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THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. XXI NO. 3

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2008



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IN SHORT

Book Week

Elementary students enjoyed five days of book-ins, contests, celebrity writers, and even an illusionist during the annual Book Week celebrations this week.

The Young Authors contest had 123 participants, as students created their own stories and submitted them to be judged by volunteer parents. Six students received the esteemed Overall Excellence Award: Isaac Copeland, Joslyn Hoffmeyer-Gay, Larissa Martin, Travis Teeter, T.J. Williams, and Sydney Wilson.

Every student who turned in a story was rewarded with a party and a performance by illusionist Glenn Elkins.

Food Drive

BCS kicked off its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive on Nov. 3 and will be encouraging donations through Nov. 25. The drive is being conducted in conjunction with the Capital Area Food Bank. Any non-perishable food items will be accepted, but CAFB has specifically requested canned meats, peanut butter, canned vegetables, baby food and formula, and pasta. The goal is to average about six items per student.

Magazine Sales

After two weeks of weepuls, rallies, prizes, and fun, the magazine sales ended last month. BCS students raised a total of \$29,000, a dramatic increase over last year's total of \$5,000. From this year's profits, \$250 was donated to the American Red Cross, and the rest went to the students' individual accounts. This money will eventually help pay for class trips to Washington, D.C. and Europe.

Sophomore Allison Riedesel sold 44 magazines this year – more than anyone else – and made \$990 for her senior trip to Europe.

Fifth grade hosts election

Elementary learns ins and outs of voting

ben LANCASTER
reporter

While Barack Obama, our president-elect, is celebrating his victory in Washington, D.C., he is unaware that there is an election in which he was thoroughly trounced: the BCS elementary mock election. Hosted by the fifth-grade

classes, this event occurred on Tuesday, Nov. 4, and John McCain won in a landslide.

Since Carrie Hunter began teaching fifth grade three years ago, she has had the desire to do a mock election for her students. This year, the opportunity for her students not only

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photo: Laura Peterson

HAVING HER SAY Kindergartner Julia Ryan places her vote in the ballot box as fifth-grade election official Zachary Washington looks on.

“Dramedy” opens tonight

Fall play “The Boys Next Door” portrays mentally handicapped

brian PETERSON
reporter

“You will laugh, and in the next minute be crying. It’s really a rollercoaster ride.”

BCS drama director Lindsey Pierson’s words describe the BCS fall production, “The Boys Next Door.” It centers on four mentally handicapped men trying to be integrated into society and their caretaker who is struggling to keep up with all of their needs and decide where his own future lies.

Though it sounds a bit dark or maybe even tragic, the majority of the play is meant to make people laugh. Pierson refers to it as a “dramedy,” a mix between a dramatic piece and a comedy.

Pierson stressed that she wants people to

understand that this play is not intended to ridicule persons with handicaps or point out how different and strange they can be, but

The Boys Next Door

Starring:

L’nae Allen, Jamie Furrer, Andrew McClellan, Brian Peterson, Josh Porter, and Brett Withem

Show Times:

Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 2 & 7 p.m.

Tickets:

Adults \$6, Students \$4, Children \$2

Spring survey results revealed

eddie CARLIN
copy editor

Brentwood Christian: a land of contrasts, where the stench of a family of skunks lingers over the pristine, park-like campus, and security cameras keep a watchful eye over a “safe and orderly” place of learning. Where the halls are kept safe from strangers by robotic, locking entrances, yet bullies roam the halls from behind these very closed doors. Where students excel in the fine arts despite a lack of facilities for practice and performance.

Some of these contrasts were observed by students, parents, faculty, and staff last spring on a survey the school conducted, asking participants to evaluate many aspects of the curriculum and school life.

The survey was conducted online by AdvanceED, the parent organization of one of Brentwood’s accrediting agencies.

In a letter sent to parents in October, vice president of education Dr. Libby Weed wrote: “It was gratifying to find that a strong majority of parents taking the survey indicated that they ‘strongly agree’ or ‘agree’ that the school is doing a good job in every area surveyed.”

Nearly 40 percent of BCS parents completed the survey. Among some of the top rated areas by parents were the fine arts

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actually the opposite. The script has a lot to do with pointing out how similar these people are to the average person and how much the two have in common. The audience is expected to laugh at how simple tasks can sometimes become incredibly complicated.

Students have been at work on the play almost every weeknight for the past two months. Though it’s a lot of work, some students said they expected this when they decided to try out.

“That’s just how plays work,” said senior Andrew McClellan, who stars as the caretaker, Jack Palmer. McClellan has been at work on numerous plays, whether playing a character, building the set, or doing both as he is with

see Play, page 8

STORYTIME WITH LAURA PETERSON

The adventures of Johnny Norwood

This is the third chapter in a fictional series written by the editor-in-chief.

Three...two...one...BRRRRRIIINNG!!!! Johnny jumped up from his desk, snatching up his things, and rushed out to brave the chaotic sea of students that was the hallway. Johnny wove his way safely to the nearest door without any mishaps and proceeded to power walk shamelessly toward the cafeteria. It was pizza day, and he had learned the hard way that if you wanted to eat, you had better hurry.

Johnny flung his bag against the wall and half-jogged to beat a gaggle of freshman girls to the line. He had made good time today, and there were only about ten people in front of him, all of them out of breath. Now they were all depending on the serving staff. If they would just hurry up and open the doors, Johnny and the other lunch rushers would be served before the cutters had a chance to arrive...

Johnny was the forty-sixth person to receive his two slices of pizza, tossed salad, and pineapple. He made the precarious journey

around tables, chairs, and rowdy students, narrowly avoiding a slip on a banana peel, and he breathed a sigh of relief as he plopped down at his usual table, next to Myles and seven other empty chairs. Making it through lunch required a lot of energy. Johnny always sat at this table for several reasons. First, Myles had invited him to sit there every single day since the beginning of the school year, and seeing as they were "Hall Buddies," Johnny didn't feel like he could say no. The major advantage to this table, however, was not the company, but rather the location. Not only was this table close to the exit, which enabled Johnny to leave before the stampede of pushy, inconsiderate, and aggressive students on their way to seventh period, but it happened to be exactly two tables away from the little red-headed girl, and as far away as possible from her overprotective brother.

Myles wasted no time in launching forth with his usual stream of random and unrelated questions, asking Johnny about how his morning was, how the consistency of the salad dressing was today, and what he thought about global warming. Now Johnny had just taken a grueling English test and did not feel like pondering all of these matters. He quickly solved the problem

by stuffing a huge bite of pizza in his mouth. He chewed slowly, shrugging apologetically at Myles, and was quite pleased with his newfound strategy...until the little angel two

tables over gracefully left her seat and glided towards his table to say hello. Johnny, not wanting to seem like a barbarian, panicked. He tried to swallow his un-chewed bite at the same time he breathed in to say hello. It didn't work

out too well.

"Johnny," inquired Myles, "are you all right, there? You're turning purple." Johnny shook his head as he tried to cough, or swallow, or somehow get some oxygen, but he was helpless.

"Myles, do something, he's choking!" shrieked the red head. Lucky for Johnny, Myles was a Boy Scout (a Life Scout, to be exact). He whipped off his glasses, rolled up his sleeves, and threw his arms around Johnny's waist. He proceeded to administer the Heimlich Thrust, and after two or three unsuccessful and awkward attempts, a large, wet chunk of pizza shot out of Johnny's mouth...and landed squarely on the back of Ivan Anderson's rather large head.

It was out of the frying pan and into the fire for Johnny.

"He tried to swallow his un-chewed bite at the same time he breathed in to say hello. It didn't work out too well."

THE BEAR FACTS

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11908 North Lamar Blvd.
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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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"CHICKENS!" "Hank the Cowdog" author John Erickson proves his timelessness to the delight of the secondary students during a special visit on Oct. 31.

MORE WILES THAN MOST: Jay Wiles

Reflecting on my first vote

I have always been a political junkie. OK, not always, but I have been very interested in politics since I attended a Bob Dole rally at the Million Air hangar at the Tulsa International Airport during the 1996 general election.

I also remember staying up and watching Dan Rather on a CBS Evening News Special until 3 a.m. with my dad on Nov. 7, 2000, the night that George W. Bush was elected.

I remember asking my dad what a "recount" was when CBS and other networks began talking about a possible recount in Florida, the state that ultimately decided the election.

But on the morning of Nov. 4, 2008, I was finally able to have my say in government.

At around 6:45 a.m. that Tuesday morning, I walked out my front door with my dad and walked the four blocks to our local polling place in Pflugerville at Murchison Elementary School.

When I arrived there, I noticed a few kids who acted like I did when I was younger and had to follow my parents to vote. Some of the kids would sit on the ground and scream, "This is boring!" and then play dead on the sidewalk with the Pflugerville police chief just a few steps away.

I'm glad I was able to have a say in the government, MY government! And while Texas did not delegate their electors for my presidential candidate of choice, Barack Obama, he did win the election and will be our nation's 44th president.

After talking with some friends on the night of the election, I want to remind you what God commands of us in response to government. In Romans 13:1, Paul writes, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

We are called to submit ourselves to our government, our president, our senators, and our representatives. And after 12 p.m. EST on Jan. 20, 2009, Barack Obama will be the next president.

I do realize that Obama is unpopular at BCS. And with the comments I heard from many of you, I could tell Obama was unpopular in this community well before the general election.

I just want to make a quick point: Around here, it seems to me that the words "liberal" and "Democrat" bring to mind solely negative connotations, while somehow the words "conservative" and "Republican" can mean only good things. In truth, there are positives and negatives about each party, which is why I call myself an Independent.

No one party can change America. Whether you are a Republican or Democrat, Independent or Libertarian, Obama is your next president. No one will agree with every decision he makes, and some will disagree more than others, but we really should get behind him, and as God-fearing Americans, we are commanded to do so.

photo: Kay Taylor

Survey results in

continued from page 1

and the use of technology to keep parents informed. Parents also agreed that cheating is strongly discouraged and that BCS provides a safe and orderly environment for learning.

However, some of the lowest scoring areas among parents were the foreign languages department and problems with bullies, as well as the lack of vocational courses.

Students answered a similar poll, though their questions were slightly modified to reflect activities concerning day-to-day school life. Third- through sixth-grade students took the surveys in computer class, while most of the secondary students participated at school.

According to secondary students, they were most pleased with the availability of their teachers to give individual help outside of class time and the high standard to which teachers hold their pupils. They also concurred that there is a wide range of activities that interest them at Brentwood and that the school provides a secure environment for learning.

Students were dissatisfied, however, with the amount of homework they are given, indicating it is either too much or does not contribute significantly to their studies. Many also expressed the feeling that their opinions are not considered when important school decisions are made.

The survey was part of Brentwood's 10-year accreditation cycle, and from it, the faculty and board members hope to determine how well they are doing and how they might improve.

"We have definitely pinpointed some areas to address," Weed said. "We've already begun a series of meetings with parents and are working on other plans."

Halloween carnival spook-tacular

NHS students' annual trip to Rosedale brings joy to both groups

aracely **MORA**
reporter

Traditions are a rich part of student life at Brentwood Christian. One of the most entertaining is the annual NHS trip to Rosedale for Halloween fun.

Rosedale is a school for kids who have

physical and mental disabilities. NHS members go on different occasions during the school year and give the children a fun experience different from their typical day. As this is a blessing for Rosedale students, it also allows NHS members to see a different perspective of life.

"This gives us an opportunity to reach others and gives us an experience that makes us feel

thankful for what we have," junior Megan Montgomery said.

The NHS members came to school dressed up as Cinderella, pirates, cats, and as Braveheart's William Wallace. One of the most creative was sophomore Mandy Wiles, who dressed as the game Twister. She wore a dress that had different colored dots, white go-go boots, red leggings, and a twister board on her head.

NHS members went to their first-period classes, and when the bell rang letting every one go to second period, they went to the flagpole to take pictures of costumes before departing for Rosedale.

Arriving there, NHS members met the school's principal. The first stop was the neighborhood fire station to go trick-or-treating with the children. Afterwards the NHS members were split between working at the booths and visiting the booths with the kids.

Toward the end of the day everyone got together for a Halloween dance. The NHS members paired to dance individually with the Rosedale students. The taps of shoes could be heard over the loud music, and everywhere there were smiles from both the NHS members and their new friends. One of the Rosedale students did the moonwalk like Michael Jackson.

"The dance was fun, and it made me happy to see the kids smiling," junior Kristen O'Dell said.

The NHS group included seniors, juniors, and some sophomores. There was a conflict with choir, as several students had left on a trip to Arkansas. This made room for some sophomores to come.



photo: Olivia Brinson

MASQUERADE Juniors Rebekah Teeter and Kristen O'Dell pose with a Rosedale student at the two schools' annual Halloween get-together on Oct. 31.

Seniors make scholarly sojourn to King Tut exhibit

eddie **CARLIN**
copy editor

In the dark, cold hours before dawn on the morning of Friday, Oct. 24, the 16 students of Mr. Moore's senior Humanities class met in the school parking lot to shiver and share donuts.

But this was not the only reason several teenagers and two teachers would meet at school at 6:30 a.m. The true purpose for this early morning gathering was so that they could board two Brentwood school buses and head north to Dallas.

Field trips are a rare occasion for high school students, but when Craig Moore discovered that a traveling exhibit displaying artifacts from the tombs of King Tut and other Egyptian pharaohs would be in Dallas, he thought it would be an excellent opportunity for an out-of-class learning experience. Due to the increasing popularity of the exhibition, Moore was not even sure the tickets were easily attainable, but

a day before the trip itself, he received a call confirming that the students would also be able to see the short film presentation in conjunction with the exhibit.

After a three-hour bus ride – and several confusing minutes finding the right exit off the freeway – the students disembarked about a block from the Dallas Museum of Art. After a short walk that included a quick stop at a Starbucks along the way, they found themselves within the museum, where they waited for a half hour before the tour began.

Within the museum's galleries, which had been remodeled to convey an Egyptian ambience, there were several displays of artifacts and art, nearly all of which were behind climate-controlled glass cases that sounded an alarm if touched. Some of these relics included statues of the deceased themselves, called "shabi," and marital gifts such as chests and thrones.

There were also countless hieroglyphs adorning several objects, many of which were

used in religious ceremonies or served as prime examples of Egyptian artwork at its finest, which pleased Moore because he had not had time to cover Egyptian art in class.

Despite the exhibit's name, "King Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs," King Tut himself was not there, much to the dismay of the Humanities students.

"It was kind of anticlimactic," said Colleen Jung. "They made you think he was in the next room, but he wasn't."

There were, however, several short video clips of the discovery of his tomb in 1922, and a projector created a multilayered image of the different pieces of his sarcophagus and burial shrouds.

After completing the exhibit, most of the students avoided the outrageously overpriced gift shop, though some conceded paying a dollar to a machine that printed their names in hieroglyphs. Then, they viewed a short film showing a look inside King Tutankhamen's tomb.

Their tour completed, it was time to make the trip back to Austin, but not before stopping at a Chili's in Lancaster, where the students discussed the exhibit and listened to Linda Riedesel, who served as the trip's other driver, recount stories of her trips to Tahiti and New Zealand.

"I liked how well organized it (the exhibit) was," she commented. "You could go behind the cases and see the whole object."

The buses did not return to school until 8:00 that night, but despite the early start and exhausting day, all the students agreed that while it would have been even cooler to take a field trip to Egypt itself, the trip to Dallas was a welcome diversion from a regular day of school.

"I thought the trip was a marvelous success," expounded Moore. "It gave us an opportunity to see some things I couldn't cover in class, and I really enjoyed the scholarly discussions we had on the bus trip."

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Amber Doyle

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

Ever amiable Amber

Intensely thoughtful and caring, “Doyzle” kicks, chops her way to Harding

lizzy DUPOND
reporter

If she’s upbeat, has frizzy, golden hair, and is on her way to Harding University, she’s Amber Doyle. Most people know the sunny senior as being kind and caring, but not many are aware that she practices tae kwon do or that she plans to major in criminal justice. That’s Amber for you, and there’s still more to her that you may not know.

Friends call her serving, responsible, and “Doyzle.” True to these words, Amber works hard but also has fun. She is generally good-natured and can take a joke, which is evident when people bring up the big tease: her hair. Her radiant tresses, ever in a barely-restrained mass, are often targeted for a taunt.

“If you wanna diss her, just say, ‘Your hair,’” best-friend Amy Mise says.

Besides spending time with her friends, Amber is involved in many extracurriculars. She has been in choir for seven years and is now serving as NHS

secretary. However, one particularly unique activity is her martial arts. Amber has practiced karate for three years and jute since she was a freshman. After all her years of experience, she also helps to teach little kids.



Despite all that she has on her plate, Amber is still characteristically caring to her friends. They all agree that she’s a great listener. If anyone has a problem, she is ready with attentive ears and a burned CD. This other surprising thing about Amber is that she burns CD’s with songs for her friends if they are going through a tough time. She’ll hand them the disc and say something like, “Here, this will make you feel better.”

Apart from her friends, lots of people love Amber for being a smiling, responsible person.

“Amber, like her name, is bright, always smiling and shining with the love of Christ for others,” guidance counselor Lynda Pierce says.

Amber’s brother Ryan, a sophomore, respects her for being hardworking and down-to-earth. And he recognizes her passion for debate, which usually provokes riveting dinner-table discussions about religion or politics.

These skills will

come in handy next year when Amber goes off to Harding University to study criminal justice. She has had her heart set on Harding ever since eighth grade, when she first went to the Searcy, Ark., campus to sing with the BCS choir. Now she has applied and been accepted, which is little wonder considering her high academics. Amber is an honors student, and she has taken two AP classes. Her future looks set.

Wherever she goes, Amber is lively in her pursuits and loved by those around her. When running for NHS secretary, Amber won automatically because she was unopposed.

“Who would run against Amber?” senior Ben Lancaster asks, revealing an admiration for his classmate that is shared by many, including Eddie Carlin.

“She is passionate about whatever she does, and she’s one of the most convicted people I know,” Eddie says. “But she is also one of the most intensely loyal friends I’ve had the pleasure of knowing.”

Some people would say that Amber’s best trait is her pleasant disposition. When asked about her attitude, friends responded that she’s generally cheerful and not really caught up in the little things.

“Unless it’s caught in her hair!” Amy laughs.

High elements, high fun, high goals set on retreats

kaalah MANONGDO and jay WILES
reporters

“Spotters ready?” “Ready!” “On belay?” “Belay is on.” “Climbing?” “Climb on.”

BCS seventh graders uttered these familiar commands as they made memories and conquered fears on their retreat at Camp Buckner near Kingsland on Oct. 20-21.

A week later it was the freshmen’s turn, as they left Austin in the opposite direction on Oct. 26-27 and headed for Camp Tejas in Giddings.

At the seventh-grade retreat, students spent much of their time on “high elements” courses, while they also participated in group games such as “Knights, Horses, and Cavaliers,” a Brentwood retreat classic.

According to this year’s head sponsor Heather Hammock, the purpose of the retreat is to help the students bond as a class by giving them an experience that allows them to open up to each other.

“It also helps to have the seniors at the retreat so the seventh graders have someone to look up to who is farther along in life and who might be able to relate better to their experiences,” Hammock added, referring to the five twelfth-grade students who came along.

After walking down the quarter-mile dirt

path from the main camp, the group from BCS arrived at a clearing among the trees, where tall poles and ropes awaited eager climbers. While classmates shouted, “You can do it,” other seventh graders strapped on their harnesses still telling themselves, “I can’t do it. I’ll never make it.” Some repeated those statements over and over again while scooting along a pole 15 feet off the ground, but before they realized it, they had completed the course.

“I really enjoyed seeing the teamwork and attitudes of all of the seventh graders,” sponsor Paul Sladek said. “Some of the students had to overcome their fear of heights to accomplish the goal.”

Many seventh graders said their favorite activity was the trapeze, which involved climbing to the top of a telephone pole, standing on top, then jumping off and trying to grab a trapeze while secured by a harness attached to a camp staff member below.

Others said their favorite was the “Screamer,” in which a student was hoisted up close to the top of one telephone pole and then swung between that pole and another pole.

But some of seventh graders also said their favorite time was a serious discussion with the seniors in their cabin.

“I thought it was really cool when we all sat and just talked,” Ashley Porter said. “Everyone

would listen to each other and their problems.”

Sponsors for the trip were Hammock, Lori Morin, Travis Pollard, Sladek, and Jonathan Weed. Secondary principal Jared Lee and school president Marquita Moss also attended.

Senior sponsors on the trip were Peter Johannigman, Colleen Jung, Ben Lancaster, Catherine Marler, and Jay Wiles.

The focus of the ninth-grade retreat was to remind students of the importance of unity, friendship, and acceptance. The group left Brentwood at 3 p.m. on Sunday and arrived an hour later, where they immediately got busy.

During the next 24 hours, the students heard important messages from their school principal and president about loving each other and planning for their future. They experienced a mixture of time

see **Retreats**, page 6



photo: Travis Pollard

HERO’S WELCOME Cynthia Smith receives high fives from her group after successfully completing one of the “high elements” at the seventh-grade retreat Oct. 20.

TEACHER FEATURE: *Chloe Campbell*

“Crazy” Campbell counsels, cares

carter **BOYD**
reporter

At Brentwood Christian, you may at times hear students making fun of teachers behind their backs. But it's not often that you hear them spreading the insults during class. And even less often do you witness a teacher making fun of a student in her class, much less calling them names.

But when English teacher Chloe Campbell needs to solve something, she just calls her

students “locusts.”

The name comes from “The Odyssey,” which Campbell read with her students in freshman English class, always with a smile on her face and laughing at lines from an often dull book made funny by her students. As an English teacher, Campbell has given her students advice in her “Campbell Conversations,” helping them out when they have problems with emotional crises, school drama, or general problems. Junior Megan Montgomery says the best thing about these is that she follows up

on them and checks in on her students later to keep up with them.

Campbell has been married for “two years and a few months” to Andrew Campbell, whom she met at Lubbock Christian University. They sing together when Andrew plays his guitar, the talent that Campbell said she first fell in love with.

“I also enjoy camping, long walks on the beach, and seashells,” Campbell said. “I’m a fun, energetic, easygoing, and crazy person.”

Campbell likes to play golf in her free time and has a dog named Yoshi, who is “the coolest and craziest dog ever! And he bites cool people,” she said, referring to Yoshi biting her and some of her students.

Campbell was born in Abilene and raised in Baird. She says she was a good kid, with a lot of imaginary friends. Fortunately, she has made many real friends at BCS, including Missy Weaver, Teri Hager, Kay Taylor, and former teacher Katie Condra. BCS has provided Campbell with her first teaching job, and she is now in her fourth year at Brentwood.

She began as the high school drama and speech teacher. In her second year she taught two English classes and junior high theater appreciation, a class Campbell said was a mixture of literature and drama and made her miss teaching high school theater. Her third year, she began teaching junior high drama and continued with freshman English, both of which she is teaching this year.

So before you head down to Mr. Lee’s office to turn Mrs. Campbell in for making fun of her students, think about whether you really want her gone.



photo: Olivia Brinson

DEALING WITH LOCUSTS Chloe Campbell attempts to tame the author of her “teacher feature” during another crazy hour studying the English language.

txtng: gr8 idea or not? some bff’s gtng caught

jacob **CARDENAS**
reporter

“Hmmm...I wonder what Tyla’s doing,” history teacher Devan Loftis said with a sarcastic look. “You’re not even sly about it.”

Text messaging has consumed the lives of many teenagers in America, even to the point of...texting during class. This may be hard to believe, but most students say they don’t see the harm in having a social hour during the time they’re supposed to be learning.

“I don’t get why it’s such a big deal. Isn’t it your choice to pay attention or not?” one student asked.

Because many students have this attitude toward the no-texting rule, they find many ways to get around it. Some, like junior Tyla Wells, don’t make an attempt to be all that sneaky, but instead trust the teacher won’t notice.

“It’s pretty funny. They don’t have a clue about what’s going on,” another student said.

Others don’t necessarily trust a teacher’s unawareness, but instead use rather clever methods. One student actually cut a hole in the front pouch of his jacket, enabling him to see his phone by looking down. Other common

methods are memorizing the key pad, putting the phone on silent, hiding it in a sleeve, or just plain texting on the side of the leg. Many girls use their purses as a tool to hide their phones from sight. Some students even brag about their perfect record.

“I’ve never, ever, ever, gotten caught. It’s amazing,” said one student who texts often.

While it may be true that the majority of teachers don’t notice, there are a few teachers who students know won’t be so easily fooled. The most feared is Biology teacher Mark Broadway, who not only picks up a student’s phone but also looks to bring down the person on the other end of the conversation.

According to Broadway, his procedure is as follows: After picking up a phone, he first looks at the screen. If the message is already on the screen when he looks at it, he then reads the message and notes who sent it. He then calls the student who sent it and if he answers, Broadway will also take up his phone.

If the initial message is inappropriate, he then reads some of the other messages and further disciplinary actions can be taken, which has happened before. Contrary to many students’ beliefs, Broadway wishes to point out that he

will not read any messages if they are not first on the screen.

“If you really don’t want your phone to be looked at or read, then you won’t have it out during class,” he said.

Besides being a social tool, text messaging also poses a serious temptation for cheating. This is why students will receive an automatic zero if caught texting during a test.

According to secondary principal Jared Lee, texting in school is a big distraction.

“It’s not only a distraction to the one texting but also to the person receiving the texts and the class, because of everybody watching the person text,” he said.

Lee also said he understands that sometimes students make mistakes, and this is why students are allowed to pick up their phones after a first-time offense. On the second offense, a parent or guardian must pick it up.

For students, the bottom line seems to be that there are only two solutions to completely avoid conflict. One is for the rule to be changed and texting to be allowed, which, sorry to all you optimists out there, is not going to happen. The second solution is to just follow the rule. Why not?

Choir gets to sing in Searcy

gabe **BRETERNITZ**
reporter

On Halloween weekend, 40 BCS high school choir members and 15 willing adults climbed into ten vehicles and took a trip to Searcy, Ark., to attend the Christian Choral Festival hosted by Harding University. The festival consisted of seven choirs from around the region all coming together with the mutual desire to sing beautifully.

The trip started with a six-hour drive to Texarkana, where the chorus-members met their host families at Hampton Road Church. The families had graciously volunteered their homes so the trip’s cost would not include hotel bills. Seniors Andrew McClellan and Trever Brightwell, guests of the Lockhart family, were thankful not only for the reduced cost but also for the experiences they shared with their hosts.

“We went trick-or-treating with our hosts’ kid,” McClellan said. “I think we had more fun than he did, though.”

In the morning, the choir gave a small concert for the host families as a gesture of thanks and continued on its way.

Soon after arriving in Searcy, the students went onstage with the other choirs for the first mass rehearsal of the weekend. All the choirs had previously learned the same songs in preparation for the workshop.

After that memorable experience, the choir once again headed to the homes of several gracious host families.

After a night of sleep plus an extra hour – thanks to daylight saving – the choir awoke and went to church at College Church of Harding. Then came rehearsal again, with a lunch in between sessions.

The two Harding University choirs gave a quick performance immediately after as a treat to the hard-working singers. The choirs then separated themselves to practice their individual songs.

The choirs nervously anticipated their appearance onstage; each choir would sing individually at first and then all choirs would come together as a whole for the last two songs. It was an underwhelming crowd that consisted mainly of host families, the true heroes of the trip. Still, all went well, according to choir director Missy Weaver.

“The concert sounded amazing with all 250 voices together,” Weaver said. “Each of the programs made incredible progress over just two days.”

The choir trooped off to their host families for one last night in Arkansas.

The choir was first invited to the festival two years ago by Dr. Robert Ganus of Harding. The only thing holding the choir back was the price of the trip, until the idea to use host families was implemented. Weaver had used this cost-cutting method in college, so contacts were called in Texarkana and Searcy to make the housing arrangements, and soon the choir was on its way.

The trip will be made every other year.

Five seniors hope to lead successful season

Lady Bears win first three, head for Mustang Classic in Houston this weekend

megan **MONACELLI**
reporter

The election wasn't the only big event that happened on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

The Brentwood Christian Lady Bears opened their season by crushing San Marcos Home School 61-12 about the time polls were closing. Tyla Wells, a junior for the Lady Bears, was the leading scorer of the game with 14 points. Coach Devan Loftis said they went out there and just had fun, but they also played with great intensity.

Three days later, the girls earned their second victory of the season by beating Waldorf 50-31. Senior Olivia Brinson and junior Ashley Clement each scored 11 points.

The girls made it three-for-three with a 53-50 victory over Austin Royals on Nov. 11.

Both the varsity and JV teams left Thursday to participate in the Mustang Classic tournament in Houston, Nov. 13-15. It is the first time the Lady Bears have gone to this tournament, and Loftis said they could possibly take home the championship title. The teams are pretty evenly matched, he said.

Expectations are high this year for the Lady Bears. Loftis says he expects everyone to play hard and with intensity. He also anticipates strong leadership from the five seniors on the team: Olivia Brinson, Katie Legband, Laura Peterson, Hannah Sinclair, and Rebekah Singleton. They have all played basketball for Loftis since their freshman year.

Loftis said he expects them to be hard workers, since they know the program, and to set good examples for the freshmen.

According to Loftis no one is guaranteed playing time and no one gets an automatic spot on varsity or a starting position. The only freshman to make varsity was Brittany Brunson.

Sinclair is the only senior who came from volleyball season to basketball season. She said it was a good transition and she didn't have to do as much "catching up" with the team because the volleyball team didn't make

district playoffs. As a senior she strives to be a leader for the team.

"I try to encourage people to hustle and work hard," Sinclair said.

The offense for the Lady Bears is undergoing some changes this year, according to Loftis. There will be several players handling the ball this year. The departure of point guard Amanda Hughes was a big loss for the team.



photo: Kenneth Brinson

COAST TO COAST Senior Hannah Sinclair dribbles the ball down the court after a steal against San Marcos Home School in the first game of the season.

"It has forced us to adapt the way we run our offense," Loftis said.

Even with these obstacles, success is still the goal as well as playing hard.

"I think we have a good chance of winning district," Loftis said.

The Lady Bears stayed in division 4A but went from being one of the bigger 4A schools to one of the smaller ones. This is because surrounding schools such as Regents, St. Gerard, and San Antonio Lutheran have been moved to 3A while some bigger schools such as San Antonio Christian and Victoria St. Joseph – which are both about twice the size of Brentwood – have been moved from 5A to 4A. This makes the competition tougher in the district for the Lady Bears.

"I think it makes our whole district more competitive," Loftis said, "and it definitely makes making state playoffs a lot more difficult."

This is no setback for the players, though. They still want to work hard this season to go as far as they did last season.

"Going to the Final Four is my expectation and always will be," Brinson said.

The leaders of the team all agree that the players are all going to have to push each other to work hard and to give 100 percent on the court.

Loftis not only encourages the team to hustle and play smart, but also encourages the players in their responsibilities off the court. He expects everyone to act Christ-like because he believes the team is representing something much bigger than basketball. Loftis said God will bless the team and the season if they play for His glory.

Runners' road ends at state

gabe **BRETERNITZ**
reporter

The BCS boys' cross country team placed ninth at the state meet in Waco on Oct. 18, with senior Mark Nesslage placing 12th out of 289 participants and classmate Nick Sterling coming in 13th.

Nesslage finished the 3.1-mile course in 18 minutes and five seconds, with Sterling only a second off the pace. Fellow seniors Trever Brightwell and Ben Lancaster placed 61st and 71st with times of 18:58 and 19:20, respectively.

The Nesslage-Sterling rivalry produced some close contests but was always friendly.

"I enjoy running with him," Sterling said. "We encourage each other to give our best effort."

Last year BCS placed third at state, but the recent district realignment added several former 5A schools to the 4A district, making the competition much harder than it has been in recent years.

"I thought they did all right at state," coach

Jacob Rotich said. "Maybe we couldn't have made the top five, but we could have done better."

The team's performance drop could have something to do with the course itself. Baylor University sponsored the race at its own course in Waco this year. The competitors usually run at a different, flatter course. Runners were affected by the hilly terrain.

Rotich said he is disappointed to see so many good seniors graduate and leave the team, but he looks forward to the teams to come.

"(This year's team) was a good group – probably the best team I ever coached," he said. "They had great team spirit and got along very well. I really enjoyed running with them."

Led by coach Katie Smith, the girls did not have enough runners to form a team this year, but they still competed. Sophomore Jennifer Quinn ran the two-mile route at state in 15:25, which was good enough for 55th place. Junior Lizzy DuPond placed 70th, with 15:55. Senior Rachel Kwon placed 102nd with a time of 17:06, and junior Brittany Donnell placed 107th with a time of 17:25.

Retreats a blast at Buckner, Tejas

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for serious reflection and time to cut loose.

One of their first games had the group split into four corners on the basketball court, where a Camp Tejas staff member then called out the name of an item. The first group to bring the item to him won that round. The items included shoes, hair bands, watches, necklaces, and Mr. Broadway.

Sunday evening, the first Class of 2012 meeting was held, led by class president Brittany Ho and other class officers. As the students were exiting the conference center after their meeting, they found a hayride waiting for them. Every student and teacher piled on and rode down a trail to a bonfire.

"I liked the hayride and getting to see the stars," said English teacher Jessica Love, who joined the freshmen on their retreat.

Band teacher Travis Pollard led some songs by the fire and then gave a short devotional thought. It was, however, interrupted by approaching noises. Many students gasped and fled to the opposite direction from which the noises were coming. After Lee investigated

and did not find the source, Pollard warned the students of a "hobo with a hatchet."

On the ride back, Pollard started yelling, then jumped up and ran alongside the hayride, scaring many students. The driver was also frightened, and, unaware that Pollard was not a student and had not been on the wagon in the first place, scolded him for "jumping off."

"I enjoyed seeing Mr. Pollard get in trouble," Love later mentioned.

When they had free time, students played volleyball, enjoyed the playground, and showed off their guitar playing skills. Carter Boyd, Bryan Williams, and Aaron Messina played a variety of songs that other students sang along to. Students also had time for the rock wall, zip line, paddle boats, and canoes.

They arrived home at 3:15 on Monday, after a weekend of unity building, future planning, and fun.

"It was different because we got to do a lot more unity building than at other retreats," freshman Schuyler Hagen said. "It felt like we were meeting people for the first time."

Fall seasons close for JH, elementary

katie LEGBAND
sports editor

The junior high and elementary girls' volleyball teams ended their seasons last week with the Summit tournament. Elementary boys' soccer is also finished, while the junior high boys are not quite sure.

Tied for third place in their Hutto league, junior high coach Devan Loftis said on Tuesday that he does not know whether his team qualified for playoffs. On Nov. 4, they won 1-0 on a header by eighth-grader JT Lopez-Roeper. That Saturday, they won 8-0, followed by a loss on Sunday.

Brinson, the team's leading scorer, and classmate Amos Mallet led the team in their 3-2 victory on Oct. 23. They currently have a record of 5-2-1.

Elementary soccer ended the season with a 3-3-2 record. Brodie Brown led the team in scoring, and Dane Foster led in assists. Goalkeeper Thomas Howard had two shutouts to end the season.

All five volleyball teams participated in post-season tournaments hosted by Summit at their Cedar Park location on Nov. 3-4.

The junior high AA team's season ended when they lost their first match against Hill Country in two close games. They ended their season with a 12-6 record.

"We just weren't focusing," seventh-grader Lauryn Martin said. "Our nerves got the best of us."

Coach Kaylee Loftis said she is happy with her team.

"This group of girls worked hard this year. There were many on the team with great serves and some that improved greatly over the season," Loftis said.

The junior high A team went the furthest in the tournament, playing three matches. The girls finished with a 9-1 record.

"I am very proud of the way the girls played this year," coach Efrain Contreras said.

Led by Kaylee Loftis, the elementary AA won their first match against Grace Academy in two games but lost their second match, ending the season at 8-7.

"The girls improved a lot over the season," Loftis said. "Even though we always needed to work on consistency, they got better at passing and serving throughout the season."

The elementary A team finished with a 7-1 record. They lost their first match of the tournament against Summit AA.

"It was a lot of fun," fifth-grader Tori Troutman said. "I really like playing for school – it was more competitive than sports outside of school."

The elementary green team also lost in their first match of the tournament against Victoria in two games. Their final record was 3-2.

Winter soccer begins with strong outings

katie LEGBAND
sports editor

BCS kicked off its first-ever winter soccer season last Friday, Nov. 7, by tying the St. Stephen's varsity 1-1.

The Crusaders scored in the first few minutes of the game, but the Bears tied it up in the second half. Sophomore David Ko's shot rebounded off the goalie, and sophomore Gabe Breternitz finished the play to tie the score.

Another "first" for the soccer program this year is their first official JV team. According to Walker, BCS has not had a JV team before because the other schools BCS has played did not have enough to have two teams. They lost their opener against St. Stephen's 2-1.

Brentwood had only 21 players for both games, leaving them with no subs. This was due to the fact that eight of the players play both soccer and basketball, and there was a basketball game against Waldorf that night.

The next day, the team played Awty in Houston and tied 2-2. Since it was a friendly game, the teams decided to go into a shoot-out to decide an unofficial winner, and Awty ended up a 3-2 winner. Walker said they consider it a tie, since teams typically don't play off ties even during district play. The shoot-out was

for both teams to practice for playoffs, so their current record stands at 0-0-2. The JV team lost to the Rams 3-1.

"We're really flowing as a team and learning a lot from each other," senior goalie Ben Lancaster said.

By switching to winter soccer, the team is just now beginning their season, rather than ending it. Walker and the boys agree it has been a good switch all around.

"Everyone's excited about it – better weather, better competition, same teams as our (other BCS teams') district, night games, select players don't have conflicts with their select seasons, etc. – it's all good," Walker said.

They are now in the same district – playing the same teams – as every other varsity sport at Brentwood. BCS has never played three of the other four teams in their district: Victoria St. Joseph, San Marcos Baptist, and TMI. The last team in the district is San Antonio Christian, who was in Brentwood's district last year.

In addition to the three new teams, there are four districts now instead of the two last year. According to Walker, last year BCS was in the hardest district, but this year they have no idea. He said they are "on par" with the Houston district, and Dallas/ Fort Worth has good soccer. The Dallas/ Fort Worth area has

been split into east and west districts.

Last year, the boys placed fifth out of nine teams in district and did not make it to playoffs. There was also loss of players due to injuries and disciplinary issues. Seven players graduated, leaving only two seniors this year: Lancaster and Nick Sterling, who are also team captains.

"We lost a lot of talent, but those guys taught these guys a lot, and they have been good learners," Walker said. "We're not going to have any individuals that are as good as some of the guys we lost, but we're bigger, faster, stronger, and deeper overall than we were last year. I think we may surprise some of our fellow students if they'll come out and watch us play, though it may be hard to tell because our schedule is brutal this year."

The boys' plan for this year is "to win," according to Sterling and junior Tommy McCaffety. Walker has more detailed expectations.

"I expect these guys to play with great Christian character, and I expect them to put their very best out there every game because I've seen them do that in the off-season," he said. "Our opponents will get our best shot every game, so they had better be ready to give us their best too, because I expect us to be playing at close to the level of our potential all year."

Boys' hoops starts in learning mode

benjamin INGRAM
reporter

It's a new year for Brentwood varsity boys' basketball: a new offense, a new starting lineup, and a new district.

After the first three games, the team has

a record of 0-3, but according to coach David Peyton, they are showing definite improvement.

The Bears opened the season with a disappointing 68-45 loss to San Marcos Home School on Nov. 4 in front of many students and parents who came to support their team.

Brentwood got out to a rough start, falling behind by 29 by halftime. Coach David Peyton had a few choice words for his guys to get them fired up to play a much more intense second half. They came out firing with a quick steal and lay-up by junior guard John Alan Archer, but the deficit proved too great to overcome.

Then on Friday, Nov. 7, the Bears faced Waldorf in another home game, losing 73-38.

The defense continued to struggle, and they fell behind 43-14 at the half. Archer led the team with 11 points.

But on Nov. 11, the Bears may have turned a corner. Although they lost to Austin Royals, Peyton said his team "actually ran an offense and played great defense."

While he said the entire team showed an improved

attitude, he reserved his highest praise for senior Ben Lancaster.

"He was a monster on the court," Peyton said. "It was just an amazing performance."

The Bears' new district includes San Antonio Christian School, San Antonio TMI, Corpus Christi Incarnate Word, Victoria St. Joseph, and Giddings School. Moving up with Brentwood to 4A is Hyde Park and San Marcos Baptist.

Brentwood is running a new offense this year called "read and react." It is a "five-out" offense, meaning all five players begin their possession outside the three-point line. It is not necessarily a set offense; it provides creativity for the players.

According to Peyton, there are many layers and levels to this offense. He said it will be taught starting in elementary so that by the time the young guys get to high school, they will know the layers. Since the offense is just being installed this year the varsity and JV are having to learn the layers a little faster than Peyton wants. But that's the way it has to go this year, Peyton said.

In spite of a rough start, the players aren't faulting the new offense.

"I love this offense because it's simple, effective, and really brings out the basic fundamental skills that we need as basketball players," junior guard Jacob Cardenas said.

Next for the Brentwood guys is a game at St. Andrews on Nov. 18. Soon following, on Nov. 20-22, is the ninth-annual BCS Invitational. District starts on Dec. 9 against Giddings School.



photo: Jordan Cleveland

PUMP IT UP The varsity cheer squad organized and performed in a "Jungle" themed pep rally on Nov 7.

McCain wins votes; students gain knowledge

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to participate in but also to be in charge of running an election finally arrived.

Hunter and Cynthia Davis, the other fifth-grade teacher, wanted this election to be as realistic as possible, so the teachers and the students put in a lot of work to make it like the real thing. The elementary classes were, first of all, treated as states in an Electoral College system. Each class was allotted votes based on how many students are in the class, and the candidate who won a particular class would receive all of that group's electoral votes.

Every elementary student had to register for the election and was given a yellow registration card when he or she went to Hunter's classroom to vote. The fifth graders were also given other jobs: Some decorated the rooms with posters, signs, and charts or set up voting booths the afternoon before the election; others helped younger students to get through the process of voting smoothly the day of the election.

"It helped us understand the election better and understand that, when we grow up, it's really important for us to vote."

Hunter said she felt that all of this work would be worth it because it would be a lot of fun, and all of the elementary students, especially the fifth graders, would get a lot out of it.

"This election helps the students understand how the voting process works, helps them realize the importance of voting, and also helps them to see that voting is not only a right, but also a responsibility," Hunter said.

The same day their parents headed to the actual polls, all of the elementary students went to vote as well. The atmosphere in Ms. Hunter's "precinct" during the voting held a noticeable excitement.

The votes were tallied throughout the day until the final results were in: McCain won with 537 of the 538 electoral votes, taking 74 percent of the popular vote. This is in stark contrast to the real election, which Obama won with 364 electoral votes and 52 percent of the popular vote.

After the election was over, students said they had a lot of fun. But when asked who they voted for, they revealed the quality of their training in saying, "We're not supposed to say."

In addition to having fun, the students also listed things they learned. Chandler Alberda spoke for herself and her peers in summing up the experience.

"It helped us understand the election better and understand that, when we grow up, it's really important for us to vote."

Fall fest brings fun, fortunes

leah **UNGLAUB-BROWN**
reporter

The sun was shining, and the weather was satisfyingly warm on Oct. 18 when Brentwood Christian held its 21st annual Fall Festival. The

festival was a big hit with new events like laser tag and old favorites like the maze.

Several major sponsors enabled the school to have another successful event financially. According to chairperson Michelle Bryant, the festival raked in about \$8,500 in all, which is

about the same as it made last year.

"I thought it was a beautiful day, and it had a great turnout," Bryant said.

The tenth grade's water dodge ball booth was very popular. It allowed guests to try to hit volunteering sophomores and some BCS teachers with water balloons, leaving the sophomores and teachers working the booth ducking for cover. With the booth's popularity, it made the sophomore class \$640.

Other popular booths included the senior class's animal walk, where guests enjoyed tunes from the Jonas Brothers while walking in a circle hoping their numbers would be called. Another was the maze, where kids could crawl through tightly packed tunnels trying to make it through all the nicks and tricks put up by the junior class before the structure came crashing down.

"It was fun," freshman Chance Morris said. "I was in the maze when it was torn down. It was amazing!"

The maze made the eleventh grade class \$415.

Something that appealed more to the younger age group at the festival was the magic show, led by juniors Alex Georgulas and Jamie Furrer. Ready goers entered Mel Witcher's classroom, which was transformed into a magical abode.

The secondary classes kept 100 percent of their booths' earnings. Each full-time teacher was given \$75, according to Bryant. All other money made was split between the secondary and elementary, and that money was put toward teachers' wish lists.



photo: Jessica Love

CHOO CHOO The Jigglebug Express makes its rounds at a sunny Fall Fest on Oct. 18. One of this year's most popular booths was the sophomores' water dodge ball.

Resolved: BCS debaters plan vast improvement

mark **NESSLAGE**
reporter

After half a year of silence, the BCS debate team is at it again.

On Oct. 20, the debate team had their first meeting of the year. Most of the students competing for spots on this year's team, such as seniors Amber Doyle, Eddie Carlin, Courtney Pool, and juniors Zach Strietlemeier and Chris Williams, have been a part of the team before. Others, such as seniors L'nae Allen and Amy Mise, as well as junior Skylar Haws and freshman Isabella Haws, are trying debate for the first time this year.

"I love TCSIT and love arguing," said Allen, explaining her decision to participate.

As TCSIT nears, cuts will be made until the team has six debaters. Three are allowed to compete, while the other three are alternates. Those who wish to compete for a spot on the team meet every Monday and Thursday in debate teacher Cindy Singleton's classroom. During these meetings, the team members engage in mock debates in order to increase their understanding of debate strategies.

In addition to their practices, those involved occasionally attend debate conventions in order to hone their skill. An event which Carlin attended on Oct. 25, in Salado, was a combination workshop and tournament. Students who attended were taught some skills to use while debating, and then were given a chance to use them in a friendly tournament.

However, the main goal of the BCS debaters is to find success at TCSIT, which occurs on March 26-28. Last year, they experienced a disappointing run which ended in a loss at the prelims.

After placing many times in the past, culminating with a win in 2004, BCS debate teams have struggled to find much success. However, Singleton said that this year's team has had a "great beginning." She also pointed out that they are "very committed," as debate team practices did not begin nearly this early last year. Strietlemeier said one of the team's goals is to beat Northland Christian, a school that has managed to edge out the Brentwood debaters the past few years.

With this year's early start, hopes are high.

Play opens tonight

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"The Boys Next Door."

Pierson said she wanted to take a mature approach to the subject matter and to get her cast and crew to feel the mood of the play. To achieve this goal, they took a field trip on Oct. 24 to Rosedale in Central Austin, a school for children and teens with mental handicaps. Though many of the children there had more extreme disabilities than the characters being portrayed in the play, students found it helpful to observe the way some handicapped people think and react.

Many of these students had visited Rosedale before, with NHS groups, but this time they were given a whole new opportunity to see a typical day in the life of one or more of these students. Many BCS students said they really saw a new group of people in these students.

"I want people to think differently when they use the word 'retard,'" said sophomore Victoria Stewart, who plays Clara in the production.

Many students expressed similar goals after the trip and said they understood better how "real" these people were.

The cast and crew of "The Boys Next Door" hope those who attend this weekend's production will be changed for the better.