

THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. XXII NO. 5

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MARCH 2010



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IN SHORT

Snow, part 2

Snow blanketed the BCS campus on Feb. 23. Students from nearly every grade were released from class to enjoy the rare event. High school students enjoyed an hour of snowball throwing, cardboard box sledding, and free hot chocolate provided by the secondary office. Secondary principal Jared Lee restored class, although many students protested.

Phone-a-thon

Members of the BCS faculty, staff, and board got together for a phone-a-thon to raise funds for Brentwood's new Center for Science and the Arts last month. The phone-a-thon put names on 80 seats in the Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater, bringing in about \$90,000. Brentwood still needs about \$268,000 to reach the \$4 million needed to begin construction on the building.

Valentine donations

Sixth-grade safety patrol captains Chadwick Gonsalvez and John Hollingsworth collected valentines from elementary students for patients in the Dell Children's Hospital last month. The boys presented a box full to disc jockey Nikki Nite at the Mix 94.7 radio station, and officials there delivered them to the children.

Half-marathoners

Secondary principal Jared Lee ran the Austin Half Marathon in February, and on March 27 three teachers will run a half marathon in Bastrop: Chloe Campbell, April Hejl, and Kellsey Smith. Lee finished his run in two hours and three minutes; Campbell, who has run a 5K every month since last May, says she hopes to finish in two hours, but she has never run a half marathon.



photo: Skylar Haws

Beautiful day After a muddy start, students enjoyed perfect weather for Jog-a-fun on March 9. Seventh-grader Michael Lam led all lap runners with 39, while freshman Matthew Archer held off sophomore Brittany Brunson and his older brother to win the 5K.

Students head for destinations far and near

lizzy DUPOND
reporter

Spring break is just around the corner, and it is safe to say that all students enjoy spending it in one of two ways: finding respite at home or going out of town.

While traveling out of the city, why not go in bunches? Seventeen eighth-graders are going on the annual trip to Washington, D.C., and 32 seniors are going abroad to Europe.

Then there are two students – senior Allen Taylor and junior Brett Withem – who will travel to Lima, Peru, for a week-long mission trip.

This year, seniors will be visiting the “big three”: London, Paris, and Rome. They left on March 11 with sponsors including three husband/wife pairs – the Campbells, the Pimentels, and the Lees – and they will return March 20.

A few things students say they most look forward to seeing include the famous Louvre museum of art, the Vatican, and going through the Bullet, which is a tunnel that goes under the English Channel. They will also get to watch the musical “Les Miser-

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BCS excels in recent TAPPS meets

Band, choir coast through region contests; academic and art second

megan MONACELLI
sports editor

Senior Matthew Gardner took first place in four different events as BCS took second place in the TAPPS 4A district academic meet held Saturday, March 6, in Corpus Christi.

Art students also placed second in their meet, held concurrently.

Four days earlier, in separate contests held in Austin, high school band and choir groups each achieved higher scores than any other school. They will go on to contend for the TAPPS title at state next month.

Thirty BCS high school students traveled to the coast on Friday to compete in a variety of events. Those who placed in the top four of an event advanced to the state meet scheduled for April 10 at Concordia University in Austin.

Gardner won general science, computer science, number sense, and advanced math.

Senior Adam Cammack was also crucial to

his school's success at district, winning social studies and placing third in advanced math, general science, and computer science.

Junior Polly Park was second in advanced math and third in number sense.

Juniors Gabe Breternitz and Caleb Kronke won first in duet acting, while senior Jamie Furrer and junior Mariah Robinson took fifth in the same event.

Porter took first place in Prose Interpretation, but not until teacher Michele Broadway tracked down a copy of the story he used from the library of a local university. After placing first, Porter was told he would be disqualified unless he could submit a copy.

Sophomore Anh Tang was fourth in spelling.

BCS took fifth, seventh, and ninth in solo acting, with junior Tara Cole, senior Aracely Mora, and junior Alison Riedesel, respectively. These acting events were coached by Cindy Singleton.

“All of these students did an amazing job,”

Singleton said.

The Bear Facts and The Bear Tracks placed first and third, respectively, and will advance to state competition.

While the host school, Incarnate Word Academy, took first in district, BCS students remember last year, when they finished second in district but went on to win first in state.

Meanwhile, art students' second-place finish was a step up from last year's third place.

BCS entered 63 pieces. Thirty-five placed, and 15 are advancing to state. There were 20 categories in which art pieces could be entered, and BCS had entries in 16.

“The work we submitted was strong,” BCS art teacher Lori Morin said.

Junior Honney Khang won first place in on-site drawing.

Senior Skylar Haws took first place in jewelry making and fellow senior Lizzy DuPond

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Krazy Korean: Charles Kim

Special cause calls for special plea for help

Our front upper hallway is known as the “fine arts and science hallway.” In this small section, most science and fine arts classes are placed across from each other. In science classes, students develop their imaginations and learn about this amazing universe God created for us. Fine arts, especially drama and choir, are some of the most popular classes among students. It is where students build their creativity and spirit and find talents by interacting with their friends and expressing their feelings through their art works.

These classrooms have been very special places for the students; they find special learning opportunities there and come to these places as a respite from chalkboards and wordy textbooks. But the current facilities have been insufficient to support those students’ infinite amount of imagination and creativity. Therefore, BCS has been planning to build a center just for fine arts and science so that it

could help students to expand their talents and academic pursuits.

However, while the construction is due to begin next month, there is a real chance it will be delayed for a few weeks. School president Marquita Moss said that while there are some delays caused by design concerns, the school also still needs another \$268,000 to start the construction. An additional \$500,000 will be required to update equipment in new and existing facilities.

When I heard this news, I decided I had to do something, because I know how much impact this center could make on both students and our school community. Even though I will be graduating this summer and will not benefit from this center directly, I had to do something to make sure it will be completed as soon as possible, because I know how much benefit this

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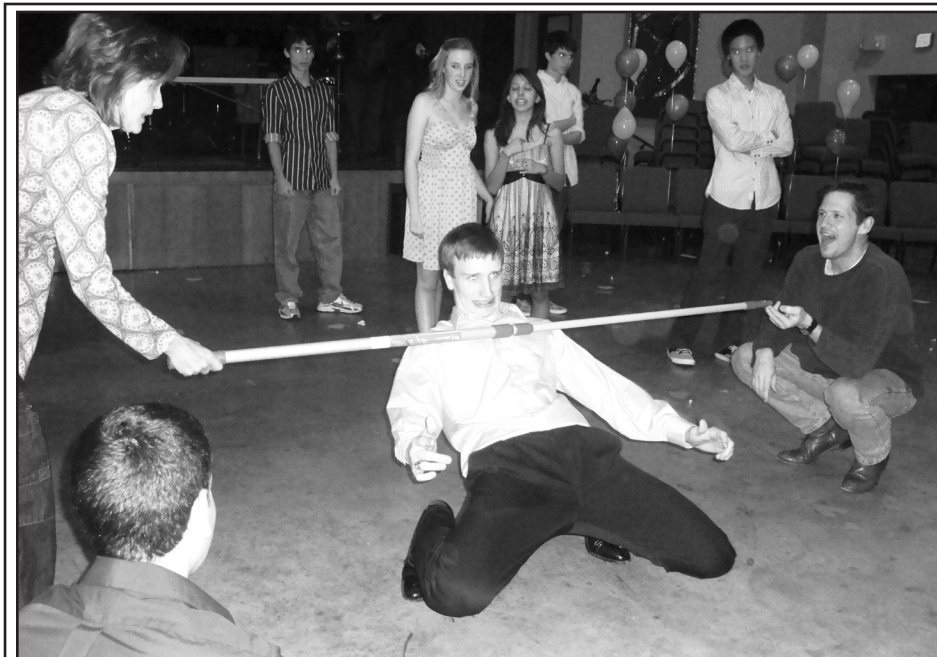


photo: Marisol Hernandez

How low can you go? Junior Matthew Welter attempts to limbo under a low bar at a Valentine’s Day party many BCS high school students attended on Feb. 12 at Cross Pointe Church. Welter held off a challenge by senior Selena Castro (behind his left shoulder) to win the \$5 offered by chaperone Jeff Boyd (kneeling with bar).

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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This motor runs: Kia Khadem

One student’s frantic take on Avatar

How does James Cameron’s newest film, “Avatar,” hold out? Well let’s get something straight: It’s not a movie, it’s an experience. (Disclaimer: I have only seen it in 3D.)

The Backbone (story): 5.5/10
SPOILER ALERT!

Let’s be frank. This movie is a big cliché; aliens duke it out against humans who invade their home planet, blah blah blah; but to be fair, it’s done in such a way that you don’t feel it’s a great big waste of your time.

Here’s the rundown. The year is (insert random future date here – in this case 2154) on (insert dumb name here – this time Pandora). Our hero, Jake Sully, is a war veteran but is confined to a wheelchair for reasons I don’t care about. So he gets shuttled off to Pandora, where humans are mining for a mineral called unobtainium (yes, it’s actually called that) and Jake is told by Colonel Miles Quaritch to replace his fallen brother in operating an avatar (some alien human cyborg whatchamacallit). Hold on, it gets cheesier. So they go out on a hunt for exotic plants, and Jake gets lost in the forest poking stuff (even when the colonel told him that EVERYTHING WILL TRY TO KILL YOU! Does he have mental retardation? I mean, he’s crippled, but is he just plain stupid?) when a (insert dumb alien name here) attacks! So our team of losers runs away while Jake is shooting his wimpy gun, and Jake gets lost.

Then a Na’vi (yes, another stupid alien race) named Neytiri (Where do they come up with these stupid names?) rescues him and takes him to the big important tree thingy (Wikipedia calls it Hometree – scary!), where (he finds?) the alien tribal shaman goddess whatchamacal-

lit. He tries to gain their trust by taking part in alien-style “Karate Kid” training to become one of them (no, not THEM). He begins to fall for Neytiri (a human falling for an alien? That’s absurd!), and then he’s told that the great tree thingy is going down! So does he choose mother Gaia (nature) or father man? Well, let’s just say that bulldozer did not appreciate Jake’s wrath. Afterward he’s put in jail for being, well, a meddling kid. Then Trudy Chacón, a pilot who has only two days until retirement (inside joke) frees them and escapes to their tribe. He’s initially rejected as the tree thingy was destroyed, but when he is seen riding a (I think it’s Toruk, according to Wikipedia) he’s readmitted back into the tribe (yeah, that quick). Then they fight back the humans in an epic battle and the humans lose. (Of course, this wouldn’t be an environmentally themed movie without the big bad humans losing.) Then Jake gives up his human body to become one of them. The End. Yeah, it’s just a big cliché.

Visual Aid (imagery): 10/10

If I could give this section higher than a 10 I’d give it OVER 9,000! It is some of the best CGI I have seen in movies. This is why you have to watch “Avatar” in 3D: the lush planet, the character animations, just everything. When I heard about it, I thought, “All right, James Cameron, show me what ya got.” Well, needless to say he gave me an uppercut right in the jaw. I was wrong; it was beautiful. You have to shell out the money to see it in 3D. If you see it in IMAX, even better.

Muzak (music): 9.5/10

Once again, I commend “Avatar” on this. The soundtrack captures the mood, from light-hearted, easy listening music to epic battle

music you’d hear from games like Final Fantasy. I congratulate you, James Horner. Yeah, sometimes the movie soundtrack doesn’t quite match up to the scene. (The destruction of Hometree was a bit underplayed for me.) A very nice soundtrack. Personally I would have liked more violent themes in the action parts.

NPC’s (characters): 9/10

What good would a story be without any characters? Well, the characters are pretty good. Let’s start off with our hero, Jake Sully. Torn between an alien race and his own kind, what does he do? He sides with the aliens, of course. It wouldn’t be as clichéd without that. Overall he was a pretty decent character, but he’s a stereotypical war-hero-kind-of-boy in the end. The big bad Colonel Miles Quaritch is just ... wow. Words can’t describe him. He has a fraction of Samuel L. Jackson’s coolness, which is a lot. Of course you don’t like him and think he’s swine, but still you like him. Then there’s Neytiri, whom I really don’t care about, as she’s the lover who’s been betrayed, again ... again ... and again, as if it were an alien soap drama. But she (barely) pulls through from the weak-little-girl stereotype at the end and does pull it off. What about the other characters? Yeah, they all either die or are forgotten about, or are just too small for me to mention. Just a plethora of death and forgetfulness. I’d normally rate this lower, but the “big bad” easily makes up for the other weak characters.

Overall: 34/40 (85%)

Last Words: Avatar is a pretty movie. While it isn’t in one of my favorites, it’s still good. If you worry just about plot then this isn’t a movie for you.

Seniors gain from trip to Pacific War museum

Jacob **CARDENAS**
reporter

While most secondary students were at school taking achievement tests on Tuesday, Feb. 9, the seniors took a trip back in time to World War II. Or, at least this was what the trip to Frederickburg's "National Museum of the Pacific War" felt like to some students.

"It was great," senior Rebekah Teeter said. "There were times when I felt like I was there."

Teeter may be referring to the realism of the George H. W. Bush Gallery, which re-opened to the public on Dec. 7 with new renovations and exhibits. The gallery covers all stages of the Pacific War including the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Doolittle Raid, Coral Sea and Midway, Iwo Jima, and Victory. The gallery includes media presentations, personal testimonials, and historically significant artifacts. The museum shows the shock and destruction caused by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor through the display of artifacts such as the HA-19, one of five Japanese two-man submarines that took part in the attack. These artifacts, media presentations, and testimonials combine to form what the museum calls a "high impact experience."

As can be expected, most of the boys were infatuated with the planes and tanks, while many of the girls enjoyed listening to "touching" stories.

"I liked being able to read all the journals and songs and diaries," senior Madison Dampier said. "It shows that they were real people, you know?"

"I almost cried when I read one of the soldiers' letters to home," fellow classmate Kristen O'Dell added.

For about the first 15 minutes a World War II

veteran introduced the students to the gallery, but after the brief introduction the rest of the tour was self-guided. However, seniors Trevor Atherton, Joelle Vargas, John Alan Archer, and Laura Torres did not realize that. They assumed the veteran was the tour guide and began to follow him. According to Archer, the man was walking so fast the four of them "were forced to bust out in a light jog."

"This little old man was, like, booking it," Vargas said with a smile. "I was really surprised with how fast he walked."

Finally the man turned around, realized they were following him, and directed them back to the rest of the group.

"It was pretty embarrassing," Torres said. "But it was really funny."

After walking through the gallery, the students took a few minutes to look around in the gift shop. The store had a wide variety of World War II books, jewelry, apparel, and other gift items. Vargas and Torres bought small coin pouches that were "cute and cheap."

Next, the students were guided through the "combat zone," where they were led through various locations of the Pacific War. The combat zone has recovered artifacts, such as the PT (Patrol Torpedo) boat 309, which is the only restored World War II combat veteran Higgins class PT boat in the United States. After viewing the PT boat, the students were taken to a landing area on the Pacific Island where machine guns, mortars, and aircraft were on display.

According to athletic director Joseph Walker, one of four faculty members to go on the trip, the museum is a "true national treasure and a great educational experience."

The museum is supported by the National Nimitz Foundation.



photo: Marisol Hernandez

Enemy sighted Stephane Montgomery looks for battleships in a replica submarine on the seniors' field trip Feb. 9. Zach Hildebrandt waits for his turn to view.

Editorial: New building essential for success

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center will give to my underclassmen – benefit that I could not even imagine a few years ago.

I still see some people who do not realize what this building could really give to our beloved students. Some people think fine arts may not be as important as standard subjects such as English or math. But I believe they are wrong. Fine arts and science are what make us different from inhuman objects; we find the creativity and imagination in these subjects! So, since we are relatively close to filling all the donations needed for the center, I thought this would be a great time for me to communicate with those people who still don't quite understand what this building means to BCS and what it could do for countless students.

So what's the problem with the current facilities? Well, there are so many things that I could fill this entire Bear Facts just by listing the difficulties we are currently going through. So, let me just briefly tell you the major problems the science and fine art departments are facing and how this new center would solve them.

The lack of space has been one of the most

difficult problems for the science classes. Teachers and students cannot perform proper science experiments. Teachers say they really need better equipment and a lab preparation room to conduct proper lab activities so that students can understand the concepts they are learning better and more easily. They also say the lab preparation room is necessary so that students can focus on their experiments without being distracted by others, and their work would not be exposed to any contamination. Currently, students often have to move to the hallway to find space to work on their experiments, and they usually have to finish everything in one class period so that their results are not contaminated by exposure to others.

The situation fine arts classes are going through is not so different. Without technical equipment for proper performances, the drama class is having the most difficult situation of all. Every time there are drama practices, the production team has to set up all the platforms beforehand and put them back afterwards. If there were an actual stage, they would not have

to do this. Drama director Cindy Singleton said students who are in drama production do not even get a chance to practice their parts of the play, such as taking charge of light and sound effects during rehearsals, because they do not get to see their equipment until right before the actual performance.

Singleton also added that lack of such facilities and technical equipment not only makes it difficult for students to perform to their best ability, but it also makes the audience attending the play feel very uncomfortable. The audience often cannot hear and see very well due to the structure of the Family Life Center, where plays have been held for nearly three decades. In order to help the audience, Singleton said the drama department needs a hall where sound can spread through the entire room and chairs are arranged on an incline so that all the audience can see what's going on.

I have gained great memories from when I was in band, but I also have gained some awful ones. For example, the classroom was so crowded that I had to play right next to the

percussion line all the time. I could not even hear what I was playing since my ears were being hammered with the beats coming from behind me. Of course, every BCS student can tell you how hard it is to study in the library every day, right next to the band room.

If I had more room in this editorial, I would explain some of the struggles art and choir classes have had for years. Unfortunately, I have about as much space left for this story as they have room to work each day.

With the new center, science students will be able to conduct proper experiments; students studying theater production will actually practice the skills they learn from the textbook; actors and actresses will have a real stage; and art and choir classes will have larger classrooms where students will not constantly work in a cold and smelly atmosphere or deal with noises that others make in such a crowded room.

The impact this building will give to our students and faculty is unimaginable, and this is why I want the building to be done as soon as possible so more students can benefit from it.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Alex Georgulas

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

Meet Mr. Extracurricular, Gorgeous Georgulas

gabe **BRETERNITZ**
reporter

The sauntering figure of senior Alexander Georgulas III flashing his signature crooked smile and tap-dancing his way down the halls is a familiar sight to the student body at BCS. Traditionally going by the shorter moniker “Alex” or one of his many pseudonyms (Gorgeous, Gigglehops, Little Farmer Girl), the curly-headed jester is well known around the school in large part due to his super-involvement in extracurricular activities, but also thanks to his engaging and fun-loving personality. Alex’s geniality and genuineness have made him a leader in sports, in the fine arts, in academics, and in spirituality.

“He’s a big people person, which makes it a lot easier to be so involved,” explains senior and long-time friend Jamie Furrer. “Plus it helps that he’s good at literally everything.”

Alex first attended BCS in the fourth grade, and he has certainly blossomed in high school. His involvement in the extracurriculars is outstanding, covering nearly every point on the spectrum of available activities at BCS. He has been a starter on the Brentwood varsity soccer team for four years; he plays mostly sweeper and defensive positions, but among

teammates he is widely considered to be the best player on the team. In addition to soccer, Alex has shown his physical prowess by running cross country for a season his senior year.

The talented senior also delves into the fine arts, participating in choir and theater. Alex joined the high school choir his junior year and made Encore that same year, to his surprise and delight. He says that trying out for Encore was one of the best choices he ever made.

“There’s not a minute I haven’t wanted to be in Encore,” Alex says. “Everyone in it became my closest friends; plus, it’s just fun to sing together.”

Alex is a thespian; he has been active in the BCS theater department since his freshman year. He originally joined because he expected it to be a blow-off class, but “it ended up being one of the most important extracurriculars” to him.

His favorite drama memory was during his sophomore year when he played Jesus in a rendition of “Godspell” for the spring one-act play. The play won first at TCSIT competition, and Alex made the all-star cast, but he says he loved it for the experience and the “hilarious yet incredibly serious” story of the play. This year, he will not do the spring one-act, because he has elected to go “reinforce American stereotypes” on the senior trip to Europe instead.

Perhaps a less public side of young Georgulas is his academic side. Though Alex is known to have a propensity for and a proficiency in debates in a classroom setting, he tends to be more humble about his scholarly achievements and aspirations. Alex is a member of the National Honor Society, and he takes pride in his essay writing skills. He has also already been accepted to the college of his choice, the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he will study business management. After completing his studies there, he hopes to continue his education at St. Mary’s and study law.

Alex has been an active member of StuCo since his freshman year. He was voted StuCo president last year but did not accept the position because of conflicts with Encore. According to senior Lindsey Bernard, he’s still an invaluable member.

“Of course he’s a really hard worker, but he’s really great at making all the jobs we do really fun,” Lindsey says. “When we have to do nitty-gritty stuff, like put up homecoming decorations for hours and hours, he’s the one that blasts tunes and gets everyone

enjoying what we’re doing.”

Despite the myriad activities Alex packs into his schedule, he still finds time to think and have spiritual and philosophical insights. He has strong opinions about Christianity and what it means to believe in God, and he is not bashful about them, even if they differ with those of his teachers at times.

“Coach Walker and I get in heated discussions all the time,” Alex laughs. “We never really end up convincing each other, but it’s kind of fun to argue with him.”

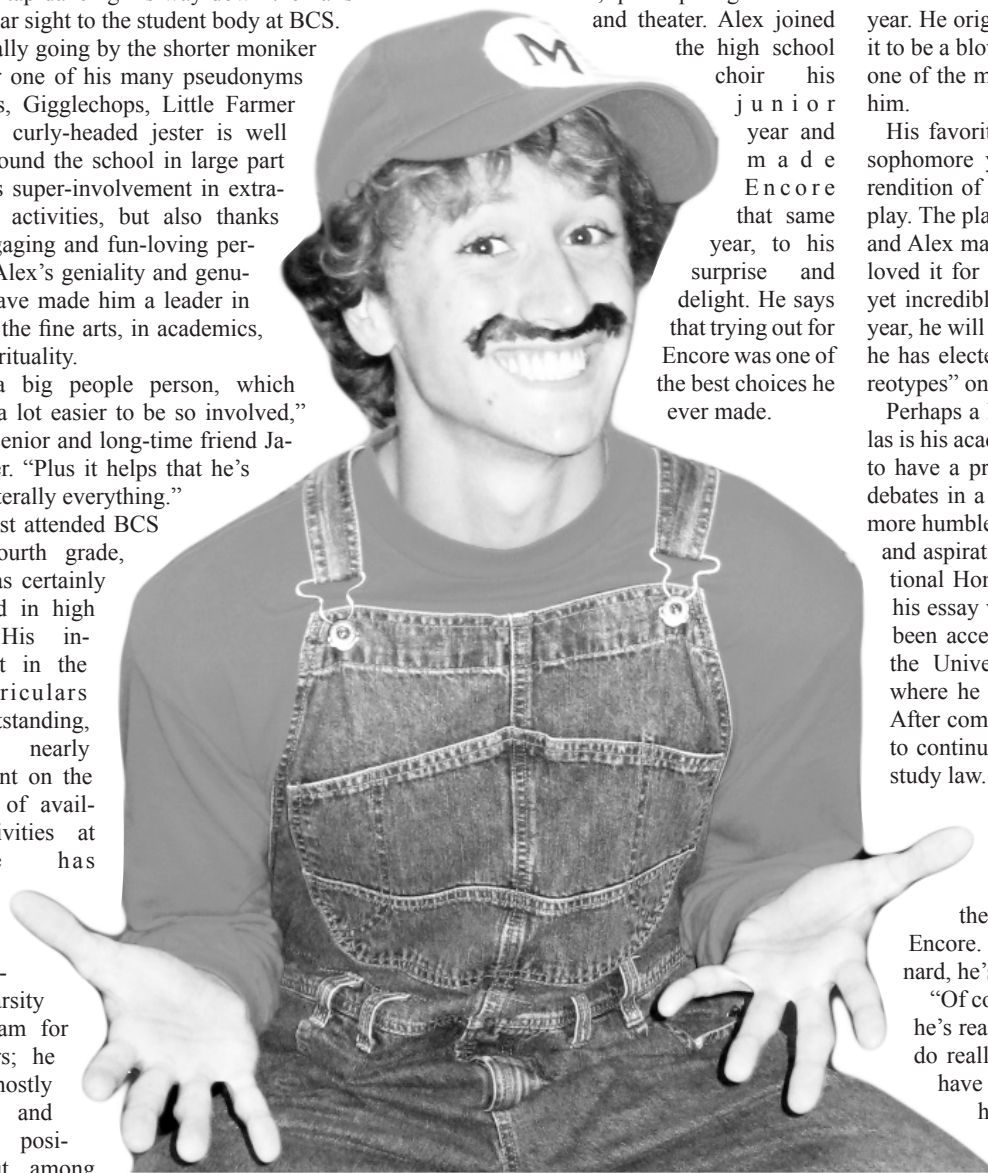
Despite their differences, Alex and Joseph Walker still have a meaningful connection; Walker baptized Alex in January. Alex’s decision to be baptized came after a particular Bible class with Mel Witcher. Mr. Witcher used an analogy that the Christian life is like walking in a creek bed, wherein your sins are the mud on the bottom of the creek and your baptism is the creek water that washes your feet after every step taken. Without baptism, the weight of past sins remains on your feet and impedes your spiritual journey. Alex says this imagery affected him, so he thought it over and spoke with Walker about baptism, and eventually decided to be baptized.

Alex’s friends have plenty of good to say about his character. Senior Brian Lam respects Alex as a worthy adversary in ping pong, but also acknowledges his graciousness in victory and in defeat. Jamie expressed high regard for his “extrovertedness” and ease with strangers.

Classmate Stephane Montgomery finds Alex’s skill at random party tricks admirable, as well as his uncanny ability to see good in people and to “build their confidence by giving good compliments.” Lindsey is awed by his “mighty hug and smooshing abilities,” but also is quick to praise his intense loyalty to his friends.

Many others point out his good heart and how he reaches out to all students fairly, trying to build friendships with all of them. It is obvious that Alex has made an impact, through his involvement and through his friendliness.

“The kid’s a boss,” Brian aptly summarizes.



TAPPS

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was the only senior portfolio entered by BCS. She took sixth.

Freshman Mary Monacelli placed third in art history and will be advancing to state.

Other state-bound students will participate in “seek and sketch” and photography events.

Art students finished fifth in state last year.

The regional meet for choir was held March 2 at Cameron Road Church of Christ in Austin. All ensembles and the 24 soloists that competed received “ones” – the best possible rating.

At St. Michael’s Christian Academy the following day, Brentwood’s band finished with 140 more points than the next-closest school.

Both directors said they were proud of how the students did and hope to do just as well or even better at state.

“It’s the best they could have done,” said choir director Missy Weaver, who is in her 12th year competing in TAPPS. “Our goal is to get as many ‘ones’ as we can at state.”

For band director Travis Pollard, the objective is not as broad.

“Our goal is to get a ‘one’ for our concert band,” he said.

Band will compete on Friday, April 16, at University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, and choir will compete at First Baptist Church in Belton on Saturday, April 17.

Last year, band finished fifth and choir was third.

Matthew Onabajo also contributed to this story.

475 kids, 12 schools, 1 morning

travis **CLARK**
reporter

As students from schools all over the state of Texas choked up the hallways of the secondary building of BCS, Brentwood fourth, fifth, and sixth graders tried to squeeze through the horde. They couldn’t exactly call Friday, Feb. 26, a normal day of school.

Brentwood hosted the Texas Christian School Association academic meet that day for the first time in 10 years. Eleven schools from all over Texas and one school from Oklahoma brought a total of 475 students (70 from Brentwood) in grades 4-6 to the campus that day, while most

BCS students enjoyed a holiday.

Held at 9:15, 10:30, and 11:35, the 24 events ranged from written events such as vocabulary, math, and music memory to oral events such as Bible reading and poetry. After all the events were finished, students returned to their buses and went their separate ways. Instead of handing out awards at a closing ceremony, schools were mailed their students’ results and awards.

Meet director Becky Stewart employed several different groups to make the meet run smoothly, including all faculty, some NHS and NJHS members, and sophomores.

BCS hosts the meet twice every 10 years, so the meet will return to campus next year.

Second-grade instructor loves to teach, learn

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

You might recognize her as a soccer mom, a sixth-grade teacher, a second-grade teacher, or an Encore mom, but everyone knows Sandy Patterson as a kind-hearted person.

Patterson, then known as Sandy Smith, grew up in Beaumont and graduated from Forrest Park High School in 1982. She was not involved with many school activities but was very involved in church functions. She sang in the church choir and participated in a clown ministry that put on programs for other churches and nursing homes.

When she was a little girl, one of her favorite things to do was read. On Saturdays she loved it when her father dropped her off at the public library in the morning and picked her up on his way home. She would read a book during the day and have several more ready to take home. Her favorite books were Nancy Drew mysteries.

Patterson also was a tomboy who ran around playing in the woods and ditches. Dolls and tea sets that entertained most girls never held much attraction for her.

"A Barbie often lasted only long enough for me to undress it," Patterson says.

From kindergarten through twelfth grade Patterson participated in "anything that was dancing," including ballet, tap, and jazz. In high school she was on the drill team for one year, cheering on her fellow Trojans.

Patterson left Beaumont for Southwestern University in Georgetown, where she and her friends enjoyed spending time at Lake Georgetown. They would go sailing and sometimes even study at the lake. Each person would be dropped off at their own bench underneath a tree and study for an hour or two before someone would drive the route in reverse and pick them all back up.

While she was a senior at Southwestern, a friend of Patterson's asked her to come to an event with her, but she put her friend off and

said no. Finally she gave in and went, which turned out to be a wonderful thing, because that night she met her future husband Dale. They were first friends, then dated, and finally were married in August 1988.

After graduating with a B.S. in education and a minor in psychology, Patterson planned to teach for a few years and then go back to school to get her master's degree and counselor's certificate. It never happened. She started teaching fifth and sixth graders at Williams Elementary in Georgetown and fell in love with it.

During her 12 years at Williams, her oldest son Ryan, now a senior at BCS, was born. He recalls that when he was little they had fun doing simple things together.

"We would go grocery shopping together, and at the end we would always buy a candy bar and split it," Ryan says.

After getting to know their neighbors the Boyds, the Pattersons soon moved their church membership to Brentwood Oaks. But Mrs. Patterson still didn't know much about BCS until she took a break from teaching after her son Brandon, currently a fifth grader, was born. She began tutoring some BCS students from church, and in doing so, she learned about the school. She decided it was where she wanted her sons to attend school.

In 2001 Patterson began teaching in the Children's Ark. But when a sixth-grade teacher had to leave during the year, elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed asked Patterson if she would be willing to take over, and she was.

After teaching sixth grade for three and a half years, Patterson switched to second grade in the fall of 2005 when Linda Gregersen left to be a missionary in Zambia. One reason she switched was to move closer to Brandon, who was in first grade at the time. Another person who influenced her decision was her sister, who was a second grade teacher and had told Patterson many times that she would absolutely love it. She did.

Many people who do not teach wonder why teachers keep teaching for so long.

"It's the 'aha!' moments," Patterson says, adding that she loves watching the connections in little brains, whether it is in math, grammar, or Bible.

"She strives to make sure they all get it," Patterson's aide Becky Orick says.

To Patterson it does not matter what grade the student earns, but how well each one understands the material. When the grades are low, she takes the time to teach it again.

A consensus among her students is that she is fun and awesome. Her peers say she is very cheerful and pleasant, even early in the morning or when her students are pestering her with questions.

"Her students always come first," fellow second-grade teacher April Hejl says. Even when they are at recess she will take the time to talk to her students, Hejl says.

Patterson says that sometimes it is a struggle

to be both a teacher and a mom, requiring sacrifices from everyone. She misses some of her sons' activities, picking and choosing the most important ones in which to participate. She spends a majority of her free time hanging out at soccer and basketball games at BCS, watching her boys play. In a free moment she enjoys watching a good movie with her family, scrapbooking, and shopping, but Ryan says she does not have time to for these things very often.

In the future, Patterson says she would like to travel and she definitely wants to go on an Alaskan cruise. She wants to see the beautiful landscape and hear the sound of quiet.

From a tomboy in Beaumont to a second-grade teacher in Austin, Sandy Patterson has shared her love of learning with many people. She has spent time enriching their lives with her patience and her earnest desire for them to understand important ideas.



photo: Sandy Patterson

Battle-ready Sandy Patterson and her husband, Dale, enjoyed whitewater rafting near Santa Fe, N.M., last summer. Patterson has taught at BCS since 2001.

Spring break plans include Italy, Peru, Washington, D.C.

continued from page 1

ables" in London, and some have also bought tickets to see "Wicked," a modern production about the background of characters in "The Wizard of Oz."

Some seniors have been waiting for what seemed like an eternity for this trip. Last year, for instance, Paige Garner joked about finding a young Englishman and requesting that he grace her with a sample of the British accent in the word "banana."

Brian Lam says he saved up \$700 for this trip, "just to splurge," he says. When asked what he planned to spend it on, the first thing that came to Lam's mind was, "Gelattos!" – referring to the dense Italian ice cream.

For many students, excitement for the trip has been fed through their classes throughout the

year; they have been learning much about Europe in their studies of ancient Greece, Rome, and the Renaissance in their English Literature and Humanities classes. They are also familiar with some French history after spending a whole quarter studying the novel "Les Misérables." Apart from that, seniors have grown accustomed to hearing, "You will be seeing this in such-and-such museum, right next to where this great author was born and this politician was executed."

On the subject of politics, the eighth-graders will be having their fair share of an educational experience, as they will leave for Washington on March 13 and come back four days later. While awaiting the sojourn to D.C., many look forward to seeing the White House and the Holocaust Museum. Others, such as Grace Cammack and Kalena Noble, can't wait to visit

the famous Washington Monument, the Pentagon City Mall, and of course, Fuddruckers.

Taylor and Withem, meanwhile, will make the trip to Peru with 17 other students and 19 adults from Westover Hills Church of Christ on March 13-20.

Upon hearing about the Peru trip last summer, Taylor quickly dropped any consideration of going on the annual senior trip. Withem was also right on board with the Peru trip.

"I'm looking forward to the cultural experience," Withem said. "It'll be a lot of fun."

While at an orphanage called the Comunidad de Niños Sagrada Familia, the entire group will give VBS-style lessons, take the children to the zoo for possibly the very first time of their lives, and simply spend quality time with them.

The orphanage is now home to 750 children, and Taylor said the adult to child ratio is about

1:50, which is one of the reasons Taylor, Withem, and their church will be of so much help.

Taylor said the orphanage was founded by a man named Miguel who lost one of his own children to sickness. After that incident, he and his wife have taken in children who need food and a place to sleep.

Apart from all the adventurous travelers, many students will enjoy a well-earned break at home. Some will travel inside Texas while their friends are off to see the world; senior Christine Park will visit her grandmother in Dallas, and seniors Amanda Bailey and Jenny Eason plan to go to the beach together.

Wherever students go, or whatever they do, or don't do, spring break is always a time to see new things, whether it's an underwater tunnel or your bedroom pillow.

Erica Shultz also contributed to this story.

Lady Bears overmatched in playoffs

matthew **ARCHER**
reporter

The Lady Bears' varsity basketball season came to close after a hard 61-27 loss to Concordia Lutheran on Feb. 13. The game was played at Concordia's home court in Tomball.

Concordia Lutheran jumped out to a 19-9 lead by the end of the first quarter, and from that point on the girls just couldn't find a way to combat Concordia's "lights out" shooting, as one member of the team put it.

"They had a really good player who shot the ball really well, and the rest of the team worked around her well too," senior Tyla Wells said.

Seniors Ashley Clement and Wells scored 23 of Brentwood's 27 points with 13 and 10 points, respectively. Concordia ended up losing to Liberty Christian, who advanced to the

state championship game and lost to Westbury Christian.

"Even though we didn't do as well as I'd hoped, I loved every minute of it and wouldn't trade it for anything else," senior Joelle Vargas said.

Clement was the leading scorer for the season, averaging just under 16 points per game. Wells was second with 8.7 points, and Vargas averaged 7.2 points. Vargas led the team in assists with 3.5 per game, while sophomore Britany Brunson had 3.1 assists per game.

Clement, Vargas, and Brunson were all rewarded with first-team all-district honors. Wells and senior Katie Miertschin both earned second team all-district honors.

Clement also received a game ball during chapel last week for scoring 1,000 points in her varsity career. She is only the second player to

reach that mark in Devan Loftis' 10 years as head coach.

The Bears ended their season with an overall record of 22-11. This was the sixth year in a row that they have made the playoffs and the eighth out of the last nine.

Next year the team is losing four seniors, but Loftis says the future still looks bright.

"We have a good group of kids that are dedicated," he said. "They may lack experience, but we can make up for that with hard work in the off-season."

As Brentwood will move to TAPPS 3A next year, it will bring a new set of opponents such as Round Rock Christian. This will bring a lot less travel for the high school teams, and it means BCS will be competing with schools that have similar enrollment numbers.



photo: Bear Tracks

Strong move Freshman Rachel Orick drives for contested shot.



photo: Tim Miertschin

Swing, batter Senior Katie Miertschin prepares to hit during last weekend's tournament in Victoria, while head coach Paul Sladek signals the baserunner.

Softball girls improving

kailey **RODDEN**
reporter

After four home games and countless practices were cancelled because of rain, the Lady Bears' softball season is now in full swing. The team started the season by playing 5A public schools in Georgetown High School's tournament on Feb. 18-20. Two more tournaments were played the following two weekends.

While the girls have struggled to pick up wins so far, head coach Paul Sladek pointed out that four out of the first nine games were against top-ten teams in the state.

"It really helped in our district game," Sladek said, referring to a one-run loss to San Antonio Christian. "We have the potential to have a very good year. I think with each passing game we are getting better.

"Oh," he added, "and it would be great to see everybody at our home games."

Here are the team's results thus far. (* denotes district game)

2/16 @ Burton (Scrimmage) 12-2 L

Senior Katie Miertschin scored the two runs against this 2A public school. The Lady Bears were run-ruled in the fifth inning.

2/18-20 @ Georgetown Tourn. L-L-L-L

The Lady Bears played 5A schools Belton, Lorena, Pflugerville, and McCallum. The girls were run-ruled each time, but in the last game against McCallum, junior Ashley Gardner, junior Somare Peyton, and Miertschin each scored one run. Sophomore Bridgette Beck filled in for the team's pitcher, sophomore Haley Decker, pitching in a game for the first time ever.

2/22 @ San Antonio Christian* 8-7 L

At their first district game, the Lady Bears were behind four runs in the sixth inning before rallying to tie in the seventh and forcing SACS into an extra inning.

2/26-27 @ Fort Bend Tourn. L-L-W-L

On the first day of the tournament, the Lady Bears lost their first two games before taking a 5-3 over Grace Community. They lost their first game the next day against Kinkaid, which ended the tournament for BCS.

3/5-6 @ Victoria St. J's Tourn. L-L-L-W

The Lady Bears lost two games by a total of three runs on the first day of the tournament. The second day, the girls lost again before beating TMI, whom they will play later in the district season.

Track team tested in Troy

sports staff

The Brentwood Bears' track season kicked off Saturday, March 6, at Troy High School, where the varsity competed against both public and private schools.

Sophomore Britany Brunson broke the school record for the two-mile with a time of 12:59, finishing in second place. She also took first place in the mile, winning by a full 10 seconds over the next finisher.

Coach Joseph Walker also praised the effort

of seniors Ashley Clement and Tyla Wells, and freshman Morgan Vandygriff. On Monday, official results still had not been sent to schools by meet officials.

"It was a good first track meet – not so much in the results, but there were good performances by the athletes," Walker said. "That's all you can hope for, that they do the best they're able to."

The next meet will be on March 27 at Randolph High School in San Antonio, and it will be the second of three meets before district.

Elementary and JH basketball

Junior high girls AA

Coach: Kaylee Loftis
Finish: 12-7, 2nd in tournament
Coach's comment: "They are transitioning down the floor so much better ... and have improved in their shooting and defense. Overall I am very pleased with these girls and their willingness to work."

Junior high boys AA

Coach: Greg Sansom
Finish: 16-11, 2nd in tournament
Coach's comment: "They not only improved their individual skills ... but more importantly they learned to play with a lot of intensity and heart, and ... to rely on each other and play as a team."

Junior high girls A

Coach: Katie Smith
Finish: 6-8
Coach's comment: "These girls came in with a lot to learn ... and we demanded a lot from them. They rose to the challenge and got so much better."

Junior high boys A

Coach: Nathan Smith
Finish: 9-9, 4th in tournament
Coach's comment: "I am proud of the way the boys developed in their team play and came together when it mattered. This was a team filled with talent."

Elementary girls AA

Coach: Nicole Ryan
Finish: 12-4, 2nd in tournament
Coach's comment: "The girls all improved tremendously. They worked hard in practice and their improvement really showed during the games."

Elementary boys AA

Coach: Adam Herndon
Finish: 5-9
Coach's comment: "I'm very proud of the young men who worked hard all season ... They learned to be good teammates and had great Christ-like attitudes."

Elementary girls A (green)

Coach: Katie Smith
Finish: 6-2, 3rd in tournament
Coach's comment: "They ... are on a great path to continue to improve and to be a big part of the Lady Bears basketball program in the future."

Elementary girls A (white)

Coach: Ben Fair
Finish: winless
Coach's comment: "The team began showing great promise ... and looks to be in good position for next year."

After two years in 4A, BCS to drop a level

morgan **VANDYGRIF**
reporter

Next school year Brentwood will drop down in its TAPPS district class from 4A to 3A, due to the decline of high school enrollment this school year.

Two years ago TAPPS decided to eliminate the district class of 6A, forcing larger schools to move down one district class. That same year BCS moved up to 4A, becoming one of the "small" schools in that district class. When a school is set in a district it will remain there for at least two years.

Athletic director Joseph Walker pointed out that for the past two years Brentwood, as one

of the smaller 4A schools, has been competing against schools twice its size, and next year it will be competing with schools with more similar enrollment. Walker said the quality of competition will be lower, in general, but he will try to schedule more non-district games with 4A schools in order to play to the level of athletics that he thinks can be achieved by Brentwood's teams.

"I think we're on the brink of many great things, and I think it'll be nice to 'regroup' in 3A, but ultimately, 4A is where we want to be," Walker said.

After a difficult year for some varsity teams, several athletes see this as a welcome change.

"It will definitely have a direct effect on the

win-loss record for the basketball season next year," junior Ryan Brunson said.

High school art teacher and fine arts chair Lori Morin said that Brentwood will be competing with schools of like size again, and the move will bring BCS back to the top after the struggles against larger schools in 4A. Morin said that this will increase morale, as students know that the schools BCS goes up against are similar in size.

"I am excited, and I think that this is the perfect thing for us," Morin said.

With 179 students currently enrolled in high school, BCS will be in the higher end of the 3A district class. Next year's 3A schools will have between 109 and 200 students.

Varsity baseball team loses players, shrinks to JV

ryan **BRUNSON**
reporter

The baseball team's season did not begin with a home run. Instead, they were thrown a curve ball when ineligibility struck and left them with too few players to field a varsity team, after their one and only game against Regents on Feb. 19.

Since then, the decision has been made for the high school boys to compete as a junior varsity only. The last step in the transition to JV is to verify the downshift with TAPPS, which will be the task of athletic director Joseph Walker. But head coach Efrain Contreras said he is fairly certain that everything will go smoothly. If everything is approved, games will be played after spring break.

Twelve players originally made the team, but several were working to fight off ineligibility. To help combat this problem, sixth-year coach Efrain Contreras held study halls during P.E. practices where the players were encouraged to do homework and go to teachers for help. Contreras said he told the team many things, but primarily that they are students first and athletes second. Furthermore, to motivate his team to strive for higher grades, Contreras also made the boys run "Lamar laps" as punishment.

As a result, few practices were actually focused on baseball and the team was ill-prepared for their brutal game versus Regents which they lost 23-2. Of the 10 players eligible at the time, two had never played baseball before. Combined with the lack of practices, this led to a disturbing number of errors during the game.

This year's district schedule would have been extremely difficult, Contreras said. Dropping down into the junior varsity division could be seen as fortuitous, considering the circumstances. Currently four players are ineligible, and to supplement the scarcity of available players, Contreras has begun scouting a select few eighth graders who will be permitted to move up and join the team.

Unfortunately, without the consent of the opposing school, the three seniors are not eligible to play on a junior varsity team. There are also no playoffs at the end of the season.

The softball team found themselves in a similar situation in 2004 when they, too, did not

have enough eligible players. But Contreras said they used the year to continue the development of players and rebounded to have a strong season the next year. This year, he plans to do the same, having designated the season for learning and developing skills – and a couple of pitchers – in preparation for the next year.

Seniors are trying to keep it in perspective.

"Of course I'm disappointed in the decision, and although it may lower the team's self-esteem, it will give younger players more high school experience and better them for the future," senior Brady Johnson said.



photos: Robert Dinesmore

Making the best of it At left, senior Brady Johnson delivers a pitch to a Regents batter during the Bears' only game. At right, junior Brett Withem makes a tag, junior Andrew Densmore makes the putout, and sophomore Diego Cole swings at a pitch.

Brentwood parent makes relief flights into Haiti

taylor **SHAW**
reporter

Last month news quickly traveled of the devastating earthquake in Haiti which killed more than 200,000 people and left more than a million homeless. Shortly after the earthquake, aid was pledged from all around the world as people flocked to assist the needy and supply them with resources.

One person who answered the calls for help was Kent Chambers, a BCS parent. Chambers, who learned to fly after college as a hobby, piloted four relief flights into Haiti through Bahamas Habitat, a relief organization whose mission is to respond quickly after natural disasters.

Along with the co-owner of his Cessna 210, Chambers flew from Nassau, Bahamas, with logistics provided by the Bahamas Habitat. The pilots in his group arrived at Nassau air-

port every day at 7 a.m. for a briefing, where they would learn what kinds of food and supplies they would be flying and also information they would need for the flight itself.

Chambers' single-engine craft is capable of carrying about 1,000 lbs., in addition to 89 gallons of fuel. It flies at about 195 mph.

His first flight was into Les Cayes, Haiti, after stopping for fuel in Exuma, Bahamas.

"It was pretty exciting to see Haiti for the first time," Chambers said. "When we landed many children lined the perimeter fence and kept asking, 'You give me food?' It was very difficult to know that we didn't have just food that we could give them. But, we knew that the medical supplies and food that we did bring would help many people."

The next day Chambers made his second flight into Haiti, landing in Cap Haitian, which is on the northern coast. The runway was only

partially functional, and people had gathered all around the sides of the runway.

The pilots were met by a US citizen working for the UN to train Haitian security officers, who helped them to unload cargo and fill out some paper work before they returned to Nassau.

Chambers' third flight was to Les Cayes once again, and was very similar to the first trip. However, on the flight there they contacted Havana Control and asked permission to pass through Cuban airspace to cut time off of their trip. Permission was granted and they flew within about 15 miles of Cuba.

Alone for his fourth trip, Chambers flew into Jacmel. The clouds were very low, but Chambers used terrain data to fly safely through the mountains to reach Jacmel. There, he met a doctor for whom he had a special delivery: a bottle of drops for contact lenses.

During each flight Chambers and the other

pilots were required to have emergency gear and had flotation devices that were worn at all times when they were over water. The pilots flew more than seven hours each day.

"Normally, when I hear of a disaster somewhere in the world, there's not much I can do," Chambers said. "When I learned of an opportunity where I could be of service in this time of great need, I knew I had to do something. I was glad, and it was an answer to prayer, that things worked out."

So far Bahamas Habitat has sent in more than 250,000 lbs. of supplies and provided transportation for many relief workers. Many other organizations are working to do the same.

"I was thankful to be a small part of a large effort to help out fellow human beings for whom suffering is a way of life," Chambers said. "I pray that God will bless and protect them and those serving them."



photo: Kent Chambers

Special delivery BCS dad Kent Chambers made several flights to Haiti in early February through the relief organization Bahamas Habitat. Here, he is unloading supplies in Les Cayes, which is one of three locations where he flew his single-engine plane.

BCS alumni memorialize fallen friend

elena **BATLLE**
reporter

Members of Aaron Williams' BCHS graduating class of 1999 are contributing money to dedicate a seat in the theater of the future Center for Science and the Arts in his honor.

"We have asked our class members to contribute towards this endeavor and many of them and their parents have contributed," said one of Williams' classmates, Nicole (Brenner) Hunt. "We are happy for anyone to contribute towards this seat in Aaron's honor."

Williams passed away in the early morning of Feb. 4 after a long struggle with kidney cancer. He was diagnosed at age 16 and lived 13 more years, surprising his family and many friends.

In his senior year, he was class president and was elected Mr. BCHS. He graduated from the University of Texas in 2004 with a degree in electrical engineering. After that he put his talents to good use as a research engineer for UT at the Center for Electro-Mechanics.

"Aaron was involved in several productions during his time at BCS and several of us thought donating towards a seat in his honor would honor Aaron for who he was," Hunt said in an email.

According to BCS president Marquita Moss, a memorial plaque will probably be put on the end panel of one of the rows of the theater.

"Aaron was one of the finest Christian young men I have ever known," Moss said. "He truly deserved the title of Mr. BCHS – the 1999 graduating senior boy who best represented what BCS stands for – and he continued to grow in character and faith in the years that followed."

One-act play "Earnest" to compete next week

kailey **RODDEN**
reporter

Brentwood Christian students in the one-act play "The Importance of Being Earnest," directed by theatre teacher Cindy Singleton, will compete in the TCSIT one-act competition during spring break on March 18.

"The Importance of Being Earnest" is a comedy written by Oscar Wilde in 1894. One of Wilde's most famous plays, "Earnest" is a satire about Victorian England. It takes place in London, where Algernon "Algy" Moncrieff and his best friend Jack Worthing struggle to maintain alter egos. Pandemonium ensues when Algy and

Jack come face to face with the predicament of explaining who they really are.

"I love the complexity of the plot," said senior Jamie Furrer, who plays Algy. "It's hilarious, but not in a slapstick way. I think everyone will love it."

The play was made into a movie several times, most recently in 2002, starring Reese Witherspoon.

The nine characters in Brentwood's one-act play version will be played by senior Jamie Furrer; juniors Gabe Breternitz, Caleb Kronke, Alison Riedesel, Mariah Robinson, and Victoria Stewart; and sophomores Kaleb Chambers, Kayle Morin, and Kailey Rodden.

"I love one-act. It's a great bonding experience," Riedesel said. "It's a wonderful way to make new friends, or to come closer to your old ones. It's so much fun!"

Last year, Brentwood took second place at the one-act competition with "Into the Woods," which was directed by former theatre teacher Lindsey Pierson. Singleton said she has high hopes for this year's play as well.

"It's one of my favorite plays, and we haven't done it since 1996," Singleton said. "I think it will do great in competition."

"The Importance of Being Earnest" will be performed at Way Off Broadway on May 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center.