



# THE BEAR FACTS



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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2010

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## IN SHORT

### All-State Singers

Four of Brentwood Christian's finest singers traveled to San Antonio on Thursday, Jan. 28, to rehearse with the private school all-state choir and then perform in San Marcos on Saturday. Sophomore Isabella Haws, juniors Immad Qussad and Victoria Stewart, and senior Ryan Patterson competed against hundreds of choir students across the state to attain this honor, which is achieved by only 160 students in Texas. This was Qussad's second year to make all-state.

### One-Acts to Entertain

Brentwood's junior high drama classes will perform two one-act plays on Feb. 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. in the FLC. The plays are "Small Actors," by Stephen Gregg, and "A Trying Ordeal," by Albert Green. Tickets are \$2 for children 12 and under, \$4 for older students, and \$6 for adults.

### Geography Champs

Sixth-grader Dane Foster and seventh-grader Charlie Sinclair won the elementary and junior high finals, respectively, of Brentwood's National Geographic Bee. The winners have taken a written test and are hoping to qualify for the state-level meet on April 9. Runners-up were fifth-grader Lauren Petrik and eighth-grader Skylar Treut-Shaffer.

### Math League

After last month's Math League test, BCS students are tied for ninth place statewide. The final two tests will be Feb. 23 and March 23. Currently Brentwood's highest scorers are senior Matthew Gardner, who has 21 out of 24 points, and juniors Mike Lee and Polly Park, who each have 20 points.

## Movie-themed week

### School spirit soars during Homecoming fun

charles **KIM** & erica **SHULTZ**  
reporters

After a relaxing three-day weekend, secondary students were welcomed back to school on Jan. 19 by a multitude of familiar and classic characters from the big screen decking the hallways. It was the BCS annual Homecoming week, and this year's StuCo put their own spin on some old traditions. Dress-up days, powder puff football, and the annual talent show and pep rally ignited school spirit in the students.

The Homecoming theme of this year was "movies," and students came to school dressed as their favorite movie characters. The first day, Tuesday, was Time Machine Day, in which students wore clothes depicting specific eras from Stone Age to Space Age. Wednesday was Disney Day, and many students showed up as their favorite Disney characters such as Minnie Mouse, Woody from "Toy Story," and princesses from the Disney Princess series.

Thursday was Double Feature Day, when students could double-up with their friends and come to school as either "twins" or "dynamic duos" from their favorite movies. Friday was Team Spirit Day, and students colored themselves with green and white to show off their commitment to BCS.

"I was very excited to see such great turnout in the diversity of costumes this year," StuCo's senior representative Alex Georgulas said. "It really feels like the school spirit is growing each Homecoming."

On Wednesday, the powder puff football game was held at the soccer field. StuCo had gone around the high school recruiting the "roughest, toughest bunch" of girls they could find, and divided them into two teams: pink "Victorious Secret" and green "Black Thunder." The game was scoreless until the green team scored a last-minute touchdown by Ash

see **Homecoming**, page 8

## Soccer seeks first playoff win since '98

mike **LEE**  
reporter

After two big wins at the end of January, the BCS varsity soccer team will advance to the playoffs, placing second in their district with a record of 5-5.

It is Brentwood's second straight year to make the playoffs, but they have not won a playoff game since 1998.

Tomorrow, the Bears will host a playoff game against Northland Christian, the defending state champs. If BCS manages to win, they will advance to regionals, after which comes the TAPPS state tournament in Waco on Feb. 19-20.

Currently senior Caleb Geer is the var-

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**Royal flush** This year's Homecoming court includes (left to right): sophomores Isabella Haws and Brian Williams (duke and duchess); seniors Ashley Clement and Rebekah Teeter (queen runners-up); seniors Abbie Boyd and Alex Georgulas (king and queen); juniors Levi Matus and Polly Park (prince and princess); and freshmen Travis Clark and Morgan Vandygriff (lord and lady).

photo: Bear Tracks



From the mind of Skylar Haws

# Starving for Jesus, literally

*My journey to find out whether fasting is of any use in our busy culture*

In contemporary American culture, our worship of God has not deviated much from the time of Abraham except in one crucial aspect – fasting. While prayer, song, service, and monetary sacrifice are extolled as acts of worship, giving up eating is widely misunderstood by society and overlooked by the American church in particular.

Our society places a high emphasis on productivity and self-betterment. Since fasting at face value seems counter-productive and harmful to one's health, I am not surprised that even the Church is reluctant to promote this fundamental act of worship, and many modern Christians shy away from it.

Despite its frightful appearance, I can genuinely say that by no other means have I felt closer or more connected with God. Late in January, I began my first fast. I had long known the purpose of fasting was to become close to God, but experiencing it was unlike anything I could have imagined.

The first thing that I noticed was my change in attitude. As I went through my daily routine, I was constantly aware of the small things in life that I would normally be too busy to care about. I found myself constantly reminded of scripture and more readily able to sense opportunities to act as Christ would.

Despite being physically weak and somewhat disoriented, I found my quiet time with God was fundamentally changed as well. Since I had to rely on God to strengthen me throughout the day, I had in effect formed a continuous connection to God. Instead of praying, then going out and dealing with the real world, I felt as though God was with me at every moment of the day – quietly speaking to my heart. When I read his word and prayed, I felt as though he were speaking to me in a fairly direct sense.

I know there are many Christians reading who have never given up eating because of the belief that fasting is not essential to worship (and non-essential difficult things rarely get done). It is true that there is no commandment for us to fast; however, Jesus himself said that the greatest faith (the moving-mountains kind) can *only* be achieved through fasting and prayer.

I also understand that there are many Christians reading who live physically demanding

lives; the thought of going without food seems incomprehensible because it would render mandatory tasks (such as basketball practice or AP Calculus homework) unable to be done. To this I would say that fasting does not have to be done during the most physically demanding times of our lives; however, "I eat a lot" and "I get really hungry" are poor excuses at best for not fasting.

If you are considering a fast, keep in mind that the duration and type are completely up to you. Fasting doesn't have to be done for forty days at a time, and it doesn't always mean no food at all and water only. You can fast for as little as two days (what I recommend as the minimum) or give up only certain types of food like meat.

In the end, I must remind all readers that fasting is something to be done only by those who have truly prepared their hearts and are ready to seek God in their lives. When the scripture says that God's power is perfected in our weakness, I can begin to understand why Jesus himself fasted for forty days. Although I am not ready for forty days without food, I will gladly continue shorter fasts as a regular part of my worship for the rest of my life in the hope that I might follow in my Savior's footsteps and seek God relentlessly.



photo: The Bear Tracks  
Wash your hands "Zoo Man" Mike Hicks of the Capital of Texas Zoo lets fifth-grader Rachel Beggs get personal with one of the creatures on Jan. 26.

## THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of Brentwood Christian High School. The paper is a learning tool which informs the student body while teaching students to become critical observers of their environment and to validate Truth within the context of the Christian world view.

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## Mindlessly walking the straight and narrow

*Senior issues caution regarding "going through the motions" Christianity*

**Jacob CARDENAS**  
reporter

Imagine trying to learn mathematics through a process of pure memorization. You would know that one plus one equals two because that is what you have engrained into your mind. But if you were asked to explain the concept of addition, nothing but a blank look would appear on your face.

This method of "learning" might work for a while, but there will come a time when memorizing the multiplication table is no longer enough. At some point, you must understand the concepts to do the math. Rote learning is a habit that is hard to break because it takes the least amount of effort and many times brings good results. As hard as this may be to believe, in some classes it is possible to sleep the entire period every day and still come out with an A. It is possible to ace a history test without knowing any of the history.

However, students who grow accustomed to learning through this method will eventually find themselves in a class where memorizing facts will get them no better than a 50. Unfortunately, bad study habits are extremely hard to break, so more likely than not, students who learn by rote are setting themselves up for failure.

It's one thing to bring this strategy to the classroom, but when this reasonless approach

to learning is applied to one's relationship with God, far more serious consequences are at hand. When a person is raised in a Christian family, attends a Christian school, and goes to church weekly, it is easier to fall into "going through the motions" Christianity. Just as memorization doesn't actually help a person understand concepts, "going through the motions" Christianity doesn't help a person develop a relationship with God. A personal relationship with God begins with an understanding and acceptance of the love of Christ. It is then developed through prayer and reading the Bible.

But for honesty's sake, it is a lot easier to get in a comfort zone with our faith when Christianity is continuously around us. It is easy to forget that faith is not inherited, and that going to church does not automatically make us followers of Christ. Even Bible class four times a week with a chapel talk on Thursday, mixed with "hall singing" on Monday and multiple daily prayers, does not suffice if our hearts are not in the right place.

It is possible to know the story of creation and redemption and maybe even have dozens of verses memorized without ever having opened the Bible to study for ourselves. It is possible to know the Lord's Prayer without having a personal prayer life. Just as it is possible to ace a history test without knowing any of the history, it is possible to go through the motions of Christianity without ever really

knowing Christ.

Just as learning by rote will set a student up for failure, "going through the motions" Christianity will more than likely lead a person to abandon Christ altogether. A time will come when decisions regarding our faith will no longer be made for us. Christ will no longer be found everywhere we turn. Every Sunday morning will require an active choice on whether we want to go to church or not. Choosing Christ is a decision of faith. Faith dwells in our relationship with God, but if no relationship exists, what will keep us from forsaking him?

Before we get discouraged, we must realize that the choice is ours. If we truly believe that Christ is the only way to salvation and that a personal relationship with him is essential, then the only thing left to do is act on it. It may not come easy at first, but a simple act of faith will push us along. We may literally have to force ourselves to read the Bible and pray, but the more we seek God, the more he will reveal himself to us.

We must remember that faith is a process that continues throughout our entire lifetime; therefore we should never feel comfortable with where we are. Once we form a relationship with Christ we will then be able to better appreciate the blessings of a Christian family, church home, and Christian school. Though developing a relationship with Christ may be difficult, it sure is worth it.

# Allen siblings take spelling bee by storm

*BCS participates in Scripps National Spelling Bee program for first time*

**morgan VANDYGRIFF**  
reporter

Brother and sister competed as the last two finalists in the first-ever Brentwood Christian School Spelling Bee last month.

The bee came down to sixth-grader Tiara Allen and fifth-grader Luke Allen. At the very end, Luke was asked to spell "foosball." After he spelled it correctly, Tiara was given the word "liquesce," which means "to become liquid." Tiara misspelled it and Luke was the winner.

Brentwood had the privilege of competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which has been around since 1925 and was featured in the 2006 movie "Akeelah and the Bee." According to the Scripps National Spelling Bee website, the purpose is to "help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that

will help them all their lives."

"It was a great experience," elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed said. "Many students spent some time preparing for the spelling bee, and that kind of sharpening is good for everyone."

Students from first through eighth grades began the competition in their individual classes. The winner from each class went on to the finals that were held in the auditorium on Jan. 13.

The contestants were given words from teachers that had been sent from Scripps. Many students prepared by studying the days before and even that morning.

Tiara Allen said she would write the word on her hand with her finger, which was her way of remembering the word. She and her brother Luke said that they studied a little every day and would just spell the words over and over. Having participated in PSIA spell-

ing for the past three years, they prepared by studying words from both the Scripps list and the PSIA list.

Judges for the bee were teacher Heather Hammock and librarians Sandra Morrow and Tere Hager; teacher Brooke Hollingsworth pronounced the words. Many students received special awards from the judges, such as "Best Sportsman," which eighth-grader Kent Howell was given. Second-grader Cade Young earned "Most Poised."

"I was kind of nervous because of all the people," Young said. "Mrs. Hejl gave me a packet and I studied a lot."

Luke Allen will head to Round Rock for the district competition on Feb. 23. If he wins in district he will advance to regionals in Houston. At the end of the school year will be the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.



*photo: Kay Taylor*  
**Tag team** Fifth-grader Luke Allen edged his sixth-grade sister Tiara as top speller.

## Students commit to corresponding with U.S. troops

**ryan BRUNSON**  
reporter

A powerful mixture of fear and anticipation permeates the air as soldiers patrol a prison, thousands of miles away from their homes and families. Many of these men are barely old enough to vote in the United States, yet they're armed and weighed down by heavy protective gear risking their lives at war.

It's a demanding situation, which is why BCS adopted an army platoon in Iraq last month. StuCo came upon the idea when its sponsor, Linda Riedesel, had her oldest son Matt (BCS '03) deployed overseas. Riedesel said that StuCo has made a conscious effort this year to focus on aiding people beyond Brentwood's hallways.

The platoon adoption was announced in last month's all-school chapel and will continue until May 31. The commitment officially began once the platoon's information packet arrived on the BCS campus in December.

The elementary classes were the first to send simple drawings and letters written by the students. The upper classes were separated by grade, and each class is to ship a box of "goodies" as well as a minimum of one letter a week during its assigned month.

The letters and gifts are intended to encourage and relieve the soldiers receiving them.

"They all want to know what's happening back in the states, and they need to be reminded of why they're fighting in Iraq," Riedesel said.

"They're all heroes, but they don't think so unless we tell them it's so," she added.

## Final fundraiser starts for new building

**joseph KANG**  
reporter

BCS president Marquita Moss said she anticipates construction on the Center for Science and the Arts will begin in April. She also said a new fundraising campaign, called "Take a Seat," has been introduced.

This new building is the final project in Brentwood Christian's 10-year campus plan. It was hoped that construction would begin in March, but Moss said she still expects the building to be complete for productions in the spring of 2011.

She said the construction schedule depends on completion of the fundraising and construction drawings, and securing of interim bank financing while the pledges are being paid.

The architect selected is Danze & Davis, and the contractor is Zapalac Reed.

Through the end of January, about \$390,000 was still needed to complete the Center for Science and the Arts, out of the total cost of \$4 million. The "Take a Seat" campaign is designed to honor special people by putting names on a seat in the new theater, called "The Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater," in the heart

of the center.

A plaque that contains two lines of text with up to 17 characters each will be inscribed with the honoree's name and placed on a chair in the appropriate section. The theater will have three sections: orchestra (plaques cost \$1,500 per seat), center (\$1,000), and back (\$750). Only 390 seats are available, which is the proper number to complete funds for auditorium.

Moss said there are also plans for enhancement to the academic program and renovation of classrooms vacated in other buildings, which will require an additional \$500,000.

## AP Biology buckles down, loses students

**levi MATUS**  
reporter

High school juniors and seniors were given the option to drop AP Biology this semester due to a dramatic increase in workload. As the semester began, the class lost six of its original 25 students, and the remaining students face complications in catching up with the Advanced Placement course.

Teacher Tasha Walker said the pace will now increase from one chapter a week to an average of about four chapters every two weeks. Because of some student misunderstandings, students were allowed to drop the class and move into Environmental Science, also taught by Walker.

"Some students struggled with the pace of the class," Walker said. "Some didn't realize the expectations of a college course."

AP Biology is a college-level course, and

some students said they did not know that it would be taught as such. According to Walker, several went in thinking it would be just another high school biology class. Instead, they got a big workload when the year began.

This problem worsened shortly after school began, when the new AP Biology teacher left BCS for personal reasons, followed by a two-week period in which the administration searched for a replacement. The class was put roughly two weeks behind schedule, causing an even heavier workload.

Walker said another complication is the size of the class. A class of 25 students was entirely too big to perform labs that relate to the AP course. Before a roster of the class was made, two lab kits were ordered based on expectations for the class size. Only about 10 students were expected this year, about the same as last year's class. Each lab kit accommodates about four to six students, nowhere near enough for

a class of 25.

Now, to catch back up in the AP curriculum, the class will be required to work even harder than before. Walker said she thought it was only fair to give students a warning, allowing them to drop the class if they felt they needed to do so.

"I freaked out when I saw all the work we needed to do," said junior Shelia Watiri, who switched to Environmental Science. "All it would do would be adding to my stress."

Students remaining in the class hope to score well on the Advanced Placement test on May 5. By scoring high enough on the test, students can earn credit for the class at some universities. Other universities with a stronger academic reputation do not offer credit but do look at AP scores when considering a student's application.

The same procedures apply to AP English, and students will take that test on May 12.



**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:** Ashley Clement

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2010.

# Aspiring nurse has soft heart, sweet jumpshot

**megan MONACELLI**  
sports editor

With her athletic physique, contagious smile, and unmistakable Christian attitude, Ashley Clement can't be missed walking the halls of Brentwood Christian School.

An Austinite from birth and BCS student since pre-school, Ashley has been at the center of numerous activities from athletics to choir to academic opportunities.

"I love to be involved in many different activities because you get to know a lot of different people and expand yourself," Ashley says.

Among her classmates she is considered a fun-loving, sincere girl who loves the Lord with all her heart.

"She is one of the sweetest, most Godly girls I know, and it is a blessing and encouragement to know her," fellow senior John Alan Archer says.

She was elected class president this year and currently serves as the secretary for the BCS chapter of the National Honor Society. She was also a runner-up for Homecoming Queen last month.

Ashley has been on the track team since her freshman year and plans to run again this year. But she is better known for her role in basketball, having played varsity since her freshman year and finishing her career this year as captain and leading scorer. According to head coach Devan Loftis she is a leader on and off the court with a character that is built on Christ.

"She is a great Christian role model, a good student, and dedicated athlete," Loftis says.

However, she is not a predominantly vocal leader; she leads through her actions and

example. When the team gets frustrated about not playing up to par, Ashley goes out on the court and inspires them by hitting a three pointer or driving to the basket for a score.

Ashley says she takes her job as a leader on the team very seriously.

"Responsibilities are very important when there are a lot of people looking up to you," Ashley says. "It is im-

portant to lead by example and let Christ radiate through your actions."

Along with Loftis, teammates agree that she has a kind heart and encouraging words to match.

"She always points out a good pass or shot and has something encouraging to say even when we mess up," freshman Rachel Orick says.

Ashley has high hopes for the Lady Bears as they head to the playoffs for the fourth time in her four years of high school.

"I just want us to play our best every time and have no regrets; do everything within our power to succeed and leave the rest to God," Ashley says.

Ashley says she hopes the younger players have learned a lot from the seniors this year, and that the team continues to be successful while glorifying God through the way they play.

While younger students might know her for her athletic success, Ashley's friends

appreciate her relaxed and gentle spirit. Her laid-back, easy-going nature makes her an easy target for good-natured ridicule about otherwise embarrassing stories among her classmates.

For example, Ashley and fellow senior Katie Miertschin set off for a BCS boys varsity soccer game at St. Stephen's in December, equipped with a GPS. Little did they know that the GPS would direct them down the wrong road, which happened to be a dirt road. The smell of rain hung in the air, and the wrong road became a puddle of mud which Ashley's Mercury Mountaineer could not get through. This caused a predicament for the girls as well as for Ashley's car. After trying various techniques to "un-stick" the vehicle, they called for help. Once the soccer game ended, the team went and found the girls and pushed Ashley's car out of the mud. Needless to say, Ashley has endured sarcastic and joking comments about this story from coaches, teachers, and the soccer team.

"Now that will be a memory I will have for a very long time," Ashley says with a smile. "I am pretty sure the soccer boys enjoyed it way more than I did at the time."

Her future holds prospects in the medical field, as she plans to attend Harding University in the fall and study nursing. She says she would like to be a nurse in a developing country, possibly associated with missions.

Ashley also plans on going to Bolivia this summer as part of a mission trip with her church. She says she hopes to make an impact on the Bolivian people and do everything she can to help them. Also, she hopes that God will strengthen her faith and open her eyes to new experiences.

As for studying nursing, she says she likes interacting with people a lot more than doing a "desk job."

"I love working with people and being able to help them," she says.



## Sixth grade makes balloons

**elena BATLLE**  
reporter

Sixth graders pour into the FLC after their lunch and get into their separate groups to perform their second of two hot air balloon takeoffs. Soon after preparations, trash bag balloons begin elevating slowly to just above the children's heads, while students hold them steady by strings, observing and talking about their science experiment.

Michelle Mohrmann's sixth-grade science classes have been working on a hot air balloon project since before Christmas break. They constructed their balloons with trash bags, straws, and birthday candles in the upper elementary science lab before the break. On Jan. 14, they tried out their creations in the FLC during sci-

ence class.

Using trash bags as balloons, students melted the candles to stick to some foil at the bottom inside of the bags, and the lighted candles produced the heat to make the balloons float. They made frames around the balloons with the straws and held them with string tied to the bags. The balloons would stay up until the candles burned down inside them.

"The kids were surprised that it actually worked," Mohrmann said.

This project was based on the story "The 21 Balloons" that the sixth grade was assigned to read last summer. Since then the class has been exploring the world of aviation and flight, and how hot air balloons work. The class also talked about gravity during science class, and they put it to the test with the hot air balloon project.

## BCS to host academic meet

**travis CLARK**  
reporter

Most BCS students will be sleeping late on Friday, Feb. 26, because they will have the day off. However, many of the fourth through sixth graders are exceptions. They won't have their normal classes, but they will still be on the BCS campus participating in the TCSA academic meet.

Brentwood Christian School will host this year's Texas Christian School Association academic meet, a competition for upper elementary students of schools throughout Texas. Schools from 12 different cities in Texas and one from Oklahoma will arrive on campus to compete in various academic events. There will be oral events such as Bible reading and

poetry, as well as written events such as Bible, math, vocabulary, and science.

Instead of striving for first place, students in this meet compete for ratings of "superior," "excellent," and "good." If one student does a little better than another, both could still earn a superior ranking.

Hosting a competition is a lot of work, so teacher Becky Stewart, who is the meet director, and executive assistant Kay Taylor have been busy preparing. But they can't do it all by themselves. The whole faculty will help on the day of the event, as will Booster Club, PTF, NHS, and other students as well.

Brentwood has participated in TCSA for nearly 30 years. They last hosted this competition in 2000 and 2001. Schools host two years at a time, so BCS will next year too.



# Moss a study in consistent Christian leadership

**lizzy DUPOND**  
reporter

In the average student's day-to-day life, the Brentwood staff member who stands out first in his mind is most likely a favorite teacher (or a feared one), a coach, or even that one who always comes up on the intercom. In other words, few people spare a thought for the Special Events Office and its relatively secluded school president.

Unfortunately, the times that Marquita Moss



photo: Jessica Love

**A true visionary** BCS president Marquita Moss, shown here speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Center for Science and the Arts last November, became involved with the school in the 1960s. Through the years, her impact as a godly leader has been profound.

is drawn most strongly into the spotlight of students' attention is when they think that she has wronged or deprived them in some way. Some suspect that she is opposed to football, a girl's soccer team, or too many Friday jeans days. She is strict, and she is stern. On the other hand, some students brightly say that Moss seems like a nice lady, and that she runs the school responsibly.

Moving past sifting clouds of opinion and arriving at the core, the majority of questioned students conclude that they do not know much about Mrs. Moss.

"We never see her except for when she's at school assemblies," says one junior girl.

With that in mind, the word from Moss is that she enjoys being with children of all ages, even though she may seem distant.

"What I miss most about leaving the role of principal is that it is harder to get to spend time with students," she says. "That's why I participate in the retreats."

With some knowledge of her background it would come to no surprise that Moss likes to be with kids; her five (soon to be six) grandchildren live nearby and come to visit her often. According to the oldest, BCS second-grader Darby Walker, they enjoy making cookies and gingerbread houses with her. Added to that, having grown up with two older and five younger siblings, being surrounded by children is a natural fit for Moss.

In fact, her current secretary, Penny Hagen, was a member of the church youth group Moss and her husband ministered to back in the 1960s. Hagen says she had lots of fun spending the night with the girls at sleepovers in Moss's house or at retreats.

"Mrs. Moss has quite a sense of humor, and she has been known to help us pull a prank or two on the guys when we attended those retreats," Hagen says.

She recalls that Moss was also a good mentor when she allowed them to confide in her, and she never shared the things they wanted to be kept private. Now, as her employee, Hagen still appreciates Moss's caring nature.

"She has rejoiced with me at good news in my family and been a source of strength to me when there is a crisis," she says.

Even today, Moss continues to find ways to spend time with teens. One example of this is the traditional tea party before the Junior/Senior formal. Moss hosts the tea at her home, where students are treated to great food in high style; being an elegant woman by nature, she breaks out some of her best china and silverware for the occasion. Each year, the girls will look about in delight at the quaint décor, from her collections of porcelain down to the ornamented silver spoons.

Another instance of Moss's taste and generosity is the meetings she holds for her mentor group. The six girls, now seniors, always appreciate the occasional lunch gatherings in her office, where they are sure to find pizza, soda, and cookies or cake.

At these reunions, even today's girls can see

that she cares about their stresses and concerns, since she always asks which class they think is hardest, what occupies their schedules, and what plans they have made for upcoming vacations or the distant future.

Yet whenever she can, Moss also reminds her mentor group about the importance of education. Her own grades in high school allowed her to attend UT-Austin on scholarships, and two of her daughters were valedictorians at Brentwood. Moss encourages students to do their best in classwork, in spite of their many activities.

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*Moss made a commitment some years ago to pray daily for each student in every year's senior class.*

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While she would love to talk with students more often, most of Moss's time is spent administering the school – a mysterious task to most students, who would be unable to say exactly what this entails. Usual tasks include analyzing finances, signing orders and checks, going to chapel, and meeting with board committees or parents. She also meets for two hours every week with the elementary and high school principals. Most of their time is spent in prayer, and the rest on planning.

Additionally, Moss serves on no less than four education boards. To be brief, the acronyms are TPSAC, TANS, NCSABD, and NCSAAC. (Most involve the words "school," "Christian," "association," or "Texas.")

Moss says it was not her original plan to work in education. When she attended UT, she had a major in journalism and a minor in economics. But when she and a group of friends began attending Brentwood Church of Christ of the 1960s, they were commissioned to teach high school classes and form a youth group. One member of that group was Gary Moss, who had first met Marquita Box in her first year at UT. They were married after she graduated in 1966. He taught Algebra at Lamar Middle School, and she worked for the Dallas Morning News at an office in Austin.

After first covering religion and then politics, Moss was soon moved to the paper's Capitol Bureau and wrote about the House of Representatives and some state agencies. She stopped working when she had her first child, Tasha (Walker – now a BCS teacher); later came her two other daughters, Christa (class of '90) and Yahna (class of '99). During this time Mr. Moss became the youth minister at Brentwood.

This is where a major part of Brentwood history was made. Gary and Marquita Moss, along with other couples at what was then only a kindergarten and first grade, decided that the youth ministry was not sufficient to make a true and effective impact on the teenagers. So they made a proposal to the church leaders to expand the school into a full pre-K through 12th-

grade school. The church agreed, and Mrs. Moss was elected to be the chairman of a new school board that supervised this expansion. She was still attending UT, getting her master's degree while working as an instructor of journalism classes.

Ironically, Moss had never heard of a Christian school until she graduated from high school. Yet teacher Mel Witcher credits her with being at the center of the ongoing effort to keep BCS in line with the school mission.

"She does a good job of keeping it explicitly and consistently Christian," he says.

Witcher also credited Moss's leadership and discernment for the uncommon longevity of the school. He recalls that many private schools across the state did not make it through the oil bust of the 1980s. Even in the current recession, the school has remained afloat despite having the lowest tuition

of accredited private schools in the district. Of course, this is connected to one characteristic of Moss's leadership that students and teachers alike will recognize: She challenges new proposals.

"She has very strong opinions, yet she will listen," says Witcher. "She will want you to make an argument for it, see the problems. She's a good mentor in that way."

In some cases, though – like football – school decisions are not her say. And in other cases, Moss has faced opposition for her insistence on maintaining projects that some consider too expensive. For example, she is a dedicated advocate of class trips to Europe and Washington, D.C. Although it does seem like an unlikely opportunity for such a small school, Moss has secured the ongoing tradition of student travel for many years.

People who see her work say that she does not give in to bad ideas to earn favor; she will not propitiate students or teachers just to be liked. Although it might be nice to have a popular president, Moss does not aim for this, but rather bases her decisions on what is best for the school. These are attributes of a leader.

Perhaps another factor in the school's growth and development is Moss's constant faith.

"She's a person who takes prayer very seriously," says elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed.

According to Dr. Weed, Moss made a commitment some years ago to pray daily for each student in every year's senior class, saying that the soon-to-be graduates could use the prayers as they were going off into the world.

"Seeing them grow and mature from kindergarten into mature seniors, seeing them take on leadership roles and blossom in their Christian faith, is what makes it all worthwhile," Moss says.

Although she seldom intrudes on the school's main populace, she has dedicated most of her life to helping it develop. And although few students get to know her, the few who do will find that there is much to know.

# No title for girls, but playoffs as always

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH** & derek **TRESSLAR**  
reporters

With a 6-4 district record, the Lady Bears will most likely finish third behind rival Hyde Park and Corpus Christi John Paul II, ending a streak of three straight district titles.

The varsity girls have qualified for the playoffs six consecutive years and eight of their 10 years under head coach Devan Loftis.

The team has two more district games, tonight at San Marcos Baptist Academy and tomorrow against San Antonio Christian.

Loftis said the district competition this season has been really tough, and that the top five teams are all good and closely matched. For example, Brentwood was defeated by fifth-place Victoria St. Joseph, but a week later defeated John Paul II, the first place team. The top four teams will advance to bi-district playoffs.

"We've lost three games by seven points total, and it's hard to take losses like that," Loftis said.

Senior Ashley Clement leads the team in scoring, averaging 15 points per game. Loftis also credited senior Joelle Vargas with stepping up her point guard play and increasing her assists.

Here are the team's results since the last issue of the Bear Facts. (\* denotes district game)

**12/11-12: @ Waldorf Tournament W/L**

The tournament did not have enough teams, so the Lady Bears ended up playing just two

games. After defeating Austin Waldorf 42-18, the girls lost 45-23 to Cornerstone Christian, who was led by a 6-4 player. BCS was missing two starters.

**12/19: Victoria St. Joseph 55-37 W\***

Clement poured in 20 points in a sound victory over St. Joseph.

**12/28-30: @ Rosehill Tourn. L/W/W/W**

The Lady Bears lost 41-39 to Lutheran North Christian, as Clement scored 13. Next against Baytown Christian, the girls took an easy 48-7 victory, led by 15 points from senior Tyla Wells. In their next game the team rolled over Allen Academy with a strong 62-13 victory in which Clement scored 15. In their final game, the girls won a close duel with Faith Academy, 30-29. Sophomore Megan Gum sank two free throws with no time left to win the game.

**1/02: Regents 47-36 W**

The girls looked solid in an 11-point victory over the holidays. Sophomore Brittany Brunson and Clement led the team in scoring, and senior Katie Miertschin grabbed seven rebounds.

**1/08: @ St. Joseph 33-29 L\***

The girls never got going in the loss; Brunson led with nine points.

**1/09: @ C.C. Incarnate Word 44-26 W\***

Clement led the team with 13 points in this win. Incarnate Word had suffered the death of one of their starters over the Christmas holidays, and in commemoration of her all of the Lady Bears wore armbands with her initials and number.

**1/12: Hyde Park Baptist 50-49 L\***

Vargas and Clement had 18 each in this bitter loss against their rival. Loftis said he was proud of his team's effort. They lost to the Panthers by a total of three points in two district games.

**1/16: @ C.C. John Paul II 40-39 W\***

Wells hit a three-pointer with only 17 seconds left to steal the victory from John Paul, who led most of the game.

"At first I wasn't sure if it was going in so I was sad, but then it did," Wells said. "The first thing I saw was Coach Loftis jumping, and I knew I did something good."

**1/19: @ San Antonio Christian 32-27 W\***

Clement scored 12 points and Wells helped out with nine in the fourth quarter to help BCS keep the lead and come out with the important district victory. The team hit several free throws in the final two minutes to seal the game.

**1/23: Incarnate Word 68-23 W\***

Clement, Wells, and Miertschin all scored in double digits in a blow-out win in front of a large Homecoming crowd.

**1/26: San Marcos Baptist 48-13 W\***

Brunson led the team with 13 points in this victory against a team that lacked some fundamentals.

**1/30: C.C. John Paul II 63-45 L\***

Brunson hit two free throws after time ran out to give the team a 31-30 lead at halftime. But the girls had a rough third quarter, scoring only four points. They played hard to get back in but came up short against a good team.

## Track coaches look for help

matthew **ONABAJO**  
reporter

A team of five BCS students went to College Station to compete in an indoor track meet for the first time in BCS history on Jan. 8. After a two-month break, BCS will resume competition in at the Trojan Relays on March 6. Two more meets will follow before the district meet, which will be held April 23-24.

Most of the 800 athletes at the indoor meet were competing from track clubs rather than schools. While BCS did not place, it did, as field events coach Craig Moore said, "introduce the athletes to big-time athletics."

Moore encourages students to try out for track now, since they probably won't be able to after high school.

"I think that they ought to give it a try," he said. "What would they lose by trying?"

For shot put and discus, Moore said athletes need to be tall and long and have a heavy build. For the jumps, athletes need to be fast, have a strong lower body, and have great lower body balance. Potential pole vaulters need to be fairly fast and be able to navigate upside down.

"We're going to work hard and do our best, and be prepared for each meet," head coach Joseph Walker said.

# Varsity boys close out tough year with character

taylor **SHAW**  
reporter

The varsity boys got out to a slow start this season, and despite a few occasions of excellent play, they could not put together a good enough record to make the playoffs.

The team is currently seventh in district with a 3-9 record. They close the season with two games this weekend.

Senior Jacob Cardenas leads the team with an average of 15 points per game.

Injuries have played a big part in this season, as three seniors' seasons ended early. John Alan Archer missed several games with an ankle injury, returned briefly, and then injured his elbow. Michael Sansom was recently lost with a back injury, and Taylor Shaw sustained a broken toe.

Although players knew they would not make playoffs as they played the final few games, senior Trevor Atherton said they still came into each game expecting to win and playing as hard as they could.

Head coach David Peyton agreed, saying that the team always played to win.

"I think that at certain times we didn't play up to our potential, but we had a lot of good games, and I'm proud of the fact that the team never gave up this year," he said.

Here are the team's results since the last issue of the Bear Facts. (\* denotes district game)

**12/8: @ Hyde Park 89-37 L\***

Seniors Archer, Cardenas, and Ben Kim, all sat out this game because of injuries. Hyde Park took a large lead early and held it throughout the game. Atherton had 14 points.

**12/11: Giddings State School 65-39 W\***

The team got their first district win with a commanding victory over Giddings State School. Atherton led the way with 17, and Cardenas had 15.

**12/18: San Antonio TMI 58-32 L\***

Brentwood started well, but the size advantage TMI had was really apparent as the game progressed. Leading scorers were Cardenas and Kim, both with 11.

**12/19: Victoria St. Joseph 60-54 W\***

The game was close from the beginning, but Cardenas led the Bears to victory with 29 points, including 16 in the fourth quarter.

**12/28-30: @ Rosehill Tournament L/L/L**

The team only had seven players for the tournament, as many players were still gone for the holidays. Two of the the Bears' losses were to larger public schools.

**12/31, 1/2: @ Waldorf Classic L/W/W**

After playing poorly in an opening loss to Waldorf, the Bears came back with two decisive victories. In his first game back from injury, Archer had 16 points off the bench, and Atherton scored 18 to lead BCS over Regents.

**1/8: @ Victoria St. Joseph 70-45 L\***

Cardenas led the way with 23, but it wasn't

nearly enough. Assistant coach Andy Zimmerman had head coaching duties.

**1/9: @ C.C. Incarnate Word 66-28 L\***

Zimmerman also coached this game and ended up trying out many different concepts offensively as BCS had a hard time competing.

**1/12: Hyde Park 68-52 L\***

Many expected this would be a blowout. Instead the team played one of its best games. Brentwood took a lead in the first quarter, and the game was close most of the way.

**1/16: @ C.C. John Paul II 106-34 L\***

The Bears just could not get in this game as they faced off against the number one team in district. Not only did their opponent have a player listed as 6-10 and built like a football player, they also made 15 of 20 three-pointers.

**1/19: @ San Antonio Christian 77-37 L\***

Brentwood fell further out of playoff contention with this road loss. Kim led the way for the Bears with 18 points.

**1/26: San Marcos Baptist 71-58 W\***

The losing streak ended for the Bears, thanks in large part to Cardenas, who had 35 points.

**1/29: @ TMI 52-25 L\***

Many players said that they simply weren't able to score; Cardenas was able to score 16.

**1/30: C.C. John Paul II 81-25 L\***

Brentwood could not find an effective strategy to contain their opponent's big man, who is listed on the Rivals.com recruiting website. Cardenas finished with 13.

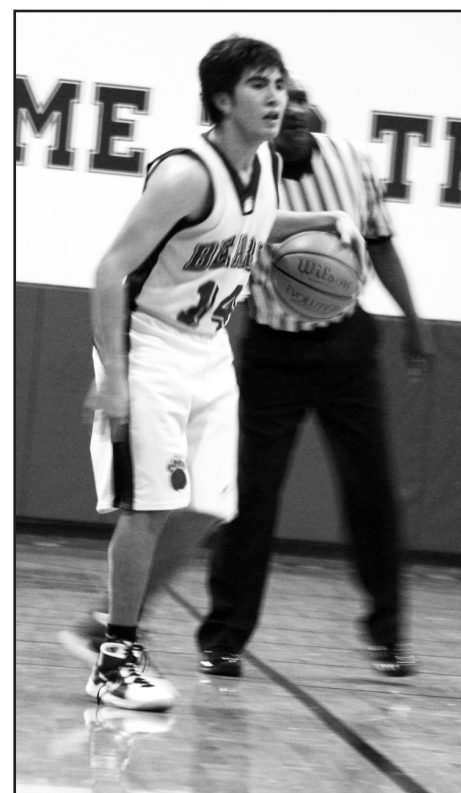


photo: Jessica Love

**Cardinator** Senior Jacob Cardenas leads the Bears with 15 points per game.



# Soccer to host Northland in playoffs tomorrow

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city's leading scorer with eight goals, and junior Will You is JV's leading scorer with 14 goals.

Here are the team's results since the last issue of the Bear Facts. (\* denotes district game)

**12/12: C.C. John Paul II 4-0 W\***

The Bears kick-started the first district game at home with a comfortable victory over the newest addition to the TAPPS 4A district. Junior Gabe Breternitz and sophomore Ray Yoo scored two goals each.

**12/14: @ St. Stephen's 0-0 T**

BCS was held scoreless despite dominating most of the match. Although the Bears were highly motivated to win after a 2-1 defeat to the same team on Nov. 10, opposing defenders stayed strong too.

**12/18: Regents 2-0 W**

BCS won thanks to goals scored by two seniors, team captain Geer and Brian Lam. The assists were provided by Lam and Yoo, respectively.

**1/2: @ Navasota (scrimmage) 5-0 W**

BCS secured a convincing win on the second day of 2010. Despite missing a few players who were out for vacation, the Bears were decisive in front of the goal. Yoo and You scored two goals each, and Breternitz contributed one to help the Bears start the new year brightly.

**1/5: @ Hutto (scrimmage) 3-1 L**

Still missing a few players from vacation, the Bears conceded two goals in the first half alone. The Bears' performance improved in the second half and Geer got a goal back, but a penalty goal scored by Hutto secured their win.

**1/8: San Antonio Christian 2-0 L\***

BCS suffered their first district defeat to SACS, a team that BCS has never beaten in its entire history. It did not help that the Bears were missing several players due to ineligibility, basketball, and injury. Walker said the team played with great effort despite losing.

**1/12: San Antonio TMI 2-0 W\***

Thanks to an early goal by Geer and a last-minute goal by Breternitz, the Bears secured victory over the team that placed second in the district last season. BCS was dominant through most of the match, making 13 shots on goal, compared to five shots by TMI.

**1/18: @ San Marcos Baptist 1-0 L\***

BCS suffered the second district defeat to San Marcos Baptist, a team which several BCS players said they felt they should have beaten comfortably. An early header from San Marcos gave them a lead, and with some controversial decisions by the referee, they did well to protect their lead for the remainder of the match. Walker said the team was overconfident during the match, and reminded them that they should bring out their best effort and focus every day.

**1/19: @ Rouse HS 5-5 T**

The match against Rouse High School involved plenty of drama with 10 total goals. After conceding a goal early in the match, the Bears fought back. Yoo scored two goals, and Geer and Lam scored one goal each, ending the first half 4-2 in Brentwood's favor. In the second half, the favor turned to Rouse, and they scored three goals. With literally 10 seconds remaining, senior Alex Georgulas scored from long distance to secure the tie.

**1/22: San Marcos Baptist 3-1 W\***

BCS won their third district game with big fan support in the Homecoming game. The Bears, again, conceded an early goal, resembling the beginning of the match four days earlier. But this time the Bears fought back, and Yoo and junior David Ko each scored one goal on the first half. The Bears kept the spirit high on the second half, and the San Marcos goalkeeper scored an own-goal after extended pressure.

**1/25: @ C.C. John Paul II 3-2 L\***

A four-hour road trip to Corpus Christi only produced a disappointing defeat. Goals were scored by sophomore Jimmy Lidgey and Georgulas, assisted by sophomore David Lee and senior Ben Kim, respectively.

**1/26: @ San Antonio Christian 1-0 L\***

The Bears suffered a heartbreaking loss to the district leaders after a spirited 80 minutes of play. The referee, who also officiated the match against San Marcos Baptist on Jan. 18, made several controversial decisions, including a penalty kick given to SACS, which became the only goal scored in the match. After the match, the SACS coach said that it was one of the most intense matches of the team's 10-0

district season, in which they only gave up one goal. Walker also praised the Bears for their effort.

**1/29: @ San Antonio TMI 2-0 W\***

At the same field where they were defeated 4-0 last season, the Bears managed to win their first district road victory. Although TMI dominated the first half, the Bears' defense was strong, and the first half ended scoreless. In the second half, the Bears began to grab several chances, and Kim scored a goal, assisted by Breternitz. The Bears keep the pressure on, and with five minutes remaining, Breternitz grabbed a goal with Yoo's assist.

**1/30: Victoria St. Joseph 1-0 W\***

After a dominating, but scoreless, first half,

the Bears put in a great effort to pull out a much-needed win. A few minutes into the second half, Geer scored a goal off of a throw-in by senior Zach Ellis. Several more opportunities came, but the Bears could not find the back of the net. However, the win assured them second place in district.

**2/1: @ Victoria St. Joseph. 1-0 L\***

Although they did not need a win, the Bears' last district match had a disappointing result, as they were defeated by a team at the bottom of the district standings. Despite dominating in the number of chances, BCS could not score. With less than a minute remaining, St. Joseph scored a goal from a counterattack, which marked the end of the game.



**Bust a move** Sophomore Ray Yoo makes a play on the goal in a recent game while senior Brian Lam (right) watches. The Bears finished second in district.

## Softball set for season; question marks for baseball

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**  
reporter

Crack! You can hear the sound of the bat all over campus in the afternoons, which means that softball and baseball seasons have started. The softball team will play their first game tonight, a scrimmage at Manor High School, while the baseball team will play next Tuesday at San Juan Diego.

The softball team's second game is the following Tuesday, Feb. 16, at Burton, and baseball plays again on Friday, Feb. 12, against Round Rock Christian.

"I am excited about the schedule, especially to see how we will perform," head softball

coach Paul Sladek said.

He has six returning starters, only one of whom will graduate this year. Senior Katie Miertschin, junior Somare Peyton, and sophomore Haley Decker earned all-district honorable mention last year.

The team will play 18 games and four tournaments, one of which is a 5A public school tournament at Georgetown High School, Feb. 18-20. Their district season opens on March 3 against Hyde Park. The players have anticipated the start of the season for months.

Sladek said that while the girls lacks some experience, he is excited about their potential.

"We have a chance at bringing home a trophy," Sladek said.

Head baseball coach Efrain Contreras' outlook is not so bright. The baseball team has had a tough time putting a full team together this year. Although he has five returning starters, Contreras is left with several positions to fill.

He said that his goal for the season is for his players to improve on the field and to take care of school work. Contreras is asking that all of the players work diligently to keep their grades up so that they will not be ineligible. This is crucial since the team only has 14 players.

The boys have been working hard during the offseason lifting weights and running, in order to prepare for the season, which will include 18 games and two tournaments.

Contreras said he hopes the team will im-

prove even though they are playing in a "tough district" and are short on pitching. The effectiveness of the inexperienced pitching staff will be a deciding factor in their season.

Contreras said it is hard to teach boys to play baseball in two weeks of practice before the season starts, which is a position he has found himself in before.

"(We should) have a junior high league like we do in other sports like basketball, volleyball, and soccer," Contreras said.

Not only would this make it easier to field a full team, he said, but it would also produce more players who enter high school with solid fundamentals, knowledge of the sport, and game time experience.



# Homecoming week packed full of events

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ley Gardner and won the intense match. "We played hard and fought well," junior and pink team player Alison Riedesel said.

Thursday StuCo put on a movie night, featuring "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs." Secondary students brought their pillows, blankets, and sleeping bags, while StuCo provided the popcorn.

On Friday, the pep rally was held at the gym right after sixth period. All BCS students gathered and showed spirit, clapping their hands, stomping their feet, and some cheering at the top of their lungs. The BCS cheerleaders rocked the show with their well-rehearsed routine; they also hired a DJ with a light show.

At the end of the pep rally, StuCo announced the members of this year's Homecoming court, except for the queen, who, according to tradition, would be announced during the basketball game on Saturday.

After the pep rally, the varsity soccer team won a district match against San Marcos Baptist, 3-1.

Later that evening, StuCo hosted the talent show in the FLC.

The top prize went to "The Amazing Men of Wisdom," a group of whistlers consisting of seniors Georgulas and Ryan Patterson and juniors Immad Qussad and Gabriel Breternitz. Eighth-grader Bryce Morin received second-place honors with a stand-up comedy act, and sophomore Bridgette Beck finished third performing an original song.

"The talent show went a lot better than I thought it would," said junior StuCo member Mariah Robinson, who was in charge of coordinating the event this year. "Everything flowed smoothly, and the audience definitely enjoyed it."

The whistling troupe's members laughed several times during the song, which prevented them from whistling certain parts; however, they were still considered entertaining enough to win first prize and \$100.

Other notable acts include a piano duet by sophomores Ahn Tang and Min Shin, an original rap by sophomore Daniel Pando, a Spanish guitar solo by senior Adam Cammack, and a drum solo by senior Allen Taylor.

On Saturday, the basketball teams took on Incarnate Word. After the varsity girls' game, the Homecoming court was announced: Freshmen Travis Clark and Morgan Vandygriff were lord and lady; sophomores Brian Williams and Isabella Haws were duke and duchess; juniors Levi Matus and Polly Park were prince and princess; and seniors Georgulas and Abbie Boyd were crowned Homecoming king and queen.

"Overall, I would say students came out happy, teachers got a break, and the school is strong and proud as ever," junior Kevin George said.

