

# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. XXIII NO. 4

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2011

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## IN SHORT

### Attention ALUMNI

BCS needs your email address.

Please contact the school at: lwarner@brentwoodchristian.org. This will allow us to send you The Bear Facts on email and reduce shipping costs.

### BCS hosts TAPPS meets

Brentwood will serve as the host school for two upcoming competitions in TAPPS 3A, district 3. The district academic meet will be Feb. 10, and the district art competition is set for Feb. 22. Both meets will be at the Cameron Road Church of Christ facilities.

### Junior high one-acts

Tickets are on sale for the junior high one-act plays, which will be performed in the Family Life Center on Friday, Feb. 18, and Saturday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. Each night, casts chosen from the two junior high drama classes will perform two different one-act plays: "This Is a Test," by Stephen Gregg, and "The Shakespeares," by Claire Boiko. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for students, and \$2 for children.

### Clark makes all-region

Sophomore Travis Clark recently made the ATSSB all-region band after competing against about 100 clarinet players, from area public and private schools. Clark made 15th chair in the symphonic band and was the highest ranked sophomore. He rehearsed and performed in a concert at Texas State University on Jan. 21-22.

### Softball starts

Varsity softball practice began the third week of January, and the team's first game is 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 4 at Killeen Ellison. Six starters return from last year's team that fell short of making the playoffs, including three infielders. Coach Paul Sladek said he has high hopes for this year's team.

## Homecoming hat trick

*Bears win all three games; sharks rule halls*

Jackson HAGER  
reporter

Spirits were high last week as Homecoming had arrived at BCS. The halls were filled with students dressing up according to this year's theme, searching for hidden sharks, and decorating posters to adorn the gym walls.

Varsity basketball teams closed the week on a high note, winning their games against Bryan St. Joseph in front of a large crowd that included several recent graduates, along with alumni from long ago.

The week's theme was introduced in chapel two weeks earlier with a video made by senior Caleb Kronke. It comprised different clips from

famous shark movies like "Jaws" and "Mega Shark Versus Giant Octopus."

StuCo and the varsity cheerleaders spent much of the weekend before decorating the high school halls with various sea life and pirate themes. They also hid a small shark in the "C" building every day of the week, which students could find for a candy fish prize.

Monday's theme was Pirates and Sailors, and the next day was designated Tropical Tourist Tuesday. Wednesday's theme was School of Fish, in which students got to dress alike; Thursday was Under the Sea Day; and as always, Friday was Brentwood Spirit Day.

see **MOVIE**, page 3



photo: Melanie Howell

**Homecoming court** From left: juniors Nick Marler and Brittany Brunson (prince & princess); sophomores Ciro Castro and Rachel Orick (duke & duchess); seniors Gabe Breternitz and Alyssa Legband (king & queen); seniors Ashley Gardner and Victoria Stewart (queen nominees); and freshmen Cynthia Smith and Bryce Morin (lady & lord)

## Science fairs return to BCS; several students advance

e.j. SUNG  
reporter

For the first time since the late 1990s, BCS held science fairs last month. This time, they included both elementary and secondary students.

Initiated for the purpose of approaching science in different methods and perspectives, the science fairs included two divisions for secondary students on Jan. 19 and a separate fair for elementary students on Jan. 26.

The projects were assigned in the middle of November, and all the students who participated were required to turn in research plans and

approval forms to their science teachers. For presentations, they posted their results on trifold poster boards.

All the poster boards for the junior and senior division science fair were displayed in the Family Life Center on Jan. 19. They showed students' experiments through pictures and words. Students waited next to their boards at appointed times, and two or three judges came up to them to evaluate their works. Judges included parents, teachers, and UT students.

The results were posted in front of the high school office on Jan. 21.

For each class, there were awards for first to third place and an honorable mention. All of

## Soccer girls host playoff tomorrow

elena BATTLE  
reporter

The first-ever Lady Bears soccer team continues making history as they prepare to host a playoff game tomorrow. With a record of 6-2-2 in district, the girls finished in second place behind Regents. Every offensive player on the team and even a few of the defensive players have scored a goal.

"I'm proud of my team for how much they believe in themselves," coach Steven Colwell said. "As a first-year program they are setting the bar quite high for the following years."

The girls have shown much improvement through the season, according to Colwell.

"Our strong midfield makes our offense strong, which forces other teams to become defense-minded," Colwell said. "Our defense has improved tremendously. That's been the biggest improvement."

Brentwood will open the playoffs on Feb. 5 with a home game against Carrollton Christian at 2 p.m.

"I expect our team to be very competitive in the playoffs," Colwell said. "Our team has proven to be competitive against everyone, so I'm hoping for at least a first-round victory."

Following are the team's recent results:

**12/10: New Braunfels Christian\* 13-0 W**

With only a few minutes remaining, the girls scored their 13th and final goal. Supporters were in high spirits as they witnessed the girls overwhelm the visiting team; it was a record for the Lady Bears, playing in their fourth district game. Freshman Marisol

see **SOCCER**, page 6

those students had the option to compete in the Austin Energy Regional Science Fair on Feb. 23-24.

Senior Caleb Kronke, who placed first in his Honors Physics class, did his project on effects of motor oil on plants.

"I came with the idea from the fact that a lot of people simply dump out their used motor oil," he said. "Working alone added to my work load, but it was not too bad," he added.

Junior David Lee was happy to see that his team qualified for the regional science fair with their project on extracting hydrogen from zinc

see **SCIENCE**, page 8



**Large and in charge:** Kia Khadem

# Grouchy student critiques homecoming week

Ah yes, homecoming week, the one week of the year when Brentwood students dress up in flamboyant costumes to represent ... well, nothing. I mean, really, what are we doing, protesting shark cruelty? Why do they even call it homecoming week? We should change the name to Shark Cruelty Awareness Week and maybe get some air time on PBS.

Well, the official purpose of homecoming is to welcome back alumni with open arms, and many schools use big parades, important football games, picnics, proms, and creative costumes to lure the alumni back to their former campus.

Since Brentwood doesn't have a football team, a marching band, lavish parades, or proms, the only things we have to celebrate during homecoming are costumes, a kiddie movie, and a basketball game.

And what's with not having a talent show this year? I mean, last year's winners won by whistling. Is there really no one talented enough this year to top that or even try to intrude on their glory?

As such, expectations were extremely high this year, as always. But did this year's homecoming theme, Shark Week, hit the mark or walk the plank? Let's take a critical analysis

of each day of the week.

**Pirates and Sailors Day:**

On Monday, there were a few noteworthy seamen (seadogs?) who stood above the rest – for instance, two freshmen: Bryce Morin, who sported a parrot costume, and Grace Cammack, who came as a pirate ship.

But what do pirates have in common with sharks? I mean, they're both totally different

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*Did this year's homecoming theme, Shark Week, hit the mark or walk the plank?*

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subjects. A pirate steals your booty; a shark takes a chunk out of your booty.

**Tropical Tuesday:**

To say the least, today was disappointing. Everybody wore the tacky sunflower shirt that their dad bought them in a shady gift shop; they're so hideous that they're illegal to wear in 47 states. Nothing really stood out for me today, as everybody dressed up the same; and again, what does tropical tourism have to do with sharks? (Well, they're both large and deadly, but in different ways.)

**School of Fish Day:**

I'd honestly say today was the day with the least creativity out of the whole week. Boys dressed in a white shirt and jeans, girls in a pink shirt and jeans.

There was no spirit; there was no hint that

it was shark week, other than the fact that the juniors wore crudely made shark hats. It had nothing to do with the sea.

In fact, students at Brentwood already wear uniforms, so this day should have promoted diversity instead of conformity.

**Under the Sea Day:**

Well you'd think today would be the most creative day, considering it's the ultimate expression of the "Shark Week" theme, but you'd be wrong. Disappointment is the only word that describes Thursday. I saw barely any effort into the costumes today; the only one I saw that took any effort belonged to freshman Derek Hall, who went as a mermaid. That was it. You'd find more "creativity" in a nursing home.

**Spirit Day:**

Today, I had about as much spirit as a stick. With big aquatic props everywhere, I felt like a fish out of water. However I saw the most impressive costume of the week today, sophomore Jackson Graessle as Gumby. It was a well made costume, even if it didn't fit into the "Shark Week" theme.

Also, on Friday there was a "Pep Rally" in the gym. And it was terrible. Loud blaring music, obnoxiously loud first and second graders, frantic lights – it was an experience that I'd never wish on my worst enemies. At the end everybody did a Cha Cha, except for me, who stood on the floor unflinching, amazed by the turn of events.

Clearly I was in the minority, as everybody else had a blast. And now I give you permission to use this editorial as lining for your bird cage.

**Bretz knows best:** Gabriel Breternitz

## Daily quotes inspire insight, contemplation

"Common sense is not so common," Voltaire declares boldly in dry-erase marker on Mr. Moore's whiteboard. This and many other statements about the nature of knowledge are featured regularly under the title "Quote of the Day," which began humbly as a pre-bell means of amusement for two smart and, dare I say, dashing seniors. Now, the "Quote of the Day" franchise is a well-respected enterprise which no doubt provokes intellectual discussion in all of Moore's classes following third period.

The nature of knowledge is worth giving some thought, especially for Brentwood students, who are paying extra to receive a specialized education. In fact, assuming you pay \$5,500 a year to Brentwood (which is probably a low estimate, if you factor in extra fees for trips and athletics), each day of class costs you about \$30. One week of class is worth three Xbox games. That's a statistic that should keep you awake in class.

Knowledge comes in different forms. There's the factual, objective "book-smarts" type of knowledge for which you pay \$5,500 a year, and then there's the subjective, intuitive type of knowledge called wisdom or insight which comes from experience and instinct. Both are important, but the latter is much more difficult to come by.

Indeed, that's the point of the "Quote of the Day." As students, we invest about seven hours a day attempting to acquire factual knowledge, but what do we do to gain discernment? What's the point of all that knowledge if you don't know what to do with it? Gaining that intangible ability to utilize learning is just as essential to your education as learning the names of famous generals and memorizing the quadratic formula.

Quotations offer an opportunity to develop the other type of knowledge. Although typically they don't bestow wisdom upon first reading, they do make good maxims through which you can remember lessons you've learned from experience. Furthermore, even when a quote isn't backed by personal experience, it doesn't just become a trite little sentence with no meaning. People respect quotes because they imply expertise – someone's personal experience is attached to it, so it's worth paying attention to.

So feel free to glean as much wisdom as possible from Mr. Moore's whiteboard. It will enrich your education and your life... you can quote me on that.

## 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.

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Gabriel Breternitz

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



photos: Gabriel Breternitz

**Raise the roof** Construction continues on the BCS Center for Science and the Arts, which is scheduled to be completed by July. On the right is the science wing, where next year's students will have Biology, Chemistry, and Physics classes. In the middle is the theater, and on the far wing will be band and choir classes.



## Allen repeats as winner of Scripps Bee

jenny **NGUYEN**  
reporter

Sixth-grader Luke Allen won Brentwood Christian's second-annual spelling bee in the auditorium on Jan. 7. Allen also won the event last year.

This competition is a part of the famous Scripps National Spelling Bee, in which participants compete through class, school, district, state, and eventually national level to win a grand prize that includes \$30,000.

Before the Thanksgiving break, students from first to eighth grade received two word packages to prepare for the classroom contest, which was held on Nov. 23. Winners entered the school-level bee: two students for each grade from first to fifth and three students for each grade from sixth to eighth.

This year's bee did not last as long as last year's, because the staff decided to use difficult words sooner in the bee. Officials included English teacher Cindy Nestor, elementary librarian Sandra Morrow, and secondary librarian Tere Hager, as well as math and Bible teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, who was the pronouncer. Parent Daphne Allen was the coordinator of the event.

In the final round, Allen and runner-up Chad Gonsalvez, a seventh grader, had to spell different words, and the one who got his word correct had to successfully spell another word to win. Allen first missed the word "feloniously" while Gonsalvez got "inanimate." However, Gonsalvez missed his chance to be the champion since he spelled "glaucoma" wrong, so both finalists were still in. Subsequently, Allen got "dissident" and Gonsalvez missed "reservoir," so Allen entered the championship round and succeeded with the word "misdemeanor."

Other spellers also received awards. The Spirit Award, which was for students who had the best spirit for the event, was given to seventh-grader Tiara Allen. Also, the Poise Award was given to sixth-grader Lauren Petrik, who had the most confidence onstage. In addition, eighth-grader Sydney Wilson received the Sportsmanship Award. Finally, the Best Enunciation Award was given to fourth-grader Emmanuel Ankutse.

Allen is preparing for his district competition in February by practicing hard and participating in different spelling competitions such as PSIA, TCSA, and TMSCA. He also got first place in Spelling and Vocabulary in TMSCA on Jan. 15.

Judge Sandra Morrow said the event was a great opportunity for competitive students who enjoy spelling to advance further with their hobbies. It also provided a chance for younger students to compete with older ones.

## Mohrmann, Garrett win geography bees

matthew **ONABAJO**  
reporter

Sixth-grader Joseph Mohrmann and seventh-grader Alec Garrett won Brentwood Christian's National Geographic Bees for elementary and secondary, respectively, on Jan. 14.

Garrett and Mohrmann then took a written test to attempt to qualify for the state-level bee on April 1 in Bedford. Their teachers will be notified if their scores qualify them for state.

For the first time in the geography bee's history, both finals were at the same time – the elementary's being held in the auditorium and the secondary's in the chapel.

Prior to the finals, students participated in classroom-level bees to determine ten finalists.

In the elementary bee, students in the third through sixth grades took part in the competition. It took six rounds to determine the two who would enter the championship round: Mohrmann and fifth-grader Emily Witcher.

In the championship round, Mohrmann and Witcher both missed the first three questions and had to go to the tie-breaker round. Mohrmann got the first question correct to win the

bee. His winning question was: "The site of an ancient lighthouse on the island of Pharos attracts visitors to Alexandria, a port city in which African country?" His answer was "Egypt."

Mohrmann said he was happy to beat his dad's placing, because his dad got third in his own geography bee as a boy in school.

In the secondary competition, seventh and eighth graders participated. Among the secondary finalists, eighth-grader Michael Lam

and seventh-grader Robert Lesko did not miss any of the questions in the classroom-level bees.

In the first round of the finals, Garrett missed his question while most got their questions correct.

"I thought I was gonna get the second one wrong also and be eliminated right there," Garrett said.

Garrett pulled from behind in the next round when everyone except him missed the question.

After three rounds, Garrett and eighth-graders Abbie Baros and Haley Hutson remained. Garrett advanced quickly after three questions. After several more questions, Baros advanced to the finals as well.

For the championship round's three questions, Garrett was the only one with a correct answer. His winning question was: "Africa's highest peak is a part of a national park in Tanzania. Name this mountain." His answer was "Mt. Kilimanjaro."

Garrett said he reads a lot of books, and he looked at a lot of maps before the bee began.

The past two elementary winners were Andrew Armstrong and Dane Foster, both currently in seventh grade. Previous secondary winners were eighth-grader Charlie Sinclair and sophomore Lanae Hollingsworth, both of whom advanced to state.



photos: Kay Taylor  
**You had me at "Kilimanjaro"** Seventh-grader Alec Garrett is not so sure "Mexico" is correct. But two questions earlier, his recollection of Africa's highest peak was all he needed to win the bee.

## Four students perform in all-state choir concert

priscilla **GLENN**  
reporter

Three BCS high school students qualified for the TPSMEA (Texas Private School Music Educators Association) all-state choir last month, and a fourth qualified as an alternate. After weeks of memorizing music and two intense days of rehearsals, senior Victoria Stewart and sophomores Anthony Milan and Travis Clark performed at Evans Auditorium in San Marcos on Saturday, Jan. 30. Junior Kayle Morin also made the trip as the first soprano alternate, and she performed as well.

The concert started at 9 p.m. Saturday evening, and approximately 160 students

from schools across Texas filled the risers. According to Brentwood choir director Missy Weaver, they sounded great as they performed the nine selected songs.

To qualify for the all-state choir, students went through an audition process and had to first qualify for the all-region choir. A total of eight BCS high school students tried out for all-region on Oct. 3. Students learned portions of two different songs to perform for the audition. After learning the music, they went to a recording studio and recorded their tryouts onto CDs. Weaver then submitted the CDs to the judging panel.

Weeks later Weaver found out that Stewart, Morin, and sophomores Priscilla Glenn, Clark,

and Milan had been selected for the region choir, which performed in Addison on Jan. 8. Their CDs were then judged by the state judges.

Weaver left with the four students after chapel on Thursday, Jan. 27, and prepared for the first all-state rehearsal that evening. Friday was an all-day rehearsal in preparation for the concert on Saturday evening. Solos were assigned, melodies were adjusted, and students practiced until they could do the songs in their sleep.

Many high school choir students dream of being able to participating in the all-state choir. According to Weaver it is impressive on résumés, and according to the participants, it improves one's singing abilities and creates memories that will not be forgotten.

## Movie replaces talent; Legband crowned queen

continued from page 1

One major change this year was the way the students decorated the gym. Instead of class posters being hung randomly, each grade got a portion of the gym wall. With rules set by StuCo, the goal of the contest was to see which grade was the most spirited. Points were gained for creativity but deducted for blank space on the wall. The winning class, decided by StuCo, was the seniors, who received the privilege to wear pajamas to school.

A disappointing change this year was the

canceling of the Thursday talent show, since not enough students signed up. It was replaced by a movie night. For \$5, students could get popcorn, candy, and soda to eat while they watched "The Reef" in the Family Life Center. Afterward, the bonfire was lit according to tradition. After a short devotional message by junior Marcus McCormick, students sang well into the night.

In Friday's pep rally, basketball and soccer teams were announced by Coach Sladek, and students cheered as both junior high and high school cheer squads performed for the crowd.

At the rally, this year's homecoming court

was announced: Lord and Lady were freshmen Bryce Morin and Cynthia Smith; Duke and Duchess were sophomores Ciro Castro and Rachel Orick; and Prince and Princess were juniors Nick Marler and Brittany Brunson.

Senior Gabe Breternitz was voted King, among nominees Brett Withem and Immad Qussad. The Queen nominees were announced as Ashley Gardner, Alyssa Legband, and Victoria Stewart, but the winner was not named until after the girls' game that night. After the rest of the court was presented, Legband was revealed to be this year's Homecoming Queen.

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:** Ryan Brunson

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2011.

# Chatty competitor scores high in games, tests

megan **MONACELLI**  
reporter

Twenty seconds into a recent varsity basketball game, senior starter and leading scorer Ryan Brunson gets an elbow to the upper nose that splits it open. He wobbles off the court to get it bandaged up and stop the bleeding. Despite the injury, Ryan jumps back into the game to fight hard alongside his teammates. Near the end of the game, the Bears are down by one with 10 seconds left when Ryan passes to a teammate who takes a three-pointer. It teeters on the rim before Ryan finishes it with a put-back layup to win the game by one.

Without Ryan Brunson's heart and talent, the basketball team – and the school – would be missing a key ingredient.

There are many different words teachers, peers, and coaches use to describe Ryan that stem from his multi-faceted and multi-dimensional personality. Descriptions range from talkative to deep-thinker and competitive to humorous, just to name a few.

Born and raised in Austin, Ryan has attended Brentwood since pre-school. He is a sports nut, playing tennis for the past eight years and basketball on and off since second grade. He plays tennis as part of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) at the national competitive junior level and is in the top 75-80 players in the state while practicing minimal amounts.

"At my level experts say I'm actually supposed to practice about 15-20 hours a week, but I get in 5-10 on a good week," says Ryan, whose interests in other sports and classes takes away from his tennis practicing.

He said he hopes to move up in rank before he goes to college in the fall. He also competes for BCS in TAPPS, being the single tennis player representing the school. He took second his sophomore year in 4A regionals and third

last year.

In addition to tennis, Ryan plays varsity basketball, serving as the starting point guard and leading scorer, boasting an average of 23 points a game and a personal best of 33 in a loss to St. Dominic Savio last month. In the rematch, he scored 27 to lead the Bears to victory.

According to athletic director Devan Loftis, Ryan's scoring average

is the highest he has seen in his 11 years at Brentwood. But he does a lot more than score points; he is a leader both on and off the court, first-year varsity coach Brandon Tatum says.

"He is a hard worker, never complains, and always has a smile on his face," Tatum says.

Loftis also praises his work ethic, his determination, and his athletic instinct. He says Ryan is committed to excellence, being a good sport and leading by example.

"I've seen him talk to and congratulate opponents, and that's tough for competitors," Loftis says.

According to Loftis, he is a good encourager as well, and freshman teammate Mike Taylor agrees.

"He gives me shooting pointers, and we play one-on-one to get better," Mike says.



His hard work seen on the court is also evident in the classroom. He has been on the academic honor roll since his freshman year and is a member of the National Honor Society, participating in service activities including trips to Rosedale.

His younger sister Brittany, a junior, is quick to say he is "nice," a reputation he has around the school.

"He can't say a mean thing to anyone," she says.

When the siblings wrestle, all Brittany has to do is fake a cry and injury and he immediately stops in sincere concern that she is hurt.

Ryan describes his relationship with his sister as close.

"Well, as they say, keep your friends close and your sisters closer," he jokingly says.

While many describe him as being friendly and kind, his girlfriend has a different opinion.

"He is funny in a quirky way," senior Tina Grogan says.

However, she says his humor could easily be taken as cocky. Senior Mariah Robinson says he is very confident, at times over-confident.

"He is sure of himself and what he has to bring to the table," Mariah says.

Ryan says his humor is misunderstood, and his sarcastic, light-hearted jokes are sometimes taken with greater weight than he intends.

His teachers view him in a different light, however. Mel Witcher, Ryan's Bible and Humanities teacher, says he is a quiet, deep thinker. He doesn't talk much in class, but when he has something to say he is not afraid to share his opinion.

Witcher says the seniors recently completed a research project over a book they had to read. Ryan took the subject matter deeper,

researching different angles of the issue and its impact in today's society.

"He wants to know why, and that makes him stand out," Witcher says.

Humanities is Ryan's favorite class because he says it makes him consider the world and how important perspective on life is. He also doesn't mind the teacher.

"Mr. Witcher is without a doubt one of the best teachers we have at Brentwood," Ryan says.

Another of Ryan's virtues is his positive attitude despite difficulties. Last year Ryan hurt his ankle playing tennis, forcing him to take a break from playing. But according to Witcher, he didn't complain or get down on a tough-luck situation.

"He kept a positive attitude despite the injury," Witcher says.

Ryan is currently unsure about where he wants to attend college. He has applied to various schools in Texas and hopes to possibly play tennis at UT Tyler. He says he is not much of an Aggie or Longhorn guy, but it will probably come down to one of those two schools, he admits. No matter where he attends, he is set on playing as many intramural sports as he can.

"If UT-Tyler would let me play both tennis and basketball, I would undoubtedly go there," he says.

In just a few months, Ryan will close the high school chapter in his life and open up the college chapter, stepping forth into new adversities and cheerfully overcoming them, venturing into new classes to dig for the truth, and entering new sports arenas where he'll dominate the scoreboards. Through it all, he'll keep up the endless chatter and light-hearted joking.

## As delivery looms, Pimentel to replace Campbell

matthew **ARCHER**  
reporter

Just when you think she is out for the count, long-time beloved English teacher Linda Pimentel comes back for another round.

Current freshman and junior English teacher Chloe Campbell will take a 10-week leave of absence soon, as her baby's Feb. 12 due date is quickly approaching.

To fill this vacancy, Pimentel agreed to help out, temporarily rejoining the Brentwood faculty after retiring a year ago.

When Campbell broke the news last summer that she was expecting a baby, this left a potential problem for principal Jared Lee, who would need to find a suitable person to fill this void. However, sometime in the early fall Campbell came to Lee and asked if Pimentel could be the one to fill her position while she is gone, to which Lee agreed.

"I'm very excited to have Mrs. Pimentel back," Lee said. "It saddened me when she decided to retire, because she is a great teacher. So I look forward to working with her again."

Campbell's baby boy will be named Samuel Paul. She plans to be gone for most of the third and fourth quarters but will return for about the last four weeks of school.

Contrary to what some might think, Pimentel has not been simply lounging around with

all of this sudden free time. Although she no longer has been getting up at her usual 5:30 a.m. wake-up time, she still has been volunteering much of her time by helping with the Mustard Seed Project, the school uniforms program that has been raising money for Christian schools.

Pimentel said she has taken some time to catch up on some of her reading and do a little bit of traveling with her husband. But she says the main thing that she is doing is getting ready to have a grandchild, as her son Christian (BCS '97) is going to have his first child soon.

After teaching senior English for so long, Pimentel is coming into a new environment. Although she taught English I for many years, this will be the first time she has taught English III. Still, she says she is looking forward to it and has re-read "The Great Gatsby" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" in preparation for the class.

"Brentwood Christian School will always have a huge place in my heart," Pimentel said. "It has blessed my life so much; how could I not want to give back when I have the opportunity?"

Pimentel said that she knows that the students will be missing Campbell, but she hopes that they will accept her and her teaching style during their regular teacher's absence.



Pimentel

Campbell



# Charismatic coaches

*Former BCS student coaches softball, teaches PE with passion, heart, faith*

**kailey RODDEN**  
reporter

Paul Sladek's warm and crooked smile is often seen about the Brentwood Christian campus when he is not teaching elementary P.E. or coaching the varsity softball team. Accompanied by a twangy "Howdy!" and a handful of conversation ice-breakers, this jovial ginger has been putting smiles on BCS faces for a long time.

Sladek has been coaching at BCS for four years. However, his relationship with the school has been going on since 1983, when Sladek was in the developmental preschool. He attended Brentwood 13 years, graduating in 1996.

After attending Cisco Junior College for one year, Sladek transferred to Abilene Christian, where he majored in communications and minored in youth and family ministry. He stayed there four and a half years, graduating in 2003.

While in Abilene, Sladek began his romance with softball. He played on a traveling slow-pitch American Softball Association team. After making it to nationals, Sladek thought he was done with the sport. When his friend asked him to help coach his daughters' softball teams, he declined several times. However, his friend was persistent and convinced Sladek to try coaching.

"When I got there, I met a 12-year-old girl named Christy Jackson," Sladek says. "She honestly pitched harder than I threw overhand! After seeing her, I decided that coaching could actually be fun."

After moving back to Austin when he graduated, Sladek looked for a coaching job at six different select programs. He finally got a call from the Austin Storm select team, where he is still an assistant coach. However, the bulk of his time is spent with the students of BCS, a job he delights in.

"God directed me back to Brentwood," Sladek says. "He put me here to help children learn more about God and to understand what a great place Brentwood is."

BCS was also a natural fit, as Sladek grew up in Austin. He went to Hyde Park (then Northside) Church of Christ. He has an older brother named Alan, who was part of the first graduating class at BCS. The Sladek family spent many weekends on their family ranch in Dale, which is about an hour south of Austin. On vacations, they would go skiing in Colorado.

"Being in Colorado was always my favorite time. I loved being with my family, driving in the snow, and watching football in a house we would rent," Sladek says.

When Sladek was in high school, he had many different interests. Along with his favorite activity, fishing, Sladek played baseball, basketball, and even took part in BCS plays.

"Paul was just a joy to teach as a student," says World History and Bible teacher Mel Witcher. "Even though he had a bit of trouble

with turning in homework sometimes, he is the easiest student to correct I ever taught."

While Sladek did not have the easiest time as a student, he was a hard worker. He says he struggled with tests and subjects like geometry and physics.

"I had to really work to get good grades," Sladek says. "But I think that really prepared me for college."

Sladek is also very passionate about his faith.

"Without God putting my name on (school president Marquita) Moss' and (elementary principal Libby) Weed's hearts, I wouldn't be here," he says. "I've seen my life with and without God, and I choose God. He is also why I'm optimistic, and why I want to push for God to be more involved in my students' lives. It's amazing how He changed me for the better."

Sladek is quick to share that his greatest achievement in life, a l o n g w i t h

graduating college, is being baptized. He shares his love for God on and off the field, which is one of his many gifts as a coach.

"He knows how to interact with a type of student I couldn't really get to," Witcher says. "He's very passionate about his students."

Weed agrees; in fact, his passion is one of the reasons she was quick to hire him.

"The most distinctive thing about the man, to me, is that he loves the Lord with his whole heart," she says. "I also love the way he loves and honors his parents, and the way he loves and cares for his students. He is a man of God as well as a dedicated teacher and terrific coach."

The love for his students is reflected back. Young students squeal in delight when Sladek comes near, and he greets them all by name. Older students, especially his softball team, have great respect for him as well.

"He's a very diligent coach who loves softball and the girls he works with on the field," senior Somare Peyton says.

Sladek has no intentions of leaving BCS soon. His companionship with the faculty and students is obviously strong. The bond that ties him to BCS will be one to last forever.

*Ex-pro footballer greatly appreciated as assistant for varsity boys' soccer*

**ciro CASTRO**  
reporter

"Terrific! ... Great! ... Fantastic!" These are some of the words used to describe the varsity boys' new assistant soccer coach, Gifton Noel-Williams.

Originally from London, England, Noel-Williams was a professional soccer player for 15 years, playing in a variety of different countries including England, Spain, and the U.S. Noel-Williams started his professional career at Watford, where he spent seven years playing 127 games and scoring 43 goals. When he was only 19, Noel-Williams was Watford's top goal scorer in the 1998-99 season. Reportedly, this had a huge impact on the promotion of the team to the English Premier League at the end of the season.

Progressively moving to bigger clubs in Europe, Noel-Williams finally found his way to the Austin Aztex FC, playing as the captain of the team in '09. However, he was forced to quit playing professional soccer after a year with the Aztex partly due to arthritis problems in his ankle.

After retiring, Noel-Williams said he and his family decided to stay in Austin because of his love for the culture and the people. He said he can envision returning to Europe in about 15 years to coach there.

"Austin is a place where I want my kids to grow," he added.

Another reason for his stay in Austin is his new soccer academy, which contains teams for 6- to 18-year-olds. Because of his desire to coach kids, he started working as the assistant coach of the Bears' soccer team last summer. He had received a call from a BCS parent who told him of the opportunity. He then spoke with secondary principal Jared Lee and athletic director Devan Loftis, and

they offered him the job.

Noel-Williams also started offering private and group training and development, and organized winter and summer camps for students of all ages. He also formed his own website, Gifton Premier Sports Development, of which the slogan is "When we find ourselves in times of trouble, Gifton Noel-Williams!"

"That slogan came from some fans that started saying it at games after I hit my first hat trick," he said. "They also posted the video on YouTube."

Aside from coaching soccer, he also plays indoor soccer on a team called FC Austin, which competes with teams in Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas.

"It's great to keep playing, and it helps to keep me fit," he said.

Most of the time, Noel-Williams is either with his family, coaching with his club, or playing soccer.

"Soccer is a huge part of my and my family's life; and that helps because my wife and kids enjoy coming to watch me. It's kind of a family thing," he said. "There are a few things I always have time for: God, my family, and soccer; anything else can wait."

Noel-Williams and his wife Rachel have three children, and he also has three children from a previous marriage.

"I just wanted to thank the boys and the Brentwood family for making me feel welcome here at Brentwood," Noel-Williams added.

The players are eager to explain the important role he plays on the team.

"Coach Gifton is a highly experienced soccer trainer and has been helping us in our season by training us through those experiences," junior Marcus McCormick said. "He really has helped shape the defensive structure of the team."

Other players agree with McCormick and added their gratefulness for his presence on the team.

"I think he's the best thing that's come to this school; he gives us an opportunity to go further than we've ever gone before as a soccer program," senior goalkeeper Brandon Jones said. "He could potentially make a high school team play like they're an international team. We're lucky to have him as a coach."

Noel-Williams has won the hearts of not only the players but also of other students.

"I like being around him because he is so cool," said junior Kailey Rodden, the team's manager. "It's always great when a coach is capable and approachable, and he definitely is both of those."





# Varsity boys on winning streak; playoffs appear likely

Ianae **HOLLINGSWORTH**  
reporter

Hard work does pay off, and the Bears' efforts will likely pay off in a playoff birth. Last year the boys did not reach the postseason, but this year they are on track to qualify. The Bears are 5-4 in district and in third place, pending the outcome of last night's game.

The Bears played Round Rock Christian last night, and still have games against Giddings State School and Central Texas Christian.

The team has won solidly against lesser teams and played with heart and perseverance against better teams. Senior Ryan Brunson leads the team with 23 points per game.

"It has been a straight progression of progress," Brunson said about the season.

The boys worked hard in the offseason to prepare for the season. Now they are focusing on finishing strong and making it to playoffs.

"The season went great," head coach Brandon Tatum said. "We accomplished all the goals we set out to accomplish. We are right where we need to be for the playoffs; we control our own destiny."

Following are the team's recent results:

**12/17: Waldorf 63-57 L**

The Bears shot well, but the Roadrunners had a couple of good shooters who accounted for 36 of their points.

**12/29-31: Rosehill Tourn. L L W W L**

The Bears gave up part of their Christmas break to play basketball. They had not practiced or played in awhile, so they started off sluggish. They picked up their game giving Rosehill, the

host school, a run for their money in a 29-24 loss. They won the next game on a three-point buzzer-beater by Brunson in overtime. There were two and half seconds left when he took two dribbles, turned, and shot the ball with a defender in his face.

**1/4: @ Bryan St. Joseph 51-25 W**

The Bears jumped out to a lead in the first quarter and never relinquished it. They shot well and played one of their best games. The Eagles could not contain Brunson and senior Immad Qussad, who together poured in 35 points.

**1/7: @ St. Dominic Savio 52-46 L**

Savio outscored the Bears in the first quarter, but the Bears came back to take a lead at halftime. The Eagles regained the lead in the third quarter and never surrendered it. Brunson hit a three-pointer that would have put them right back in it, but the officials said his foot was on the out-of-bounds line.

**1/11: @ RR Christian 68-56 L**

The Bears played well in one of their best games, even though it was a loss. Their defense was good, but their execution was not. RRCA started five seniors, two of whom were twins. The Crusaders had good balance and were hard to pick apart. Brunson led the way with 27.

**1/14: @ Central TX Christian 51-42 W**

The Bears were trailing at half 21-20, just missing a three-point buzzer-beater. By the end of the third quarter they had taken a one-point lead. They pulled ahead powered by threes.

**1/21: Texas Christian Academy 53-35 L**

The Bears played hard, but the other team was quicker. The boys' shots were not falling, while the Stars were hitting everything. Brunson,

Qussad, and Withem each had eight points.

**1/25: St. Dominic Savio 58-45 W**

The Bears were down early and went into halftime behind a point. At the start of the second half the Eagles took the lead, which worried the fans, who cheered wildly the rest of the game. The Bears closed the gap, led by three-pointers and layups from Brunson, and with about five minutes left they took the lead. From then on they scored quickly on layups and sank all but one free throw in the final minutes. Brunson had 27 points, and Qussad had 16.

**1/28: St. Joseph 43-22 W**

In front of a deafening homecoming crowd, the Bears roared to a win after a cold-shooting first half which had them down 9-8. With 2:38 left in third it was still low-scoring, tied at 13. In the next 10-and-a-half minutes the Bears scored 30 points while holding the other team to just nine. Having missed the entire second quarter with foul trouble, and held completely scoreless at the half, Brunson broke free with 23 points. Qussad also attacked the basket, making several layups and free throws. The defense was

stifling and the offense explosive – eventually – in an exciting game for the big crowd.

**2/1: Giddings State School 54-38 W**

Tied 21-21 at halftime, the Bears kicked it into high gear, led by Brunson's 24 points and senior Derek Tresslar's 16 points.



photo: Mark Merkord

**Take a stand** Senior Patrick Carlin holds strong as he is blitzed by four opponents during a win against Central Texas Christian on Jan. 14.

## Soccer: Girls in second place

continued from page 1

Lawson, sophomores Masha Heins and Mary Monacelli, juniors Megan Monacelli and Schuyler Hagen, and senior Jennifer Quinn all scored one goal. Sophomore Courtney Flores scored three goals, and senior Alyssa Legband scored four.

Colwell switched offense and defense in the second half, not exactly worrying it would affect anything.

"Their coach told me that most of the girls on their team had never played soccer before," Colwell said. "I didn't want to tell him that this was the first girls' soccer program Brentwood had ever had, when they've had a soccer program for several years now, so I just switched the girls' positions around."

**12/13: @ St. Stephen's 1-1 T**

After a scoreless first half, Flores made it 1-0. Soon after that St. Stephens scored, giving Brentwood its second tie in the season.

**1/4: @ Regents 4-0 L**

After coming back from a long break and only three practices, the girls lost to the only undefeated team in district. According to Flores, the majority of the girls on the Regents team also play for select teams, which Flores has had to compete against, since she is also part of a select team. Players all agreed that Regents played very well.

"We took a beating at Regents; they were the most skilled team we played all season," Colwell said. "We learned a lot from that game."

**1/7: @ St. Dominic Savio 5-1 W**

The girls heard that St. Dominic Savio was convinced they were going to win after losing to BCS in their first district game 3-2. Yet the Brentwood girls proved Savio wrong. Legband scored the first goal on an assist from Hagen to tie the game 1-1. Then Flores scored on an assist from Hagen to go up 2-1, and Hagen scored unassisted to go up 3-1 at half. In the second half, Flores scored on an assist from Megan Monacelli to go up 4-1, and Monacelli scored the final goal on an assist from Legband.

**1/11: Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills 3-3 T**

The girls tied with the exact same score as when the teams played in November. In the first half of the game, Flores scored two goals, as BCS took a 2-1 lead. But as soon as the second half began, Kerrville made two more goals. The Lady Bears were only able to score one more goal in the second half, also made by Flores.

Due to this disappointment, Colwell changed the team's formation to create a stronger defense. He made Hagen a defender, which gives the team depth and the ability to clear

see **SUCCESS**, page 8

## Play ball: Baseball forms team

carlos **FRANCO**  
reporter

In an effort not to repeat last year's disappointment, baseball coach Efrain Contreras was compelled to search for desperate ways of getting players for his team. Dressed in a nice shirt and his best tie, Contreras gave a speech to the high school boys after chapel on Dec. 2, in which he read out loud some past players' experiences with baseball – ways in which baseball had changed their lives and taught them values like responsibility and honesty. He told the high school boys how playing baseball would change their perspective on life as it did for him. He had a sign-up sheet for interested students.

When he checked the list afterward, he found that there were at least eight players returning and six possible new players. In other words, he would have a team.

Those who signed up have practiced in PE since December, but full practices are still not possible because many of the players are still playing soccer and basketball.

The season is scheduled to begin with a game against San Juan Diego on Feb. 18.

Contreras said he knows he will have a lot of

new players who have never played baseball before, giving him a difficult challenge: to train them. But new players are determined to train hard and play as well as they can for Brentwood, even though their experience is not much.

"I want to learn from the experienced people so I can give my best," said sophomore Ciro Castro, who is new to the sport.

Some of the returning players with varsity experience are seniors Tommy Schiffgens, who played catcher and second base; Matthew Welter, who played third base and pitcher; and Brandon Jones, who also played third base. Experienced juniors include Diego Cole, a shortstop and pitcher.

Other students who signed up after the coach's December plea include senior Garrett Burkhart, juniors Tony Dang and Carlos Franco, and five freshmen.

Contreras said his new strategy is going to be based on repetition and one-on-one instructions, and that all the team would help each other.

"Training is going to be exhausting," Schiffgens said.

The Bears will be competing in TAPPS 3A, unlike the last time they took the field two years ago, when they were in 4A.



# Soccer boys head to Houston for playoff game tomorrow

mike **LEE**  
reporter

Despite struggling throughout the second half of the season, the Bears finished their last three matches strong to ensure a playoff spot for the third consecutive year. They finished third in district with a record of 6-4-2.

The Bears will play the bi-district game tomorrow at Houston against St. Thomas, the first-place team in its district.

“We are going to have to score goals, (because) we are going to play teams that score a lot of goals,” head coach Jesse Jordan said. “We’re going to have to play good defensively, as well as finishing and putting goals in on offense.”

The season was marred by a demanding game schedule, suspensions, and injuries, and the team suffered four consecutive losses to begin the new year. Most notably, senior and team captain David Ko had ankle surgery that put him out for the entire second half of the season.

With the graduation of 11 players from last year and practically only one starter returning – senior and team captain Gabriel Breternitz – the Bears lacked the depth they enjoyed in previous years.

However, the team found silver linings in the hardship. They include leadership from seniors, improvement of younger players, and guidance from the new assistant coach Gifton Noel-Williams.

Breternitz led the team with 10 goals, followed by classmate Will You with 7.

Following are the team’s recent results:

**1/7: @ Rouse 5-0 L**

The Bears could not draw a positive result from the first game of 2011. Several players suffered from injury, as Breternitz and junior Marcus McCormick were subbed out during second half, while senior Mike Lee missed the whole game.

**1/8: Pharr Oratory 2-1 L**

Playing against a formidable opponent that won all of its district games this year, the Bears had an impressive start, and senior Will You scored the opening goal in the first half on a penalty kick. Although the Bears led the game at halftime, Oratory sprung back to life in the second half, scoring the equalizer. The game seemed to be a stalemate when, with less than five minutes to go, Oratory grabbed a dramatic game winner. Despite the loss, Noel-Williams praised the team’s spirited performance.

**1/10: @ Kerrville Our Lady of Hills 5-2 L**

The varsity team found itself playing three matches in four days after an untimely rescheduling of a match, and the players were visibly tired. Breternitz scored two goals.

**1/13: Regents 1-0 L**

The Bears conceded an early goal only a few minutes into the game. The rest of the 80 minutes passed with the team’s intense but futile effort to grab an equalizer. One player was unavailable the whole game due to a suspension, while injury forced McCormick to be pulled out of the game early on.

**1/20: Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills 1-1**

Although BCS dominated the match in terms of possession and number of shots on target,

neither of the contestants came out as the winner. Breternitz had the only goal. Another player who distinguished himself was sophomore Ciro Castro, who played his debut game for BCS. Despite being the most skillful player on the team according to several of his teammates, Castro was unable to play the preceding matches due to his late TAPPS registration. Born in Brazil, Castro moved to the U.S. from Turkey last year.

**1/22: @ SM Baptist 1-0 W**

Defeating the second-place team, the Bears won their first victory in six matches, thanks to a sensational long-range strike by junior Jimmy Lidgley. The goal not only won the game, but also kept the Bears’ hopes alive for the playoffs.

**1/25: St. Dom. Sav. 4-1 W**

Not everyone would have predicted an impressive victory with a three-goal difference when the Bears went down only two minutes into the game, conceding a goal due to a miscommunication. Nonetheless, the Bears kept fighting, and Breternitz scored the equalizer in the first half, assisted by his classmate and team captain Brandon Jones, the goalkeeper. In the second half, the Bears outplayed Savio in terms of possession and shots on target. You and Breternitz each grabbed a goal, while



photo: Jackson Graessle

**Winding up** Senior goalkeeper Brandon Jones prepares to throw the ball upfield during the Bears’ last district home game of the season, a 4-1 win.

freshman Trace Brinkman’s free kick induced an own goal from Savio. After the match, the team gathered with its fans and sang the school song, celebrating a victory in the season’s last home game.

**1/29: @ San Juan Diego 2-0 W**

The team booked a ticket for the playoffs with a comfortable victory. Breternitz scored a penalty in the first half, and Brinkman scored another penalty in the second half.

## Dominant in district, Lady Bears to host playoff game

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**  
reporter

Starting the year young and inexperienced, the Lady Bears improved rapidly enough to clinch a playoff spot and are guaranteed to host a playoff game. In fact, going into last night’s game against Round Rock Christian Academy, there was a still a chance that they could be district champions.

The Lady Bears are 7-1 in district and are in currently in second place, pending the outcome of Thursday’s game.

“It’s always tough when you’ve graduated as much talent as we have the last few years, so I’m pleased with our effort and ability to improve each day,” coach Devan Loftis said. “I like being able to say we’re playing our best ball right now.”

The team has been dominant in district. They began on a four-game win streak before losing a close game against RRCA. Since then they have won three more.

“We are gaining a bunch of experience which will help lead us through playoffs,” junior Megan Gum said.

Junior Brittany Brunson leads the team with 16.4 points per game, and Gum leads with 7.5 rebounds a game.

“We’d like another trip back to the final four. The biggest thing is to continue to gain experience,” Loftis said.

Following are the team’s recent results:

**12/17: Waldorf 35-33 W**

The Lady Bears jumped out to a lead, playing well in the first half. They allowed the Lady Roadrunners to catch back up in the second half, but pulled out a victory, led by Brunson’s 14 points.

**12/28-30: Wimberley Tournament**

Over Christmas break the team played five



photo: Gabriel Breternitz

**Tie up** Sophomore Brooklyn Merkord dives for a loose ball in a win against St. Dominic Savio on Jan. 25, while teammate Kat Taylor, a junior, looks on.

games in three days. Loftis said the goal of the tournament was to get back in shape and to gain experience playing against bigger and quicker athletes. The Lady Bears played well in the games against Marion, a five-point loss, and Lexington, a three-point loss, nearly pulling out victories.

**1/4: @ Bryan St. Joseph 29-20 W**

The game was close early on, but it did not matter. The Lady Bears took control of the game with patience on offense and defensive pressure.

**1/7: @ St. Dom. Sav. 43-26 W**

The Lady Bears jumped out to a lead and took it all the way to the finish in front of a large Brentwood crowd that made the trip. They shut down the Lady Eagles in the first half, allowing them to score only 11. The girls stretched out the man-to-man defense by working the ball in and out to get the shot they wanted. Brunson led with 23 points.

**1/14: @CT Christian 41-31 W**

The Lady Bears started strong, outscoring the Lady Lions 11-3 in the first quarter. After building up their lead, the girls worked on being patient.

They focused on working the ball around trying to get layups or short jump shots.

**1/18: @ Round Rock Christian 43-39 L**

The girls played their hearts out but came up just short. As always when playing against RRCA, tension ran high. The game went back and forth with many lead changes and ties. The Bears out-rebounded the Lady Crusaders, who took the lead toward the end and held on.

**1/21: Texas Christian Academy 58-38 W**

After the first quarter the game was tied at 17, but the Lady Bears proceeded to dominate the rest of the game. The Lady Stars allowed Brunson to shoot all she wanted, and she burned them for 24 points, including four three-pointers. Sophomore Rachel Orick accounted for another 15 points. The team had 29 rebounds and 15 steals.

**1/25: St. Dominic Savio 52-43 W**

The first three quarters were close, with the Lady Eagles taking a one-point lead into the fourth quarter. The Lady Bears had opportunities to take the lead but missed some layups and free throws. Finally, the girls scored off of turnovers and good ball movement, and then sealed the deal with free throws.

**1/28: Bryan St. Joseph 46-26 W**

In front of a large homecoming crowd, the Lady Bears dominated. They held the Lady Eagles to nine points in the first half. The girls then scored 19 points in the third quarter, taking a 16-point lead into the fourth.



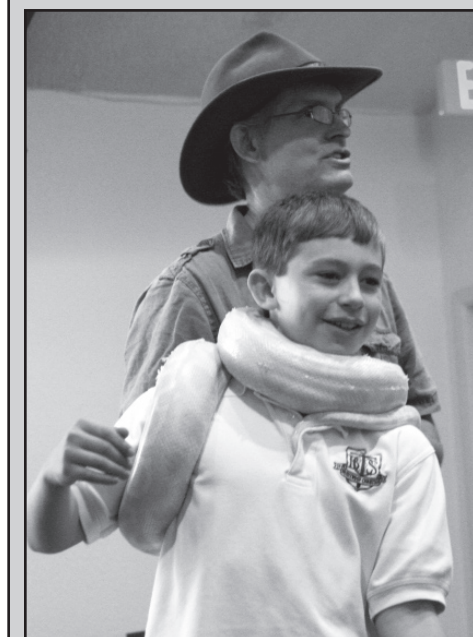
## Exotic animals entertain

arin **BALTAOGLU**  
reporter

The children raise their hands anxiously as Mike Hicks, also known as the Zoo Man, begins to speak about why he is here and what he is going to do.

Hicks returned to BCS on Jan. 25 for his annual presentation of a variety of zoo animals to elementary students. He did a total of three shows, all in the chapel.

"I plan to show you some interesting animals today and hopefully raise some interest in a few of you about animals. Now let's have some fun!" says Hicks to a group of second through fourth graders.



**Hold your breath** "Zoo Man" Mike Hicks allows a Burmese python to get friendly with fourth-grader Blaine Barker.

Shouts of joy are heard all over the small auditorium as Hicks pulls his first animal of the day out of its cage.

"This here is Avery, a sulfur crested cockatoo all the way from Australia," Hicks says.

As he briefly explains about the bird to the audience, he looks around and asks who has any questions. A sea of hands is raised, and arms are stretched as high as possible to get Hicks' attention.

"Now I only pick the most quiet and polite children to ask questions, so be sure to be on your best behavior," he says.

Almost instantly the children are muted to a complete silence and a small girl is called.

"How can you tell if it's a boy or girl," asks the small child.

Hicks explains that females' eyes have a brown tint, while males' eyes are black.

Hicks has a total of six animals, and due to time issues no questions were permitted until the last animal, an albino Burmese python. With a length of seven feet and a body color of a light yellow, this snake was definitely what many of the children called it at first glance: cool.

"I need a helper," shouts Hicks.

Surprisingly many hands are raised and a young boy in the fourth grade is called up. He is instructed by Hicks to first hold half of the snake. Then Hicks wraps the other half of the snake around the boy's neck. Followed by a brief description of how the snake would kill and eat the boy, he then ends his short speech of death with calming words.

"By the way, this snake is way too young to be thinking of eating anything bigger than a rat or mouse."

The boy's scared frown turns into a huge grin, and the day concludes with row after row of children leaving with corner-to-corner grins in single-file lines.

## Science fair organizers pleased

continued from page 1

and hydrochloric acid.

"I was pretty confident about our project, and I am delighted that our team is going to the next science fair," Lee said.

Elementary students' projects were presented in the Family Life Center on Jan. 26. There were 87 projects brought, nearly all on different topics. Some of the exemplary topics were exhibits about owls, finding the best angle to launch a water bottle rocket, testing different paper airplane designs, and a model of a construction crane.

The results for the elementary science fair were posted on Jan. 27. For each grade, awards were given for first to third place and an honorable mention in two categories: experiment and exhibit. These students also have the option to participate in the Austin

Energy Regional Science Fair on Feb. 25-26.

The teachers expressed satisfaction with students' efforts for the science fair.

Michelle Mohrmann, a science fair committee member, said she was very excited when she saw the projects coming.

"The students did a great job, and the judges were very impressed with the level of science that some students demonstrated in their projects," Mohrmann said.

Kristen Berry, also on the committee, said most students came up with awesome projects.

"I was pleasantly surprised with many of the students' projects, but I will admit, there were some projects that seemed like they did not even take 30 minutes," she said.

She also said she hopes that letting the students and parents know about the project earlier in the year will help make the projects better and less stressful in the future.

Regional science fairs will be held at the Palmer Events Center in Austin. If high school students progress to state and international levels, they will have opportunities to win fully paid college scholarships and internships at major research centers and use these experiences as advantages for their college application process.

The science fair committee included secondary science department teachers Juliana Ewing and Berry, secondary principal Jared Lee, computer teacher Mohrmann, and fourth-grade teacher Glenda Morrow.



**So you see...** First-grader Josh Trevino explains his science project about to three judges at the elementary science fair, which took place in the Family Life Center on Jan. 26.

## Success continues for soccer girls

continued from page 6

out attacks that get deep in the zone. He also decided to move Flores from midfield to forward.

"I was very disappointed that we didn't come away from this game with a win," Colwell said. "Our girls were clearly the better team, but our mistakes came back to really hurt us."

**1/14: @ Pharr Oratory 3-0 W**

After more than six hours on a small bus, the team finally arrived at the border of Mexico and Texas, to a small town called Pharr. The team stayed at a hotel and woke up at around 8 a.m. to eat breakfast and get ready for their 11:00 game. The girls arrived with a nice welcome from the school. After a scoreless first half, Brentwood quickly scored three goals, while most of Pharr Oratory School was let out of their classes to cheer everyone on in Spanish. The Lady Bears left Pharr with smiles and relief that they didn't lose and have to drive six hours back to Austin with a grouchy coach.

"I was very pleased," Colwell said. "We shut out a team that has improved a lot since the first

time we saw them."

**1/21: Regents 4-2 L**

The girls and Colwell were prepared for the undefeated Regents, but they still couldn't match Regents' talents. In the first half, Megan Monacelli scored a goal making it 1-0, the first goal any district team has scored against Regents all season. But as soon as the second half began, Regents attacked and scored four goals. Lawson scored one more for Brentwood before time elapsed. The girls left the field satisfied, even though they lost. Once again, they had made history.

**1/27: New Braunfels Christian 7-1 W**

With high hopes and nice weather, the BCS girls played their last district game. They were prepared for another easy win, but when the first half began, New Braunfels surprised the Lady Bears with a goal. Frustrated at first, the team quickly fought back and scored six goals before the first half was over.

"I was really surprised at first. I mean, we were worried when the other team got their goal," sophomore Niky McCaffety said. "But we quickly recovered, most definitely."

### BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Building a strong foundation

**EXCELLENCE**

**LEADERSHIP**

**Admissions  
Open House  
Preschool - Grade 12  
Sunday, February 13, 2011  
2:00 - 4:00**

**LOVE**

The mission of Brentwood Christian School is to lead students to love God and to nurture them in a Christ-centered academic environment that emphasizes excellence and inspires them to develop their God-given talents for lives of Christian leadership and service.