

THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2012



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IN SHORT

Science Fair

Students of all ages presented their Science Fair projects this week to three out of 24 volunteer judges. Directed by Michelle Mohrmann and Glenda Morrow, this year's event featured elementary on Dec. 12 and secondary on Dec. 13. Winners will be announced before Christmas break, and the next optional level will be at the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival in February at the Palmer Events Center.

Honduras trip

BCS students who will go on a mission trip to Honduras next summer raised about \$1,800 at a garage sale on Saturday, Dec. 8, at Westover Hills Church of Christ. The group of about 20 students in grades 8 to 11 are sponsored by Spanish teachers Kendra Dean and Alicia Brothers. The group will travel to Catacamas, Honduras, on June 6-13, where they will build a playground and visit orphanages.

College credit

Austin Graduate School of Theology is offering a limited number of courses to high school juniors and seniors for a reduced rate of \$225 per class. Three BCS students took Dr. Allan McNicol's "Life and Teachings of Jesus" this semester, earning dual credit. In the spring, AGST will offer four classes to BCS students, covering public speaking, anthropology, psychology, and Paul's letters.

Rotiches victorious

Jacob Rotich and his wife Hellen each won their gender division at the Bryan-College Station Marathon on Sunday, Dec. 9. Mr. Rotich finished in 2:39.20; Mrs. Rotich finished in 2:47.45. Each of them won \$1,000.

Ryans score win for BCS at dinner

Baseball great Nolan Ryan and wife Ruth speak about their lives

By Lanae Hollingsworth

When people say "Alvin" this time of year, most people conjure up a picture of chipmunks singing Christmas carols. But on Dec. 1 at the Renaissance Hotel, the Alvin of conversation at Brentwood Christian's 22nd annual Partnership Dinner was the hometown of Major League Baseball legend Nolan Ryan and his wife Ruth.

The evening began at 6 p.m. with Encore

and Jazz Band performing during the silent auction. A few members of the Bears' varsity baseball team invited guests to throw baseballs clocked by a radar gun for the chance to win a weekend getaway. At seven, guests entered the ballroom, where dinner and the live auction would be held.

Shortly after dinner began, guests watched a baseball-themed video starring BCS students. Afterwards BCS seventh-grader Jackson Ryan introduced his grandparents, expressing that he

hoped the time would create a picture of his grandparents that was not normally shared in public.

The title of the dinner reflected how baseball players live: "Home on the Road." For 30 minutes the Ryans were interviewed by their son Reid about various aspects of family life during Nolan's baseball years. The questions centered on how they managed to maintain normal family activities such as going to church and having good relationships with each other.

After the Ryans shared some stories, there was a live auction in which four personalized Nolan Ryan jerseys were sold. The money from the auctions and tickets is used by the school to cover operating costs. In addition to the two auctions, there was a "paddle up" event to raise money for a new school van.

"We are continuing to receive donations which are allowing us to move forward with the purchase of the van," director of development Kevin Claypool said.

The banquet was attended by 510 people, including former Longhorn All-American pitcher Taylor Jungmann. Although the final numbers are not in, Claypool said the funds raised by the dinner exceed last year's total by several thousand dollars.



photo: Stephen Colwell

Are you comfy? Nolan and Ruth Ryan recline on a couch while being interviewed by their son Reid Ryan at the Partnership Dinner on Dec. 1 at the Renaissance Hotel.

Technology at BCS moving ahead

By Charlie Sinclair

This year Brentwood Christian teachers have started using more digital technology to improve efficiency and understanding in the classroom.

Information technology director Jacob Rotich has been working hard behind the scenes to upgrade a lot of the school's equipment so that Brentwood can keep up with trends in education technology. Rotich meets weekly with president Marquita Moss to discuss possible changes that can be made to the school's technological infrastructure.

One recent change was the addition of student emails for every secondary student. This

allows teachers and students to communicate more easily and allows students to use all the Google applications for classwork.

Another change that has occurred is the addition of more WiFi coverage throughout the Brentwood campus. Rotich said he hopes eventually to have the entire campus blanketed with internet coverage.

There are also plans for future upgrades. Rotich said that the old copper internet wires will be out by the end of this year and will be replaced with new fiber optics, which will increase internet speed from 15 Mbps to 100 Mbps.

In possibly a few years, he said teachers and

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Christmas at BCS

Holiday Activities

- X-mas Tree Farm (1st grade) Nov. 29
- Partnership Dinner Dec. 1
- Barnes and Noble book fair Dec. 1-2
- Dr. Weed reads to classes Dec. 3-20
- Santa Shop Dec. 4-7
- Angel Tree through Dec. 7
- Tacky sweater days Dec. 7 and 14
- Toys for Tots (7th grade) Dec. 8
- Nutcracker (4th grade) Dec. 11
- High school sing-a-long Dec. 14
- Christmas program Dec. 20

Thoughts Worth Thinking: Lanae Hollingsworth

Drop the device and fellowship with friends

I can picture it now: two ladies sitting on their porches shucking corn or shelling peas, or maybe quilting and drinking tea. These were typical scenes many years ago in our country.

Today what do we do? We sit side-by-side with our eyes glued to devices. Take a look next time you are in a crowd of people. I am guilty of it too. We are ignoring the opportunities that our forefathers took advantage of on a daily basis.

Fellowship was their entertainment. It was how they survived the Revolution, Civil War, and Great Depression. It allowed them to survive because they came together and became unified.

I sometimes struggle with the idea of fellowship; I used to picture fellowship as people sitting studiously together in church worshiping. It is, but it is more than that. Yes, that is a form of fellowship, but there are so many other opportunities for fellowship that we miss or do not see as that. The dictionary defines the

word to mean companionship; or community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience; a company of friends. By those definitions fellowship could happen almost any moment of any day. As the last few weeks have gone by, I have been so busy with school, basketball, and college applications that for a while I felt a lack of fellowship. Then one day I realized that I had it all around me, and I had just not noticed it. Going off campus for lunch, hanging out in the gym, spending time at basketball tournaments, and hanging out with my family can all be fellowship.

Right now we are in the middle of the holiday frenzy. We are rushing around trying to finish up school, decorate, bake, and buy or make gifts for those we care about. It is a time when the world pauses and puts value on the time they spend with the people about whom they care. Having the time to spend with friends and family is one of my favorite parts of the holiday season. As a senior I am constantly reminded that so much value should be put on the time

that I spend with people; those are memories that will be cherished forever. I know it is hard to find time, but I also know that I would rather spend time with people than sleep – well, to a certain extent. It is possible to spend time together with a screen, but I think it is important to interact beyond that. Talk while you are using it, or compete at something while using it.

Our forefathers did what they had to do, but they did it together. When they had free time, they spent some of it actively engaging other people in community. Fellowship is one thing that has and will make this country strong, placing importance on understanding and accepting the people around us because they are generally in the same boat as we are. Together we make each other better, and together we can survive the upcoming years. Today we might not sit around a parlor drinking hot tea out of china cups; instead it might look like Sonic cups full of sweet tea at the gym or a project off of Pinterest. The principle is the same, and doing it will make us stronger.

Give to Christ on his birthday

By Madalyn Garelick

Every 365 days a time comes when families and friends from all over the world gather to give and receive presents. But during this time we sometimes forget that we're celebrating a birthday – one where we all get presents instead of giving them to the one celebrating a birthday.

Luke 2:7 states, "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

This verse explains the true meaning of Christmas behind all the shopping and gift wrapping; the birth of Christ is where it all began.

On a typical birthday we celebrate by having a party, eating cake, and, of course, getting presents. If this is the case on our birthdays, then why on Christmas do we not give anything to Christ, giving things to each other instead? This is actually not a bad thing because we are also practicing the kindness and generosity that God asks of us. But how often on the day of Christmas, besides at church, do we think about what we are really celebrating? I am guilty of this myself; every year we get so caught up in the materialism that comes along with Christmas.

We can't give Christ a nicely wrapped present with a bow on it. He doesn't give us all a Christmas list, but we still know what He wants. Each year He asks us to want to be in a relationship with Him and to strive to become closer to Him.

On our birthdays we're sometimes disappointed if we don't get the things we want. Imagine how Jesus feels on Christmas when the year is coming to an end, and we didn't strive to grow in our relationship with Him. I'm sure he feels a little disappointed too. The same goes for when we do get what we want and our faces light up with joy and excitement and we become attached to whatever we got. When we put time into our relationship with God, He rejoices over us.

So as Christmas is coming quickly, and we are out doing our last-minute shopping and wrapping, we should think about what we can give to Christ on his birthday. Whether it is putting our heart into worship at church more often or putting in a certain amount of time each day just to talk to Him, we should give something back to Him since He is the reason that we celebrate Christmas and get to participate in all the fun activities that come with this joyful season.

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is available online at
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Book worms dig into special week

By Maddie Ashworth

If you went into the elementary buildings on Friday, Nov. 9, you might have seen Katniss, Pippi Longstocking, Angelina Ballerina, The Cat In The Hat, and even some Stormtroopers.

This marked the end of Brentwood's annual Book Week.

The fun lasted from Nov. 5-9 and also included the Young Authors contest and celebrity readers.

Kindergarten classes were visited by a dog named Maisie, who just happened to be the star of the book being read to them.

In the Young Authors contest there were 136 entries, and 116 students completed a book. Students who received an overall excellence award were given a gift card to Half Price Books.

On Friday, Character Day, a girl in Glenda Morrow's fourth-grade class dressed up as



photo: Stephen Colwell

Unbelievable Kindergartner Tanner Clark sports a Pinocchio costume on Character Day, Nov. 9, the final day of Book Week.

Amaya, the Indian girl in "A Paradise Called Texas," written by Janice Shefelman. Janice and her husband Tom were the guest readers that day.

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Choir students impress on long road trip

By Joseph Kang

Fifty BCS high school choir members enjoyed a four-day trip to Searcy, Ark., to attend the Christian Choral Festival hosted by Harding University on Nov. 9-12.

The festival consisted of six choirs coming together with the mutual desire to sing beautifully. It was started for Christian high schools eight years ago by Dr. Cliff Ganus at Harding, who wanted to imitate Christian colleges' choral festivals at the high school level.

BCS attends this festival every other year, when there is

no fall musical; this is Brentwood's fourth trip. According to choir director Missy Weaver, the trip is a great opportunity for choir students to develop friendships, learn under the direction of a college professor, and sing with other high school students from around the country.

"The Harding trip was full of great memories that I am so lucky to have made," senior Niky McCafferty said.



photo: Julia White

Waiting patiently BCS singers chill before performing at the Christian Choral Festival last month at Harding University.

The trip started Friday at noon, when chorus members departed from campus and drove five hours to Mineola, where host families, who graciously volunteered their homes for the BCS choir, provided dinner in Broad Street Church of Christ. The choir gave a small concert for the host families as a gesture of thanks.

After another four hours of driving on Saturday, the students arrived in Searcy at

College Church of Harding. After an hour for break and dinner, they walked to Harding University to prepare for the Choral Festival.

All the choirs had previously learned the same songs in preparation for the workshop under the director Dr. Ganus.

After worship on Sunday, the choir went to Harding for rehearsal again, with a lunch and break between sessions. Some students played on the fields of grass with students from a different school, playing tag and rolling down the hills, not minding the fact that they were covered in grass and dirt.

The Choral Festival started at 7:30 p.m. Each choir and BCS Encore sang individually before all choirs came

together as a whole for the last five songs.

The choir trooped off to their host families for one last night in Arkansas before riding 11 hours back to Austin on Monday with 14 parents.

"Their behavior and performance over the weekend was outstanding," Weaver said. "I would be happy to travel with them anywhere. They presented BCS in a wonderful light."

U Teach students train at BCS

By Connor Crowe

Who walks like a teacher, talks like a teacher, but isn't a teacher?

U Teach, a program started by the University of Texas in 1997, gives teaching opportunities to college students leaning toward a teaching career. It allows students to take the position of a teacher at selected schools and get hands-on classroom experience.

In 2007, a lecturer in U Teach, Jane Gomez, attended Westside Church of Christ with some of Brentwood's teachers and asked if the school would be interested in the program. Since then, names of U Teach students have been sent to BCS every semester. After passing a background check, the student can come intern in an elementary classroom at Brentwood.

"The school considers it an honor to be selected to be one of the U Teach schools," elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed said.

Over the course of six years Brentwood had a total of 60 U Teach interns who have helped teach first through fifth graders. Five interns helped teach this semester, and while they mostly observe, sometimes they get to teach one or two lessons.

U Teach student Joseph Kuhl said the hands-on experience is wonderful because students can see if they enjoy teaching or not.

"U Teach has been a way to allow me to apply what I am learning in a situation that is what my career will very likely be one day," he said.

Interns typically come to Brentwood once or twice a week. While the interns are helping teach, they get to learn about all of the responsibilities that come with being an elementary teacher like creating lesson plans and working with children.

"I had a great time being able to experience a career first-hand," U Teach student Gabriela Ramirez explained.

The job of the BCS teacher is to serve as a good model for the interns and give feedback on their teaching performance.

"Some of them do very well with their lessons, but a few times I have had to reteach a lesson that the class didn't grasp," explained third-grade teacher Carolyn B'Smith, who has had 20 U Teach interns.

After a decade of success, the U Teach program was expanded and the U Teach Institute was established in 2006 to allow the same techniques to be taught across the nation. Currently 34 universities in 16 states are implementing U Teach programs.

Technology

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perhaps even students will get laptops. Teachers could work from home more easily and students would be able use electronic textbooks and lay aside the big backpacks. Students would be able to do homework on their computers, and electronic textbooks would really save on buying new books every few years, Rotich said.

Other teachers are also jumping on the technology bandwagon. New Spanish teacher Kendra Dean has her students do online vocabulary exercises and send the results to her. In the new Forensics class, Michelle Mallet allows her students to use cameras on their cell phones to document evidence.

Math teachers Michele Broadway and Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth use a calculator app that allows students to see what the teacher is calculating in real time. Dr. Hollingsworth has also had her students take a text survey online. Like many teachers, she is also thankful that each classroom now has a multi-media projector permanently installed.

"I use it a lot more than I did when I had to hook it up every time I wanted to use it," Dr. Hollingsworth said. "I especially like being able to give students the option of using PowerPoint for projects."

Students get Gmail addresses

By MJ Sung

The BCS administration provided a new service for the students this year, giving individual email addresses to middle and high school students, through Google email.

Stephen Colwell, director of communications, talked to a lot of students and teachers and found that most people did not know where to get information. He said he is in the process of developing a new communication strategy for the campus that will allow students, teachers, and parents to get the latest news more efficiently.

Students can now receive announcements, lunch menu calendars, and homework from the teachers to their Google email accounts. Also, communication has gotten a lot more convenient for the students.

"I can contact every BCS friend and teacher because their email accounts are all listed in my Gmail account," senior Long Ho said.

Colwell said students deserve to know what's going on around their campus, and the new system is a way to deliver information and begin the use of email as a normal system of communication.

"I want our school to use the tools that are

available to us to become more knowledgeable and efficient," Colwell said. "I want to avoid communication slipping through the cracks and people being left out of the loop."

Colwell also said there has been a large number of students who could not access their email, which kept teachers from being able to effectively communicate with their students. This problem has been solved by the help of attendance officer Linda Riedesel contacting some students who were having trouble.

However, there are students who find these email accounts not helpful.

"I never use it because I have my own email," junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer said. "I think it's too much of a hassle to check multiple email accounts daily."

Colwell said students can direct their BCS email to forward to their personal email so that they could receive all their email in one place.

"I don't think it is very helpful," junior David Powers said. "I don't go and check my email very much."

Colwell admitted that this is a problem he can't fix.

"Secondary students are young adults who have certain responsibilities they must attend to," he said.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Matthew Onabajo*

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

Trustworthy? Very. Quiet? Mostly.

By Hannah Kwon

Fifth-grade teacher Cynthia Davis once noticed that a student of hers was not eating lunch. She told the boy that he couldn't just skip lunch – he had to get something. So Matthew Onabajo proceeded to order PB&J sandwiches for lunch.

Mrs. Davis later learned that Matthew hates peanut butter but desired to obey her. He ordered “something” for lunch.

“Matthew quietly goes about doing what is right,” Davis says. “He is an excellent example of Jesus’ words in action.”

Having attended Brentwood Christian since kindergarten, Matthew has given plenty of teachers the opportunity to notice how respectful, compassionate, and hard-working he is. Now as a high school senior, Matthew is wrapping up his years at the school more quietly than a lot of his classmates, but having made his mark in many ways.

One of his favorite activities has been running track under coach Jacob Rotich. When Matthew was a freshman, Rotich saw him running the 400 meters in track and knew he had to take Matthew into cross country.

“Matthew is an extremely good athlete with good discipline. He is very dedicated and has never missed or been late to any practice,” Rotich says. “I really like him a lot.”

At the district track meet in 2011, Brentwood had only the 4 x 400 relay left, and Matthew was on the anchor leg. After the first leg, BCS was already fifth, and by the time Matthew got the baton, the gap between him and the fourth-place runner was pretty big. Catching him would mean BCS would move on to regionals. There was nothing he could possibly do but run hard and fast. In the end, he came up just short.

“If I just had ten more meters I would have caught him,” Matthew says.

As a senior, Matthew rejoined soccer after two years away and is a valuable part of the defense.

Matthew has also played trombone ever since he was in fifth grade. Now as a senior, he is one of the more experienced players in the high school band. Band director Travis Pollard has been watching Matthew play since the first year he started directing.

“Matthew is quiet but stalwart,” Pollard said. “He doesn't like to draw attention to himself, but he is very talented.”

Matthew is sometimes called “the Linux guy” because he knows a lot about computers and really enjoys working with them. Ever since he was young, he has had a knack for working with computer programs. He once thought about pursuing computer programming as his career,

but his interest shifted. However, he remains involved with computers, including work as an aide to Rotich. Matthew runs around the school to fix little problems with school computers.

Chemistry has been his favorite subject ever since he was in Kristen Berry's chemistry class his sophomore year. His interest shifted from computer to science, which is having an effect on his choice for his future.

Now, Matthew says he would like to major in bio-



chemistry and eventually work toward becoming a doctor. He says he wants to attend either UT-Arlington, UT-San Antonio, or Texas Tech for his bachelor's degree.

“I want to become a doctor because of the good I could potentially do,” Matsays. “Volunteering a few summers at St. David's helped me realize

I could do these past David's that.”

However, the many activities Matthew participates in do not describe him wholly. The relationships he has built around school are expressed through the voices of students.

“He is very caring and giving,” junior Co Ho says. “He's not hesitant to help out his friends.”

One of his classmates describes Matthew as a considerate person, and much more.

“He is a really deep thinker,” senior Lanae Hollingsworth says. “I listen closely when he talks, because I know when he talks – which is rare – it is something important.”

Matthew's best friend Joseph Kang was very serious when he described Matthew.

“He is the most trustworthy person I've known in my whole life,” Joseph says.

His sister Christina, a BCS sophomore, is not happy when Matthew jokes about his eagerness to leave for college.

“I tell him to shush because I don't want to think about it,” Christina says. “I don't know how it's going to be without him.”

Christina also explained how different Matthew is at school than at home. She says at school he is very quiet but at home it almost feels like he has a whole different personality. He is loud, animated, and always singing around the house, or telling her stories that make her burst into laughter.

“I feel more open at home than at school,” Matthew says. “I'm not even the same person. Here I'm more reserved but at home I'm pretty crazy, sporadic.”

Last year when their cousin Kema visited their house Matthew went hopping down the stairs like a praying mantis with his hands up to greet her. And one time, Matthew put stuffed pillows in his shirt and walked around all day showing off his “muscles.” His parents didn't say anything but just laughed, because stuff like this happens all the time in the Onabajo household.

Matthew's parents were in their early 20s when they came to the States from Nigeria. Currently Matthew's dad is a professor at Austin Community College, and his mom is a nurse who takes care of premature babies.

“I appreciate them a lot more now that I'm older,” Matthew says. “I've realized now that they know their stuff. They've lived life and I've yet to even see a quarter of it.”

On weekends, Matthew likes to watch sports to unwind from school. During the fall, he watches college football, and for the rest of the year he loves to watch the NBA. His favorite basketball player is Carmelo Anthony, and his favorite college football team is the Oregon Ducks.

While Matthew recognizes sports are not the most important thing, he appreciates the way they provide opportunities to grow. Ultimately, he says it's the words of Jesus that give him the motivation to push himself further in academics and in life as a whole.

“The best advice I could give to anyone is to not dwell on the past or worry too much about the future,” Matthew says. “Learn from those mistakes and come back even stronger.”

Church gets enthusiastic new minister

By Jonathon Reich



James Henley

Known as the “Gingerbread Man,” Brentwood Oaks' new youth minister James Henley seems to be an expert at connecting to youth. This is shown not only by his interests in popular music, sports, and videogames like Black Ops and MLB 2K12,

but also by the comments of those in the youth group, such as sophomore Macy Franklin.

“He's very enthusiastic,” said Franklin, who is also a BCS student. “(He's) passionate, extremely funny, and nice.”

Henley attended Harding University, where he majored in youth ministry and religious education. He spent the past 10 years working at Getty Street Church of Christ in Uvalde and the Skillman Church of Christ in Dallas.

Henley said his desire to be a youth minister was fueled by seeing how his high school youth minister in his hometown of Tulsa, Okla., touched his life.

“I saw how he had helped me and felt the urge to do the same for others,” Henley said.

During his first year as a youth minister in Uvalde, Henley attended a summer camp called “Camp Bandina.” It was there that he met a pretty young face named Ashlee Hampton, who happened to be a counselor there.

“The youth minister she interned with told me that if I didn't ask her out, I was an idiot,” Henley said. “So, I am not an idiot.”

The couple married on August 6, 2005. Their child, Mallory, was born on May 25 of 2011.

Several months ago Henley met Adam Herndon, Brentwood's previous youth minister. Knowing that his time at Skillman was near an end, and after hearing what “great things” Herndon had to say about Brentwood, Henley applied for the job. He began work on Oct. 21.

“I have two main jobs as I see it: to help students know Christ and to build relationships with students,” Henley said.

Henley said he and Ashlee love the family feel at Brentwood. He said he is thankful for the opportunity to minister to students, but also grateful that Brentwood can minister to them.

“Ashlee and I both feel called and led to Brentwood,” Henley said. “We hope it is a place we can be for a long time.”

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Family of Singletons makes nest at Brentwood

By Grace Cammack

“Whether the weather is cold, or whether the weather is hot, we’ll be together, whatever the weather, whether you like it or not.”

This theater warm-up hits home for the Singleton family: They’ve seen it all, done it all, and have watched the school develop and grow.

Cindy Singleton has been a teacher at Brentwood Christian for 21 years. Over that time she has taught a plethora of classes, including Spanish, senior girls’ Bible, Texas History, Speech, Health, and Theater for junior high and high school. She once lightened her workload by moving to Spanish to raise her kids; however, she missed the theater. After her kids were old enough to handle the extracurricular demand, Mrs. Singleton returned to teaching Theater in 2009. With the recent schedule changes, she now teaches the high school Theater classes, along with Speech, Health, and sixth-grade Drama.

The Singletons are parents of Brentwood graduates Sarah (1998) and Rebecca (2004), along with junior Alex, freshman Jodie, and sixth-grader Graham, who are collectively involved in nearly everything school has to offer.

From band and theater to soccer and flag football, the entire Singleton family is kept on their toes from morning to night.

“As busy as I am, it’s a blessing to work and be here,” Mrs. Singleton says.

However, Mrs. Singleton is not the only member of the family to grace the Brentwood campus. Her husband, Kent, has been working as the church’s and school’s maintenance supervisor for nine years overseeing facilities on campus. Before coming to Brentwood he was preaching at Wimberley Church of Christ, but after

learning of the open position, he seized the opportunity to be with his family.



The job grew from fixing every problem himself to having his own crew to oversee.

There once was a time when he had to remove some baby raccoons from the walls of the developmental preschool.

“It really was a scare for them and a good controlled lesson about wild animals,” Mr. Singleton says.

Mr. Singleton describes himself as a “pretty good” disciplinarian. He says he allows for flexibility and is fairly easy-going on the kids when it is acceptable. Oldest daughter Alex and son Graham consider their dad to be an “awesome person.”

About two years ago Mr. Singleton moved the family out to Travis Peak, more commonly known as the Marble Falls area, so

that he could take care of his mother. Often the kids catch some Z’s on the hour drive to and from school.

Alex, claiming to be the child who sleeps the most, says spending more time at school means spending less time

sleeping. The sleep deprivation is affecting middle-child Jodie’s grades a little bit, but she is “adapting to it.”

Jodie summed up her family with the word “chaos.” With all their time being spent ei-

ther at school or on the way to school, there is always something to occupy the Singletons’ time.

“There’s never any free time,” Jodie says. “I like having things to do, but it sometimes gets annoying if it’s not something I want to do.”

With the kids so involved in extracurricular activities, Mrs. Singleton considers it a blessing for the clan to be so close. There is always a concert, play, or game that at least one member of the family can go see.

Mr. Singleton considers the high activity of the family to simply be the “nature of the beast.”

“There are times when lots of things are going, but it’s never overwhelming,” he says. “I just roll with it.”

The one and only boy in the family, Graham, says he isn’t too affected by the lack of sleep and excess of activities. He plays flag football and basketball and says he is considering track and soccer. Graham can often be seen riding his Ripstick around campus after hours. At home he likes to hunt deer with his dad.

“I don’t need any more free time,” Graham says. “I’ve got enough.”

Alex says she is really close to her younger brother. They spend a lot of time together and don’t argue very much. However, Jodie and Graham both agree they fight a lot. Jodie claims that Graham “picks on her.”

Still, the Singletons are a supportive and tight-knit family that doesn’t plan on moving anytime soon. Mrs. Singleton says she loves having opportunities to share her faith and form relationships with people through all the various school activities. She also says her memories made in her time at Brentwood are a great blessing to her.

“I will always treasure the students God has entrusted to me while here,” Mrs. Singleton says.

Sladek pops question; Pollard enjoying fatherhood; Berry to leave

By Madalyn Garelick

“Life’s all about moments of impact and how they change our lives forever.”

These words from the recent movie “The Vow” have special meaning to the lives of two Brentwood teachers. Elementary P.E. teacher Paul Sladek and band director Travis Pollard have solidified their futures in recent months.

Sladek proposed to his girlfriend of four months on Oct. 26 at the Riverwalk in San Antonio. While eating at Casa Rio, he had a mariachi band perform during their dinner by the river. Then the time came for him to get down on one knee and ask her to spend the rest of her life with him. After putting the ring on the

wrong hand, he recollected his thoughts and properly proposed to Jennifer Robinson, his girlfriend from Round Rock.

“I was so nervous,” Sladek said. “I didn’t want to lose the ring, and I wanted to find the perfect place that we could visit, but not a place where we go on a daily basis.”

Sladek and Robinson met on the online dating site Christian Mingle and had their first date at a restaurant in Austin shortly after. They didn’t want their date to end, so they planned another one for that night. He says he fell in love with her immediately, from the way she smiles to the way she accepts and has grown to love his quirkiness.

“I feel amazing when I’m around her,” Sladek

said. “She’s my best friend.”

The two are looking at tying the knot next summer. And as for now, Sladek is happy knowing that he has found the love of his life.

“I feel amazing and relieved,” Sladek said. “Waiting all this time to find the right person was worth it.”

Pollard has also been blessed with another form of love recently. His wife of five years, Amanda, gave birth on Nov. 4 to their first child, Judah Michael Pollard. He was brought out by C-section weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz., and measuring 20 inches long. Pollard and his wife have been very busy tending to the baby, but they are enjoying being parents for the first time.

“It’s pretty awesome being a father,” Pollard said. “It feels like this is the start of the rest of my life. It’s a huge responsibility but a lot of fun.”

Varsity volleyball coach Britt James-Sauceda gave birth to a baby girl, Avalon Mae, on Dec. 3 at 2:30 a.m. Avalon was 6 lbs., 13 oz., and 20.5 inches long; she and her mother are doing fine.

Another BCS faculty member, science teacher Kristen Berry, found out that she is expecting. Due in June, Berry recently announced that she will resign at the end of the fall semester.

“Lots of the sophomore girls are very excited about her pregnancy,” sophomore Dierdre Smith said, “but we are very sad to see her go.”

Learning new system, varsity boys have early success

By Nicholas Bergeron

The BCS varsity boys' basketball team is off to a 7-5 start for the season and are playing in the Cypress Christian Tournament this weekend. During Christmas break they will play in a tournament at Rosebud/Lott.

With a new head coach, the team has had to develop a new way of playing.

"They've had to learn a new system," coach Brian Thrift said. "They've adjusted well."

Thrift said he's happy with the team's progress as they near the beginning of the district schedule, starting on Jan. 4 against Round Rock Christian Academy. The team has won a majority of its games, and even when they have come up short, they've played hard.

"All of our games have been close; the kids have always given me their best effort," Thrift said.

A general feeling of optimism and accomplishment has followed the team, in-

spiring great effort and team spirit.

"Overall, I'm very pleased," Thrift said. "We've handled adversity well."

Senior Matthew Archer leads the team with 14.5 points per game, with juniors Mike Taylor and Wes Mory each contributing nine points per game.

Following are game results so far:

11/6: Waldorf 57-49 L

BCS fought hard but was disadvantaged by having to grow accustomed to new routines. Waldorf had excellent shooters; one player had 32 points. Taylor played well, leading the team with 19 points.

11/8-10: BCS Invitational Tourn. W W L W

Cheering fans, aromatic concessions, and great

basketball marked this event as an early highlight of the year. It was a grand display of school spirit and inter-scholastic respect. BCS placed third in the tournament.

In their opener, the Bears beat Fellowship 62-42. They got off to a roaring start scoring 22 points in the first quarter.

The Bears won their next game against the Austin Royals, sealing their victory in overtime with a final score of 55-50. The Royals played "very physically" in a full-court press which allowed BCS to assert that they can rise to challenges. The game was tied 48-48 as it went into overtime. BCS sank seven free throws to win the game, while allowing their opponents only two points.

The men in green gave all they could but took a close loss to Lifestyle Conroe. The tough game also ended in overtime, 64-60. Ironically, the game was also tied at 48-48 entering the extra period. Archer led the scoring with 26 points, including five three-pointers.

The Bears concluded the tournament garnering a 59-29 win against Fellowship. Archer scored two three-pointers right off the bat, and the rest of the game fell into Brentwood's hands.

11/13: Dime Box 50-23 W

The Bears easily overpowered their public school opponent, led by 16 points from Archer and 10 from Mory.

11/20: Summit Christian 45-23 W

The boys enjoyed another big win, taking

control of the court and scoring many points even though, according to Archer, they did not play very well. Everyone played in the game, and as a result the scoring was spread out among many players.

11/27: Regents 54-48 W

This was an intense game from the beginning. BCS controlled the game for the first three quarters, but they allowed the Knights back in the door in the fourth quarter. Mory took a charge in the final minutes of the quarter that turned the tide and propelled the Bears toward victory. The score was again tied at 48-48 going into overtime, and the Bears held Regents scoreless in the period. Archer led the scoring with 21, and junior Kent Howell added another 14.

11/29-12/1: All-Saints Tournament L W L

BCS began the tournament shorthanded due to the choir concert. In their first game, the Bears lost 46-45 to Ovilla. Archer had five three-pointers and 27 total points. On Friday, the Bears beat Legacy 44-28. In their final game, the boys lost to St. Thomas Episcopal 42-28. Sophomore Cody Hunt scored 10 points.

12/4: Rosebud/Lott 35-34 L

Although the Bears played poorly, they were only down by seven as the fourth quarter started. The boys had a strong fourth quarter, eventually taking a one-point lead before losing by a free throw in the final minute.



photo: Mark Merkord

I am flying! Junior Mike Taylor flies through the air for a layup in a game at the All Saints tournament.

Soccer girls unified; early losses reveal lack of experience

By Becca Willingham

The Brentwood Christian Lady Bears soccer team has had a slow start this year, but the girls are excited and optimistic for the season ahead of them.

Coach Stephen Colwell said the team's biggest weakness is just the lack of skill, since there are many new players this year who have not yet developed much technique. There is a total of 16 players, seven of whom are new additions to the team.

"Each player on the team is working incredibly hard, we just don't have the years of experience that we need to be efficient with the ball," he said.

There are some things that the coach said the team is doing very well, one of which is their camaraderie.

"We have a group of girls who get along well and work together. That is our biggest strength," Colwell said. "I've got a great team of girls who I'm very proud of. I'm proud to be their coach."

The girls play at St. Andrews today; their next game will be Jan. 7 at New Braunfels

Christian, which also marks the beginning of their district season.



photo: Terri Legband

Kicking it Junior Alex Singleton beats a Savio Eagle to a ball in the Bears' 1-0 loss on Tuesday. Coach Stephen Colwell praised their effort.

Following are game results so far:

11/27: @ St. Stephen's 3-0 L

St. Stephen's was a more advanced team, so the game was a difficult one. Brentwood's defense was strong, but the offense struggled. The game provided an opportunity to figure out how they worked as a team and what their focus should be.

11/30: Cornerstone 2-0 L

"Cornerstone was dangerous and

didn't play by the rules," sophomore Isabelle Graessle said.

Sophomore Haley Hutson was hit in the face with a ball and had a nosebleed for a long time before the ref took her out of the game. Players said there were many battle scars and bruises; some said this was not their best playing.

12/4: @ San Antonio 11-0 L

While the score was not what they wanted, the game was played much cleaner. SACS is one of the top prep school soccer teams in central Texas, so this was a challenging game. Brentwood was down 5-0 at halftime and started to get discouraged.

"This game really helped us learn where are weaknesses are," Colwell said.

12/11: Savio 1-0 L

This was "by far" the girls' best game, according to Colwell. They accomplished all of their goals except winning; their task remains to find a way to score goals.

Soccer team takes tough losses; shows improvement

By Andrew Lee

The boys' varsity soccer team has begun the season with a new formation, new training techniques, new tactics of defending and attacking, and new players. They have taken some tough losses, but the head coach and players are confident that this team has improved over last year's team.

"I am very pleased with where the soccer program is at this time," head coach Cash Miller said. "The scores don't always give you

After San Marcos tied the score, the Bears started to focus again at the end of the third quarter and scored their third goal by sophomore Andrew Lee. In the fourth quarter, BCS got their fourth goal by freshman Joshua Sass.

"I think San Marcos Baptist School wasn't that good," sophomore Haehwan Park said, "Our players were faster than their players, and the shootings were better than them. After winning that game, I thought that our team will be a great team."

11/27: San Antonio Cornerstone 4-2 L

In the first half, BCS allowed two goals by Cornerstone before Lee scored for the Bears. Cornerstone took a 3-1 lead at halftime and scored one more goal before Sass scored for Bears.

11/29: St. Stephen's 6-0 L

The Spartans' ball movement and shots were very good. They shook the defensive line of the Bears, and Brentwood could not break their defense.

"The Spartans' organizations, teamwork, communication, and general senses to the soccer were better than us," Hwang said. "Our defenders had lack of communication, and they panicked when they got the ball. After losing this game, I was very disappointed."

12/4: @ San Antonio Christian 7-0 L

The Lions' physical ability, ball control, ball movement, and strategies were better than those of the Bears. SACS broke the defense of the Bears easily. They usually kicked the ball over the defenders and the striker ran for the ball faster than Brentwood defenders.

12/7: @ San Ant. Cornerstone 6-0 L

The Bears took many shots, but unfortunately the ball often hit the bar or barely missed the goal. Cornerstone had a couple of very good players who took strong shots from outside of the penalty box.

Faculty fitness catching on

By Morgan Gage

Just as teachers work to maintain grade books and create interesting lessons, this year's BCS faculty and staff have been fighting hard to gain points and lose pounds as Brentwood strives to maintain a healthier community. Now in its fourth year, the employee fitness plan has undergone several changes.

"This year we're taking some of the focus off of the team competition and directly encouraging individuals to achieve some personal health goals that they may have been putting off," said Jonathan Weed, who leads the program.

With three different leagues of three-person teams, the 66 teachers, staff, and administration continue to count points based on exercise and nutrition standards. They are also competing for more than \$600 in cash prizes, the bulk of which will be awarded to this year's "Biggest Loser." After last year's winner, Paul Sladek, won \$100, Weed wanted to increase the money this year by cutting prizes for team winners and asking employees to donate \$5 each, supplementing the \$300 already given by the PTF.

Another \$100 will go to the new "Goals Contest" winner. This optional contest encourages staff to set personal goals and strive for the prize as a panel of judges will choose the person who meets the "most impressive goal." A few examples of goals sent in by teachers have included letting go of sodas, running five miles a week, and even competing in four triathlons.

There are also other incentives to go along

with the money, as "Champs" posters are placed by the doors of each week's winning team members, and a few extra "Jean Days" will be up for grabs to anyone who can shed 10 percent of their body weight by Christmas.

Since participation is required, some grumbling does at times accompany teachers' efforts. But most acknowledge that the good of having such a successful mandatory health program for staff outweighs the bad.

"I think it's nice because it creates awareness for the importance of fitness," Kaleen Graessle said.

Jacob Rotich admits that he personally enjoys the fitness plan, as he likes to exercise and feels the competition is a helpful bonus for encouragement's sake.

"You can see the difference between back when we didn't have a fitness plan and now when we do," he said. "If you have a goal to achieve, I think that will be another model you can look up to."

After walking with a cane much of last year, teacher Jessica Love has recently completed a full 10K run, improving her foot condition (plantar fasciitis) to a measurable degree and lessening her need for a cane.

"This fitness program pushed me to go through with the pain and expense of getting that shot in my foot so that I could finally be proud of my scores each week," Love said. "The ironic thing is that now that I've been running so much and strengthening my muscles, my foot has not hurt at all."

Math kids doing more with less

By Joshua Sass

Several BCS high school students have done very well in three Texas Math and Science Coaches Association meets over the past two months. But they're left to wonder just how well they might do with more participation from their classmates.

TMSCA involves a group of schools mainly from the San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston areas who host meets in these areas. The typical meet has between 10 and 20 schools, with an average of five to 20 competitors per team.

The meets occur throughout the school year, ending with the state meet in May. The coaches for Brentwood's TMSCA team are parents David Armstrong and Mark Sass.

The TMSCA math team went to Holy Trinity High School in Temple on Nov. 3, where they only competed in five out of the eight events but still managed to win the meet. This meet was unusual because there were oral events as

well as math. Freshman Andrew Armstrong won four events; freshman Joshua Sass took second in three events; and sophomore Hyunjin Park had a first, second, and third.

Armstrong won the Best Student award, scoring the most overall points in the meet.

The math team's second meet was at Madison High School in San Antonio on Dec. 2. With only three students, Brentwood did not place. Armstrong got won Number Sense and Math, and took second in Calculator. Sass was second in Number Sense and a seventh in Computer Science. Park was third in Number Sense.

The TMSCA team meets on Wednesday in room C108, Michele Broadway's room.

"While only a few students have participated in TMSCA, they are doing incredibly well," math teacher Kaleen Graessle said. "Brentwood is definitely getting a lot of recognition across the state from their success. They are working hard, practicing before and after school, and their hard work is paying off."



photo: Joseph Kang

Onward! Sophomore Evan Herring throws a ball in while seniors Matthew Onabajo and Anthony Milan keep an eye on potential attackers during the game against St. Stephen's on Nov. 29.

an indication of where a team is or what their abilities are. I think we are on track to hit our stride as we move into district play."

There are some players who have minor injuries, including twisted ankles, a rib injury, and other various ailments, but not anything serious.

"I think we understand how to play better than we did last year," sophomore Christian Montgomery said.

The Bears will have their first district game on Jan 17.

Following are game results so far:

11/7: San Marcos Baptist 4-2 W

The scrimmage was divided into four 20-minute quarters. The Bears took the lead by scoring the first two goals by two sophomores: Jae Hwang and Brodie Brown. In the second quarter, Brentwood's defensive line got beaten by the San Marcos strikers, making the score 2-1.

THE BEAR FACTS DECEMBER 2012

Lady Bears rolling through opponents, ready for district

By John Hollingsworth

Exactly three weeks away from beginning district play on Jan. 4, the BCS Lady Bears' basketball team is 12-2.

The team is in Houston this weekend playing in the Cypress Community Tournament.

According to head coach Devan Loftis the girls have had good chemistry so far this year. They have quite a few talented players and seniors who provide a lot of leadership. The team has thrived on their man-to-man and press defense, with which opposing teams have had some trouble.

"We need to keep a more consistent intensity level on the court," Loftis said. "We can't have mental lapses against the teams we play in district because they will take advantage of them."

The Lady Bears are led by junior Ariana Marks with 14.5 points per game; the team averages 45.5 points per game, just three points behind last year's average. Marks also leads the team with six rebounds per game, while senior Morgan Vandygriff leads with three assists per game.

Senior Rachel Orick tore her ACL late in the summer during practice, and she has not been able to play since then. But the team did pick up Marks, a transfer from Pflugerville High School. Marks has been a key player for the Lady Bears this season, leading the team in points and rebounds.

"Our chemistry needs to keep improving," Loftis said. "Losing Orick before the season is a challenge, and incorporating new players into the system can be hard."

According to Loftis, Orick could potentially be back for the last six games of the regular season if her recovery goes well.

"When she is out something is missing because she is a good player and brings lots of energy," Loftis said.

The girls have been ranked number 10 in Central Texas by the Austin American-Statesman and are ranked third in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches for small schools.

Following are game results so far:

11/6: @ Thorndale 35-33 L

The girls fought hard but came up just short of a victory in their first official game of the season. Top scorers were Marks and freshman Keely Hardin with 11 and nine points, respectively.

11/8-10: BCS Invit. W W

The Lady Bears began the tournament on a good note by blowing out long-time rival Hyde Park 40-20. The girls overcame poor shooting and a bunch of turnovers in the first half, but came out strong after halftime holding the Panthers to just five second-half points. Marks led the way with 11 points and nine rebounds, Hardin had nine points, and senior Priscilla Glenn had five assists and six steals.

After a day off on Friday the girls beat Austin Royals 49-28. Marks led with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Vandygriff had 10 points and five as-

sists as well.

The tournament was originally scheduled for the weekend of the Formula One Race, so the athletic department had to change the date which caused some teams to drop out. The tournament became a round robin with only three teams, so there was no champion, although BCS was undefeated.

11/13: Dime Box 58-15 W

The BCS girls were much bigger, faster, and much more aggressive. BCS was in control the entire game. By the end of the first quarter the girls led 20-0.

11/20: St. Michael's 40-36 W

The girls were down after the first half but went on a big run in the third quarter with hot outside shooting from senior Brooklyn Merkord, who went three for four from beyond the three-point arc. Merkord also had two free throws late in the fourth to clinch it. She led the team with 13 points.

11/27: @ Regents 50-15 W

The Lady Bears had the game under control the entire way against a very young Regents team. The girls' top scorers for the game were Marks with 16, and sophomore Nicole Glenn with 13.

11/29-12/1: @ Tyler Tourn. W W L

The Lady Bears started off with a convincing win over Ovilla 47-31. Marks and Hardin led the way with 22 and nine points, respectively.

The girls won their second game very easily against St. Thomas by a score of 48-8. St.



photo: Mark Merkord

Eyes up Junior Ariana Marks shoots a layup against St. Michael's on Nov. 20.

Thomas had already played one game on Friday so the girls' full court press worked even better than usual.

The girls lost in the championship game to TK Gorman 54-43. Gorman made it to the Final Four in TAPPS 4A last year, while BCS reached the same level in 3A. Gorman is a favorite for this year's state title as well. Marks and Nicole Glenn were named to the all-tournament team.

12/6-8: @ Gonzales Tourn. W W W W

In a tournament with only 3A and 4A public schools, the Lady Bears ran the tables winning all four of their games. The girls won the first game against Victoria West 49-47 and their second against Gonzales 49-26. On Saturday they played El Paso Jefferson and won 35-33 before beating Austin Reagan 32-21.

12/11: @ Taylor 48-25 W

The Lady Bears beat another 3A public school. The score was 24-21 at the half, but BCS took complete control in the second half, allowing the Lady Ducks to score just four points the rest of the way.

BCS team joins Race for the Cure



photo: Kay Taylor

Running to win the race The 55-member Brentwood team, which included eight cancer survivors, gathers for a pre-race group photo at the Komen Austin Race for the Cure on Nov. 4. About half of the team members were BCS students.