaker to Hyde Park in the tournament.

Their first loss of the season came against Trinity, 12-7 on Oct. 18. Quarterback Connor

Troutman had a touchdown run.

The team beat Hyde Park 7-0 on Oct. 15. With two plays left in the first half, the Bears ran a trick play. Chase Blackman took the snap and threw the ball to Troutman. Troutman then threw it down field to a wide open Micah Best who made a great catch falling backwards just short of the end zone. On the next play Blackman caught a touchdown pass from Troutman.

The team beat St. Francis 16-0 on Oct. 9, with Troutman throwing touchdowns to Christian Trevino and Best. The defense had a safety as well.

"We did pretty well; our offense only got the ball three times in the entire game, once in the first half and twice in the second," Coach Trevino said. "It was crazy but we took advantage of our chances."

The 3A team notched its fifth victory, beating Holy Family 19-12 on Oct. 2. Troutman had scoring strikes to Riley Walker and Best; Troutman also ran for another.

Trevino said he looks for opportunities to use football to teach perseverance and teamwork in difficult situations. Before their game against Holy Family, he challenged his players to be strong together.

"It's easy to be a good Christian when things are good, when things are going your way. How are you going to react when things get tough? That's when you find out what kind of person you really are," Trevino said. "Do you fall apart? Do you get angry and point fingers? Or do you pull closer together; do you let your faith grow stronger?"



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# Volleyball team falls one win short of Final Four

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lyn Merkord said.

In their first playoff game the girls beat Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills at Brentwood on Tuesday, Oct. 23, in three quick sets (25-4, 25-4, and 25-8). The crowd was not as enthusiastic as they were in previous matches because of the lead that Brentwood took so quickly.

"The Kerrville game really gave us time to speed up our offense and get ready for harder teams," Westerlund said.

Most of the Bears' district opponents were not competitive, as BCS won nearly all the matches in three sets, but Round Rock Christian School was exception. After RRCA beat Brentwood in September in four sets, the teams played again on Oct. 4, and this time Brentwood won in three sets with an enthusiastic crowd creating an exciting atmosphere.

The two teams were then tied for first in district, and a play-



photo: Mark Merkord

**Take that!** Sophomore Nicole Glenn jumps to hit a ball in Brentwood's first playoff game on Oct. 23.

off match was scheduled at Summit Christian Academy in Cedar Park on Oct. 18. Fan buses were taken to encourage students to go support the girls. Round Rock won the first two sets with scores of 25-19 and 25-20 before the Bears, trailing in the third, began to gain momentum when freshman Blair Westerlund made several kills. The third set went to 31 points with Brentwood coming out winners, 31-29.

In the last set the crowd sat anticipating another win, but the girls could not keep up and lost 25-13.

During games when there was a good pass, Blair Westerlund and fellow freshman Brenna Decker knew what to do. Decker would set the ball just above the net, and Westerlund would come up swiftly and smack the ball down into sometimes unsuspecting opponents.

"We've been playing together for five years now, so we know each other as volleyball players pretty well, and we have signs and signals we do on the court," Decker said.

Blair Westerlund led the Lady Bears with an average of 12 kills per match, while her sister Avery led the team averaging two blocks per match.

Decker led the girls with an average of 15 assists per match. Freshman Keely Hardin led the

team with a 2.3 passer rating out of 3.0.

According to head coach Britt James-Sauceda, the girls improved a lot since August. The fast-paced offense they had was a strength that helped them go far, she said, and the girls had such a willingness to learn more from the coaches.

"The entire team stepped up their game this year," she said. "Each player gave 100 percent and began to build amazing bonds with one another. The seniors provided outstanding leadership and spiritual maturity."

James-Sauceda also credited the fans for helping make the season successful, and Merkord agreed.

"The support of our fans throughout the season has been great, and we are thankful for them coming out each game," Merkord said.

Assistant coach Tara Hatfield said she enjoyed coaching the girls very much.

"They were a great group to coach, and all improved tremendously in such a short time," she said.

James-Sauceda said she is optimistic about the future of Brentwood volleyball.

"An extremely high level of play will be the standard for next year," she said.

## Varsity soccer teams practicing, expecting better season

By Andrew Lee

This year's varsity soccer teams are ready to improve on last year's disappointing seasons.

After winning a playoff game in their first season, the varsity girls' soccer team did not have great results last year. But this year, coach Stephen Colwell returns after a year away from the team. They will have 18 games through the season; the first is at St. Stephens on Nov. 27.

"Soccer is a physically intense game, so we are mostly focusing on conditioning right now," said Colwell, who is now a full-time BCS employee. "Our team doesn't have a whole lot of soccer experience, so there are a lot of fundamentals that we will work on this year."

The returning players from last year are sophomores Rachel Dixon and Isabelle Graessle; juniors Jasmine Selman and Molly McCormick; and senior Mary Monacelli. The new players are freshmen Kaya Lane, Samantha Zavala, Rebekah Legband, and Hailey Miller, and sophomores Chris Wishard, Haley Hutson, and Macy Franklin.

There are no returning all-district players, and the leading scorer among returning players is Mary Monacelli with two goals.

Colwell said he is planning to use a 4-5-1

formation, which is a defensive formation with four defenders, five midfielders, and one forward.

To go to the playoffs, the Lady Bears will have to finish in the top five in their seven-team district.

"The team still has a chance, even with a limited amount of players, as long as everyone works really hard," Dixon said. "We are determined to make this a great season no matter what."

Colwell said he is excited about the season and the team's chance for success.

"I believe we have the ability to make the playoffs as long as our girls commit to working hard every day and getting the most out of their training," Colwell said.

The boys' team also struggled last year, and only one member of this year's team scored a goal last year. There isn't an all-district player on the team, but like the girls, they are also hopeful. Cash Miller, who is the second-year coach for the team, is also looking forward to having a great season.

"The training this year is going much better than last year," Miller said. "The players have a better understanding of what we are trying to accomplish and are dedicated to building a

competitive soccer program at Brentwood."

The boys are focusing on conditioning and working in small groups concentrating on possession. In a few weeks they will concentrate more on ball work and using the entire field to learn how to move the ball and utilize space.

Currently, 27 students are participating in the boys' soccer program. There are 11 returning players and 16 new players: six seniors, three juniors, nine sophomores, and nine freshmen. There will be about 15 people on varsity and 15 on junior varsity, including a few players who belong to both teams.

Miller said his formation will change from game to game.

"I rarely play the same formation because it changes depending on what I see the other team doing. I use the for-

mation to exploit the other team's weakness and minimize ours."

The boys have 16 games scheduled, and the JV's first game is in San Antonio on Nov. 13. The varsity's first game is at BCS on Nov. 27.

There are five other teams in the district, and BCS will play each at home and away.

Sophomore Haehwan Park said he hopes to get more fans interested.

"I hope we have cheerleaders encouraging us this year, because we didn't have any last year," he said.

Miller said the goal each year is to constantly improve.

"I know the Bears can go as far as they want if they apply themselves, hold themselves accountable as a team and commit to the program," Miller said.



photo: Joseph Kang

**Foot war** Sophomore Thomas Howard and freshman Logan Schuster both go for the ball during a drill in practice this week.



## Weight room taking shape

By John Hollingsworth

BCS high school athletes have begun working out in their own new CrossFit gym. Though not yet completed, the room is starting to take shape. The floor has been installed, the new equipment is mostly in place, and dozens of students have been working out every Tuesday and Thursday.

Director of development Kevin Claypool reported that BCS is one of the first high schools in Texas to have a CrossFit gym and a CrossFit trainer working with its athletes. The facilities differ from a traditional weight room in that there are no machines or bench presses. Instead, the training method emphasizes using natural motions and body weight to perform exercises like pull-ups, handstands, and push-ups.

"We are on the ground floor of schools transitioning from a regular weight room to having a CrossFit gym," Claypool said.

The wall between the old weight room and the classroom has been removed, and sheets of wood and thick mats have been placed on the floor for weight lifting. The gym now has enough squat racks, barbells, dumbbells, and free weights for an entire team to work out at a time. Other equipment includes medicine balls and sand bags.

Claypool said pull-up racks need to be hung on the wall, and gymnastics rings still need to be put on the ceiling. He said everything will

be finished by the time the BCS Basketball Invitational begins on Nov. 8.

The grand opening of the gym will take place during a night of basketball games in November. The athletic department will have CrossFit training classes running so that faculty, parents, and students can come in for a 15- to 20-minute class to see what CrossFit is all about.

CrossFit coach Ryan Christian is quickly becoming part of the BCS community. He is getting to know athletes and is attending sporting events.

"They are a blank canvas without preconceived notions about CrossFit but are very eager to learn," Christian said.

According to athletic director Brian Thrift, the athletic department is still working out the details of when the BCS CrossFit team will start competing. They are gauging interest from athletes who want to be on the team and deciding what the CrossFit team will look like.

"I really like CrossFit and want to do CrossFit as a real sport and compete in it," freshman Elise Lilya said.

The athletic department is hoping to have competitions against kids in the same age groups as the CrossFit team at BCS as soon as this summer. But until then BCS athletes will compete against each other. Thrift said the athletic department is still working through what the summer will look like for those on the team or those interested in training over the summer.

## Tailgate mania coming to BCS

By Charlie Sinclair

The Brentwood Christian varsity cheerleaders have been busy planning new events to promote school spirit, including dress-up days, tailgates, and pep rallies.

The cheerleaders have a new sponsor and coach this year after last year's coach, Vanessa Hart, left to teach fourth grade in Killeen. This year's squad is led by new Spanish teacher Kendra Dean, who does not have any cheer background but did dance in high school.

"Mrs. Dean is doing a great job considering this is her first time coaching cheerleading," sophomore cheerleader Becca Willingham said.

The tailgates will occur on Nov. 13, Jan. 18, and Jan. 25 from 3:30 until the basketball games begin. Tailgate activities will include music, food, and a few giveaways to people wearing their Claw Crew shirts.



There will also be four different themed pep rallies scattered throughout the year, which will be accompanied by an entire week of dressing up in the theme, similar to Homecoming Week.

The cheer team captain this year is junior Erin Atchley, and sophomore Madalyn Garelick is the event coordinator and back-up captain.

Although they did not cheer at volleyball games, they plan to cheer at varsity basketball games in November. The group of eight works out Monday evenings at Cheer Station, and in the afternoons on Thursdays and Fridays at Brentwood.

The fitness goals for the squad are to maintain abdominal strength and flexibility. Some of the girls on the cheerleading squad also work out in the new CrossFit program.

"We have some work to do, but if we work hard it will be a good year," sophomore cheerleader Maddie Ashworth said.

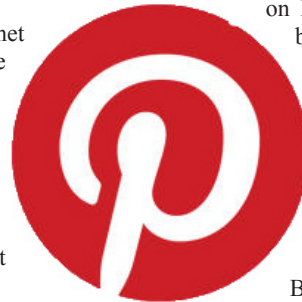
## Pinterest occupies students

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There is even an education board where educators share ideas that they use in their classroom such as games, lesson plans, and organization tips.

Ben Silbermann, an internet entrepreneur, founded the site in March 2010, and since then, apps for the iPhone and iPad, as well as "Pinterest Mobile" for non-iPhone users, have been created. There are around 10 million Pinterest users as of March 2012.

Students say they get on the website after school, claiming it helps



them to relax after a long day of learning. Freshman Maggie Ortego said she logs onto Pinterest every day, multiple times a day.

"I like how I can express things that I like in an orderly fashion. I also like the ideas you find on Pinterest, like things to make, bake, buy, etc.," Ortego said.

Senior Elena Battle said she enjoys seeing what people are up to in a more exciting way.

"In our culture we constantly demand to be up to date with people, so seeing their lives through pictures instead of words is a lot more entertaining and efficient," Battle said.

## Cross country girls finish third

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his injury."

The cross country teams went to Waco on Friday night, where the race was at the Baylor cross country training course. The course was considered to be extremely windy by the runners, who said the wind was angled perfectly down the hills so that they were terribly hard to run up against the wind.

The BCS girls beat the only other team from Austin in the top 10 teams in state – the San Juan Diego team, who finished 10th. The guys' team also beat San Juan Diego, which finished 16th.

In the Georgetown meet on Oct. 13, Glenn and Vandygriff got 10th and 11th place, respectively, with times of 14:02 and 14:03. Herring was the top runner for the varsity boys with a time of 19:37. The race was longer than usual and also very windy.

Rotich said both cross country teams performed well at the Old Settler's Park meet on Oct. 6 in Round

Rock. Clark was the top runner for the boys with a time of 19:51, followed by Herring.

Glenn led the girls with a time of 13:15; she was followed by Lawson. The meet had both public and private schools, and the course was moderately flat.



photo: Jeff Glenn

**Catch me if you can** Seniors Priscilla Glenn and Morgan Vandygriff run side by side, finishing with four seconds of each other, in the state cross country meet on Oct. 20.