

IN SHORT

Regional Science Fair

For the second straight year, sophomore Erika DuPond advanced to the Exxon Mobile State Science Fair on March 30-April 1 in San Antonio. Her project won second place in the Energy and Transportation category at the Regional Festival. Junior Ginger Huh and senior Min Shin received two Special Awards for their project and will be able to participate in another science competition. Charis Martin, an eighth-grader, also received a Special Award.

Spelling Bee

Seventh-grader Camille Sunshine took first place in the Travis County Spelling Bee held at Trinity Episcopal School on Feb. 25. Her winning word was "jocular." She advances to the state meet in Houston on March 31; the state winner advances to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

AMC test results

Forty students in grades 8-12 were selected by teachers to participate in the nationwide American Mathematics Competition on Feb. 22. On the AMC 10 test, the top scorers were eighth-grader Andrew Armstrong, freshman Matthew Scarborough, and eighth-grader Joshua Sass. On AMC 12, the top scorers were senior Min Shin, senior Daniel Gardner, and junior Anthony Milan. These scores were submitted as Brentwood's "team scores." Armstrong's score qualifies him for the next level, and he will take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination later this month.

MATHCOUNTS

Armstrong also won first place at the MATHCOUNTS competition on Feb. 25 in Austin. He will compete at State on March 24. Armstrong joined classmate Kai Harper and seventh-graders Gabie Nguyen and Lindsey Scarborough to lead BCS to a tenth-place finish.

Lady Bears fall two points short

Overtime loss ends third trip to Final Four in seven years

madalyn **GARELICK**
reporter

The final buzzer sounded, and the Lady Bears made their way over to the bench to hug their teammates and wipe the tears away from their eyes. They were each given a medal, and the team was given a plaque for participating in the TAPPS 3A State Tournament. Although it was not the championship trophy, it signified what was truly a remarkable season.

Brentwood Christian's varsity girls lost 34-32 in overtime to Amarillo San Jacinto in the opening game of the Final Four on Friday, March 2, in Mansfield. San Jacinto defeated Tomball Rosehill by nine points in the championship game the next day.

The whole game was a back-and-forth battle

between the two teams, and neither team ever led by more than four points. San Jacinto had a 7-6 lead after the first quarter, but the Bears were up 13-12 at halftime. The defensive struggle continued through the second half, and in the final minute a three-pointer by senior Brittany Brunson and two free throws by junior Morgan Vandygriff tied the game and sent it into overtime.

After BCS took the initial lead in the extra period, the referees began calling more fouls, and San Jacinto was able to make up the deficit through free throws.

Brunson led the team with 15 points, and Vandygriff had eight.

Coach Devan Loftis said the girls played really hard, especially on defense.

"Offensively, I thought we were a little tim-

id," he said. "Our defense had a performance to be proud of. We definitely gave our best."

Brentwood finished their amazing season with a 32-5 record, which is more wins than any other team in Lady Bears history.

"It was a successful season," Brunson said. "We enjoyed each other while doing something we love."

The team and fans were heartbroken after the game was over. There were nearly 100 Brentwood supporters who made the trip to the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex for the game. When it ended, fans huddled around the walkway to the locker room, hugging and supporting the team as they made their way out of the gym. Many people stayed for 45 minutes after the game to

see **GIRLS**, page 7



photo: Mark Merkord

Fight to the finish Senior Megan Gum and junior Priscilla Glenn battle for a rebound against Amarillo San Jacinto in the Bears' 34-32 overtime loss in the state semifinals.

Joggers brave dust, raise funds

charlie **SINCLAIR**
reporter

Mobs of students and faculty ran in circles around the soccer field or the entire campus for Jog-a-fun on March 6.

In this 2012 installment of the fundraiser, junior Matthew Archer won the high school 5K, and senior Brittany Brunson was the top girl finisher, fourth overall.

In middle school, eighth-grader Nick Pittner led a group of boys with 33 laps, and sixth-grader Maceanne Herring and seventh-grader Haley Birt (30) were the leading girls.

Three boys tied for the most laps (34) in upper elementary: fifth-grader Blaine Barker, fourth-grader Sam Orick, and third-grader Cade Cunningham. Fourth-grader Victoria Ryan led the girls with 33.

In lower elementary, first-grader Ella Ryan ran 29 laps, and second-grader Jack Leidlein had 33.

The weather was pleasant, but with wind gusts blowing dust on the lap runners as they trampled the field.

Director of development Brandon Tatum es-

see **PARTICIPATION**, page 8

BCS wins in TAPPS district academic meet

david **LEE**
reporter

Twenty-six Brentwood Christian High School students, along with the school newspaper and yearbook, won first place for the school at the TAPPS district academic and speech meet at Round Rock Christian Academy on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

This was Brentwood's second time to win in its four years of participating in the TAPPS competition. BCS took first place with 130 points, outscoring Round Rock Christian Academy by seven points.

Out of 26 BCS students competing, 18 placed in their events. The nine students who placed in the top four in their events will compete in 15 different events at the TAPPS state competition on March 30-31 at Concordia University. BCS placed third in the state meet last year.

Four students were event winners at the district meet: senior Daniel Gardner in Physics, senior David Lee in Calculator, junior Ginger Huh in Mathematics, and senior Megan Monacelli in Ready Writing. The yearbook, Bear Tracks, also won first place.

Dr. Libby Weed, who coordinates academic competition, said she was very proud of the students.

"I look for them to perform very well at state if they practice and study just as hard between now and March 30," she said.

Megan's Musings: Megan Monacelli

Traveling broadens perspective, instills appreciation

By the time you're reading this, I've left for Rome, Florence, and Barcelona to learn about the century-spanning history of these places, make a wish in the famous Trevi Fountain, and drink many shots of espresso to combat the inevitable jet lag.

Spring break is a time when we can catch up on some much needed rest, but I want to offer you a seemingly more difficult yet far more rewarding alternative to locking yourself in your room with a bag of Cheetos to play Call of Duty for 12 hours straight. I invite you to wipe the Cheeto residue off of your face and step outside of your world for a little bit.

In addition to the obvious Vitamin D you will receive along with some (probably) much needed exercise, you may gain some perspective. What I mean by perspective is this: seeing how others live, think, and work which, if you travel just a little way to downtown Austin, you will

see in the variance of different cultures. SoCo, anyone?

Perspective opens the door for us to observe what others value and why, and thus allows us to learn more about the world and the people that surround us. Perspective opens our eyes and broadens our otherwise narrowed vision, which in turn can make us appreciate the world in which we live and prompt us to action. We can change how we live, or probably what happens

most often as a result of gaining perspective, we shift our values a bit.

Probably the greatest advantage of travel and the perspective that accompanies it is the appreciation of differences. When we encounter another culture, we must learn to put our own,

sometimes selfish desires on the back burner. We learn to adapt to the culture, and thus our way of doing things becomes less important. The barriers we encounter when we travel such as language barriers and cultural norms force us to put our own cultural tendencies away. "My way or the highway" is no longer a valid way of thinking, because in struggling against a language barrier or stepping into the shoes of someone who lives a completely different lifestyle than you do, we learn not to stress the little amenities.

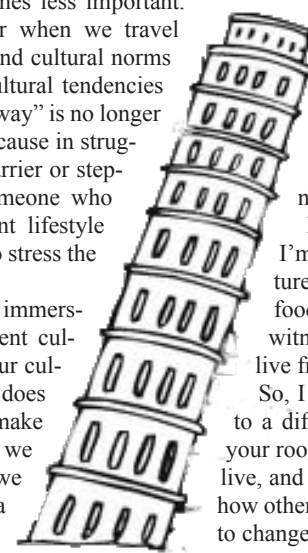
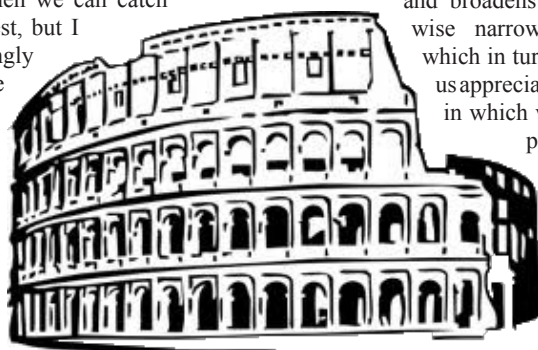
When we travel, we are immersing ourselves into a different culture. We are not bringing our culture to them. However this does not mean that we can't make an impact on the people we encounter. As Christians, we are to conduct ourselves in a way that glorifies and represents Christ. What better opportunity to practice that call than when we travel? By very nature of the fact that we are tourists, people will watch us.

They will watch our actions and they will listen to our words. This opens the door for us to have an impact on others and for us to change perceptions.

In being respectful of authority, sensitive to different cultures, and adaptable to a different way of life, we can defy the worldwide stereotype of Americans as loud, obnoxious, and disrespectful.

I've never been to Italy or Spain, and I'm excited to see these different cultures. I'm looking forward to trying new foods, learning about their history, and witnessing the differences in the way they live from the way I live.

So, I encourage you to travel, even if just to a different part of town. Peek outside of your room and take a look into the way others live, and gain perspective. Learn to appreciate how others do life and make choices, and begin to change stereotypes. Seize the opportunity to represent Christ, and be wary of the fact that people are watching you and may be learning from you, while still enjoying your trip.



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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www.brentwoodchristian.org.

Students embark on long-awaited journeys

anna EWING
reporter

Over spring break the senior and eighth-grade classes are traveling to their traditional destinations, Europe and Washington, D.C.

The seniors left today, March 9, to go to Italy first – Rome and Florence – and then to Barcelona, Spain. They are going to visit many renowned places including the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and the Florence Cathedral, as well as the art and architecture of Barcelona. They will go on a night ferry from Livorno to Barcelona, which has never been done by a BCS group before.

There are 52 people going on the trip, including 31 students, 17 parents, and three sponsors: Missy Weaver, Lori Morin, and Jared Lee.

The group is also breaking the tradition, according to trip coordinator Linda Riedesel, of going to London every year. Until now, nearly every class has visited London, but this class voted not to go there and the trip was altered. Some students are a little disappointed about the change, but overall students are excited about the trip for a variety of reasons.

"I have never been to Europe so it's a first-time experience, but I get to spend it with friends. I might get inspired for writing or a job in my future," Caitlin Messinger said.

Morin said she is expecting a lot out of this trip. She said she hopes for the students to build stronger friendships, gain more knowledge on the history of Europe, and change how they view history. Morin is hoping for an impact on the students as they experience the actual places they have learned about in their high school history classes.

As the sponsors are overjoyed for the students, they are eager to experience it as well. Morin is thrilled to see all the detailed art in Italy.

"Their attention to detail is nothing like we experience here," she said.

The eighth-grade class raised money with magazine sales and Valentine orders and is looking forward to the fun trip, according to sponsor Kristen Berry. Leaving on Saturday, March 10, the 11 students and four parents will be visiting the Holocaust Museum, the World War II Museum, the National Zoo, the Smith-

sonian, and other noteworthy locations.

The Holocaust Museum is a very interesting place, according to Berry. She said it will be a very eye-opening experience for the students. They plan to have a discussion afterwards to express all the feelings involved in a rough subject like this one.

Eighth-grader Chandler Alberda says that she is excited to see the nation's capital with her friends.

"I've been there when I was four, but I don't remember anything," she said.



photo: Facebook

When in Rome A frequent travel destination of BCS seniors, among many others, is Rome. Alyssa Legband was one who visited the city with last year's seniors.

Students, faculty bring warmth to guests at open house

jonathon REICH
reporter

This year's open house was pretty cool, literally.

Despite a Texan blizzard around Brentwood Christian that brought sleet and low temperatures, more than 50 families showed up for the second annual BCS Admissions Open House on Sunday, Feb. 12.

When visitors arrived in the lobby of the theater between 2 and 4 p.m., they were greeted by the sports coaches, administration, and the advisory board. After that, they were directed to either the elementary or secondary tables to check in and inform the school about themselves, and finally were paired with a student tour guide who would show them around the campus.

There were 45 BCS faculty members present, as well as several board members, a few parent volunteers, and 60 students, who wore various forms of Brentwood attire such as sports uniforms, theater T-shirts, and chapel uniforms.

During the open house, there were also musical performances going on in the theater, including classic acts from the Jazz Band, Encore, and senior Min Shin, who played a section of Frederic Chopin's Nocturne on the piano.

Before the open house actually opened, however, many things were done to promote it. Admissions director Kimberly McLain spent long hours arranging and advertising the event. She used many techniques to get the word out to people while limiting the amount of mon-

ey spent, including placing the event on nine different community calendars; adding an announcement to Brentwood's website; placing two different commercials on Spirit 105.9 and KLBJ-AM; placing a banner ad on the Spirit 105.9 website; sending a postcard flyer to local area churches and requesting they put it in their bulletins; sending the postcard to about 3,000 households in the area, and sending two home with each student requesting they share it with two other families they know; and placing an advertisement in six local community newsletters.

McLain said she thought the energy and excitement of the visiting families was about the same as last year, when 62 families with 69 kids attended. This year, 55 families representing 70 students showed up.

The biggest difference by far was the weather. Last year, there were sunny skies and the temperature was in the high 70s, while this year the campus was wet, gray, and sleeting, with even a little snow as the weather dropped into the low 40s.

While there are many similarities between the two campus-wide open houses the school has given, McLain said she thought this year's was "as good, if not a little better" than last year's. She pointed out that despite the weather problems, almost the same number of families showed up, and more tour guides were asked to show families around school. McLain also said she liked changing the musical performances from the courtyard to the theater, because it "improved the sound" and "gave the families

more of a chance to enjoy the music."

"You get these perceptions of what private school will be like," one parent who attended said. "But everyone seemed normal, happy, and comfortable."

After the open house, Brentwood received a lot of positive feedback from the families that attended. So far, 11 new applications have come in from five different families, and McLain said she anticipates additional applications from

other families who expressed interest. McLain said she thought it was a productive event, and that while she was pleased with how the open house went, she was mostly impressed with the students and how they portrayed Brentwood.

"I was so proud of our students who volunteered to help," McLain said. "They were welcoming, very helpful, kind, and friendly. They're what sells the school."

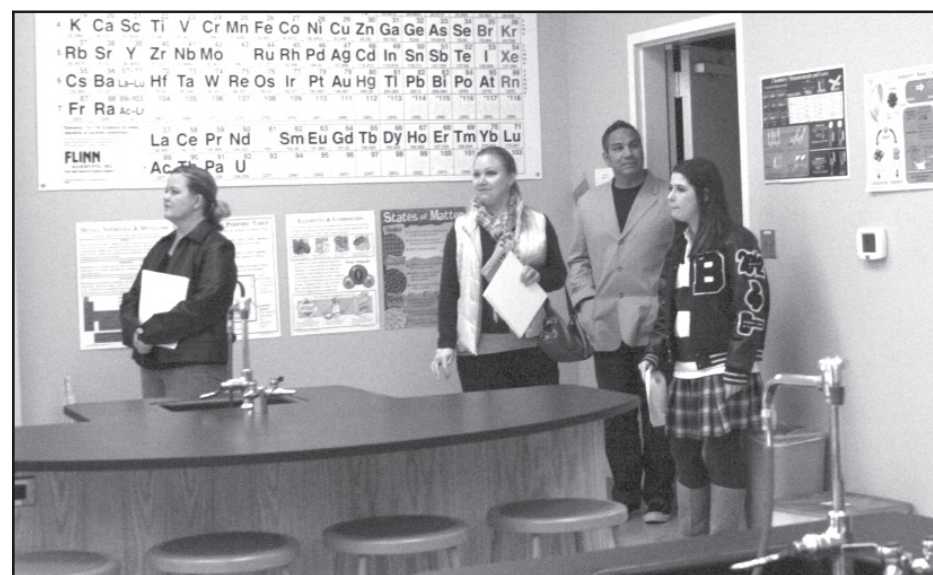


photo: Mary Monacelli

And this is... Senior Laura Combs guides visitors into the chemistry lab at the Admissions Open House on Sunday, Feb. 12. Students gave tours to 55 families.

Valentine's Day



photo: Amanda Conway

Lots of love Students in Mrs. Ellis' third grade share Valentines with each other and enjoy the items delivered by the eighth-grade class. In the annual fundraiser for their spring break trip to Washington, D.C., the class helped assemble order forms, made advertisements, sorted orders, sorted Valentines, and made deliveries. The class sold approximately 500 mylar balloons, 1,300 Hershey bars, 600 rubber duckies, 1,100 roses, and 700 carnations. This brought in about \$5,300, which goes to the general fund for the Class of 2016. Class sponsor Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth said the money raised came out slightly higher than last year's total.

"Super Seniors" laugh, cry, eat

kailey RODDEN
reporter

When you walked into Cameron Road Church of Christ on Feb. 11, you would be greeted by the sounds of laughter and tears mixed together. While this seems like an odd combination, it was a constant sound during the second half of the annual "Super Senior" celebration, where the senior class was honored by family and friends reminiscing about childhood and friendships.

Super Senior is a Brentwood Christian tradition that started with the first graduating class of 1988. Over time, class sponsors have had to make changes to the celebration because class sizes kept getting larger. This year, Super Senior was split into two sessions to give ample time for each of the 50 class members.

Students were given the names of the classmates they were speaking for in January. Sponsor Lori Morin warned them to keep speeches short and sweet, ideally around two or three minutes long – "ideally" being the key word. The events each lasted about five hours, with both starting in the two o'clock hour. Parents often ran over the time limit, with the longest talk coming from Tara Rodden, who used almost 20 minutes speaking for her daughter Kailey.

The ceremony had a brief hiatus as the seniors and their guests ate dinner, which was catered by Dager's Catering. They served fried chicken and chicken fried steak with mashed

potatoes, green beans, and salad. For dessert two cakes were brought out, one chocolate and one vanilla.

While the food was a highlight for most, emotions were running high as friends honored each other. There was a box of tissues at the ready next to the speaker and honoree, and many were used. Speeches from the students ranged from funny to extremely emotional, and almost all of the female students cried at the end of theirs.

The most unique speech came from Kayle Morin, who sang "Because I Knew You" from the Broadway musical "Wicked" to her lifelong friend Kat Taylor. Chance Morris had many students crying with laughter as he honored Diego Cole.

Most speeches focused on experiences shared by friends, with many inside jokes recalled; however, each speech added a heartwarming touch to the evening. Students were often crying even if they weren't being honored, moved by the loving words of the parents or friends.

During the brief breaks between the groups of speeches, there was a bountiful table filled with sweet and salty snacks and drinks. Outside, a few long tables were set up with class books for each student to sign.

"I thought (the day) was a great way to see another side of my classmates before graduation," senior class president Shannon Lesko said. "It really made me appreciate everyone in my class that much more!"

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Brittany Brunson*

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2012.

Lady Bears' talented, tested leader cool under pressure

matthew ARCHER
reporter

With only three seconds left in a recent basketball game, the Lady Bears were in need of a clutch free throw to put the game away. Team captain Brittany Brunson casually came up and sank the shot. The pressure would be too much for some, but not for Brittany, who has been exceptional on and off the court during her time at BCS.

Brittany was born in Austin on July 22, 1994, to Leigh Ann and David Brunson. She began attending Brentwood Christian in Miss Long's kindergarten class and has been very involved in her 13 years here.

While at Brentwood she has participated in every available sport except softball and soccer, and has been a vital part in all that she has done. She has been all-state for cross country every year in high school, went to the state meet in track every year, was named first-team all-district in volleyball as a senior, and second-team all-state in basketball as a junior. She and her brother Ryan (BCS '11) were also named last year's BCS athletes of the year.

Finally, just this week she was named first-team all-state in basketball.

Despite having so many accomplishments, Brittany is not one to brag about them, but is instead described as a pretty quiet and laid back individual by her friends. Many of her teammates say, though, that she is a good leader and is someone they look up to on the team.

"She is really good at making sure we're having fun," junior teammate Rachel Orick says, "but at the same time she wants us to work hard and do our best."

She has also gained the respect of her head coach, Devan Loftis. He says he does not know if he has ever had a player more passionate about the game than she is, and he is impressed by her great leadership for the team.

"Brittany is definitely a hard worker and a great example for her teammates," Loftis says. "A great thing about her is that she's not going to ask anyone to do something that she's not already doing, and I think that shows how good of a leader she is."

Along with her passion for the game, Loftis said he also admires her passion for her school. Despite many of her



photo: Mark Merkord

friends leaving after eighth grade to go to other schools, Brittany has stayed at Brentwood and, according to Loftis, really seems to enjoy where she is.

"Overall it has been a great experience," Brittany says. "After a lot of my friends left, the thing that kept me wanting to stay was basketball, and I wanted to play for the person who started making me love basketball – Coach Loftis. I wouldn't trade for anything what Brentwood basketball has done for me, and it has made my school experience tons better."

Brittany says that while she likes playing so many sports, basketball is definitely her favorite. She enjoys watching it on TV, especially when the Chicago Bulls are playing. Her favorite athlete is Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls, whom she met at a Chili's during a basketball tournament in Tyler a year

ago.

"It was really exciting because my brother and I had been watching him on TV before, and you don't expect to see an NBA player at Chili's, so it was really cool," Brittany says.

With so much of her time dedicated to sports it would seem hard to be able to keep up with her grades, but Brittany has been able to be nearly as good in the classroom as she is on the court. Her teachers describe her as a quiet but very good student, and as someone who works hard and thinks of other people before herself.

With so much involvement in sports and keeping her grades up, Brittany does not have a lot of free time, but she says she still enjoys going swimming at Barton Springs, jamming out to Taylor Swift, and playing Just Dance on her Wii with her friends.

"Even though she's really talented at everything, she's really laid back and jokes around and is fun to hang around with," junior Brooklyn Merkord says.

Classmate Celeste Cole recalls the time when Loftis and boys' coach Brandon Tatum had a foam ball they pretended was a bowling ball. They threw it at her, and she "freaked out."

"She's really a good friend," Celeste says. "She encourages those around her with her easy smile and confidence."

Senior Bridgette Beck calls Brittany "really giving."

"If you need a ride somewhere, she'll take you. If you need a pen, she'll loan you one – like Kim Possible."

Brittany is still undecided about where she wants to go to college but is considering either running track or playing basketball. Whatever she does, she will likely remain cool under pressure.

Middle school breaks in theater with humorous one-act plays

jackson HAGER
reporter

Where would you come across marriage counselors for fantasy couples and classified ads for grooms? This year's middle school one-act plays.

The shows were on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 17 and 18, and both nights received large crowds. Tickets were available from the box office or online.

The two plays were "Happily Never After" by Tim Kelly and "Wanted: One Groom" by Claudene Rease. This was the middle school's first performance in the new theater.

"Happily Never After" is about a marriage counselor who moves to the kingdom where many fairy tale couples, such as Sleeping Beauty and her Prince Ling, are living. There she encounters many of the problems expected with marriage, but with a magical twist. For example, Cinderella is too busy cleaning to spend time with her husband, and the frog prince continues to act like a frog.

"Wanted: One Groom" tells the story of Mr. and Mrs. Shand, who have put out a classified

ad for a man to come and marry their daughter. But the man who shows up wants to buy a female figurine that was advertised a week earlier, leading to a very strange conversation.

A difference from years before was that "Wanted: One Groom" had two casts. The original script only called for five actors, so different casts were assigned to each night. All the roles were different except for seventh-grader Charlie Vazquez, who performed in both shows.

"The shows were great, and I look forward to doing this again for years to come," director Chloe Campbell said.

The plays were cast back in November, and practices began on the second and third of January. Each drama class had its own practices up until play week, when both the plays would practice at the same time.

Campbell said the biggest challenge involved with the production was figuring out the theater – things like lighting or the new sound equipment.

"These things have been made easier, though," Campbell said. "The benefits definitely outweigh the challenges."



photo: Grace Cammack

Not so happy Sleeping Beauty (Haley Birt) is surrounded by the Frog Prince (Trent Brinthaup), a secretary (Gabie Nguyen), Prince Ling (Will Moncure), and the Pond Princess (Jodie Singleton) in their performance of "Happily Never After" on Feb. 17.

TEACHER FEATURE: *Jessica Love*

With tough Love, students learn English well

hannah KWON
reporter

Many people wait for opportunities to make a difference in their lives, but not Jessica Love, who tightly grasped the opportunity when it emerged.

When her college, Harding University, had a recruiting day for job openings, Love approached the two visitors and introduced herself. Mr. Lee and Mrs. Moss were pleasantly surprised to find out that she was willing to teach English and additionally manage yearbook. Love was asked to come teach at Brentwood Christian School. She says she chose BCS over a school in Florida because she hates palm trees. Love currently teaches AP English, English II, sophomore girls' Bible, and Yearbook.

"I was impressed from the start," Moss says. "Love's academic achievements and motivated aspiration fit well with what Brentwood Christian School was looking for."

Known at the time as Jessica Reed, her high school experience was a little tough, though she did move to a private school from a public school for a better environment when she was in sixth grade. When she was a sophomore in high school, her love for French horn discontinued because she lost a front tooth when she was playing soccer, which was her favorite thing to do. Love was playing goalie when a player from the opposite team stepped on her hand and kicked her in the face while struggling to get the soccer ball into the goal.

This incident was a big turning point for Love, not just in a physical way, but also mentally and spiritually. She was an extremely shy student among 15 other French horn players, but when she couldn't play the horn anymore, the band director made her play the percussion alone. Love was new to percussion, and the loud sound terrified her since she wasn't comfortable with attention. Her sophomore year was additionally burdened with her mother's surgery and grandmother's cancer.

But through the experience she was able to step up to another level and eventually break out of her shell, her comfort zone.

"I don't want to sound cheesy," Love says, "but I changed greatly to be more confident."

The rough year she had as a high school sophomore allowed her to continuously pray

and hang onto God; as a result, she says she grew a lot in faith. Love has turned the stressful year into a time of blessing.

Love met the love of her life when she was a junior at Harding, working part-time as a gardener at a nice couple's house. She and the couple grew close, and Jessica was invited to have dinner with them now and then. Joel Love was a cousin of one of them, and one day, Jessica met him, when she was sweaty from garden work, wearing bright orange athletic shorts without any makeup on. So when Mr. Love, who was also a Harding student, asked her out on a date, she figured he was a decent guy to want to date her after meeting her like that. Reed and Love married in Searcy, Ark., in May 2007.

Now as a teacher at BCS, even though she goes home tired, she is known as one of the most enthusiastic teachers, seeking as much interaction with her students as she can find.

Love is the youngest English teacher in the secondary department, which can be a tricky thing sometimes. For four years she has also

been the youngest teacher at Brentwood. This year has been particularly arduous with her working on leading the English department as they develop the "research writing curriculum" for Brentwood secondary students.

"It feels a little weird," Love says, "being in charge of the program with other teachers who are more experienced in teaching students."

Love says she has gained a lot of new ideas for her classes because the courses that she took and is taking right now help her get information which is more up to date. She also says that what she lacks in experience, she overcomes with knowledge. She is well known for being academically shrewd among fellow English teachers and students.

"Mrs. Love is very knowledgeable about English," says Chloe Campbell, English I teacher, "particularly in writing and preparing students for SAT and AP tests."

School and grades are a very sensitive subject to some people, and there have been complaints from parents and students that Love grades too harshly and mercilessly. On the other hand,

Love has something else in her mind.

"I want my students to try their best," Love says. "If their best is a C, then they get a C in my class. What I'm trying to say is, I want students to push to their limit and strive to achieve the higher goals because I know they can."

Her true motives have been a blessing for many students, who recognize her effort and hard work with praise from the bottom of their hearts.

"Mrs. Love is one of the easiest teachers to learn from," junior Michelle Dembosky says. "She explains things precisely so that the students can understand really well."

Though Love has not been easy on the students, sophomore Erika DuPond says she understands why her teacher has held her ground.

"Mrs. Love is one of those teachers that adapts to each student's learning style," DuPond says. "She truly wants us to get better and to learn something in class."

Love is an extremely hard-working teacher. Aside from the preparation for her classes in Brentwood, she is working toward a master's degree in education at Concordia University. She is working on her semester-long thesis about Advanced Placement (AP) education in high school, and it is already more than 70 pages. Love taught AP English for two years, and she is teaching it again this year.

"I saw something in AP that I wanted to explore more into," Love says. "My goal is to benefit the school to examine whether AP is the best tool to affect the brightest and most ambitious students in a positive way."

Love adores her students and teaching at BCS, but she does have a little dream of her own for her future. Someday she wants to go back into the publishing business as an editor of a printing company. Love used to have a part-time job as an editor/proof reader/fact checker, and she enjoyed it greatly. Not necessarily in the near future, but eventually, Love says she hopes to apply her teaching experience while working at Pearson, a textbook publishing company.

Love is currently living in Pflugerville with her husband and her extraordinary dog Emma. She can often be found playing video games and knitting simultaneously.

"My dog is extremely smart," Love says, "and Joel is the best husband in the world."



photo: Jessica Love

The Loves in Love English teacher Jessica Love met her husband Joel at Harding University. Now in her fourth year at BCS, Love also teaches Bible and Yearbook.

Guest lecturer returns for second session on practical parenting

m.j. SUNG
reporter

Dr. Larry Taylor returned to BCS for a second session about practical parenting on Thursday, Feb. 9. His first trip to the school was in September.

Taylor is the head of Prestonwood Christian Academy, head of the Kingdom Parent Institute, and co-head of the Kingdom School Institute (KSI) in Nashville, where he teaches on parenting, among other things.

About 40 parents attended Taylor's second

presentation, and they were again given VIP service hours. President Marquita Moss said achieving the mission of the school can't be done alone, but BCS must work in partnership with parents.

"More than any other force, parents shape the attitude, the hopes, the ambitions, and the values of the child," Moss said. "Brentwood Christian School wants to partner with Christian parents in the journey to raise godly young men and women who are grounded in biblical truth and walking in a manner worthy of their calling."

Taylor's presentation focused on building strong families. Using Luke 2:52 as the "curriculum," he analyzed Jesus using four posterity pillars: wisdom, stature, favor with God, and favor with man.

Taylor said parents need a biblical plan for raising children, and he gave practical insight into how to begin that process. He said the plan should be to develop children's "big picture" understanding, and should be based on a reverence for God.

"I really appreciated Dr. Taylor's perspective

on tangible biblical truths to parenting," said Jonathan Riley, who is the parent of three BCS elementary students. "Anything we can do to encourage believers in their parenting is a valuable investment."

Moss said it would have been great to have even more parents present.

"We think of this as a continuing process," Moss said. "If even a few parents went away feeling better equipped for their high calling, it was well worth it."

Baseball season underway; softball girls must wait

carter **BOYD**
reporter

In a twist of fate that few anticipated, the 2012 varsity Bears baseball team came back from two crushing defeats at their opening tournament to turn around and steal a win.

The baseball team opened its season rather poorly at the Hill Country tournament on Thursday, Feb. 23, with losses of 15-0 and 10-0, losses that new head coach Brian Thrift said were “plagued by errors and mental mistakes.”

In their next game, on Saturday, Feb. 25, the players returned a different team, working together to come back from a 4-0 deficit and achieve a 6-4 win over Central Texas Christian. Sophomore Co Ho led the comeback with two sacrifice hits, and sophomore Skyler Treut-Shaffer was the winning pitcher. But Thrift described the win as a “total team effort,” with every member playing their hardest, an upward trend that Thrift and the team hope will continue throughout the season.

While Brentwood’s baseball team has a reputation for being dangerously low on eligible players, and was in fact unable to field a team two years ago, there are enough players to fill the positions, and they hope to gain two more from the grasp of ineligibility with the upcoming grade check before their next game against district opponent St. Dominic Savio on March 20.

Thrift said his goals for the baseball team are to “improve every day,” and for each player to perform as well as he can. He said he hopes for the team to finish high enough in district

to qualify for playoffs, a goal that he says can only be achieved with dedication from every member of the team.

“We have set certain expectations that all players will have to meet,” Thrift said. “We have a young team this year, so we’ll be patient with them, while also holding them to high standards of excellence.”

Thrift’s other plans for the team include one big project – improving the state of the baseball field. Each player will be given one job to do

in regards to maintenance and improvement of the diamond, creating a better place to play and giving the players “something to be proud of.”

While the baseball team is busy improving their field, Brentwood’s softball girls will be boarding buses. Brentwood does not have a dedicated softball field, so the team travels with head coach Paul Sladek to Balcones, a sports field complex about five miles from Brentwood, every day of the week (with exceptions made for weather and time constraints). When

they aren’t preparing on their honorary home field, the softball players work out under the instruction of assistant coach Amber Fowler.

The coaches and players are working hard in hopes of a repeat of last year’s success, when the team won district with a record of 10-6 before losing in the first game of playoffs. With a similar lineup, a repeat of last year doesn’t seem too unlikely: Of the 11 members of the team, seven of them are returning players. Senior Haley Decker, the team’s only pitcher for the past three years, did not return to the team this year, a problem in the process of being solved by the training of two new pitchers.

“The hard work and coachable attitudes of this team is something that has been missing from players in the past,” Sladek said. “We are led by one of, if not the, strongest groups of seniors ever to play here. This season is going to be a great one, and these girls are going to shock some people with how good they are.”

To the dismay of many eager athletes, the softball team will not begin playing games until after spring break. Catcher Lanae Hollingsworth, the returning district MVP who also plays on the varsity girls’ basketball team, could not play the first game that was scheduled for March 1 due to the basketball team’s trip to the state tournament on March 2. Having no back-up catcher, the team was forced to wait for Hollingsworth to begin playing. The first game is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20.

“Even though we’re ready to play, it benefits the team that we have to wait,” sophomore Maysie Bartos said. “It gives us more time to practice with the newer players and get more comfortable playing as a team.”



photo: Tina Treut-Shaffer

Thrill of victory Pitcher Skyler Treut-Shaffer (right) celebrates with teammates after BCS came back from a 4-0 deficit to beat Central Texas Christian 6-4 on Feb. 25.

Athletic department set to make dreams become reality

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

Brentwood Christian’s athletic department is in the process of changing things from the ground up.

A few small changes began over the summer with new bleachers added to the soccer field and new scoreboards in the FLC. There was also a major addition – the hiring of a boys’ athletic director, Brian Thrift. The goal of the transformation is to continue to make the athletic department a contributing part of the BCS community and a better, more professional department, according to Thrift.

A committee which included girls’ athletic director Devan Loftis, director of development Brandon Tatum, president Marquita Moss, and board members brainstormed ideas to revamp the athletic department. They met over the summer to work on the agenda and goals.

“We brainstormed on dozens of ideas from multimillion-dollar campaigns to five-dollar posters,” Loftis said.

Thrift did not join the team until August, but he has made a quick impact. He wants to change negatives into positives.

“We want to build on things we do well and

improve on the things we don’t,” Thrift said.

Loftis and Thrift are currently sorting and prioritizing ideas before plans are made to execute them, but some rough plans have been made for the next two years. According to the “State of the School,” which was sent to all parents, goals this year include a renovation of the baseball field facilities, which will include a “Bear Field” arch, and upgrading the facilities in the FLC.

Looking toward next year, the document addresses the income potential of renting facilities and the cost of resurfacing the hardwood floor in the athletic center. In the more distant future, BCS hopes to add a lighted track and soccer field, and lights on the baseball field.

As part of the effort to make people more aware of athletic games and accomplishments, “Game Day” signs have been placed at major traffic points around campus, and banners have been hung in the gym trumpeting the athletic teams’ accomplishments. In addition, a goal is to host special “nights” at the games such as elementary, middle school, or parent nights.

Observers will soon see other physical changes around campus. Thrift said he hopes several improvements to the soccer field will begin this spring, such as better irrigation and

grass, and finishing the lights.

Short-term goals also include placing photos of teams in the academic buildings to create more awareness and school support. Another goal is to install basketball hoops on the playgrounds so students will be able to shoot at recess.

“In terms of appearance we want it to fit the mission of BCS, be better for the students, and appeal to outsiders,” Thrift said.

According to the athletic directors, one goal is to create the “BCS way,” which will be a shift toward “total program development.” The athletic directors will be in charge of the high school head coaches, who in turn will oversee all the other coaches in their respective sports. A group of program goals will be set out for each level of the program. The hope will be to have a more cohesive program that builds for high school. Elementary programs will be working to develop a skill set that will prepare them for middle school, and middle school for high school. A future goal for the program is to hire more coaches and to train them better.

Thrift said in the next two or three years the department hopes to develop a “Build-a-Bear” program which would involve high school athletes becoming a more active part of the younger students’ lives. It is envisioned as an initia-

tive to contribute to BCS athletic support.

“Young children will get a sense of excitement as they begin their athletic careers, and high school athletes will pass on traditions through mentoring and leadership opportunities,” Thrift said.

It is hoped that the changes will make Brentwood athletics more directly involved in the mission of the school and boost school spirit.

Athletics Upgrade

Short-term goals:

- ◇ Renovating baseball field
- ◇ Improving soccer field
- ◇ Outdoor basketball goals

Long-term goals:

- ◇ Lighted track
- ◇ Build-a-Bear program
- ◇ “BCS way”

Girls lose heartbreaker to eventual champ

continued from page 1

be there and talk to the team after they came out of the locker room.

School administrators worked very hard to make sure the students were very involved and spirited during the playoffs. They hyped up each playoff game by posting signs on the walls throughout the school. The Booster Club supplied rewards for students who showed up to games wearing green. In each of their three playoff victories, the stands were packed full of spirited fans supporting the team.

The week leading up to the Final Four was short, since the students had Monday and Tuesday off due to a teacher retreat. On Thursday, March 1, the cheerleaders hosted a short send-off pep rally during eighth period.

All secondary students were released at noon on Friday, and many carpooled with families or made the drive themselves so they could cheer the team on. If they paid \$10, they were allowed to go on the "Fan Van" – a chartered bus that carried students, teachers, and families. Loftis and boys' athletic director Brian Thrift even offered to pay for 10 students to go on the bus. The bus left shortly after the early dismissal to make it to the 4:30 p.m. game, and it returned to Brentwood after 10 p.m.

The Lady Bears last made the Final Four in 2008, when they lost in the semifinals. Brentwood also made the Final Four in 2006. In Coach Loftis' 12 seasons as head coach, his teams have won six district championships, all in the last seven years. They have also made playoffs eight years in a row, and 10 of the last 11 seasons.

Brunson was named first-team all-state; teammates Vandygriff and junior Rachel Orick received honorable mention all-state.

Senior Megan Gum joined those three as first-team all-district players. On the second team were senior Kat Taylor, junior Brooklyn Merkord, and freshman Nicole Glenn.

Following are the results of Brentwood's previous four games, beginning with most recent:

2/26: Regents 35-23 W

Families and students traveled early Saturday morning to St. Michaels in Southwest Austin to root for the Lady Bears in their last playoff

game before the state tournament. The Bears were fired up the first half, forcing many turnovers and holding Regents to only one point until a basket near the end made the halftime score 18-3. In the second half Regents tried to make a comeback, but Brentwood never let them closer than eight points. The crowd erupted in cheers as the buzzer sounded to end the game, and the team was headed to the Final Four in Mansfield.

2/18: Cypress Chr. 69-21 W

The Bears' second playoff game was an easy one in front of the home crowd. Each quarter they came out on top, led by Brunson's 18 points and Orick's 17 points. They ended the game with motivation to keep pushing forward to reach the Final Four.

2/14: S.A. Keystone 53-17 W

Opening the playoffs at home, the Bears were on top of the game all four quarters. Vandygriff had 18 points, her career high. This game put the girls in a great position for their next playoff game.

2/17: @Ctrl TX Chr. 47-46 W

Brentwood had already clinched first place in district before their final district game, but they wanted to end undefeated. It was a back-and-forth battle between the two teams. With three seconds to go, Brunson was fouled and Loftis called their last time out. Brunson then made her first free throw. Then, forgetting they didn't have any time outs left, Loftis tried to call another. The referee warned Loftis, but he did not call a technical foul. Brunson intentionally missed the second free throw, and CTCS was unable to take a final shot.

After shaking hands with the opponent and returning to

their locker room, the refs called them back to the court to receive the technical foul and replay the end. Brunson was allowed to re-shoot her second shot, and she made it, putting the Bears up by two. CTCS was unable to convert both of their free throws to tie the game, and the Bears won – again.

"It was the craziest thing I have ever seen in my 12 years of coaching," Loftis said.



photo: Mark Merkord

Creating points All-state senior Brittany Brunson looks to score in the first half of the state semifinal game.

Boys make playoffs, expect more next year

Joseph KANG
reporter

After finishing the season with a first-round playoff loss to New Braunfels Christian Academy by 67-37 on Feb. 14, basketball coach Brandon Tatum is now preparing for the off-season.

"We played a lot of great competition this year and we were a young team," Tatum said.

Tatum said he is proud that his team has reached playoffs in back-to-back seasons, which he says has not happened since the late 1990s for the boys' program. Players agree that the team can be pleased with their results.

"We could go farther, but overall it was a good season," said junior Matthew Archer, who led the team with 11.7 points per game.

Archer was named first-team all-district, while sophomores Mike Taylor and Wesley Mory made the second team. Sophomore Kent Howell and freshman Cody Hunt were given honorable mention.

Tatum said a highlight of the year was the first district game against St. Joseph.

"We had just come off a tough first semester, and it was fun seeing the guys play with some passion," he said. "Everything started to click."

According to Tatum, his team will work hard in the off-season. They run four 10-minute quarters of non-stop conditioning.

"I am very creative with the off-season workouts," Tatum said.

Tatum said he expects his team will get first in district next year and to go farther than bi-district in post-season play.

"I am looking forward to next year and seeing the guys' progress," Tatum said.

Talent abounds on both girls' and boys' varsity track teams

Joseph KANG
reporter

BCS opened its track season last Saturday, March 3, with only five athletes competing in the meet at St. Andrew's. Most of the athletes were either playing in the basketball playoffs or supporting that team, so track coaches made it a voluntary meet.

Junior Michelle Dembosky earned second place in the discus, and freshman Haley Hutson finished third in the 3200 meters.

The track teams will have six more meets this season: March 22, March 29, April 5, April 12 (district), April 21 (regional), and May 4-5 (state). The last three are for TAPPS, and are

only for qualifiers.

Coach Jacob Rotich, who handles all of the boys' running events, said this season will be an improvement over recent years, when very few boys came out for the team. This year the team has a great turnout, Rotich said, including a lot of talent. He said his only worries are about the schedule that may overlap with other events such as TCSIT, TAPPS, and band or choir performances.

Rotich named several runners whom he expects to do well: seniors Marcus McCormick (distance runs) and Simon Na (sprints); juniors Matthew Onabajo (fastest 400 ever by a BCS 10th grader last year), Anthony Milan (sprints), and Dennis Clifford (sprints); and sophomore

Kyle Back (middle distances).

Coach Katie Smith has handled the running events for the girls since 2001, and she led the team to fourth in state last season. According to Smith, the team lost no seniors and has several new additions.

"We have the potential to have some of the top performers in the state in the distance races, hurdles, and 400, as well as the discus, pole vault, high jump, and triple jump," Smith said. "Our goal this season is the top three in state."

Smith named several runners whom she expects to do well: seniors Brittany Brunson (distance runs, and 4x400 relay), Katie Clement (distance) and Kat Taylor (shot put); juniors Serena George (high jump, sprint relays, 100

dash, and pole vault), Morgan Vandygriff (400, 4x100 and 4x400 relay, and triple jump), and Priscilla Glenn (pole vault, long jump, hurdles, and 4x400 relay).

According to Smith, from February to the first week in May, all track athletes train in field events during PE two days a week, do running workouts after school, go to the Lanier High track two days a week, and do strength training twice a week.

"We are quietly optimistic about our prospects this season," jumping event coach Craig Moore said.

Shot and disc throwing coach Kristen Ber-

Do you prefer Lexus or “Loser Cruiser”?

Majority of BCS student-drivers enjoy freedom, stay safe; not fixated on appearance

by **KHADEM**
reporter

Ever since its humble origins, the car has been at the center of attention in American society. Passionate teenagers and car aficionados frequently drool over them. But how do the students of Brentwood Christian feel about these cultural icons?

While a few students such as senior Megan Gum, who drives a Dodge Magnum, are passionate about their rides, the majority of drivers on campus who were asked were more nonchalant toward their vehicles, considering them little more than necessary tools. The drivers tend to think their vehicles' main purpose is to take them off campus for lunch.

“Whatever gets us off campus and is street legal is fine by us,” senior Bridgette Beck said. “Even an animal is fine if it does the same thing.”

Brentwood has many colors of students, but they have similar colors on their cars, namely eggshell white, deep blue, or obsidian black. While students come from all over the world, the cars on campus tend to come from Honda, Hyundai, or Ford. There are exceptions, and senior Julie Kwon's lime green Hyundai Genesis stands apart from the pack.

Male drivers also tend to be huddled in their own minority, as the ratio of female to male drivers on campus is about 2 to 1.

Despite these numbers, the male population on campus tends to have the most memorable cars. Senior Tyler Davis' Ford F-150 is humming with activity, constantly crowded with jubilant students as they get chauffeured to their destinations. On the other side of the spectrum, senior Brian Williams' Kia Sedona is mocked in good taste by his peers, being dubbed the “Loser Cruiser” due to its tankish appearance and large stature.

“They're just jealous,” Williams said. “I'm sure people will want a dented Mexican Kia Sedona with 110,000 miles on it and 16 miles to the gallon.”

The consensus is rather clear: Women tend to have nicer cars, while men have the hand-me-downs. Beck described senior Brianna Maguire's Mazda as “dark and mysterious,” and senior Sydney Min's Hyundai as “sleek like a raindrop.” And quite a few students agree that senior Duc Anh Phan's golden Lexus is an eyesore, and among the ugliest on campus.

“Duc's car is disgustingly nostalgic,” Beck said. “It reminds you of the grandfather you wish you didn't have.”

Many student drivers say they enjoy the freedom associated with driving. With a car, students now possess the ability to make their own plans based around themselves, and without any constraints, due to their new ability to go anywhere.

However, the grass is not always greener on the other side. Students offer many com-

plaints about driving and owning a car, namely the price of gas, the terrible drivers in Austin, maintenance, and clingy friends who demand to be chauffeured around constantly.

Then there are also the unexpected events, wherein cars can break down on the fly, have a dead battery, or end up in any situation that requires immediate maintenance.

“I was driving with Elena Battle, and a lady rolled down her windows and motioned to us,” junior Niky McCafferty said.

“I turned into a parking lot, and I had a flat tire. So I had to go to Discount Tires, get a new tire, and wait for my mom to pick us up.”

To make their cars their own, students fill up their vehicles with personal touches. Among the popular accessories for their cars are a music player, a good sound system, a car charger

for phones, and a cassette dock to MP3 converter. Various other personal touches include buck knives, shoes, snuggies, sunglasses, fuzzy dice, and favorite CDs by artists like Taylor Swift.

Driving can also be a dangerous affair, with 35,900 reported motor vehicle related fatalities in the year 2009, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. With the dangers in mind, students take precautions when driving to ensure that they remain safe on the road. Junior Dennis Clifford is a discerning passenger and values his safety highly when traveling

on the road.

“I remain safe by staying inside of the moving vehicle,” Clifford said.



Participation high for jog

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estimates that this year's jog will bring in just over \$100,000.

The only change implemented this year by Tatum and special events coordinator Lauren Warner was to bring back volunteers to count laps for kindergarten through fifth grade. Last year, the elementary had computer tags on their shoelaces, which had some problems like falling off. Tatum also said he likes the encouragement and the interaction with the students that the counters bring.

In high school, the 5K track was adjusted

due to concerns about last year's track being much longer than five kilometers.

Pre-race participation was very high this year, with only 12 secondary students failing to turn in 20 letters. According to one of the 12 who did not turn in letters, the reason was forgetfulness.

The number of letters turned in by students is high this year, and this is very exciting for the organizers. According to Tatum this year had the most participation ever.

Prizes that will be awarded to students at the upcoming jog assembly include flat screen TVs and cash.

Track teams loaded, ready to roll

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ry teaches throwing technique on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays of each week for 30 minute at the ring beyond the soccer field, and the throwers lift weights on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“This is not enough time to work with those who do not already know the technique well,” Berry said.

The rising star in throwing events, Berry said, is junior Michelle Dembosky, who went to state last year and brought back fourth place in the discus. Berry said she expects Dembosky to return to state and throw farther than she did last year.

“I don't care about what place she gets, I just want her to improve her throws,” Berry said.

For the boys, senior Trent George is looking to break the school shot put record.

Berry said she does not think that throwers will prevail in shot put until the district meet, because the practice meets are usually against

public schools with football programs, and football tends to bring about more weight training and stronger students.

Track is divided into field events and running events, which include 14 individual events. The field events include the jumping events such as long jump, high jump, pole vault, and triple jump, as well as throwing events such as shot put and discus. The running events are subdivided into individual events and relays. There are three relays of four persons each: 4x100, 4x200, 4x400. The individual running events are three sprints (100, 200, 400), three distance runs (800, 1600, 3200), and two hurdles races (100 for girls, 110 for boys high hurdles, 300 intermediate hurdles). All of these are measured in meters.

Berry said she enjoys the opportunity to encourage.

“Always do your best and love what you do. Aim for constant improvement of yourself above just being better than others,” Berry encouraged.



photo: Hannah Witcher

Cross country High school 5K runners head up the hill on one of the three large loops around campus in Tuesday's Jog-a-fun, which raised about \$100,000.