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# THE BEAR FACTS

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VOL. 25 NO. 5

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MARCH 2013

## IN SHORT

### Food drive brings tons

Last month's all-school service project, in which each student was given two paper bags and encouraged to link arms with the community to help feed the hungry, brought in a total of 4,500 pounds of food. After bags were dropped off on March 1, students of all ages worked in shifts, paired with their chapel buddies, to sort the food. It was then delivered to the food pantry at the Round Rock Serving Center.

### Lilya third in fair

Seventh-grader Derek Lilya took third place in the cellular and molecular biology category at the Regional Science Fair last month, making him eligible for the ExxonMobil Texas State Engineering Fair in San Antonio on March 26-29.

Lilya and seven other middle school students representing six different projects attended the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival at Palmer Events Center on Feb. 21.

### Sock drive success

Given the opportunity to be elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed's assistant for a day, first-grader Carina Combs instituted a sock drive for the elementary. Students responded well, bringing socks of all sizes, colors, and descriptions. Combs and her mother delivered 625 pairs of socks to the Austin Children's Shelter. Kelly White, CEO of the shelter, said they were very grateful for the generosity of the BCS students.

## Lady Bears reach state final

By John Hollingsworth



photo: Mark Merkord

**And away she goes** Senior Morgan Vandygriff drives by an opponent in a Lady Bears' win.

Though the outcome of the final game was not what they had hoped, the Lady Bears went further than any team in Brentwood girls' basketball history. They advanced to the TAPPS 3A state championship game by defeating Round Rock Christian Academy 47-27 on March 1, but lost to Lubbock Christian School the next day in the finals 56-38.

In the championship game, played at Summit High School in Arlington, the Lady Bears got down early due to the hot shooting of LCA's star player Ashlee De La Cruz. De La Cruz shot three-pointers from far behind the line, while Brentwood's defenders were guarding against her driving to the basket.

The Lady Bears tried to make a comeback in the second half, but LCA played a tough man-to-man defense, unlike what BCS was used to seeing. The Lady Bears were down 29-16 at the half and were soon be-

hind by 16 before they started to force some turnovers. At the beginning of the fourth, the team got within nine points, but De La Cruz hit two three-pointers in a row to boost their lead back up to 15 points. She ended up with 39 points.

Sophomore Nicole Glenn led Brentwood with 13 points.

As the final buzzer sounded, tears came to almost all of the Lady Bears' faces. The team received medals, a plaque, and a basketball in recognition of being state runner-up. Three players were also named to the all-tournament team: Glenn, junior Ariana Marks, and senior Morgan Vandygriff.

The fans who made the trip to Arlington hung around after the game to support the girls. After many photographs, BCS families and supporters packed up and returned to Austin.

"It was a great weekend. The girls really played well and had fun," head coach Devan Loftis said. "They played hard up to the end but just ran into a great opponent."

Friday was an eventful day at school, as students of all ages were dismissed from classes to

see **Lady Bears**, page 7

## Soccer almost makes state

By Jonathon Reich

For the first time since 1997, the high school boys' soccer team won the district title. They also hosted a playoff game last weekend and won. But Tuesday evening in Kerrville, the season came to an end, one win short of advancing to the state tournament.

Only 10 minutes into their playoff against Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills on March 5, the Bears found themselves behind 4-0. Goals by freshman Mason McCormick and junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer in the second half brought the score to 5-2, but the game ended 7-2.

Brentwood struggled with their passes throughout the game, a problem that was exploited by their talented opponent. After the game, coach Cash Miller told the team he was proud of the way they played all season.

With home-field advantage in the first-round playoff game on March 2, the Bears responded by taking a 2-0 win over Ft. Worth Temple

Christian. Brentwood appeared to actually score three goals. However, the first goal was scored after time had ended in the first half, and while in most games play continues, the referees decided to call off the goal freshman Joshua Sass had apparently scored. Sass and Treut-Shaffer scored both of the Bears' official goals in the second half.

Brentwood finished the district season last week with victories on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 25 and 26. This put them in a tie for first place with San Juan Diego, forcing a tie-breaker the very next day at San Juan's home field.

Playing their third game in three days, the boys showed their exhaustion in the first half. Taking advantage of several Brentwood mistakes, San Juan had a 2-0 lead at halftime, and some BCS players were discouraged.

However, the boys got back on their feet in the second half, and after McCormick scored

see **Soccer**, page 8

## BCS takes first in academic, art

By Jin Ha Jeong

Brentwood Christian High School students took first place trophies in the TAPPS 3A district academic and art tournaments held at Round Rock Christian Academy on Friday, Feb. 8.

It was Brentwood's third time to win district in its five years of participating in the TAPPS academic competition. BCS took first place in academic events with 173 points, outscoring Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills by 37 points.

Out of 31 students who competed in the academic tournament, 19 placed in the top six of their events. The 14 students who placed in the top four of their events will compete in 12 different events at the TAPPS state tournament on April 5-6 at Concordia University.

see **TAPPS**, page 3

Thoughts Worth Thinking: Lanae Hollingsworth

# Basketball bears best blessings of Brentwood

I am going to be honest. The only reason I stayed at Brentwood through high school was that I wanted to play basketball with my friends. I have spent a lot of time wondering if it was a good decision. This year I was able to see that in fact it was. Through basketball I have experienced what I believe are some of Brentwood's greatest strengths; although I see them through basketball, I am sure other students see these things through other activities. I have been privileged to experience the community of BCS, the cultivation of talents, and the glorification of God through all that we do.

These three ideas create a picture for me, and I would like to share it with you. At our Final Four game on Saturday there were grandparents who drove anywhere from one to 13 hours to support our team – not just their grandchild, our team. There were teachers who left early, who do not have kids on the team, who wrote sub plans just to support us. There were parents with their elementary kids who took off

work and drove three hours to watch us play. Then there were 13 girls playing who do not necessarily scream "basketball player;" I do not think I am the description someone would give of a basketball player: 5'4" with no vertical. Together we have worked hard all year, including the summer, to get to the championship game, and we did. We did not get there on pure talent; we got there through dedication, hard work, and commitment to being a team. Coach Loftis always makes sure that we remember when we play that we are playing to the glory of God. He often says that things worth having are worth pouring yourself into, which means that just as we pour ourselves into our extra-curriculars we should pour ourselves into our relationship with Christ.

I see community in all the people who come to our games. The idea is strengthened when I see the signs hanging in the gym that the first graders made for us. On game days so many people tell me "good luck," and afterwards they tell me "congratulations." Then there is community within the team – the specific team this

year and the team as it goes back through the years. On the way to the Final Four we stopped to have lunch with a former player, and several other former players came to our games. I am now part of a community that shares a bond which spans many years. It is such a blessing and assurance to know that I have such a wonderful group of people who are standing behind me in everything I do. It is an example of what Christian community is supposed to be.



My talents have been cultivated, not just my physical ones but also talents which are reflected in my leadership and in my spiritual life. Physically, I am in better shape, and I have run farther than I ever thought possible; I have even turned into an average basketball player. My ability as a leader has also grown. I am much more comfortable in situations where I do not know people or where they are quite different from me. Over the last four years I

have also seen my talents reflected in spiritual growth. I found that I enjoy going on mission trips. I went to Peru with basketball teammates, and I am going on a trip to Rwanda this summer with the Loftises and some teammates.

The spiritual growth has led to my firm belief that we can glorify God in absolutely everything we do. Playing basketball, soccer, or flute; drawing, painting, or sculpting; reading, writing, or analyzing; all these are ways to glorify God. I have learned to be assured that all the things I do, whether explicitly religious or not, are important to God, because they are things I enjoy doing. They are important because they allow me to fully glorify God and to show others about him through them. This realization has given me so much peace.

As I look back and look ahead and see all the ways God has blessed me in my abilities on and off the court and in my relationships with my team, our fans, and the kids with whom I am able to interact, I know all the sacrifices were worth it. To me, this is the best of BCS.

## 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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Being ForthReich: Jonathon Reich

# What are Christians to do with evolution?

For some Christians, evolution is a touchy topic of discussion that seems to have been greatly thrown out of perspective over the years. For example, some Christians say that evolution is insidious propaganda, and that people who believe in evolution will be condemned. On the other hand, there are evolutionists who declare that anyone who believes in God has no understanding of science, and that creationism prevents students from fully comprehending science throughout their lives.

To attempt to bring clarity to this dispute, John Murphy, vice president of the Austin chapter of Reasons to Believe, spoke to a crowd of students, parents, teachers, and other adults in Brentwood's theater on Feb. 11, and addressed this conflict.

Personally, before attending his speech, I was certain evolution had enough evidence to be fact, and believed it didn't contradict Christianity. I wasn't entirely sure why it didn't conflict, but I believed that if God is truly here, then whatever facts we could find would not contradict the truth about Him and his Law.

However, I was unsure of what to expect from Murphy. I assumed it would be a one-sided speech about how evolution cannot be real because it cannot fit in with Christianity and stems from an atheistic mindset. I was hopeful that it would actually shed some light on the subject for Christians who have their minds shut against it. I was pleased to find that he did, in fact, keep his speech from being one-sided, while provid-

ing enough clear points to prove that evolutionism and creationism do not contradict.

Murphy first defined his terms, then explained that the main ideas of Darwinian and Neo-Darwinian evolution really have no effect on Christianity. The main ideas are as follows: Organisms slightly vary from others of their species, and organisms with favorable variations are more likely to survive and pass down their traits. Neo-Darwinian evolution also admits that slight genetic mutations can occur when favorable traits are needed for survival.

Murphy called these facts "undisputed ... (accepted by) all brands of creationists." Such Christians give all the credit to God for the creation of traits, but simply explain that organisms diverge where slightly different traits are necessary or helpful for survival.

All of these ideas constitute a larger one called "microevolution." Simply put, it states that organisms' traits can be changed but not created.

After describing microevolution, Murphy introduced its brother, macroevolution. The main difference between these two is that microevolution occurs within species, while macroevolution states that certain species can evolve into others, or gain new traits when necessary for survival.

Shortly after defining macroevolution, Murphy explained that this is what creationists have the most trouble accepting. He stated that while there are many creationists who believe in this idea, the majority do not accept it. Mur-

phy used the rest of his speech to show how macroevolution has yet to be proven, which I assumed to mean he also did not believe in it.

Personally, I believe that many creationists do not want to accept macroevolution because the Bible informs us that humans are above other animals, having been selected by God as the species closest to Him and sharing His image. So the idea that humans are direct descendants of these animals that are not said to have God's image seems problematic. This being said, I can also understand how some do not believe in it because of the lack of evidence to fully support its cause, as Murphy explained.

Coming from the speech, I was honestly a little confused by Murphy's organization. But after reading through notes he handed out, I realized the ideas he had were the same ones I believed before attending the speech, only they had the "why" that I had been looking for.

Believing in evolution does not mean that you cannot believe in God. It means nothing of the sort. Many educated Christians even believe in macroevolution. Science and God are not exclusive. As Brentwood students hear all the time, "God reveals science, science reveals God."

Before making judgments of your own on this or other controversial topics, educate yourself. Don't simply accept what other people tell you, but search for what is true and decide where you stand. When you do this, I think you'll find that God will be able to reveal Himself to you through these truths in your life.



## TAPPS success

continued from page 1

Four students won their events: senior Priscilla Glenn in Original Oratory, sophomore Hyunjin Park in Mathematics; freshman Andrew Armstrong in Number Sense, Calculator, and Advanced Math; and Natalie Williams in Solo Acting.

Michelle Mallett, Brentwood's TAPPS director, said she was very proud of the students and expected they would come out with good results.

"We took really good kids. I expected everyone to do well, and they did," she said.

Art students also proved their talent in the district meet; they won the competition with 237 points, outscoring Round Rock Christian by 70.5 points. Out of 83 pieces, 33 are going to the state competition.

Senior Serene Nermal won first place in four events: Graphic Design and Illustration, Photography, Computer Rendered Art, and Senior Portfolio.

"The first year Serene took Art I knew she had a gift, but I was not expecting the amount of growth she has had over the years," art teacher Lori Morin said. "Not only is she gifted in drawing, painting, and computer rendering, she has a servant's heart for using her talents. Serene has the natural talent to go far in art and to make a mark in graphics for Christ."

Other first-place winners were senior Tiffany Troung in Art History, junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer in Sculpture, junior Marisol Lawson in Drawing, and freshman Elise Lilya in Printmaking.

It was Brentwood's fifth district championship in art competition since 2005.

# Students depart this weekend to see history

By MJ Sung

Brentwood Christian's seniors left today for Paris and London and will return on March 16. During these eight days abroad, 25 of this year's 39 seniors will see and explore such historic sites as Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre Museum, Trafalgar Square, and Hampton Court.

The seniors will be escorted by Kaleen Graessle as well as administrators Kevin Claypool, Carol Johnson, and Devan Loftis, and seven parents.

As soon as the group arrives in Paris, they will begin touring with dollars already exchanged for Euros. They will get to see Gothic Cathedral, Chartres, and the Loire Valley. Not only will the seniors visit the assigned places, but they also will have free time to explore places they might wish to go.

"I want to wander the city and find little cafés and quaint little French shops," Danielle Riedesel said. "I will also climb up top the Eiffel Tower and meet a lot of French people."

After touring Paris for four days, the group will board the Eurostar and head for London. This high speed train runs through the tunnel connecting continental Europe with Britain, only taking two hours to get to London from Paris.

In London, seniors first get to walk along the banks of the River Thames and then get to see Trafalgar Square and pause at Nelson's column. The next day, they will visit Hampton Court, described by Educational Tours as "a splendid

Renaissance palace of grandeur unprecedented in England."

After that, they participate in London's vibrant drama scene as they attend an evening theater performance of "Les Miserables." The last day in London, students get their free day.

"I will visit my dad's (former) house, his old school, and Abbey Road during my free time in London," Anthony Milan said. "And I will also shop for clothes."

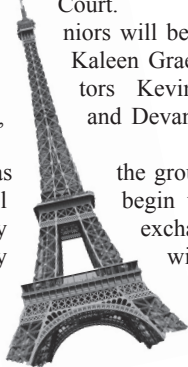
For the past four years, by selling in Brentwood's magazine sales, Riedesel has gathered about \$1,000 which will be spent during the trip.

Ginger Huh said she has been exercising regularly to increase her health for the trip. She also bought a new camera lens to capture historical sites during the trip.

Ben Willingham said he is most excited about the many different kinds of foods he's going to try out, such as fish and chips in London, and croissants in Paris. He also said he will buy a pair of shoes in Paris and buy knick-knacks as souvenirs.

Some students have been downloading movies or travel apps such as City Guide, City Maps 2 Go, Trip Advisers, and Guide Pal on their phones.

Educational Tours allowed Johnson to go to Paris for training on Jan. 17. For four days, she toured the city, enjoying things such as the Louvre museum where the Mona Lisa is held. She said it was great to have this experience



before bringing the seniors with her.

"My goal is to make this trip a memorable trip for the seniors," Johnson said. "And I want them to bond so much that they would want to see each other and to keep in touch."

Brentwood's other traveling group is the 16 eighth graders who are going to Washington, D.C., on March 9-13. Sponsors Danielle McGhee and Chloe Campbell will be heading the trip.

The group will get to see the Lincoln, Korean, and Vietnam memorials on Sunday. The next day, they will get to see the White House and then the Museum of American History. Tuesday will include a tour of the Library of Congress, the World War II Memorial, and the Washington Monument.

On the last day, the eighth graders will go to the Air & Space Museum and Natural History Museum, before heading back to the airport from there.

## BCS hosts PSIA, wins district, sends 27 to state

By Grace Cammack

Eighty-one elementary- and middle-school students sacrificed one of their Saturday mornings to fight for Brentwood's honor in the annual PSIA District 6AA meet. But this time, the event was hosted by Brentwood for the first time in nearly a decade.

Ten schools came to the BCS campus on March 2 to compete in 19 oral and written events. With exactly a third of Brentwood's participants advancing to state, the school's honor was maintained, as Brentwood won second place in the elementary division and first in the middle school division.

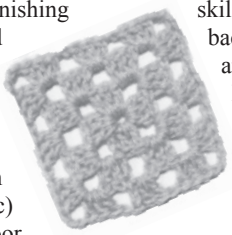
The 27 students advancing to state will compete on April 27 at the TCU campus in Ft. Worth. This is the most students Brentwood has ever sent to state.

Excitement began to stir among the students at the first-ever PSIA pep rally held the Friday before the meet. A slide show running with pictures from previous meets started the celebration, after which the students were led in cheers by the school's two principals. Kay Taylor introduced the teams and coaches, and then she explained the events for those who didn't know. The pep rally concluded with a prayer over the participants.

# Crochet club chats, crafts cute creations

By Nicholas Bergeron

Girl after high school girl pours into Valerie McBride's English room. Within minutes the room is filled; upwards of 20 students attend. They plunk down into one of the diminishing number of available chairs, chat and laugh brightly with one another, finish their lunches, and then get to work. Throughout the period, they concoct plans to create phone cozies, do charity work, and "yarn bomb" (cover with crocheted fabric) their lockers and the English room door. This can only be the newly formed BCS crochet club.



dents of all grades are meeting in first-year teacher McBride's classroom to attend the newly opened crochet club.

McBride said she wanted to create the club in order to share a "very important" skill with students, drawing off her background in costuming, stitching, and yarn bombing last summer in Hong Kong with the Magda Sayeg, considered the "mother of yarn bombing."

"It's kind of a lost art, really," McBride said.

The crochet club will continue to meet every two weeks during lunch in McBride's classroom. They'll discuss crocheting, learn to read patterns, and donate some

of their work to Warm Up America, a charity that distributes crocheted and knitted blankets to those in need, such as the homeless or orphans.

All high school students are invited to join, and are encouraged to bring their own supplies. However, yarn and needles are provided for those who don't have access to it, courtesy of Jo-Ann's Fabric, which provides equipment in exchange for crocheted 7 x 9 rectangles that are made into blankets for Warm Up America.

The crochet club looks forward to a strong future.

"Most of us are beginners," freshman Kai Harper said, "but Miss McBride is a good teacher."

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Kia Khadem**

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

# Lovable oddball has grown on us

By Grace Cammack

Three years ago, the Class of 2013 was forever changed by a force, or rather, a farce. Upon his arrival, senior Kia Khadem was thought to be an unwanted enigma.

“He was really obnoxious. No one really liked him,” classmate Mary Monacelli says.

Fortunately, Kia thought the exact same thing of his class. However, Kia has always been consistent in being able to make people smile. Out of amusement or embarrassment, it depends.

While sometimes Kia’s humor can be misunderstood, he is “hilarious in his own way.” He has been seen among his Korean classmates pretending to be the late Kim Jong Il. Classmate Ben Verghese remembers a time when Kia simply lay on the floor and yelled for a Sociology project to see how people would react. However, this project was changed upon the request of Kia’s Austin Community College professor to something less “out there.”

Kia came to Brentwood after spending his middle school days at Canyon Vista. After finishing eighth grade he considered going to Westwood High, but he thought it to be too big and competitive. He wanted a place where he could form closer relationships with his fellow students and teachers and thus decided Brentwood had a community that fit his needs.

However, despite his free character, classmates and teachers agree that Kia has a determined personality and can work hard when he wants to. He can easily keep his grades up and takes the time to create a much-appreciated study guide to post on the class Facebook page every time there is an upcoming test.

“I would have failed many tests without him. He’s my savior,” classmate Long Ho says.

Humanities teacher Mel Witcher claims Kia is very outspoken yet not argumentative when he begins asking questions during class. As opposed to his freshman year when Kia would blatantly disregard other people’s opinions, he now always pushes for the truth and asks why. He also has developed a

great servant’s heart, according to Witcher.

“He comes after class to ask if there’s anything he can do to help,” Witcher says.

Kia is also known to be a “prolific and talented” writer. When he was a reporter for the Bear Facts, his occasional reviews (“Large and in Charge”) often created quite a stir among the student body. He’s also enjoyed writing reviews for a gaming website as well as placing his own writing on a blog for a time. Despite his talent, he took one glance at the typical salaries of a writer and said he definitely won’t be one when he gets older.

With no definite plans for the future, Kia is simply browsing his options.

He has received a full-ride scholarship to UT-Dallas and has applied to other schools including Princeton, Rice, and Columbia. While Princeton has very good credentials, Kia says he

would probably choose the schools in Texas to stay close to his family.

Although he does consider himself to have a love for video games, he often starts them, forgets them, and then begins new ones, which accounts for the hoard of them he has.

“I own at least 800 games that just sit on a shelf in my room,” he says.

But now to address the maybe-not-so-obvious side to Kia. Even though he claims his family “doesn’t function,” his mom is very involved in his life and can often be seen driving for field trips. Kia says he is very close to his father and his older brother who goes to Texas State. The trio often have a “Guys’ Night Out” on Mondays by going out to eat and talking about everything from politics to future college plans.

“My dad is my role model,” he says. “I look up to him. He’s the most generous person I know.”

Kia enjoys spending time at his aunt’s house, mainly for the good food, he claims. Mostly he just hangs out at his house, plays video games, watches anime, and browses various websites for something to make him laugh.

Coming from a religious family, Kia is used to prayers and the idea of

God in general. While he is not a Christian, he says he’s neither for nor against those who believe and doesn’t mind the inevitable spiritual discussions one encounters at Brentwood.

“The community is nice. If believing in God makes (people) nicer, then go for it,” he says. “I still need to do some more ‘soul searching,’ but who knows.”

Despite his rough start at Brentwood, he quickly became a necessary part of his class.

“Our class wouldn’t be our class without Kia,” classmate Niky McCaffety says.

Although all teenagers claim to be “unique,” Kia definitely fits into this category. His sarcasm, insight, and religious opinions make him unlike any other student on campus.

“He’s a little off-centered, which is what we need sometimes,” Witcher says. “He’s not from around here.”



## THE BEAR FACTS MARCH 2013

# Softball girls start season, host tourney

By Becca Willingham

Last year’s varsity softball team did not have their first game until March, but this year the girls played five games in February and won three. Overall the team has a 4-5 record, as they await the start of district.

Brentwood hosted its first-ever BCS Invitational for softball last weekend at Balcones. Woodlands-John Cooper won the tournament, while the Bears lost in the third-place game.

Coach Paul Sladek said the team is aiming for a district championship this year. Several of the players have voiced their optimism as well, and have said they have good chemistry on the field.

“Two years ago we were district champs, so that is our goal again this year, and also to just get closer as a team,” junior Cynthia Smith said.

The team was without senior Lanae Hollingsworth, a three-time all-district catcher, until she returned to the team this week after basketball season ended.

“Last year we had a lot of players playing positions they had never played,” Sladek said. “This year we have a hungry group of freshmen that want to learn those positions.”

The team has also added CrossFit to their workout regimen, and their new assistant coach Marlene Carillo works with them on throwing and catching for 20 to 30 minutes a day. That has been very beneficial to their overall skill, according to Sladek.

Last year the team was focused on learning the basics and the general rules of softball. This year they have the basics down and are tackling more difficult aspects of the game.

“I think having a year under our belts prepares us to learn more intricacies of the game,” Hollingsworth said.

Following are the team’s results so far:

**2/4: New Braunfels Christian 13-8 W**

BCS played well, considering they only had eight players. Freshman Samantha Woolverton had a hit in her first game ever, and Sladek said freshman Sofia Torres, Smith, and freshman Nicole Gentry, who was the catcher, had strong games.

**2/7: Gateway 16-10 W**

Brentwood was led by the middle of the lineup going 7 for 9, including Torres going 3

see **Softball**, page 8



# Wiles brings organization, stability to new role

By Morgan Gage

Remembered by many as Brentwood's previous K-12 computer teacher, Sandy Wiles has been working for the school since 2006 and even before that in the church office for three years. This year she decided to move on to a position with even more responsibility, having taken a leap of faith into the "cursed" position of academic adviser.

She is the fifth in the last five years to take this job, which students often compare to the Defense Against the Dark Arts profession in the book series "Harry Potter."

"I just felt like I needed to get my degree in school counseling so that we could have someone stay longer than one year," Wiles explains. "(I hoped to achieve) some continuity from year to year, especially for the high school students who had a different counselor every year."

School president Marquita Moss expressed her gratitude for the way Wiles has stepped in to fill a big need for the school. She says Wiles has done a great job bringing stability, and she praises her for the way she spends extra time trying to become the best guidance adviser she can be.

"Mrs. Wiles is a great match for this position," Moss says. "I am excited about having her in the role."

Originally an "Air Force brat," Wiles recalls moving around a lot as a kid, being born in San Antonio and going to grade school and middle school in Washington, Texas, and Arkansas. She graduated from Harding Academy in Searcy, Ark., and in 1981 graduated from

Harding University with a BBA (bachelor of business administration) in business education. She is a certified Texas teacher in the area of secondary business composite, and is currently working on her master's degree in school counseling at Lamar University.

After Harding, Wiles moved to Tulsa, Okla., where she lived for 22 years. With most of her adult life being rooted in the town, it was quite difficult for her developed family to move after the 9/11 disaster and the economy's crash, but



photo: Lanae Hollingsworth

it had to be done. Her husband, Ben, had taken a job in Austin and, as Wiles recalls, "It seemed at the time that having a job in Austin would be much better than having no job in Tulsa."

"It was hard to move from Tulsa, but we feel very blessed to have moved into Pflugerville," Wiles says.

Wiles has two children, Jay and Mandy. Both were born in Tulsa, and both are Brentwood graduates (2009 and 2011). Jay is currently a senior at Oklahoma Christian, where he majors

in broadcast journalism and will graduate in April. Mandy, on the other hand, attends Harding like her mom did. She is an art major with a psychology minor and she hopes to go into art therapy. Wiles happily states that, given the opportunity, both Jay and Mandy say they would send their children to BCS in the future.

Describing her job, Wiles brings up several basic categories: schedules, emails, phone calls, testing, college counseling, and events. Working very closely with secondary principal Carol Johnson, her busiest seasons come during August and the beginning of summer, when she is almost single-handedly responsible for sorting out all of the secondary student schedules. She also is responsible for the ITBS testing and schedules meetings with college representa-

tives who then come during lunch to meet with upperclassmen.

Wiles' hobbies include reading, shopping, and watching movies with her daughter. Her favorite store is a shop called Mardel, a Christian bookstore. Wiles is also an active member of the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ.

"It is a loving family," she says. "I love being a part of the church and then also being a part of the school – and all of it being together."

Wiles is also a proud mentor group leader. Conducting her own tenth grade girls group, Wiles is happy just to be finally included in the activities. She actually had been assigned her first official group several years ago, but due to her odd schedule which included elementary classes, the girls got re-assigned the next year.

"Mrs. Wiles has been my very favorite mentor," sophomore Macy Franklin says. "She is the mentor that everyone wants. She is so fun and cool!"

As to the specifics of Wiles' job change, she explains that it is something that she had considered in the past, although she never really sought the education to pursue it until recently. Both learning the trade and performing it at the same time may have a few downsides, but Wiles says she enjoys the variety.

"I love that (Brentwood) has been a strong Christian school for 50 years," she says. "I honestly can't think of a single thing I don't love about Brentwood. I love the teachers, I love the students ... I love the traditions! I love Super Senior, I love graduation, I love Jog-a-fun, and I just love it all."

# Open House brings potential students to campus

By Hannah Kwon

Brentwood Christian School's third annual Admissions Open House last month was a huge success, according to director of admissions Kimberly McLain. A nice cool breeze and the beautiful 70-degree weather made the tours very pleasant for the 58 families – representing 70 potential students – that showed up for the event on Sunday, Feb. 10.

When the visitors arrived at the foyer of the Center for Science and the Arts between 2 and 4 p.m., they were greeted by all the members of the administration and the advisory board as well as sports coaches. Afterward, they were directed to the elementary or the secondary table to fill out information and receive school brochures. Then the families were assigned one or two secondary students to give them a tour of the school.

There were 26 BCS faculty members present, in addition to the 15 staff members, 33 parent volunteers, and 78 students wearing various school apparel such as sports uniforms, Friday shirts, and polos and plaids. Students representing Student Council, yearbook, book club, and National Honor Society were present to answer questions about these organizations. One teacher from each grade in pre-K and elementary school, and several secondary teachers, stayed in their classrooms greeting the families and answering questions.

During the open house, BCS jazz band and choir performed in the theater, and families came in and out watching and listening to the performances. The families who observed the performances could be overheard saying, "impressive," and "extremely beautiful."

Before the event took place, McLain invested a lot of time and work to arrange and adver-

tise the open house properly. She executed a lot of advertisements which included sending postcards to local neighborhoods, asking students to invite people, running two radio ads on KLBK-AM and Spirit 105.9 for two weeks, and putting out flags and banners near the road around the school.

According to McLain, student and parent volunteers were one of the biggest contributing factors to a successful open house.

"Our volunteers always make our visitors feel welcome, make sure they get the information they are needing, show them around campus, and make their interactions very personable," McLain said. "I couldn't do it without them!"

The school has already received a total of 21 applications and expects to receive more. Five of them came in the day after the event, and another five came in before the event, but the families still came in to tour to solidify their

decision. A total of 31 applications came in after last year's open house.

All student volunteers who participated in the event were given the privilege to have an extended lunch or to dress in pajamas or sweats on Friday, Feb. 15. Secondary principal Carol Johnson sent out an email informing and congratulating the students for the successful event.

"Many of the adults complimented the students on their professionalism, speaking abilities, and positive attitudes toward Brentwood," Johnson said.

McLain expressed her appreciation to all the volunteers and the influence they have in the community.

"I am so appreciative to all the people that helped with the event. It is amazing how much this helps to get our name out in the community," McLain said.

# Baseball team confident

By Madalyn Garelick

The varsity baseball team started its season last week with a 25-0 win against Central Texas Christian. Five days later they lost to a talented St. Gerard team 7-3.

Playing well even without some key players being eligible or available, the Bears have to be taken seriously when they talk about their high expectations for the season. They ended last year on a good note, winning four of their last five games, but this year the guys have said they plan on ending it with a state championship.

"I think it is looking like a strong season for Brentwood's baseball team this year," head coach Brian Thrift said.

In the opening game, played at home on Feb. 28, the Bears jumped out to a 12-0 lead after one inning. Pitcher Zach Marsh, a sophomore, retired the CTCS batters in the top of the inning, then delivered a 3-RBI double in the bottom. The game was called after five innings.

On March 5, also at home, Brentwood fell behind after the first inning and could not climb back, twice having runners thrown out at the plate on very close calls. Marsh pitched another strong game, but the defense struggled.

The team has been placed in a new district this year with some new teams that they have not faced before, including Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills, San Antonio St. Gerard, San Juan Diego, and Concordia. Since some of the schools have just recently been developed, the Bears are hopeful for the outcome of this season.

"I think this season will be a lot better than the past seasons have been," sophomore first baseman Cody Hunt said. "With all the new players we have gained, I think we have a good shot at reaching the championship."

The team has a new member on the coaching staff: Rich Russo, who brings 39 years of high school and college coaching experience. A neighbor of Thrift, Russo proved especially helpful for the team while Thrift was still coaching varsity basketball last month. Russo played college ball and then was offered a coaching job at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where he spent 11 years. From Nebraska he moved to Texas, where he coached at Southwestern University in Georgetown. Russo then made his way over to Manor High for a brief

stint before finding his home with the Bears.

"Coach Russo is a very well rounded coach," assistant coach Gary Marsh said. "He is very laid back during practice, and his main goal is not about winning but about getting our team better."

The Bears have a team of 12 players this year, including three freshmen and four sophomores in the starting lineup. They also have one returning all-district player, senior Garrett Gentry, who has not yet played. Although they are a young team, they come with experience and have been working hard every day during eighth period. Russo's drills have worked on their technique for their specific position. Marsh said he definitely sees a difference in the team since they've been working with Russo.

Thrift said he feels like the team has made leaps since last year thanks to the hard work of Marsh and Russo while he finished up basketball season over the past few weeks. Thrift said the team is strong in just about every position, but especially up the middle of the field, with freshmen John Hollingsworth and Jake Velasco at second base and shortstop.

The Bears' pitching staff is led by sophomores Zach Marsh and Ben Powell, followed by junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer, Hollingsworth, and Hunt.

The team's hitting is also looking powerful this year due in part to the many exercises Russo has had the team working on during pre-season since January.

The Bears played at Round Rock Christian yesterday.



photo: Brooke Hollingsworth

**Aim ... fire!** Sophomore Zach Marsh pitches during the Bears' blowout win in their first game.

# Boys make playoffs again

By Connor Crowe

The varsity boys' season ended with a 61-55 loss against Keystone Christian in San Antonio during the bi-district playoffs on Feb. 19.

It was a close game with several lead changes throughout. The Bears built an eight-point lead early in the third quarter, but Keystone tied the game at the end of the quarter. With some turnovers by BCS in the fourth quarter, Keystone took the win. Senior Matthew Archer scored 23 points, and junior Mike Taylor had 22.

"We defended all night, but just needed to be better on the offensive end with our shot selection and passing selection," head coach Brian Thrift explained.

This was the final high school game for four seniors: Wyatt Allee, Archer, Dennis Clifford, and Bevin Koyikalathu.

"The seniors offered great leadership this year, and I am excited to get started on next season," Thrift said.

The Bears' overall record was 17-15, compared to last year's eight wins. The team finished district play in a tie for second, with an 9-4 record. To break the tie, the Bears traveled to Summit Christian to face TSD on Feb. 19, but the Rangers won by 16 points.

Archer led the Bears in scoring this season

at 14.2 points per game, with sophomore Cody Hunt following at 11.5 points per game. Taylor led the Bears with 5.5 rebounds per game.

"I couldn't be more proud of what this team achieved this year," Thrift said. "They answered the call to be raised the bar for how boys' basketball will be played here at BCS."

Following are the team's recent results:

**2/5: @ TSD 55-46 L**

Archer led the scoring with 17 points, followed by Hunt with 10. The score went back and forth, and the Bears were close with a few minutes left, but TSD extended their lead by nailing their free throws and some big shots.

**2/8: S. J. Diego 85-12 W**

The Bears came back from their two-game losing streak with a win on senior night. Everyone on the team scored at least two points. Archer led the Bears with 15, followed by Allee with 14, Hunt with 13, and Taylor with 11.

**2/11: @ C'dia 51-31 W**

The Bears never trailed, led by Archer's 18 points. Junior David Powers and Allee both scored 10 points. The Bears jumped to a 20-2 lead, with Archer scoring 15 of the 20.

**2/14: vs. TSD 49-33 L**

The Bears played the game at Summit Christian

since it was a playoff game for second place in district. The Bears were behind the whole game and had a poor shooting night. Taylor, with 12 points, had the most for the Bears.



photo: Mark Merkord

**Eyes up ...** Senior Wyatt Allee shoots a layup in the loss to TSD on Feb. 5.

## Track teams preparing for first meet; girls aim for state title

By Maddie Ashworth

After winning their district meet last year and finishing third in state – their best finish ever – the varsity girls' track team has high expectations for the upcoming season. Track coach Katie Smith said the girls have goals to win not only in district and regionals, but to be state champions.

"I think this year will go absolutely amazing," said senior Priscilla Glenn, a state champion in two events last year. "We have

many returning members, and lots of underclassmen are stepping up to fill the holes last year's seniors have left. Everyone is ready to go back to state and win."

The boys, meanwhile, are aiming to improve their fifth-place finish in district last year. Coach Jacob Rotich said they have set goals to get a district championship, and to have as many athletes qualify for regionals as possible. No one qualified for state last year, but the team is hoping to change that. They were only 18 points away from getting

second in district last year, so the competition was very intense.

Both teams started practicing in February with the people who were not in a winter sport. With the conclusion of soccer and basketball, the coaches expect a strong turnout for the varsity track teams.

The girls have six returning seniors this year, all of whom competed in state last year. Five girls placed in the top three at state, and

see **Track**, page 8



# Soccer girls earn home field in playoff; lose 1-0



photo: Terri Legband

**Kicking it** Senior Mary Monacelli dribbles the ball in a 3-0 win against Holy Trinity.

By Charlie Sinclair

Brentwood Christian's Lady Bears soccer team lost 1-0 to Carrollton Christian in the first round of playoffs on March 1.

The girls finished third in district with a 7-4-1 record. This is the second time in the team's three years of existence that they have made playoffs.

Hosting a Saturday playoff game, the girls had several opportunities to score. Coach Stephen Colwell said he believes Brentwood outplayed its opponent, whose only goal came on an indirect free kick.

"This last game was disappointing, but we set the record for wins in district, and we developed a lot of young talent for next year's team," Colwell said.

Freshman Haley Miller led the team with 12 goals, and senior Courtney Flores had eight. Junior Marisol Lawson led the team with 12 assists.

"(The season) had its ups and downs, but I think it was a good learning experience for a lot of the new girls," Flores said. "But those of us who had been playing a long time still had fun.

All-district selections will be announced this

weekend.

Following are the team's recent results:

**2/4: @ Kerrville OLH 4-0 W**

According to Colwell, this was a break out game for the Bears' offense, as a result of adjustments to the offensive setup. Lawson scored two goals, and got assists on both of the other goals by Miller. In the second half Miller scored on a header, the first header for a goal in the program's history. Junior goalkeeper Jasmine Selman blocked a penalty kick to preserve the shutout.

**2/7: @ Temple Trinity Holy Cath. 5-0 W**

Brentwood got out ahead in the first half 3-0 with goals by Miller, Flores, and Lawson. In the second half Flores scored on a corner kick by Lawson, and Erika DuPond closed out the game with a late goal that was assisted by Miller. Selman saved another penalty kick, again preserving the shutout.

**2/11: @ John Paul II 3-1 W**

Miller opened scoring 30 minutes into the game with a header on a ball crossed by Lawson. Colwell said this was the most impressive goal he has ever seen at the high school level. They led 1-0 at the half. In the second half sophomore Isabelle Graessle scored 15 minutes in on a ball assisted by Lawson. Law-

son also fed the ball to Flores, who scored the team's third and final goal.

"This was the most impressive victory of my coaching career," Colwell said. "The girls played so hard and were smart about the decisions they made on the field."

**2/16: @ OLH 1-0 L**

With the team missing their top three scorers and a key defensive player because of a last-minute rescheduling, the girls allowed only one goal, but could not score any.

"This is a team we beat handily in the first half of the season, but without our offensive power we were unable to score," Colwell said. "It was a really tough game to lose."

**2/19: San Antonio Trinity 3-2 L**

The Lady Bears scored two goals in the first half, both by Miller and assisted by Lawson. In the second half though, Trinity found that the girls were not prepared for corner kick crosses. They scored three of these in 10 minutes.

**2/25: Veritas 3-0 L**

The team went down early against the undefeated opposition, who have not allowed a goal all season. The Lady Bears left the game looking ahead toward playoffs.

## Lady Bears make fourth state Final Four in eight years

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send off the Lady Bears in their team bus. Two other buses left later carrying students who had signed up to go to the game.

In the semifinal game that evening, the Lady Bears jumped out to a quick lead against their district rival and never looked back. After splitting the two games they played in district, BCS uncharacteristically used a 1-2-2 zone defense to contain Round Rock's star player Mallory Blausler.

Cheered on by a large and loud BCS crowd, the Lady Bears were up 16-4 by the end of the first quarter. The team maintained their lead through the second quarter, leading 23-12 at the half. They pulled away in the third quarter, playing aggressive defense and holding the Lady Crusaders to just two points.

Marks led Brentwood with 15 points.

"We just went out and played our game," freshman Keely Hardin said. "We went in with a lot of confidence and played as a team."

Senior Rachel Orick was especially grateful for making it to the finals, after tearing her ACL in August and missing most of the season.

"When I first got injured, I thought getting to play again was impossible, so I was so blessed to be able to play again and especially play in

the championship game," she said. "I am so glad I was unable to return, even if it was only for a few games."

Brentwood has made the Final Four back-to-back years. Before that they had gone in 2006 and 2008 but came up short of a title in all of those years.

"The kids really worked hard throughout the season," Loftis said. "We had great senior leadership and great contributions from the underclassmen. Most importantly they played to honor God and for each other. They had a fantastic run and I couldn't be more proud."

By winning district this year the Lady Bears have won district three years in a row and seven times in 13 years under Loftis. This year's seniors have been a part of three district titles and two Final Four appearances.

Marks, in her first year at BCS, said switching schools was difficult at first, and she was unaccustomed to a smaller school.

"As I got into the swing of things I realized how special this team was," Marks said. "But what really drew my attention was the sisterly bond every single one of the girls shared, which is one of the reasons they have been successful.

"Coach Loftis and his wife are two of the most amazing people I know. Both are super hard working and have really given us a great

example on how to be Godly people."

Marks led the girls this year with 15 points per game, followed by sophomore Nicole Glenn with 10.3 points. Marks led with 7.9 rebounds per game, while senior Morgan Vandygriff led with 3.3 assists. The team averaged 59.4 points all season and only gave up 28.8.

Following are the team's recent results:

**2/5: @ TSD 53-24 W**

The girls did not start out well but still led 24-7 at the half. With solid defense and 19 points from Marks, the Lady Bears cruised to victory. Sophomore Nicole Glenn added 11 points and five steals.

**2/8: San Juan Diego 97-32 W**

On Senior Night the Lady Bears were on fire, shooting 57 percent from the field. The girls made 11 three-pointers and eight out of nine free throws. Senior Lanae Hollingsworth led the way with 15 points, which came from five consecutive three-pointers. Marks and Nicole Glenn both added 13 points.

**2/11: @ Concordia 80-22 W**

Despite not being able to hit many of their shots early in the game, the Lady Bears' strong defense allowed them to win this game easily. They were led by Marks with 15 points, while Hollingsworth and senior Brooklyn Merkord each had 12 as well. Hollingsworth hit four out

of five three-pointers.

**2/18: Brazos Christian 63-28 W**

The Lady Bears looked very strong in their playoff opener against Brazos Christian. The girls' full-court press was very effective early in the game, as they jumped out to a quick 10-point lead and never looked back. Marks led the way with 16 points, while freshman Keely Hardin added 11 and Vandygriff contributed 10.

**2/22: CTCS 56-31 W**

After an 80-minute delay before the game due to scoreboard difficulties, the Lady Bears maintained a lead of about eight points until they broke it open in the fourth when the other team became desperate and did not stick to their game plan. The team was led by Hardin with 16 points; Marks added 12 points despite struggling from the field.

**2/26: Cypress Christian W 49-44**

The Lady Bears had a tough test to get in to the Final Four. Playing at Brazos Christian in Bryan for a neutral site game, the Lady Bears had a tight game until the fourth quarter. The girls were up by 13 with three minutes to go but let the other team catch up by slowing down and not attacking on every possession. Hardin hit two clutch free throws with about a minute to go to seal the game. Marks led with 18 points and Nicole Glenn added 12.



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# Soccer boys win district for first time since 1997

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the first goal, they became encouraged enough to bounce back and put three more on San Juan, giving Brentwood the win and first place in district. The final three goals were scored by senior Matthew Onabajo, Treut-Shaffer, and McCormick.

Following are final regular season results:

## 1/31: @ San Juan Diego 3-2 L

In their first game against their main rival of the season, the boys played decently, matching San Juan 2-2 until the end of regulation. Sass had both Brentwood goals. But after a scoreless overtime, the other team edged BCS in penalty kicks.

## 2/4: @ Bryan St. Joseph 3-1 W

When asked about this game, multiple players started off by saying how well they did during the majority of it, but finished with a look of disappointment and admittance to letting up in the last few minutes. Sass and sophomores Jae Hwang and Brodie Brown all proved their worth to the team with a goal apiece.

"It was the best we have ever played soccer,"

senior Jackson Graessle said. "But we let up in the last two minutes."

## 2/7: Brazos Christian 2-0 W

Brentwood managed to pull through and go two-up on Brazos Christian yet again, after beating them before 4-2, in a battle against both the opposing team and harsh winter heat. This heat did wear out the boys, leading to sloppy play that caused them to "play down" to Brazos Christian's level. However, this allowed JV players more opportunities to play than usual. Sass and Treut-Shaffer both scored.

## 2/18: San Juan Diego 1-0 W

The boys managed to defeat the only district opponent they had lost to at the time. At the beginning of the second half, Onabajo secured the win by scoring his first goal of the season. No other goals were scored, perhaps because of the muddy field, which was an obvious hindrance to both teams. After the game, a San Juan player who had been making racist comments toward Hwang began a fight with him, which caused both players to be awarded a red card.

## 2/21: Bryan St. Joseph 2-0 L

With a win, BCS would have secured the district title without the extra game. However, many key players were either absent or ineligible. This left weak points in their previous formation, and while each player played hard regardless, the end result left all disappointed.

## 2/25: @ Vanguard 4-0 W

Due to difficult weather, this game was not a happy one to play in, but coming back into the bus the players felt accomplished, after once again beating Vanguard. However, this time they not only beat their team, but also fought off the vicious gales that plagued the field during the game. Sass had three goals.

## 2/26: @ Holy Trinity 1-0 W

Perhaps feeling fatigued from the day before, the boys did not play up to their normal standard of play, and came close many times to giving up a goal. But in the end they managed to pull through and defend their goal to end the regular season in a tie for first place. Sophomore Hae-hwan Park scored the only goal, when a ball he hit bounced off an opponent into the net.



photo: Tina Treut

**It's mine!** Freshman Josh Sass, one of the Bears' top scorers, kicks the ball away from an opponent in a recent game.

## Jog-a-fun goes colorful



photo: Julia White

**Plenty of shades** Several juniors show their new colors after participating in what might become a new Jog-a-fun tradition: color-bombing. After the high school's 5K run on March 5, during which Student Council members threw colored corn starch at runners, many of the participants gathered and began "bombing" each other with color.

As in the previous 28 Jog-a-funs, little runners began forming a dusty track on the soccer field shortly after 8 a.m. on a cool and windy day. Students and faculty aimed to make over \$100,000 for the school by running laps and sending out over 16,000 sponsor letters. Younger students played on an inflatable obstacle course, while A-Plus Federal Credit Union was there providing entertainment and giveaways. DJ Tim Guthrie provided music all day long.

## Softball

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for 4 and Gentry going 2 for 2. Freshman Jodie Singleton also went 2 for 2 with two doubles.

## 2/22: Central Texas Christian 14-12 L

The girls scored 12 runs on a pitcher who was throwing 63 mph. However, pitching and defense were off in this game. Gentry was 3 for 3 and also walked.

## 2/26: @ Thorndale 17-1 L

Sladek said this was a tough game versus a tough opponent with a very good pitcher. Brentwood was led offensively by Torres, who had a base hit and two steals.

## 2/28: Holy Trinity Catholic 14-5 W

BCS was led in the circle by Torres, who pitched Brentwood's best game of the year so far. Offensively, freshman Madi French led the way, going 3 for 3 with two triples.

## 3/1-2: BCS Invitational W L L L

The Bears beat San Marcos Baptist 14-5 in the first game, led by senior Julia Le and Gentry, who were a combined 6 for 7 with 5 RBIs.

St. Mary's Hall was Brentwood's next opponent, and Sladek said he was pleased with his team's effort in the 14-4 loss. Smith had 2 RBIs and sophomore Yara Qussad was 2 for 2.

After losing to eventual champion John Cooper 7-0, BCS had a strong offensive performance against St. Andrews, led by Gentry going 3 for 3 with 3 RBIs. But Brentwood walked 12 batters, eight of which scored, and they lost the game in the end, 11-10.

## Track

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four of them are returning.

Glenn played a key role in the team's score last year at state, winning both the 300-meter hurdles and the long jump to become the first Brentwood athlete ever to win two events at state.

Senior Morgan Vandygriff placed third in state in the 400 meters last year, while sophomore Nicole Glenn placed second in the high jump, setting a school record at 5-0.

Senior Michelle Dembosky also set a record for the school in the discus. Her throw of 98-6 earned second in state.

There will be three meets for the girls' and boys' teams before the district meet on April 18. The first meet will be the Eagle Relays in Lexington on March 22.

The boys placed first at the district meet in two events last year, including the school record-setting 4x200 relay team consisting of graduate Simon Na, seniors Matthew Onabajo and Anthony Milan, and junior Kent Howell.

"We are capable of doing better this year — we have the talent," Rotich said.

Several of last year's top performers are returning this year, including five seniors.

"I think we will improve upon our strengths, especially in our relays," Onabajo said. "This season will be one to remember."