

THE BEAR FACTS



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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2013

IN SHORT

Freshman leads state

After the high school's first four Texas State Math League contests this year, freshman Andrew Armstrong has the highest cumulative score in the state. Brentwood is currently sixth in state, its highest position ever.

Open house

Brentwood Christian will host its third annual Admissions Open House for prospective families on Sunday, Feb. 10, from 2-4 p.m. Visitors will arrive at the Center for Science and the Arts and be given a tour of the campus and classrooms by current students and parents. They will also be able to enjoy performances by members of the choir and band. Brentwood families were asked to give invitations for the event to people they know who might be interested in the school.

Choir recognitions

Seven high school students were named to the TPSMEA all-state choir and will perform in San Marcos on Feb. 2: sophomores Tyler Clark and Matthew Scarborough; and seniors Travis Clark, Priscilla Glenn, Joseph Kang, Anthony Milan, and Danielle Riedesel.

BCS hosts TMSCA meet

Brentwood hosted its first TMSCA academic meet on Jan. 12, and parent Mark Sass, who served as the meet director, said he hopes to make it a tradition. Students in fourth through eighth grade competed in the middle school meet, and BCS took second place. Several students won at least one event: eighth-graders Gabbie Nguyen and Lauren Petrik; seventh-graders Katie Griffith, Alexandria Sass, and Dillon Smith; and fifth-grader Emma Nguyen.

Multi-themed homecoming pleases

McCaffety, Ramos crowned during night of basketball victories



photo: Armando Ramos

Royal flush The 2013 homecoming court, elected by their peers, includes (from left) Duke Libin Koyikalathu, Duchess Rachel Dixon, Lord Jonny Clifford, Lady Natalie Williams, Prince Skylar Treut-Shaffer, Princess Erin Atchley, King Dominic Ramos, Queen Niky McCaffety, and queen-in-waiting Morgan Vandygriff.

By Jin Ha Jeong

A homecoming week that featured plenty of creative costumes and decorations was topped off by three Brentwood basketball wins on Friday, Jan. 18. The junior varsity boys began the night with victory, and then varsity girls won handily before the coronation took place. Finally, the varsity boys won their game easily.

During the pep rally that afternoon, BCS director of development Kevin Claypool announced the students who had been voted as members of the homecoming court: first came the lord and lady, Jonny Clifford and Natalie Williams; next the duke and duchess, Libin Koyikalathu and Rachel Dixon; and then the prince and princess, Skylar Treut-Shaffer and Erin Atchley. Finally the king was presented, Dominic Ramos, but the queen was not announced; instead, three queen nominees were introduced: Niky McCaffety, Desiree Tresslar, and Morgan Vandygriff.

During the coronation that night, after a short wait and a drum roll, McCaffety was announced as this year's homecoming queen. The members of the court were voted by their classmates, and the king and queen were voted on by all secondary students.

This year's homecoming was extra special because BCS is celebrating its 50th anniversa-

ry. According to Student Council sponsor Linda Riedesel, StuCo decided to choose a medley of homecoming themes that people have enjoyed over the past few years.

The week began with Shark Day, and then came Geek Day, Twins Day, and Epic Movie and Game Day, before Spirit Day on Friday. Students dressed up each day in costumes from a pirate to a lonely shark; from a poor geek to a nice-looking geek; from fraternal twins to clones; and from a Stormtrooper to Hitman.

"I like looking at what everyone comes up

with," junior Natalie Bergeron said, "because it's interesting and some of them are funny."

StuCo put in a lot of time to make the week fun and enjoyable for students. They decorated the hallways diligently on Friday, Jan. 11, and all the next day, including while the TMSCA math competition was happening on campus.

"We worked well at being efficient with both time and paper," StuCo president Jackson Graessle said.

Students and teachers, especially the ones who are new to BCS, were amazed at the decorations that StuCo had done all over building C. Science teacher Michelle Mallett said that the bears holding cupcakes was her favorite decoration.

"I love them," Mallett said. "I've never seen that before. That is the coolest thing ever that the whole hallway transformed."

StuCo also planned a movie night for Thursday. Although it did not bring a large crowd, people who went said they enjoyed their time. They played line tag and ninja, ate snacks, and then watched "Toy Story 3."

The cheerleaders and their sponsor Kendra Dean spent hours on Friday preparing the gym for the pep rally. After high school lunch, the students arrived and found that the gym was changed into a ceremonial place. As the lights turned off, cheerleaders performed their routine along with music. High school basketball and soccer team members were introduced to the audience wearing glowsticks. After the

see **Homecoming**, page 8

One-act plays open tonight

By Grace Cammack

The seventh- and eighth-grade students are excited about getting to showcase their acting abilities in this weekend's middle school one-act plays. The two drama classes, led by director Chloe Campbell, will perform "Good Cop, Bad Cop" and "Dr. Yanush Korczak" on the evenings of Feb. 1 and 2.

Written by Ian McWethy and Jason Pizzarello, "Good Cop Bad Cop" is a comedic story of two detectives played by eighth-grader Lauren Petrik and seventh-grader Patrick Hanrahan. Sent by their chief, played by sev-

enth-grader Austin Biegert, the two attempt to catch a criminal. His heinous crime? Switching all of the street signs in their modern-day town, Yorkydooville. Odd suspects, a crazy lawyer, and a mysterious sign switcher are all wrapped up into this 45-minute play. The most difficult thing according to Campbell has been getting the students to speak loud enough for everyone to hear.

"I think once they can feel free to just go all out and make fools of themselves, the audience will really appreciate the hilarious slap-

see **Students**, page 5

Alumnus in Action: Brad Miller, Class of 2006

BCS grad living in Bronx shares story, issues challenge

The South Bronx is the poorest congressional district in the United States. This neighborhood is not only poor economically, but its education system is broken as well. Only 60 percent of students graduate from high school, and four percent graduate from college.

The injustice of the neighborhood has played a significant role in the emotional and spiritual well-being too. From an early age children are taught violence, pride, and greed, to name a few things. The name of Jesus is rarely uttered, because people are unaware of who he really is. So the ultimate question for a brave few was, "What would Jesus do about this?"

Over four years ago my wife Sara moved to the South Bronx after reading Isaiah 58 with a friend. They were moved by God telling the Israelites to humble themselves and to feed the hungry and take care of the oppressed. After considering what this meant for their lives, they came to the conclusion that they didn't

know many people who ever went hungry or had to deal with injustice on a daily basis. So they began searching such people in their own city, and it led them less than a mile away to the South Bronx.

As they began to live in this community, they were immediately met with resistance. Not only were their new neighbors suspicious of why these strangers were here, but also fellow Christians questioned their safety and told them not to move there. Then the Spirit started moving, and a new vision of what it meant to "love your neighbor as yourself" was created. This was not just a service project or a mission trip; it was true community and love with the impoverished of this world, the way we believe Jesus intended it to be.

It started small, just sitting on the stoop handing out chocolate chip cookies to any passerby who wanted one. Then they began coming over for dinner and staying over late into the night talking away. When the children needed help



with homework, they came to us to learn their multiplication

facts or get help on a spelling test. When the moms needed diapers for their babies, they asked if we could help.

And now, years later, we have classes for moms and newborns teaching how to care and love their babies. The moms are also disciplined every week and learn more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. There is an afterschool program for elementary kids who come and do their homework every day, read the Bible together, and make and eat dinner together. The teenagers participate in discipleship as well as one-on-one mentoring relationships. There are five full-time employees who live in the neighborhood, and hundreds of selfless volunteers who come to this forgotten neighborhood to see it rejuvenated as part of God's kingdom. Our vision is a holistic approach to

the injustices here and to follow God in wherever he leads us.

All of this work is taking place because a 20-year-old girl not that far out of high school decided that she was going to take the words of Jesus seriously and not water them down.

This is not something that requires a special person with unique gifts. God can and will use you to do amazing things for his kingdom if you allow him to. Poverty and injustice exists in Austin as it does just about everywhere in the world, and God calls us to be among the people and fight against these injustices and tell people about the good news.

I challenge you to read the scriptures and take a literal approach, and see how God blesses you. The joy of the Spirit is unlike anything else on this earth, and when you seek it out, it only finds you more.

To read more about Brad Miller's ministry, please visit www.ahouseonbeekman.org.

THE BEAR FACTS

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

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Thoughts Worth Thinking: Lanae Hollingsworth

Horrible experience from past becomes gift

Going to Hillsong Church was one of the best things I have done. Hillsong originated in Sydney, Australia, and now has branches all over the world; it is most definitely a mega-church. Many of you may know songs for which their singing group, Hillsong United, is known. I know I enjoy listening to them on the radio. My experience at Hillsong should have been an uplifting time of worship no matter how different it was from my normal Sunday. At the time, that description was farthest from my mind.

It was probably the worst experience of my trip to Australia and New Zealand, followed closely by the "pancakes" that seemed to be missing something and were possibly horrible crepes. I was brutally forced by my parents and my uncle to go to a church service with screaming people, a band, and a preacher from Atlanta after I had not been fed dinner. When I got there, I found out that it would last two hours; it was also so crowded that we could not all sit together. And since the preacher was from America, I would not even get to listen to an Aussie accent.

Why do I now say Hillsong was one of the best things I have done? Simply put, it gave me food for thought; I just had no idea at the time that it would. It has taken me six and a half years to recognize what an amazing experience it was.

The experience at Hillsong was completely overwhelming for this Texas Church of Christ girl, but it was necessary. I was able to experi-

ence how other members of the body of Christ worship. It began breaking down walls. Community is around the world. The Word is the same; the expression might be different, but following Christ is supposed to be radical. Slowly but surely, I have been seeing Christ in new ways. I wonder if this epiphany will be a turning point.

Since Hillsong, I have worshipped with a tiny Church of Christ island congregation where our family doubled the size of the congregation, at

Slowly but surely, I have been seeing Christ in new ways.

a Baptist Christmas Eve service with an energizing choir-based performance, with children in Peru dancing and singing in Spanish, and at the City Church in Seattle where Judah Smith is the pastor. Each of these experiences at first made me uncomfortable, and they remained uncomfortable through most of the time I was participating in them. Now, I am so grateful for each and every one of them. In their own way, they have worked to prepare me for the situations I am in right now, and that I will continue to be in in college, constantly learning about the body of Christ.

Through these experiences I have learned that it is not so important which type of church I attend, but it is important that I find a church

where God is at work and the people of the congregation are striving to love their neighbors and listen for God's call in their lives. I want to be a part of a church where a relationship with God is about allowing God to change me. Change is very hard for me; I like to do things the same way every time. But as I go off to college I am beginning to understand that change is what life is all about. I really thought I would know where I was going to college by now; I have no idea. I think I want to be a coach and a teacher, but some days I wonder if that is really how God is going to use me. Maybe it is, but it will not be in the situation I imagine myself.

Six and a half years later a horrible experience is constantly coming back to my thoughts. I often wish I had not been as grumpy, teary-eyed, and annoyed, because then I might have learned more. Even though it is hard, sometimes stepping out of our comfort zones or having what we at first deemed an awful experience can be the best thing for us. Worshipping at Hillsong began a series of events which has completely changed my view on church and worship. Today I can honestly say that I am so grateful that I went, and I would go back if I had the chance.

I want to encourage you to go through life with an open mind. It is important not to lose opportunities like I almost did; you never know which experiences God will use to change you and shape you into the person you are called to be.

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Mohrmann wins 'geo bee'

By Hannah Kwon

Eighth-grader Joseph Mohrmann won Brentwood Christian's National Geographic Bee on Jan. 15 in the church auditorium, beating classmate Will Moncure in the championship round. Students and teachers from third through ninth grades were in the audience.

Mohrmann won by correctly answering: "The town of Bozeman, known for its ranchers, artists, and trout fishing, is located north of Yellowstone National Park in what state?" He wrote the answer "Montana" to begin the championship round, while Moncure missed the question. Both contestants missed the next two questions, meaning Mohrmann had won the bee.

"I pay attention to movies and a lot of different things," Mohrmann said. "I knew the answer was 'Montana' because my grandparents visited Yellowstone National Park one time."

The bee started with the classroom-level competitions in grades four through eight. Students took turns answering questions for seven rounds. Three eighth-graders answered all sev-

en questions right, earning automatic qualification as finalists. For the students who answered six right, there was a written tiebreaker with ten more questions. Five students were selected from the first tiebreaker and two more from an additional tiebreaker.

Other finalists included eighth-graders Samantha Mack, Alex Matthew, Camille Sunshine, and Daniel Torres; seventh-graders Patrick Hanrahan, Benjamin Helyer, and Mason McCully; and sixth-grader Micah Best. Two teachers served as judges for the bee: Jonathan Weed moderated while Becky Stewart kept score.

A few days after winning, Mohrmann took a written qualifying test for the state-level competition which will be on April 5 near Dallas. He can move on to the state bee if he scores as one of the top 100 in Texas. The last Brentwood student to do this was current sophomore Charlie Sinclair in 2010.

The state winner will represent Texas in the National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C., on May 20-22.

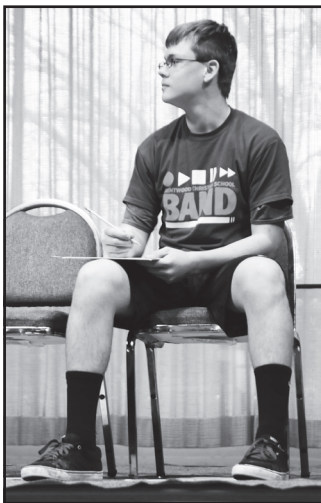


photo: Stephen Colwell

Winning pose Eighth-grader Joseph Mohrmann won the geography bee on Jan. 15.

Petrik takes spelling title

By Hannah Kwon

Eighth-grader Lauren Petrik won Brentwood Christian's fourth-annual spelling bee on Jan. 11 in the church auditorium, finally sealing her victory with a pounding heart.

"I was so nervous during the competition," Petrik said.

Petrik and seventh-grader Tara Whitaker were the last two contestants remaining. Whitaker missed the word "nonchalant," but Petrik got the word "hokum" correct. She then won when she correctly spelled out the winning word, "cayenne."

Last year's runner-up Camille Sunshine finished third.

"I didn't study a lot," Petrik said. "I read a lot of books in all genres."

The 21 finalists for the 9:30 a.m. competition were decided through either classroom bees or written tests in each of the grades from one through eight. From these preliminary bees, the finalists were decided: two students per grade level in

grades one through five, three students in grade six, and four students each in grades seven and eight. All classroom winners were to be reported

to parent coordinator Sharonda Cooper by Dec. 7.

Three teachers served as judges for the competition: Tere Hager, Evelyn Ellis, and Chloe Campbell. Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth pronounced the words.

As the main director of the event, Cooper sent out information to teachers and words to the families last fall. She also recruited all necessary bee officials, made signs, ordered awards, and finally turned in the results to the Scripps National Headquarters.

Students in grades kindergarten through eighth were in the audience. Parents of the participants were also there to offer their support.

All three children from the Whitaker family were finalists this year. Third-grader Tessa, fifth-grader Travis, and seventh-grader Tara, the runner up, all qualified for this year's spelling bee.

Petrik will compete in the regional bee on Mar. 23 in Dallas. She has the chance to compete at district, state, and nationals for a grand prize of \$30,000.

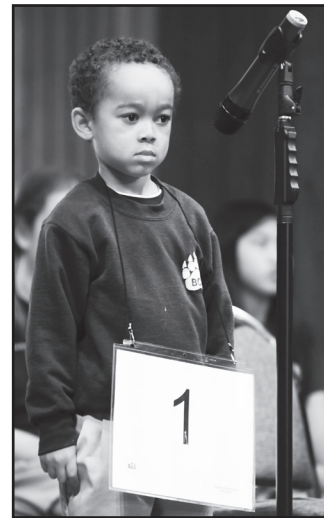


photo: Stephen Colwell

Unfazed First-grader Renne Cooper stood among the school's best spellers at the bee on Jan. 11.

Sixth-graders overcome solar flares, 'death,' in annual space trip

By Joshua Sass

The sixth-grade students watch the big screen in awe as they see their spaceship fly and complete its mission. Each student did his or her individual job to make sure everything went properly, and it did. They had a successful flight, and there were high-fives of excitement passed around the room as they completed their missions.

Brentwood Christian's sixth-grade classes made their annual field trip to Houston and performed simulated space missions before going to NASA's Johnson Space Center on Jan. 17. Some of the students did their simulated missions at Challenger Centers at Houston Museum of Natural Science, while others went to George Observatory in Brazos Bend State Park.

Before the trip, each student was

assigned a job for which he or she felt best suited. The jobs were: medical, navigation, life support, communications, data, isolation, probe, and remote. Each of these jobs required a unique set of skills, like hand-eye coordination, patience, and observation skills.



photo: Michelle Mohrmann

Hello? Moon? Parents Matthew Ornelas and Ann Hughes assist Zoe Pedroza and Karyme Ornelas.

The students departed campus in vehicles of volunteering parents at 5:45 a.m. and arrived at their destinations at about 10 a.m. As their mission progressed, students found that multiple tasks or problems arose. For example, there was a solar flare, and the air on the spaceship ran out. The teams also had to execute an emergency landing. One member of the team had a fictional death of radiation poisoning due to a medical team failure in treating her.

The navigation team was always working because they constantly had to direct the ship where it needed to go. The isolation team used a robot arm to test a moon rock.

"It was really fun and at times really challenging due to lacking to communicate well," student Alex Kemsley said.

Others agreed that the difficulty added to the fun.

"It was really fun when the problems happened and you had to take action," classmate Whit Allee said.

In the afternoon, students toured NASA's



photo: Becky Stewart

Mars landing Jaelyn Wishard and Nyna Vasquez give a moon-to-Mars message.

Johnson Space Center and did activities at Space Center Houston.

Sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart has accompanied students to NASA since the school's first trip in 1986. She says the trip will be in the curriculum as long as the Johnson Space Center and the Challenge Center are open to them.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Niky McCaffety*

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

'Sass master' Niky lives to bring laughs

By Madalyn Garelick

"People always say you will discover who you are later in life when you're in college, but I say, why wait to have your adventures and discover yourself when you're in college? How about now!"

Senior Niky McCaffety certainly makes sure her life is full of adventures. This peppy, smiley, self-proclaimed "sass master" has been and is still involved in just about everything Brentwood has to offer. Her activities have included cheerleading, soccer, NHS, choir, and drama.

After being voted class president her freshman year, Niky has run unopposed every year since. She goes out of her way to make sure that everyone feels welcome and comfortable with her, which is one of the many reasons that she was voted this year's homecoming queen.

Classmate and best friend Elena Battle describes Niky as bubbly, sassy, forgiving, intelligent, and very clever with her words. She says that Niky conducts herself admirably in all that she does, always giving a full effort.

"I like to have a spoon in all the pots," Niky says, causing classmate Mary Monacelli to chime in and say that Niky would die if she weren't involved in everything.

Secondary choir teacher Missy Weaver says that Niky is so helpful in class and is always one step ahead of her, and this is what makes her such a good leader for the school.

Niky began at Brentwood as a shy, timid kindergartner. As she reached the middle school years she began to break through her shell, beginning with her blue hair and purple eyeliner that she wore confidently through her seventh-grade year. Niky proudly pro-

Through high school Niky truly has found who she is. She is no longer that shy elementary kid, or the blue-haired rocker; she is now the girl who everyone counts on to bring laughter and excitement in every situation. There is never a dull moment when she walks into the room, especially in Jessica Love's English class, where many days when she's tired she will fling herself onto the floor and throw a pretend temper tantrum. If her craziness makes other people laugh and smile, Niky says she will do it.

"I don't really get embarrassed anymore," she says.

Her trademark sass has become one of the things people love the most about her, and it has caused classmate Amanda Conway to begin a quote book dedicated to all Niky's clever sayings. Niky has also given Mrs. Love permission to write a book about her one day. The title of this book has been confirmed as "The Book of Niky."

"Her life will be a book and a movie one day," says Love, who shares a special bond with Niky and has become her favorite teacher.

Niky also enjoys "muddling and nesting" in everyone's business. She has genuine interest in others' lives and loves to offer her advice to anyone who will listen. This might explain why she can be found wandering through the hallways making herself at home in every classroom. She spends much of her time playing the role of Love's daughter. Mary says that out of the whole Yearbook class Niky has the best attendance, and she is not even assigned to that class.

"Niky is truly like a daughter to me – she even house-sits for me when I'm out of town," Love says. "I am definitely going to miss her."

Some would say Niky knows no strangers, only friends she just hasn't met yet.

"I can't help liking people," Niky says. "There's not one person in this school that I don't feel comfortable with just going up in the hall and having a conversation."

Elena, of course is one of Niky's best friends. The two are inseparable, having been friends since their freshman year, but they have grown especially close over this past year. Whenever you see one of them, the other is nearby.

Love remembers a time when Niky and Elena went off campus during lunch and bought a half-gallon tub of ice cream and ice cream scoops. They sat in her classroom eating the tub of ice cream until they got so full that they collapsed on the ground and lay there for a full class period.

Elena's best memories of Niky are going on random drives around town with her and just being able to talk to each other about their lives.

"Niky is so confident," Elena says. "You can't help but be her friend, just in the way she holds herself all high and mighty. She never fails to make me laugh."

Senior Serena George has also been friends with Niky since their freshman year. Serena fondly recalls a time when Niky came over and stayed for a whole week one summer. Serena would cook dinner for them and just hang out.

Above all, Niky has a huge heart and a caring spirit. Through her years as a member of NHS she has discovered a love of volunteering. She spends her free time working at Pump It Up and volunteering at animal shelters, hospitals, Austin Public Library, and a bookstore.

"I read somewhere that the most precious gift you could give someone is your time," Niky says. "I don't even keep track of the hours anymore. At each volunteering job I run into all types of people, and each person has a lesson I can learn."

"I volunteer because I think it makes people better to share their story, and I know I'm a better person for hearing it."

Elena says that Niky "kills herself," but that's what makes her an amazing person. It builds her self-esteem to be involved in so many activities and volunteering.

As for her future, Niky plans on attending Baylor University and studying political science, possibly going on to law school. She has loved her high school years and says she wishes she had one of those red Staples buttons so whenever she has a bad day she could just press it, and her senior class would appear in her dorm room.

"I'm going to miss wandering around and feeling welcome everywhere," Niky says. "I feel like I belong everywhere I am."



claims that she has made major fashion strides since then.

Niky's family is also very involved with Brentwood. She has two older brothers, one of whom graduated from Brentwood in 2010. Her mom is the homeroom mom for Linda Allen's kindergarten class and volunteers in the computer classes. Niky's niece Morgan is also very important in her life. She is in Mrs. Allen's kindergarten class, and Niky treats her like she is her own child. After school she waits for Morgan to finish piano lessons and math pentathlon, and then drive her home. She even drops her off every morning at school.

Nurse loves job bringing comfort to school

By Morgan Gage

When asked for opinions about the school nurse, people tend to use many of the same adjectives. “Friendly, nice, and caring” is the perfect description of BCS school nurse Nancy Meyer. Faced every day with about 20 cases of sniffles, cuts, and boo-boos, Meyer never seems to lack passion for her work.

“I feel like it’s my perfect job,” she says. “I love the kids. I enjoy being around them – you gain a type of energy from them.”

Meyer has been working at Brentwood for the last seven years after spending about 25 years in emergency care. She says she hopes her presence on campus brings peace of mind to parents and teachers alike.

“I would like to think, and I hope, that it gives the parents a sense of comfort in knowing that I’m here and can either evaluate your child or intervene if necessary,” Meyer says.

“I hope it’s brought some comfort to the faculty and staff in that I’m here to evaluate instead of the responsibility being on them.”

Meyer grew up in Shawnee, about 30 miles east of Oklahoma City, where she attended elementary, middle, and high school. After graduating in 1972, she started her freshman year at Oklahoma Christian, where she was an English/French major.

Meyer started out wanting to teach; in fact, during her freshman year at college they didn’t even have a nursing course. But she soon discovered that she had lost her desire to teach, and she felt she needed to find another career. So Meyer took year off from school, accepting a small job at a hospital where she soon realized

she had a passion for medicine.

“That’s when I decided this is what I want to be,” she says. “A lot of prayer was spent on: God, what do you want me to do?”

After the short break away from her schooling, Meyer went back with a new mission and purpose. She graduated with a nursing degree from Seminole College in Oklahoma and later moved on to the University of Texas medical branch in Houston to obtain her nurse practitioner certification in emergency care.

Nancy and her husband Russ Meyer, a health physicist who deals with radiation control, will have been married for 34 years in June. She met him while she was in Houston attending school and was introduced to him by a mutual friend.

The couple lived in Houston from their marriage up until the birth of their first son, when they realized they didn’t wish to raise a family there. Since Russ grew up in Austin, they decided to move in order to be closer to family and raise their kids in a more familiar environment.

Together they’ve had two boys who are both BCS graduates. The oldest is Charles (also known as “Chas”) who graduated in 2000, and the younger Nicholas (or “Nick”) who was in the class of 2003.

Charles went to ACU, where he met his wife

Adrienne. The two are now living in Abilene, where he works as a medical consultant. Nicolas also attended ACU, leaving with a biology degree. He currently lives in the Austin area, where he sporadically shows up on campus as a substitute. He is currently working at Mendez Middle School as a math tutor.

Once her kids graduated, yet still before she came to BCS, Meyer took care of her mother who had Alzheimer’s disease for many months up until her passing. The following summer she was asked by BCS president Marquita Moss, a friend of Meyer’s from the Brentwood Oaks church community, if she would be willing to join the staff and become Brentwood’s first campus nurse.

Starting off only working a few hours of the day, Meyer’s responsibilities have grown, and she now arrives at 8:00 each morning and leaves at 3 p.m.

“No one on campus gives more tender, thoughtful care to our students than ‘Nurse Nancy,’” elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed says. “And she is also a superb professional. We are so thankful to have her with us every day!”

Meyer, likewise, is thankful for BCS.

“I’ve always said God is not going to need nurses in heaven, so he gave me Brentwood as my heaven here on earth,” she says.



Dr. Sloan takes science position

By Nicholas Bergeron



Shortly after announcing that she and her husband were expecting a baby, chemistry teacher Kristen Berry stepped down, and Dr. Diann Sloan took the position as Brentwood Christian’s newest science teacher.

Dr. Sloan has a B.A. in chemistry from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin, as well as years of research experience in engineering and chemistry.

She was offered the job before the winter break, and after prayerful consideration, Dr.

Sloan accepted the position to teach Life Science, Chemistry, and Physics.

“God has been trying to get me here,” Dr. Sloan said, referencing the numerous times she had been asked about her interest in the position.

Dr. Sloan is married to Derrell Sloan and has two children, both of whom attend Brentwood: Makana, who is in third grade, and Dylan, who is in pre-school. She has lived in Texas since 1990, having grown up in Anaheim, Calif.

About Brentwood, Dr. Sloan has voiced approval, calling the students she has worked with a “really good group of students,” and has found the faculty and staff very helpful. For the rest of the year, she said she will work to bring science alive and show the wonder of God’s creation.

“I pray that God will use me here,” Dr. Sloan said.

Students present comedy, drama

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stick humor in this show,” Campbell said.

“Dr. Yanush Korczak,” written by Alina Kentof, is drastically different than the other class’ play. The play covers the dramatic tale of a Polish doctor and his assistant, Stepha, played by eighth-graders Charlie Vasquez and Camille Sunshine. As the owner of an orphanage in the midst of World War II, the doctor is at odds with a German soldier, played by eighth-grader Michael Hickl, over what should be done with the children. Dedicated to the children, Korczak and Stepha refuse to leave them in harm’s way. In preparation for this play, the 14 cast members are learning slight Polish and German accents.

“It’s not that hard. We aren’t trying to be extremely accurate,” Vasquez said. “We just want

a slight accent.”

Campbell said she is very proud of her students for being able to pull off such a dramatic piece.

“I think the audience will enjoy the students’ understanding and portrayal of the extreme devastation and tragedy of this time in our history,” she said. “I truly think for the most part that they are capturing the true emotion in their acting.”

Campbell expects the audience to laugh and cry as her students perform these two completely different plays. Tickets are from \$10-\$15 for adults and \$9-\$12 for students. The plays will be in the Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Both shows will be headed off to competition: “Good Cop, Bad Cop” the following weekend for PSIA and “Dr. Yanush Korczak” to TCSIT in April.

Brentwood again in driver's seat for district title

By John Hollingsworth

The Lady Bears are in a familiar spot at the top of the district standings, with a 6-1 record (20-5 overall).

They have three games remaining in the regular season, and potentially five playoff games, as they plan to win state. The girls' next game is at TSD on Feb. 5.

Brentwood has been recognized by the Austin American-Statesman throughout the year, being ranked as high as eighth in Central Texas. They are currently ranked third among small private schools in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

"We have improved our chemistry a lot incorporating new players," senior Brooklyn Merkord said. "I was a little worried at the beginning because we lost all of our seniors, but we have bonded and are headed in a good direction."

The Lady Bears are led in scoring by junior Ariana Marks, who has 14.6 per game, and sophomore Nicole Glenn, with 10.3. Marks and Glenn also lead in rebounding and steals, while senior Morgan Vandygriff and freshman Keely Hardin lead in assists.

Head coach Devan Loftis said the team has been playing its best basketball lately, but he cautions them not to get complacent.

"At this point none of our basketball goals are accomplished just yet, but it is fun seeing them unfold," he said. "Our main objective is

to glorify God with how we play and approach the game, and I'd like to think we are progressing on that as well."

Senior Rachel Orick has returned to the court after tearing her ACL late in the summer and missing the first 22 games of the season. Orick made her comeback at homecoming against Concordia, playing for only a few seconds.

"She is going to be playing limited minutes, but hopefully by playoffs she will be able to contribute," Loftis said. "She has put in a lot of time and effort to getting her full strength back."

If the team makes it back to state, the girls should be improved by having Orick back.

"At first I found it hard not to play but then I got into cheering a lot," Orick said before she returned to the court. "It's weird not playing, I feel like I went from being a starter to injured, back to starter and then injured again."

Following are the team's recent results: (* denotes district game)

12/29-30: @ S. A. Luth. Tourn. W W W L

The girls beat the host school 69-11, led by Marks and Nicole Glenn with 17 points each. Merkord added 10 points and seven rebounds.

In their second game they beat John Paul II 58-29, led by Glenn with 18 points and six steals. Marks and Vandygriff had 16 and 12 points, respectively.

In the semifinals the girls beat former district rival St. Dominic Savio 61-52, winning the fourth quarter 27-16 by making 15 of 18 free

throws. Senior Priscilla Glenn had a career high 16 points off the bench. Marks had 15 points, including a clutch three-pointer in the fourth. Nicole Glenn had 11 points, as did Vandygriff. Hardin had eight points, all in the fourth, including six of seven from the free-throw line.

The Lady Bears lost the championship to Houston Christian 44-32. Nicole Glenn led the Lady Bears with 13 points.

1/4: RRCA* 54-26 W

The girls started off slow until Marks, Hardin, and Merkord made three straight three-pointers to take control of the game. Marks ended up with 18 points and nine rebounds. Priscilla Glenn had eight points and 10 rebounds.

1/10: TSD* 63-14 W

Marks, Hardin, and Merkord made three straight threes again, and Marks led with 22 points. BCS led 24-8 at the half.

1/15: @ S.J. Diego* 59-10 W

see **Girls**, page 8



photo: Mark Merkord

Beat you to it! Senior Brooklyn Merkord and sophomore Christina Onabajo both scramble for a loose ball against San Juan Diego on Jan. 15.

Soccer boys start district strong after tough December



photo: Tina Treut

Kicking it Junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer battles an opponent for the ball in a recent game. Treut-Shaffer had two goals in the Bears' victory on Jan. 28.

By Jonathon Reich

After coming back from a long break without practice, the boys' varsity soccer team won its first three district games of the season. This is in sharp contrast to the games played before Christmas, when BCS could not find a win.

Coach Cash Miller said he expects the boys to win every district game.

"I expected it to be another building year, but with more success than last year," Cash said. "I'm happy with the way we've played district."

Before the semester break, the varsity and JV teams played a series of non-district games against a higher-level district, in order to get more competition and learn how to work as a team better. During this time, the JV team won two games, and the

varsity won none. However, this was not a crushing blow to the boys' spirits.

"We're doing a lot better than last year," senior Anthony Milan said. "I think we can do really well in this district."

Cash agrees with Milan's assessment.

"Anytime you're in the second year of a program, it's a change," said Miller, who began as head coach last season. "So far, for the most part, everyone's working and doing their part. But we're not where we're going to go yet."

Following are the team's recent results: (* denotes district game)

1/15: @ St. Andrews 4-1 L

During the first game of the new year, both the JV and varsity teams powered through the cold in the last tune-up before district. The JV team started off the night well with a 6-1 win, but the varsity did not share their victory. Sophomore Christian Montgomery was the sole scorer in this game.

1/17: @ Brazos Christian* 4-2 W

In their first district game, the boys pulled through and beat Brazos Christian on their own turf. Brentwood played well the first half,

with two goals scored by Montgomery and one by junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer. However, the defense loosened up in the second half, causing two wandering balls to find their way to the back of the net. With less than a minute left in the game, sophomore Haehwan Park made it past the defense and looked for the shot, only to be tackled by a goalie twice his size. Fortunately, Park's "sacrifice" led to a penalty kick, which allowed Treut-Shaffer to put another goal in the net.

"At first (being tackled) was hard," Park said. "(But I) was glad to help my team win."

1/22: @ St. Stephens 7-0 L

Due to communication errors, players found in the morning that they had a game later that day. The team only had one sub during the first half, and no subs during the second half after a player left. Add to that sloppy play, and Brentwood was beaten a second time by this non-district opponent.

1/24: San Juan Diego* 4-0 W

The winter heat showed its face during this

see **Soccer**, page 8

Soccer girls bounce back

By MJ Sung

After losing all five of their pre-district games without scoring any goals, the girls' varsity soccer team is now near the top of the district. Their record through Monday's game is 3-1-1, and they are halfway through their district schedule.

"After playing such tough competition through the preseason, it would have been easy to get down on ourselves," coach Stephen Colwell said. "But the girls raised their level of play going into district."

Despite starting the season without scoring in 2012, Colwell said the team overcame some of the weakness of having a lack of soccer experience. He said he has seen a dramatic improvement in the effort and determination put forth by the team.

"We are beginning to understand the importance of giving everything, not just a little," Colwell said.

Colwell has been focusing on mental training for the team. He said it's one of the hardest lessons to learn in soccer because it's hard to watch the action on the field and quickly determine what your reaction as an individual should be.

Colwell said the team is still trying to develop some of the basics such as getting to the ball and trapping balls first in the air. However, he also said the team's strength is shown in the leadership from the older players such as seniors Mary Monacelli and Courtney Flores, who really stepped up to lead the team.

"I expect a lot of individual skills and improvements in our team," Monacelli said. "I hope we could make it to post district game."

Following are the team's results since the last Bear Facts: (* denotes district game)

12/13: @ St. Andrews 5-0 L

Colwell said St. Andrews was the best the girls faced all year up to this point. The Bears' defense was able to figure out a few things that took some adjusting to fix, so they played much better in the second half. Colwell said it was a good experience for the team.

1/7: @ New Braunfels Christian* 4-1 W

The girls started off their first district match of the season with a sweet victory. Colwell said the team came and put their best showing of the season together.

They went up 2-0 in the first half with goals by freshman Hailey Miller and Monacelli. In the second half, junior Alex Singleton scored to put the team up 3-0. After a goal by New Braunfels, Miller scored again for the 4-1 win.

"It was a very convincing victory," Colwell said. "I felt tremendous pride as a coach because of their hard work."

1/14: T. Holy Cath.* 4-0 W

This game was the Bears' first shutout of the season. Their defense played very well, and the offense held the ball on the other side of the field so much that THC had very few opportunities to shoot.

In the first half, freshman Rebekah Legband sent a long ball up the middle to Miller, who scored from 18 yards out. Then Miller passed the ball to junior Marisol Lawson, who scored a shot from 22 yards out.

In the second half, Flores scored unassisted after taking advantage of a poor goal

kick. The last score was made by Monacelli, with an assist by Flores.

1/17: John Paul II Catholic* 3-2 W

Brentwood had full control, beating their opponents to the ball most of the game.

Miller scored the first goal by stealing the ball from a defender. Next, Flores dribbled through the opponents, finishing off with a score. Right after that, Flores missed a shot but then got the ball back and scored. The opponents also scored on a foul kick making the halftime score 3-1.

1/24: @ Trinity* 1-1 T

Lawson tied the game with Brentwood's only goal, but the girls were unable to capitalize on their opponent's mistakes. Colwell said goalkeeper Jasmine Selman and sweeper Rachel Dixon played great games. He is very excited to play this team at home.

1/28: @ Veritas* 6-0 L

The Bears ran into a very tough and undefeated team. Veritas scored two quick goals in the first six minutes of the game and led 3-0 at the half. In the second half they added goals on a corner kick and a penalty kick before closing it out with their sixth score.

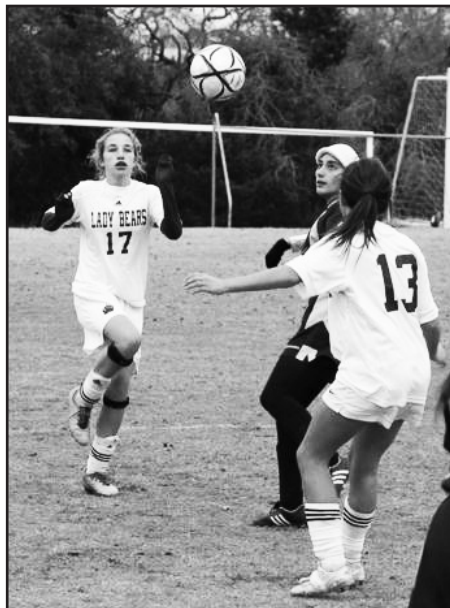


photo: Rose Miller

Who's got it? Freshman Hailey Miller and senior Courtney Flores battle for the ball.

Boys win six in a row

By Charlie Sinclair

The varsity boys' basketball team is second in district with 6-2 record through Tuesday's loss at Round Rock Christian. The Bears won six in a row before the loss.

Senior Matthew Archer and sophomore Cody Hunt lead the team in scoring with 14.5 and 14 points per district game, respectively.

"I am pleased with our progress thus far in the season," first-year head coach Brian Thrift said. "I am confident that we have positioned ourselves to have a successful end to the season. We are beginning to hit on all cylinders, and it has been rewarding to coach this group of players."

The team is striving to become the first BCS varsity boys' basketball team to win district since 1999.

"Our kids are buying into our system, and they have come to work hard this season," Thrift said. "We still have some work to complete if we want to achieve our goals for the year."

Junior Mike Taylor leads the team in rebounds, while sophomore Jacob Peyton leads in assists. Junior David Powers leads in blocked shots and shooting percentage.

Following are the district results:

1/4: RRCA 66-58 L

The Bears started this game falling behind and fought back through injuries in the second half, but the Crusaders kept them at bay to go on and win the game. Archer led the scoring with 24 points.

1/8: Giddings State School 63-35 W

Brentwood came out with a lead in the first quarter, picking apart the GSS press, and Hunt led the Bears with 18 points. The opponent was very quick, with a fast-paced offense, but the boys outpaced them and started a win streak.

1/10: Texas School for the Deaf 57-53 W

With the Rangers' star player out of the game, Brentwood started by gaining a good lead and kept it throughout the game. The opposition occasionally surged from behind, but the Bears' defense and 20 points by Hunt left them with a two-game win streak.

1/15: @ San Juan Diego 56-11 W

The Bears gained a large lead and played very well offensively, with Archer scoring 21 points. They only allowed the opposing team nine points until the last minute of the game.

1/17: @ Central Texas Christian 49-36 W

BCS started the game trailing by six and stayed behind until halftime, when they were down by 10. Brentwood gained the lead in the second half, with several key three-pointers and 24 points by Hunt, and they ended up winning the game by 13.

1/18: Concordia Lutheran 50-9 W

On Homecoming night, Brentwood won

in front of the large crowd by a margin of 41 points, led by Archer with 13 points.

1/25: Central Texas Christian 60-53 W

BCS started the game with 12 quick points and never trailed. CTCS made it close near the end, but the Bears fought through sickness to take the victory. Archer had 19 points, and Hunt scored 15.

1/29: @ RRCA 61-53 L

Down 20-7 at the end of the first quarter, the Bears fought back to tie the score at 34 in the third. But untimely turnovers and poor free throw shooting allowed RRCA to pull away. Archer scored 22 points, and Taylor scored 13 points to go along with nine rebounds.



photo: Mark Merkord

Backboard Senior Matthew Archer scores two of his 21 points in the Bears' win against San Juan Diego on Jan. 15.

Teacher visits Antarctica; has journeyed to all continents

By Connor Crowe

With her parka and waterproof boots, sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart ventured out into the white continent of Antarctica.

Stewart's excursion to Antarctica began on Dec. 17 and ended on Dec. 30. Along with 145 other passengers from different parts of the world, Stewart traveled on a ship called the National Geographic Explorer. The guests were accompanied by National Geographic experts, and other professionals like photographers and naturalists were on board as well.

"All my life I've wanted to go to Antarctica," said Stewart, who has now traveled to all seven continents.

Lindblad Expeditions partnered with National Geographic in 2004 to plan to travel to remote places across the globe. Today, the partnership travels to 19 different places in the world using 10 different ships, such as the National Geographic Explorer, which is an ice-class vessel built to travel to places like Antarctica. While aboard, Stewart viewed Antarctica from the observation window and attended lectures about the land and the animals there.

Stewart began planning the arrangements for her trip last January after looking at a travel brochure. To begin the trip, she traveled to the city of Ushuaia, Argentina, at the tip of South America, to board the Explorer. The ship sailed through the Drake Passage, which is between the Antarctic Peninsula and South America.



photo: submitted

Brrrr, it's cold! Sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart spent two weeks fulfilling a lifelong dream to visit Antarctica. She traveled on the National Geographic Explorer.

For the rest of her excursion, she explored the nature that the continent had to offer. On days that involved hiking, the group would go about two miles. Along with her parka and

boots, Stewart wore insulated waterproof pants on days that she had to wade through water from her raft to reach the land.

Stewart describes Antarctica as a place with

ice, snow, and cold water where it never got dark. The lack of nighttime was due to the fact that her trip came during the southern hemisphere's summer solstice.

However, some might be surprised to know that the temperatures she experienced were somewhat mild. She said the temperature usually ranged from about 29-32 degrees Fahrenheit.

Stewart looked at animals and geological features such as glaciers and icebergs. She said she saw large icebergs flip over and heard avalanches as well. The animals that she saw included five kinds of penguins, like the gentoo and chinstrap, and four kinds of whales, such as the minke and killer.

"I hiked among the penguins in their colonies and climbed up glaciers or snowy, rocky hills to get better views," Stewart said.

Stewart visited places in Antarctica such as Port Lockroy. Here, Stewart went to the museum, post office, and gift shop. At the gift shop, she bought a stuffed animal penguin wearing the official Port Lockroy tartan, a Port Lockroy tartan scarf, pencils for this year's geography bee winners, and a postcard that she mailed to her classroom.

"After the unique experience, it began to seem like it had been a dream," Stewart said. "But our pictures prove that we were there!"

Stewart's future travel plans include going on a Disney Cruise to Alaska with her grandchildren this summer.

Girls aiming for district title

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Brentwood started the game fast, with the starters taking a double-digit lead before coming out after only playing three minutes. Nicole Glenn and Marks led the way with 10 points each.

1/17: @ CTCS* 63-46 W

In the most competitive district game thus far, the girls' full-court press worked very well and produced some easy buckets. Marks led the way with five three-pointers and 26 points overall. Nicole and Priscilla Glenn had 14 and 12 points, respectively.

1/18: Concordia* 67-14 W

The Lady Bears got off to a slow start on their homecoming night but found their stride and went on to dominate the Lady Cardinals. Nicole Glenn led with 20 points and nine rebounds.

1/22: St. Stephens 46-40 W

The girls had one of their tougher games of the season but pulled out a win against a taller, non-district team. Marks led with 17 points,

while Merkord and Nicole Glenn added seven points each. The girls were tied 19-19 at the half but were down by six after three quarters. The Lady Bears played solid defense in the fourth quarter to complete the comeback.

"That was a big win for us," Loftis said. "We have beaten almost all of the private schools in Austin, and that was one of the best teams we have beaten all year."

1/25: CTCS* 73-30 W

The Lady Bears rode their really hot shooting all game long, winning decisively against one of their better opponents in district. Marks and Nicole Glenn led the way with 15 and 14 points, respectively. Vandygriff and Merkord both added 10.

1/29: @ RRCA* 41-40 L

The Crusaders handed the Lady Bears their first district loss. Though the girls shot poorly, they had a chance to win at the end. Marks hit a three-pointer to put the girls up by one with seven seconds left in the game, but the Crusaders hit a layup at the buzzer to win the game.

Soccer boys

continued from page 6

first district home game. While both Miller and the team admitted to sloppiness, it was an easy win and another good game to start off the district season. The four goals were scored by freshman Joshua Sass, who earned a hat trick, and sophomore Jae Hwang, who nailed a shot from the center circle which was described by Milan as "literally the most beautiful goal I have ever seen in my entire life."

"I feel like we were somewhat sloppy and need to fix mistakes," sophomore Evan Herring said. "And when we do that we'll be an even better team."

1/28: Holy Trinity* 9-0 W

The Bears benefited from improved play by their midfielders and from facing an inexperienced goalie. Sass had another hat trick, while Treut-Shaffer scored two goals. Park, Hwang, sophomore Brodie Brown, and freshman Mason McCormick each scored one goal in the blowout victory.

Homecoming

continued from page 1



elementary students were dismissed, a brief dance party started. It was an enjoyable end to a fun week.

"I love looking at people's costumes and I love dressing up days," junior Mai

Nguyen said. "It's sad that I didn't get to watch the homecoming games, but overall it was epic."

photos: submitted