



THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. XXII NO. 7

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MAY 2010



see pg. 2

IN SHORT

New StuCo

President: Mariah Robinson
Vice President: Caleb Kronke
Secretary: Jackson Graessle
Treasurer: Travis Clark
Historian: Brandon Jones
Senior rep: Victoria Stewart
Junior rep: Laura Combs
Sophomore rep: Courtney Flores
Freshman rep: Bryce Morin

Jazz Under the Stars

The second annual Jazz Under the Stars will be conducted on June 3 at 8 p.m. in the church courtyard. All secondary students are invited to dress up and spend an evening with coffee, desserts, and live music performed by the organizers – the Jazz Band. Admission is \$10.

Smith moves to office

After teaching kindergarten at BCS for six years, Karla Smith is moving out of the classroom and into the role of admissions director. She is replacing Deborah Hicks, whose husband is taking a ministry position in Lebanon, Tenn. Smith has prior experience as chief administrator of a Christian school, preparing her for many of the aspects of her new job.

Stock project winner

Senior Chris Williams won the advanced stock market project in Economics class, taking home a \$150 prize from BCS parent Tom Cammack, who sponsored the project. Beginning last November, participants were to invest \$100,000 imaginary money in a combination of U.S. stocks, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds. By April, Williams' investment had grown by more than \$15,000.

Silver-hairs serenaded Grandparents' Day fans flames of tradition

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

The auditorium was packed, projects were on display, and children were singing, as BCS hosted the 28th annual Grandparents' Day on Friday, May 14.

The day began with breakfast served to the grandparents in the Family Life Center, where they also signed in and received name tags that associated them with their grandchildren. About 240 grandparents came to the breakfast.

The main attraction of the morning was the avocal program in the auditorium, after which the grandparents were able to spend time touring their grandchildren's classrooms. As is tradition, kindergarteners through fourth graders sang songs that corresponded with their costumes. The first graders were dressed up as penguins, and the fourth graders were dressed up in their pajamas. Fifth through eighth graders followed with two spiritual songs, and the high school students concluded the performance with three more songs.

This year's Grandparent of the Year Award was presented to Tom and Mary Riley for their dedication to helping Brentwood. The Rileys' children graduated from the school, and now some of their grandchildren attend. In the years between having their children and grandchildren at BCS, Mrs. Riley tutored many students

at the school.

After the program the grandparents were able to visit classrooms, see projects, and do activities with their grandchildren. Some of the long-standing traditions that they were able to see were the kindergarten rodeo and the fourth-grade play, "Historical Hysteria." Unfortunately, the third-grade kite flying was rained out.

Grandparents of secondary students went to three 25-minute sessions in classrooms. These sessions included presentations about the Zambia Medical Mission, Geometry bridge projects, 2009-10 yearbook, and senior trebuchets. An-

other session was playing "Deal or No Deal" in Algebra II. Some grandparents enjoyed playing because they were able

to spend time with their grandchildren; others, because they won.

"I love to play games," said Judy Perkins, grandmother of sixth-grader Brenna and sophomore Haley Decker. "I won \$62,500."

Junior high sessions included map racing in the Texas History session and a display of science experiments in Integrated Physics and Chemistry.

Students were let out of school at noon so that they could spend the rest of the afternoon with their grandparents. Many students have formed traditions with their grandparents of

see **Families**, page 6

"My grandparents always take me out to lunch at Red Lobster, and then we go shopping." – Courtney Flores

BCS comes in 2nd out of 102 in PSIA state

ashtyn **PATE**
reporter

Brentwood Christian elementary through middle school students took second place from among 102 schools at the PSIA state tournament on April 24. Elementary walked away with eighth place while middle school ended up second, helping BCS win second all-around.

"For a school that does all its PSIA preparation outside school hours, this is truly remarkable," elementary principal and academic coordinator Dr. Libby Weed said.

First-place winners for BCS included sixth-grader Andrew Armstrong, who was the champion of both Mathematics 6 and Calculator Applications 6-8. He also finished second in Music Memory, only missing first by a semicolon, and fourth in Number Sense 6-8.

The brother and sister duo of fifth-grader Luke Allen and sixth-grader Tiara Allen won spelling titles in their respective grades. The Allens also each took second place in their vocabulary contests.

Eighth-grader Aaron Ho was first in Number Sense 6-8, making a perfect score.

Other students who placed at state were fifth-grader Haleigh Heath (third in Dictionary Skills 4-5), fifth-grader Gabrielle Nguy-

see **Armstrong**, page 7



Full house Backed by the junior high and flanked by fifth and sixth graders, Encore entertains a packed auditorium for Grandparents' Day on May 14. Brentwood's special guests participated in many long-held traditions as well as a few newer ones.

photo: Skylar Haws

This motor runs: Kia Khadem

Cafeteria review: The good, the bad, and the bacon

Freshman recommends pizza, burgers, pancakes; offers words of caution regarding Wednesdays

Ah yes, the cafeteria. One of the cornerstones of American culture, this marvel has been through the glory years (fifties, anyone?) and our era of shame (McDonald's, I'm looking at you). Does Brentwood break away from the traditional bland slop that will clog your arteries, or are they guilty of being indifferent? Here are my recommendations on what to eat, what to skip, and other important issues.

Quality: 7/10

Some of the stuff in the cafeteria tastes good, others I'd assume came from Whole Foods (without the organic factor), and some are just plain bad, while most are adequately satisfying.

My Recommendations

Monday: Nothing really good on this day. The barbecue sandwiches and steak/chicken fingers are not bad, although the side items taste odd together. AVOID the pasta. The cake served with it might look tempting, but the pasta is bland and soggy. I'd say to stick to pizza sticks (if they're not overcooked), although you can (and probably will) get tired of eating

the same thing again and again.

Tuesday: No pizza sticks today, but you have ... pizza! Yup, every Tuesday is a pizza day, and the thick pizza tastes really nice. The flavors work together. However, under no circumstances shall you ever get the thin pizza. It's like cardboard drizzled with sauce and a sprinkling of cheese; it's as sad as Central Market's pizza!

Wednesday: Ya got three choices for the trays today: tostadas, quesadillas, or baked potatoes – none of which is really that good. And the bacon is fake! We pay good money for a potato, with FAKE bacon? FAKE BACON! Go with pizza sticks once again, unless you want to risk it for ... FAKE BACON!

Thursday: Ah yes, the other day of every week that I look forward to cafeteria food: burger day. Chicken or beef, both are good. I personally like the beef burgers better. Always get the tray on this day. Trust me. However, sometimes the chicken doesn't taste, well, consistent. In fact, one time the chicken patties were sturdy enough to serve as Frisbees.

Friday: Go for pizza sticks on this day, unless they're serving pancakes. The pancakes do taste pretty nice – not perfect, but still pretty darn good. I don't see why more people don't order this. Maybe because it's brunch? But the ratio of pancakes to syrup and sausage is bad. We need more syrup and sausage!

A La Carte: Besides pizza sticks, there's always PB&J. What do you expect? It's a classic! If you get tired of eating everything, go with these. Sure, they're pricey, but they're pretty good. Then you've got pretzels, which are sometimes good – if they're hot and not overcooked. The last time I got one it was cold and undercooked. The burritos look okay, and to some might taste good. But to me, it looks like sludge wrapped in a tortilla.

Pricing: 7/10

I would like it to be cheaper, but it's bearable. Meals range from \$2.50 to \$3.75, not including add-ons, such as a soda, which adds 75 cents to the price. Chips add 50 cents, and cookies add 50 cents as well. By the time you buy your

food, that's a good \$5 meal.

Service: 8.5/10

No bologna here! Good ol' fashioned parent volunteers (Volunteering, it doesn't pay.) who are quite nice. However, they're about as slow as customer support from Dell. (OK, not that slow.) I usually wait 5-10 minutes till I get to eat. They never seem 100 percent prepared when I get there. But I wouldn't be if I had to cook for 1,000 kids, and to be fair, I still have enough time to eat and talk to my friends, so no real harm.

Quantity: 7.5/10

Really small portions, at least for the price. It might be satisfactory for some, but for me it's not. I always need to buy another item – chips, cookies, you name it. I'm not satisfied with itty bitty portions. How do you think I got fat? By eating small and exercising? No. Therefore, the portions are too small.

There ya' go, a freshly baked review. Signing out. But seriously, what's up with FAKE BACON?!

THE BEAR FACTS

Brentwood Christian School
11908 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78753

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

Editor-in-Chief

Skylar Haws

Sports Editor

Megan Monacelli

Reporters

Matthew Archer	Mike Lee
Steven Bailey	Levi Matus
Elena Battle	Matthew Onabajo
Gabe Breternitz	Rachel Orick
Ryan Brunson	Ashtyn Pate
Jacob Cardenas	Kailey Rodden
Travis Clark	Connor Schiesz
Lizzy DuPond	Taylor Shaw
Lanae Hollingsworth	Erica Shultz
Joseph Kang	Derek Tresslar
Kia Khadem	Morgan Vandygriff
Charles Kim	

Adviser

Jonathan Weed

Bretz knows best: Gabe Breternitz

New Bear Facts chief offers fresh biases

Perspective is like a monocle: It is easy to lose, it has a tendency to give only a singular viewpoint, and it's often too foggy to be of much use anyway. And yet, without some sort of perspective, there exists no frame of reference to interpret the blur of life that whirls around us all. We, as humans, need our monocles and must accept the inherent pitfalls as unavoidable. The best we can do is hope to keep the right prescription and admit graciously when we've made the egregious error of misplacing it.

Of course, life is never so simple. More often than not, we cling to our biased perspectives no matter how cracked the glass is, and no matter how rusted the frame. After all, there is comfort in continuity, and changing perspectives requires a brief period of viewing the world in its chaotic, unfiltered form – a scary prospect indeed.

To avoid this harrowing experience, we must select our "monocles" with care. The key is selection; simply slipping into a world view always contains adverse consequences. A proper world view must be purposeful; it must be crafted with care to truly reflect the morals we wish to maintain. Should we fail to do so, other, less benevolent forces and our inherent selfish tendencies will inevitably guide our decisions and warp our perspective.

Next year, I will be the editor of The Bear Facts, and perspective has been on my mind. The traditional ideal perspective of a newspaper is an unbiased, structured account of the facts. But this ideal is simply unattainable, because the newspaper form is limited by a number of things: space, need for relevance to a diverse readership, and the inability of the staff to remain flawlessly unbiased, to name a few.

On top of that, as a school newspaper at a Christian school, our true goal is not even to be unbiased, but to present a Christian

perspective, which can sometimes mean softening or simply not reporting controversial material if it fails to serve any purpose greater than spreading shame. And yet, once again, the Christian ideal is also unattainable, for it relies on the staff to be consistently Christ-oriented. I'll be the first to say that I fall short with much more regularity than I succeed.

So we have ideals that we cannot attain; do we give up? Of course not. Are we then doomed to live in continual examination of our perspective to see if it reflects our original, true intent? Perhaps. Impossible though this might seem, one cannot simply admit defeat and give up.

Instead, we are charged to devise strategies to maintain proper perspective, like utilizing accountability and reducing negative impacts on our thoughts. This is how change can be attained – that is, so long as one is willing.

True virtue lies in persistent commitment to self-improvement. He who continually strives towards an unattainable goal may not succeed, but he is still the better for it. And although every now and then our monocles will still cloud, possessing the strength of will to re-evaluate and wipe the crystalline surface clean places us farther along the path towards the ideal, 20/20 perspective.



photo: Summer Best

Peaceful campout Ethan Rivera, Cason Best, and Elijah Baron enjoyed each other's company at this year's Kindergarten campout on April 30. Bringing their tents, grills, and Frisbees, families enjoyed laughter, delicious food, and Star Wars games.

Way Off Broadway showcases talent, creativity

travis CLARK
reporter

BCS students, parents, and even grandparents enjoyed the wide variety of art, the theatrical acts, and the musical entertainment during the third-annual "Way Off Broadway" event on May 14 and 15 from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Whether it was listening to a tenor saxophone jazz solo or watching an intense dramatic duet, the various aspects of the show provided a highlight of the weekend for young and old alike.

The event had several things to offer from the art department. There was a wide array of pieces on display, including black and white sketches, paintings, and on-site drawings. Many people who won awards at TAPPS contests showcased some of their work. Among them were junior Honney Kang, who placed in five different events at last month's state competition.

Other award winners among the 30 students who showcased art at the event were seniors Lizzy DuPond and Skylar Haws; juniors Diem Ho, Jennifer Quinn, Daniel Robinson, and Mandy Wiles; sophomore Carter Boyd; and freshman Jackson Graessle.

Many drama presentations, including the TCSIT Grand Champion One-Act Play "The Importance of Being Earnest," were also given at the event.

In addition to the play, there were award-winning dramatic and humorous duets and interpretations. Some of these performances were shown on Friday night, while different acts were performed Saturday.

Friday night's acts included a dramatic interpretation by senior Paige Garner and humorous interpretations by junior Tara Cole, junior Gabe Breternitz, and senior Jamie Furrer. Fur-

rer also teamed with junior Mariah Robinson on a humorous duet.

Saturday night's acts included two dramatic duets: one by sophomore Kailey Rodden and junior Caleb Kronke, and the other by seniors Josh Porter and Marisol Hernandez. There was a humorous duet by juniors Alison Riedesel and Mandy Wiles; Mariah Robinson and senior Cely Mora did dramatic interpretations.

"I thought it was a cool show with good music and some awesome acting," freshman Anthony Milan said.

Music was another one of the main attractions at the event. The Jazz Band played "Sing, Sing, Sing" and "Funky Fugue," and the Jazz Combo played during intermission and also accompanied Encore in two songs. The Jazz Band earned a "one" in TAPPS district, and the Jazz Combo got a "one" in TAPPS district and state.

Vocal entertainment provided by Encore, the BCS honors choir group, was also scattered throughout the event. They performed the songs "Man in the Mirror," "For Good," "Haven't Met You Yet," and "In My Life."

Encore was a winner of many awards in several competitions this year, receiving the Superior Rating and Outstanding in Class awards in the Director's Choice Festival in San Antonio and a "one" for their small and sacred ensembles in TAPPS district and state.

At the end of both performances, all seniors involved in fine arts were honored with roses while Encore sang "In My Life." On Saturday, students gave bouquets to honor their directors: Lori Morin, Travis Pollard, Cindy Singleton, and Missy Weaver.

"Way Off Broadway is a great way for students to show people the best in them," said Singleton, who directed the event.



photo: Bear Tracks

Separated Seniors Marisol Hernandez and Josh Porter perform "Two Rooms," a dramatic duet about a couple torn apart by war, at Saturday's "Way Off Broadway."

Gifted in academics and fine arts, seniors take flight

derek TRESSLAR
reporter

The senior class of 2010 has many bright individuals with myriad choices they are now facing, two of the foremost being where to go to college and what to study. With a large class of 54 students, the choices are varied for both colleges and majors alike.

Twelve students will be leaving the state, with the longest distance away being New York City. Marisol Hernandez and Charles Kim will be attending different colleges there.

"I thought New York would give me opportunities where I could gain diverse, exciting, and memorable experiences – things that I wouldn't be able to experience in Texas," said Kim, who will go to school at New York University.

"After talking to everyone at the college, they have told me I'm in for a culture shock. I'm very excited," said Hernandez, who chose John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Chris Williams has been accepted at Hillsdale College in Michigan, which is one of two colleges in the country that is completely unaffiliated with the government. Therefore it has an entirely unique curriculum that focuses on the constitution and in giving the students a traditional, classical liberal arts education. Williams will double-major in political science and American studies, and also plans to get involved with a jazz band.

Fifteen students are enrolling at Christian universities, including eight at Abilene Christian and five at Harding, which is in Arkansas. Ten soon-to-be graduates are staying right here in Austin, four going to Austin Community College and six planning to go to UT.

There are many different majors that BCS seniors are interested in, ranging from biomedical engineering to interior design to psychology. The most popular choices are forms of business, engineering, and nursing.

Six students have yet to decide what they would like to major in.

Future homes for Class of 2010

Abilene Christian University

John Alan Archer, Bible
Abbie Boyd, music
Hanna Boyd, family studies
Madison Dampier, undecided
Brady Johnson, telecommunications
Katie Miertschin, exercise science
Ryan Patterson, pre-physical therapy
Allen Taylor, information technology

Austin Community College

Selena Castro, criminal justice
Paige Garner, theater education
Matthew Hall, technology
Erin Hood, digital imaging/design
Henry Rhea, undecided
Taylor Shaw, undecided

Baylor

Adam Cammack, computer science
Matthew Gardner, engineering

Blinn College

Jenny Eason, kinesiology/exercise science
Megan Montgomery, nursing

Harding

Ashley Clement, nursing
Zachary Ellis, music/marketing
Michael Sansom, business
Zachary Strietelmeier, undecided
Jillian Wilson, nursing

Hillsdale College

Christopher Williams, poly sci/Amer. studies

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Marisol Hernandez, forensic psychology

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: John Alan Archer

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

Longtime Brentwooder a full-time disciple of Christ

Jacob **CARDENAS**
reporter

A person of courage has the special ability to change the lives around him. Evangelist Billy Graham once said, "Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."

On February 22, 1992, many were blessed by the birth of John Alan Archer. More specifically, Brentwood Christian was blessed by the birth of John Alan Archer.

"I was born here, dude," he often jokes, referring to the fact that he's attended Brentwood since pre-K.

But on a serious note, John Alan has impacted the lives of many of his friends through his unwavering faith in God, his trustworthiness, and his bold walk towards leadership. He has been described as unashamed to proclaim Christ as Lord, and his faithfulness has encouraged others in their spiritual walk. In other words, his courage is contagious.

"John Alan was one of the biggest deciding factors in my choice to get baptized," senior Alex Georgulas says.

For others, particularly among the girls, John Alan is known as the guy with open ears, encouraging words, and, as classmate Madison Dampier puts it, "the one guy I can always count on to open the door for me, like a true gentleman."

"He holds me accountable and encourages me in my walk with God," says senior Megan Montgomery. "He's truly a man of God and I see that in him. He's not afraid to let his light shine, and I really admire that."

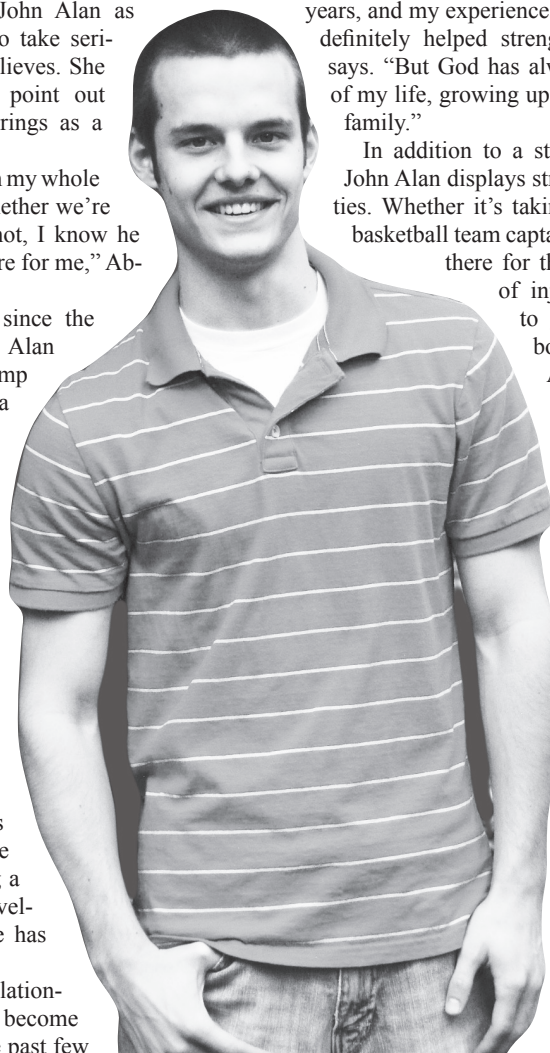
One of his closest friends, classmate Abbie

Boyd, describes John Alan as "an inspiration" to take seriously what she believes. She is also quick to point out the stability he brings as a friend.

"I've known him my whole entire life, and whether we're getting along or not, I know he will always be there for me," Abbie says.

Every summer since the fifth grade, John Alan has gone to Camp Blue Haven, a two-week-long Christian camp in New Mexico. The purpose of Blue Haven is to have students put aside all distractions of everyday life and focus on getting closer to God, while building edifying relationships. John Alan readily credits his experiences at Blue Haven for playing a major role in developing the faith he has today.

"I've felt my relationship with God become more real over the past few



years, and my experiences at Blue Haven have definitely helped strengthen my faith," he says. "But God has always been a big part of my life, growing up in a strong Christian family."

In addition to a strong, uplifting faith, John Alan displays strong leadership abilities. Whether it's taking his role as senior basketball team captain seriously by being

there for the team in the midst of injury, or stepping up to give the message in boys' chapel, John Alan willingly accepts leadership as his responsibility.

"John Alan is a natural born leader, and he's never swayed from that," junior Brian Peterson says. "In whatever it may be, whether basketball or leading songs, he sees it as his duty."

As a basketball coach David Peyton recalls a time, three years ago, when the team was running Lamar laps during off-season. Only a freshman, John Alan was the first to finish, but after running in to

get a quick drink of water, he came back out and ran alongside the last person running, encouraging him to the end.

"When I saw that, I saw the mark of a leader," Peyton says. "That's the greatest memory I have of him."

On the court, John Alan developed a reputation for being a scorer with textbook shooting form. Unfortunately, he only had the opportunity to play in six games his final season due to injuries. However, in the few games that he did play in, John Alan created lasting memories. For example, in the third game of the season he exploded with 17 first-quarter points, right before falling prey to an ankle injury that would force him to sit out the remaining three quarters of that game and half the season. Instead of complaining about how unlucky he was, he jokingly said, "And I was on my way to a 68-point game."

Besides basketball, John Alan loves singing a cappella and was in Encore for two years. Now he is part of a small group that performs once a year at Leadership Training for Christ in Dallas, and occasionally at Brentwood Oaks, his church family.

John Alan also places a lot of importance on his family. He unabashedly praises his sister, Amy, a BCS graduate ('08), for having the biggest influence in his life.

"She is my best friend," he says. "I respect her so much."

After graduating, John Alan plans to attend Abilene Christian University, where he will pursue a Bible degree. He hopes to one day use his major for a ministry in the church, where he will continue to lead, encourage, and edify the people around him.

Teachers publish 'Wit & Lit' to encourage writing

Lizzy **DUPOND**
reporter

Last summer, two Brentwood Christian English teachers were discussing an idea that would be any English teacher's dream. Craig Moore and Heather Hammock planned to start a literary magazine that would be open to all aspiring writers in the BCS junior high and high school.

That dream became a reality on May 14. After three weeks of rapidly collecting various students' writing contributions, the English department released the first Bear Wit and Lit Magazine just in time for Grandparents' Day.

The "Wit and Lit" is intended to be a semiannual collection of poetry, short stories, essays, or

similar literary compositions submitted by students. English teachers said they plan to print a new edition every year before Christmas and Grandparents' Day.

Members of the high school English department met at the beginning of April to discuss the details of the project. The half-page-sized

pamphlet would be covered by cardstock featuring a student's artwork on the cover, along with the magazine's full title, "Bear Wit and Lit: Brentwood Christian School Literary Magazine." Moore said a \$1 cost could be instituted next year to prevent students from nonchalantly discarding multiple copies, and "to have buyers attach some value to it."

The first magazine was compiled in the two weeks before Grandparents' Day. After it came out, Moore said he received very positive responses on it.

Hammock, the junior high English teacher, said she was impressed at how excited the younger students were about writing their stories. She said students were sharing ideas, working together, and drawing from family stories. The high school students, in turn, submitted several works they had written beforehand.

This year's edition featured 20 submissions—poems, short stories, and one essay.

"It was stressful and fun," said eighth-grader Kalena Noble, who submitted a poem about not being able to write poetry.

Among the details that teachers had discussed about the project was the proposition of having subject themes, although Moore said he hopes the magazine will be kept open.

He said that incidentally, a lot of the teachers' brainstorming went into the title; they thoroughly discussed every suggestion to prevent having a name that could be twisted into a bad joke. He also said that they will accept no

Haikus or limericks, unless students offer truly good ones; otherwise, the magazine might be filled with effortless submissions.

Moore said he wanted to give students a venue to explore their writing talents and to feel the "pride of printership." He noted that Brentwood has always been good at providing all sorts of venues for students to develop their talents in "drama, chorus, orchestra, and sports."

In the beginning, Moore was mostly concerned with finally getting the project into action.

"The first thing to do is get started," he said. He explained that once an activity gets launched, it is harder for it to break down, and that otherwise, the dream stays a dream and is never put into action.

"You know the expression: 'The journey of a thousand miles starts (Moore's characteristic dramatic pause) with the first step.'"



Pimentel retires after 28 years at BCS

Joseph KANG
reporter

Brentwood Christian teachers and many guests will honor Linda Pimentel, who is retiring after teaching at Brentwood for 28 years, with a retirement party in the BOCC courtyard at 7:30 p.m. on May 27.

The guests will enjoy a dinner in the church courtyard and a slide show with pictures of Pimentel throughout her years at BCS. Teacher Geri Archer said a surprise or two is also planned.

"Various faculty and staff members are working on different aspects of the evening as well," Archer said.

While Archer is in charge of planning the retirement party, she mentioned others who are playing key roles, such as Cynthia Miller, who is doing decorations, and Jerry Franklin, who will prepare the food.

According to Archer, the guests will be faculty and staff members, students and parents, alumni, and former teachers.

"Mrs. Pimentel has been making a life-changing difference in the lives of her students," BCS president Marquita Moss said. "If the movie 'It's a Wonderful Life' were rewritten to show what a different world Mrs. Pimentel has helped to create for the lives she has touched in this 28-year span, it would be an amazing and wonderful story."

Pimentel has two sons, both BCS graduates, and one daughter-in-law. She graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1973 and came to BCS in 1981. She taught Spanish and English, focusing in recent years on AP English for seniors.

In her "Philosophy of Education," Pimentel wrote: "Teachers in Christian schools must build relationships, treat students with compassion and love, and call them to be seekers of truth who 'hunger and thirst for righteousness.'"

Pimentel said she plans to stay very busy in a number of activities. First, she plans to spend more time with her mother who lives in East Texas and Louisiana. In addition, she is hoping to have some grandchildren in the next few years. She said she is really looking forward to the experience of being a grandmother.

Another plan of Pimentel's is to work alongside her friend Sharon Evans in her efforts to raise funds for Christian education. She will help Evans get the school uniforms project up and running, not only at BCS but in other Christian schools all over the country.

Pimentel also said she hopes to work on behalf of an orphanage in Peru. She said there are about 800 children in the orphanage at this time, and they need a great deal of help right now.

Pimentel said she finds it difficult to name just one or two favorite memories from her time at BCS.

"My memories of this very special place make up a kind of tapestry – lots of memories and mental pictures fitting together to make one beautiful picture," she said.

She began working at BCS when it opened at its current location. At that time, there were a lot fewer students, classrooms, and buildings.

"We were a small school, but we knew that this was going to be a very special place," she said. "We worked very hard together, trying to

make certain that the foundation upon which this program would be built was the one that God was directing."

Pimentel said she has fond memories of being with her students in class and sharing her love of literature with them "while trying to get them to see lessons of eternal significance at the same time." She also has humbling memories of having colleagues pray for her when she went through health problems.

"I have been so incredibly blessed by the people I have encountered here at BCS," she said. "Sometimes I can hardly believe the depths of this blessing. I am awed by it all!"

Pimentel offered words of encouragement for students and teachers alike: "Do not grow weary. The task of growing God's work here sometimes seems daunting. ... What seems to be a flaw in the design may actually turn out to be a crucial part of the beautiful whole. ... Rejoice and give thanks when you recognize the blessings He has poured out. Leave this school a better place because you have been here."



photo: Sandy Patterson

Et tu, Joelle? Senior Joelle Vargas poses to strike Linda Pimentel down, after the ancient Roman tradition of vanquishing bad teachers, while on the senior trip in March.

Academic, sports banquet split in two

Charles KIM
reporter

Each year, BCS has held an awards banquet to honor its high school students who have made excellent achievements in many different fields. However, the ceremony is going to be little different this year. It will be divided up into two different banquets: one for academic achievements and the other for athletics.

While most people have enjoyed it, the banquet has been criticized as being "too long, but too brief" by students, parents, and even school

officials. The banquet itself usually lasted longer than three and a half hours, but many agreed that it did not provide sufficient time for all deserving students to be honored for all their achievements.

According to athletic director Joseph Walker, having two separate banquets seems to resolve both problems. Walker said it will make each banquet shorter than the old one, but it will give enough time for each student to receive proper praise and honor. In fact, grades 5-8 have had an athletic banquet since the 1980s, and Walker said most would agree that seems

to have worked well.

"We think this will be great change that allows us to take more time to honor the students for all their hard work," Walker said.

This year's athletic banquet for elementary and junior high students was held in the Family Life Center on May 18, and the one for the high school students will be at same place on May 25.

The academic banquet for high school students will be held in the Westin Austin at the Domain on May 21.

Class of 2010 enrolls across the country

continued from page 3

Mary Hardin-Baylor
Kristen O'Dell, psychology
Joshua Porter, mass com./public relations

New York University
Charles Kim, psychology/int'l business

Northwestern Vista
Joelle Vargas, graphic design/business

Purdue
Alyssa Collins, entomology/forensics

Rutgers
Christine Park, pharmacy

St. Edwards University
Aracely Mora, criminal justice

Texas A&M University
Reagan Smith, business

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
Amanda Bailey, int. design/architecture

University of Chicago
Lizzy DuPond, psychology

University of North Texas
Trevor Atherton, business
Stephane Montgomery, marketing
Jackson Robertson, criminal justice

University of Texas-Arlington
Ben Kim, business/engineering
Laura Torres, nursing

University of Texas-Austin
Andrew Beach, electrical engineering
Lindsey Bernard, communication/music
Brian Lam, engineering through business
Rebekah Teeter, business undeclared
Stephen Yu, mathematics/education
Carlos Zaragoza, engineering

University of Texas-Dallas
Jacob Cardenas, engineering

University of Texas-San Antonio
Jamie Furrer, science/nursing
Caleb Geer, computer/info. sciences
Alex Georgulas, business international
Tyla Wells, education

Vanderbilt
Skylar Haws, biomedical engineering

Undecided
Zach Hildebrandt, undecided
Tommy McCaffety, undecided

Softball falls short; one year from greatness

taylor **SHAW**
reporter

The BCS softball team suffered a 5-2 loss in a must-win game against Corpus Christi John Paul II on Friday, April 30.

They followed up that loss with a 6-3 victory at home the following Monday, also against John Paul II.

"That was the best win I've had as a coach at Brentwood," softball coach Paul Sladek said.

BCS entered the first game against John Paul having to win both games against them to get a playoff spot. The first loss put them out of playoff contention, but the team still rallied in the second game, not allowing John Paul to score until the fifth inning.

Members of the team were disappointed but remained positive about the way the season ended.

"We almost made playoffs, and even though we didn't, I'm still proud of the team this year because we improved a lot throughout the season," senior Katie Miertschin said.

Several of the team members were awarded spots on the all-district teams. Junior Somare Peyton and Miertschin both made second-team all-district, while sophomore Sydney Jung and freshman Lanae Hollingsworth were honorable mentions.

Sladek said he was happy with the way the girls played at the end of the season and was optimistic about the future of softball at Brentwood.

"I expect a state championship next year, and that's completely true," he said.

Sladek also said he is excited because he has a lot of younger students in elementary who are already playing on teams together, and he thinks they can contribute to the team at Brentwood a lot in the future.



photo: Bear Tracks

Lean into it Sophomore Kailey Rodden prepares to make a play at first base in game at Balcones, the girls' home field.

BCS girls place high

Brunson, Wells excel at state track meet

ryan **BRUNSON**
reporter

Sophomore Brittany Brunson finished second in the 1600 meters and fourth in the 3200, and senior Tyla Wells placed fourth in discus, as both girls represented BCS at the TAPPS state track meet on May 7-8 in Waco.

Wells threw the discus 97-9, beating out her fifth-place opponent by merely an inch. She advanced to the state meet by taking first place at the district meet and second at regionals.

Brunson beat a personal record with a time of 12:21 in the 3200 on Friday. The next day she came close to her personal best in the 1600 with a time of 5:35. The event was won by a senior from Incarnate Word with a time of 5:29.

Brunson, who focuses intently on the mental half of running, said that she too often psyches herself out before each race, nearly convincing herself that she will finish in last place. She prepares by pep-talking herself before the race.

"I realized I could've gotten first," she said. "I need to be more encouraging and tell myself that 'your body can handle ten times what your mind thinks it can.'" Then she added, "And you'll pass out before you die."

The district meet took place at San Antonio

Christian High School on April 23. The girls' team placed fifth overall and the boys took seventh. Senior Ashley Clement, junior Alyssa Legband, Brunson, and freshman Morgan Vandygrieff came in third in the 4x400 relay, qualifying for regionals behind SACS and Incarnate Word. Legband, freshman Priscilla Glenn, freshman Serena George, and sophomore Shannon Lesko qualified in the 4x200 by placing third.

Brunson placed second in district with her time of 5:37 in the 1600 and third in the 3200 in 12:31.

Other regional qualifiers were freshman Steven Bailey in pole vault, freshman Michelle Dembosky in shot put, and Glenn in the 300 meter hurdles.

In all, nine girls and Bailey qualified for the regional competition at AWTY International in Houston on April 30. Only Brunson and Wells advanced to state by placing in the top four.

Coach Walker said he was proud of his team's effort.

"I don't think I've ever had a team consistently perform at their highest levels the last three to four weeks," he said. "That is something I will treasure from this year and from these kids. They made the absolute most of the talent they had and I was very proud of them."



photo: David Brunson

Super star Sophomore Brittany Brunson (second from right) sprints the final portion of the 1600 meters at the state meet May 8 in Waco. Brunson finished second, in 5:35. Senior Tyla Wells was the Bears' other state participant, and she took fourth in discus.

Families share in memories

continued from page 1

going out to lunch.

"My grandparents always take me to lunch at Red Lobster, and then we go shopping," freshman Courtney Flores said.

This day is also a time of reflection for many students about time spent with their grandparents. After the fourth-graders' play, each of them stood up and said one way their grandparents had blessed them.

"My grandparents have blessed me by making me special treats like cinnamon rolls," fourth-grader Derek Lilya said.

Older students were also eager to share memories.

"When I was little my grandparents would take me to McDonald's, and I would get a Happy Meal," sophomore Megan Gum said. "Then we would get ice cream and go to the park."

In the evening the grandparents were invited to attend to the third annual "Way off Broadway: An Evening with the Fine Arts." This included a performance of the TCSIT Grand Champion One-Act Play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," some humorous and dramatic duets and interpretations, Encore, Jazz Band, and a display of art pieces.

Brunson gets to round two at state tennis

connor **SCHIESZ**
reporter

Junior Ryan Brunson was eliminated in the second round by a player from Dallas Lutheran South at the TAPPS 4A tennis state tournament on April 23 at the Waco Tennis Center.

Brunson won his first-round match against Chad Adams from Midland Christian with scores of 6-1 and 7-5. It was the second year in a row he beat a Midland Christian player in the first round.

The second round was a different story, as Brunson was unexpectedly put up against the first-seed player, Stuart Kenyon from Lutheran South, and lost the match 6-0, 6-0.

"I wasn't mentally prepared or determined to keep fighting," Brunson said.

According to Brunson, the tournament organizers received calls from coaches complaining that their players were matched unfairly, and the draw was then rearranged.

Brunson expected Kenyon to win the whole tournament, but he lost in the third round to Sean Rodriguez from Incarnate Word.

Brunson continues to compete in the USTA Tennis League, where he plays about two tournaments a month.

Armstrong best in state

continued from page 1

en (sixth in Number Sense 4-5), sixth-grader Brendan Hollaway (fourth in Mathematics 6), seventh-grader Haley Hutson (sixth in Impromptu Speaking 7-8), and seventh-grader Michael Lam (sixth in Mathematics 7).

Of about 800 students who attended, a total of 281 earned points at PSIA state. Out of the ten highest individual point earners, Brentwood had four. Earning more points than anyone else in state was Armstrong, with a total of 50 points. Ho was fourth with 30 points; Tiara Allen was ninth with 27 points; and her brother Luke was tenth with 26 points.

"I think it was an indication, both of the quality of education at BCS and of the hard work of the students and the outstanding support of their parents," Dr. Weed said.

Without the help of many family members, Dr. Weed said, BCS would not have been nearly as successful. Don and Daniel Gardner both helped in the tab room all day; David Armstrong directed a math event; Daphne Allen graded music memory; and Aaron Ho's dad graded number sense.

On May 20, PSIA director Dr. Patricia Walters came to Austin to present the second-place trophy to Brentwood Christian right after all-school chapel.

'Angels' rally for Ashton

megan **MONACELLI**
sports editor

With paper angels pinned to their shirts and flapping in the wind under an overcast sky, familiar Brentwood faces walked amongst climbing monkeys, colorful birds, and ferocious cats.

A team of 29 BCS faculty, staff, students, and parents known as "Ashton's Angels" gathered May 8 at the Austin Zoo to participate in the national cystic fibrosis fundraiser Great Strides. Sixth-grade teacher Michelle Mohrmann coordinated the BCS team because a student of hers, Ashton Myers, has cystic fibrosis.

"It was a perfect day for walking," Mohrmann said.

Great Strides is the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's largest and most successful fundraising event, and "Ashton's Angels" raised \$1,200, beating their goal by \$200. The money raised through this 5K walk goes toward cystic fibrosis programs that support research, care, and education.

Talk of how to be of service to the community started last fall for Mohrmann's sixth-grade

class.

"I wanted to teach the class the importance of serving our school and community," Mohrmann said.

To help encourage sponsorship, teachers participated in a "Jeans for Genes" day Friday, April 30. Teachers and staff who donated at least \$3 were able to wear jeans to school. According to Mohrmann, there was excellent participation, and \$181.50 was raised. The sixth grade had their own "Jeans for Genes" day Friday, May 7. Students who donated at least \$1 were able to wear jeans, and \$98 dollars was raised.

Mohrmann said she wanted to bring awareness of the disease to BCS and to help a good cause.

"I hope people will learn more about cystic fibrosis and the need to help fund research for treatments and a cure," Mohrmann said.

Cystic fibrosis is the most prevalent genetic disease in the U.S. This terminal disease impairs respiratory and digestive functions, which make simple tasks such as eating and breathing a challenge. The average age of death for people diagnosed with this disease is 37.



photo: Sandy Patterson

Great Striders Many parents, teachers, and students walked in the cystic fibrosis Great Strides fundraiser May 8 at the Austin Zoo. Their participation raised \$1,200.

Fit faculty finds finality

matthew **ARCHER**
reporter

It is now the end of the year, and with that comes the end of the first-ever faculty fitness initiative.

Last August Brentwood employees began a "friendly competition" to help encourage each other to live healthier lifestyles. The faculty and staff were split into eight teams of about eight members each, and every week they could earn points by doing things like exercising, eating five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, and not eating unhealthy snacks.

Every week also included opportunities to earn bonus points by doing things like drinking at least six glasses of water a day, not eating fast food, or getting at least seven hours of sleep. Some weeks the bonus was more creative, like parking far away from school or other destinations and walking the rest of the way.

Each Thursday the points were totaled and the team with the highest average was given the coveted golden apple.

"It started out as a fake apple that was gold, but Mrs. (Mary Kay) Clark made apple magnets that get passed around every week to the team that gets the most points," said secondary librarian Tere Hager, who along with teacher Jonathan Weed created the program.

The overall winner was the team captained by kindergarten teacher Linda Allen. After losing the top spot to April Hejl's team several weeks ago, a late surge in the last week helped give them the victory. One team member said that Allen did a great job of encouraging them

every step of the way.

According to some teachers, the program still needs to have a few problems worked out. Some employees have complained about keeping track of the points, saying that it just adds more work for them. Hager and Weed said next year they hope to change the format by possibly just counting one category a week and rotating which category will be counted.

For the most part though, the initiative has been considered a success.

"At the beginning I was a little irritated by keeping track of all the points," one teacher said. "However, it's been a good for me: I have lost around 10 to 12 pounds."

The fitness initiative began in part as a possible way to lower insurance costs. According to Weed, high rates have caused frustration among teachers so they created this system to help encourage people to become healthier.

The quickest way to lower insurance rates might come through the Mayor's Fitness Council certification program. Represented by Hager and Weed, BCS joined the program last year, and they said this year's friendly competition has helped with by fulfilling some of the requirements for certification. Hager said the council met on May 14, and they should know within a few weeks if they have been approved.

Weed said the main goal, however, has been to help teachers become better leaders physically.

"Since we are here to lead the students, we should not just do it spiritually and academically. We should also be leaders to students in physical health," Weed said.

Parker days are numbered

mike **LEE**
reporter

The long-held monopoly of Parker Uniform will end next fall, as BCS has made a new partnership with manufacturing company CFj, adding new school uniforms.

A company based in Fort Worth, CFj manufactures various products, ranging from jewelry and crystal to chocolate. According to elementary teacher Geri Archer, who is the contact person for the partnership with CFj, the benefit will extend beyond a few more dressing options.

First of all, because CFj has set the partnership as non-profit venture on the company's part, BCS will be able to get the uniforms at a discount. Also, direct partnership with the factory eliminates the money that goes to retail stores like Parker, the school's current uniform provider. Archer also said that CFj is using the same factory that manufactures current Parker uniforms, allowing the same quality of uniforms at a discounted price.

BCS obtained the partnership with CFj thanks to retiring English teacher Linda Pimentel, who is a friend of CFj's founder, Sharon Evans. According to a letter sent to BCS families last month by president Marquita Moss, Pimentel was discussing retirement plans with Evans last year when Evans

decided to honor Pimentel's 30-plus years of commitment to education, including 28 at BCS. Evans suggested financially assisting the school with new uniforms.

"Sharon Evans is an amazing woman," Archer said. "God has richly blessed her, and out of the blessings she has received she is offering something to us that will honor her friend and bless BCS and Christian education for many years to come."

The new uniforms will be made more to the specification of BCS, and many will bear the BCS crest. While some of the new items will look similar to the current Parker uniforms, others will be very different, Archer said. Also, some of the new uniforms will be available in three BCS colors: green, white, and black.

The introduction of new uniforms has elicited a generally favorable response from the student body. Although some of the older students said they are disappointed to see the change right before their graduation, several students have complained about the way their shirts and shorts fit, and they hope that the new uniforms can fix the problem.

Other students, like sophomore EJ Sung, are just happy to be free from the "obligation" of Parker Uniforms.

"I'm glad that I don't have to wear Parkers every day," he said.

Construction to start soon

matthew **ONABAJO**
reporter

Construction on the Center for Science and the Arts building will possibly start as early as June 7, according to the architect of the project, who also said the work could be delayed if events on the schedule do not go as planned.

According to BCS president Marquita Moss, the architect for the building is Danze & Davis, and the contractor is Zapalac/Reed. Both firms are located in Austin and have been used by Brentwood for previous jobs.

Through April, \$3,757,509 has been raised for the building, according to Brentwood Christian's business manager James Cogburn. The money has come through individual donations as well as the "Take a Seat" campaign.

According to development committee chair Fred Strietelmeier, BCS has \$742,491 yet to raise to reach its \$4.5-million goal.

Right now, school officials say the only obstacles are the negotiation for the construction loan and getting the city permit.

"We have received approval from the Brentwood Oaks church elders and are moving forward toward construction," Moss said. "Getting a construction loan involves such steps as getting an environmental study and an

appraisal of the property completed. Getting the permit involves getting the construction detail drawings completed and to the city. We have done that and are waiting for the city to make a decision."

The development committee is responsible to the rest of the school board for the oversight of fundraising and construction projects of the school. Along with Strietelmeier, the committee includes Glenn Davis, Brian Jackson, and Pete Howell. According to Cogburn, the committee plans to continue raising money with the "Take a Seat" campaign, and to encourage individuals to make donations.

Moss said the new building will expand the science program to make room for more labs, solve conflicting rehearsal problems that clash with events in the Family Life Center, create a better theater that will have a larger stage with better acoustics, have band and choir rooms built for their respective needs, and free up classroom space for upgrades and renovations.

"We will have more facilities that will enable us to even more effectively pursue the school's mission, which includes helping students to identify their God-given talents for lives of Christian leadership and service," Moss said.

Band, choir give final show

steven **BAILEY**
reporter

You know it must be the Brentwood Christian band when you walk into a concert and the musicians are wearing masks while playing "Phantom of the Opera."

BCS bands held their all-level spring concert on April 22, a week before the choirs had their turn on April 29.

The band program was kicked off by the elementary beginning band; following their performance, the high school jazz band played the old BCS favorite "Dirty Dozen."

Next, the elementary advanced band performed three songs, including a Ray Charles hit. Two high school band ensembles entertained before the junior high played their set.

The high school jazz band returned, featuring freshman clarinetist Travis Clark, before the high school band closed the evening.

A week later, the choirs performed, beginning with Encore's "Satisfy My Soul," featuring senior Alex Georgulas. Elementary then performed before Encore returned with "Closer," with senior Zach Strietelmeier soloing.

Next, the middle school choir (grades 6-8) performed before Encore sang "I Am More," with senior soloist Stephane Montgomery.

After the junior high choir and several small ensembles, the high school choir took the stage; they were followed by Encore singing an old favorite, "Prayer of the Children." To close the night, all choirs sang "There's a Hero," followed by "The Lord Bless You and Keep You."

Field day tradition continues

elena **BATLLE**
reporter

Children are running everywhere and tripping on one another in their lines to get as fast as they can to their events. Teachers are shushing them, yet secretly revealing little, amused smiles. Other kids are just laughing with their friends and wondering what prize they will get for this event and that.

These are the sights and sounds of Field Day. Kindergarten through second grade had their chance on May 7, and grades 3-5 enjoyed the day on April 30.

"The events are more competitive (in grades

3-5), whereas kindergarten through second is more of a 'everybody gets to do it,'" P.E. coach Paul Sladek said.

On both Field Days, about 50-60 parents, relatives, and friends of the students attended. The younger students' day, on May 7, included some of high school and parent volunteers.

After events were over, the kindergarten enjoyed a "book-in" in their classrooms after lunch.

At the older students' Field Day, the sixth-graders volunteered as a service project for the school, according to sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart.

Junior/Senior masquerade

Masked upper classmen make memories at formal

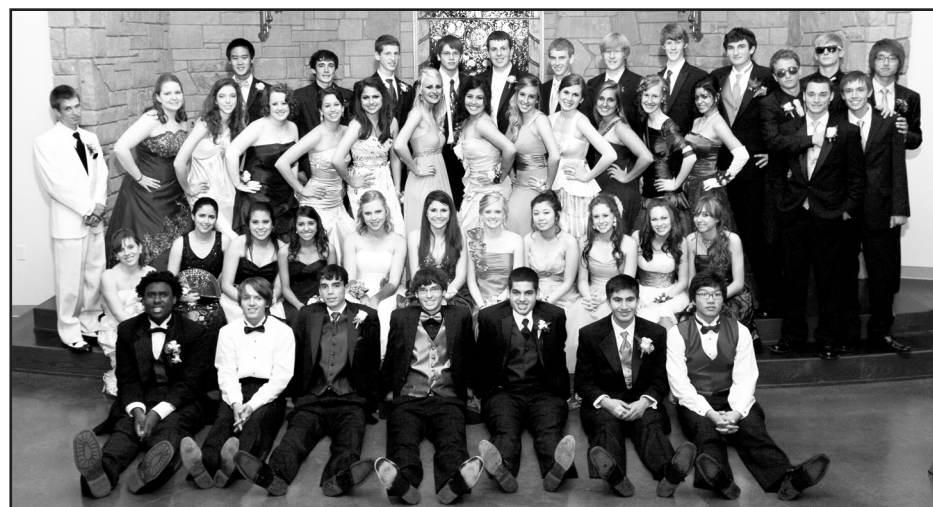


photo: Alyssa Collins

Lords and ladies Seniors attending this year's Junior/Senior formal pose inside Villa St. Clair, where they enjoyed good food and friendship.

kailey **RODDEN**
reporter

BCS students checking Facebook three weeks ago should have noticed the many pictures of girls in bright fancy dresses and boys in suits and tuxedos.

Brentwood's annual Junior/Senior Formal was Saturday, May 1, at Villa St. Clair. Students and faculty were entertained during the masquerade-themed formal with a slide show of the attending seniors and a harp player while being served food. After the formal, students dressed down for the after party, which was also at the villa, an elegant and spacious reception hall that hosts many large weddings each year. It is owned by the Sinclair family, who has a current BCS student and two graduates.

"We chose Villa St. Clair because we knew they had experience with large events, and we knew they'd be professional and elegant," junior class president Ryan Brunson said.

After arriving at the scenic villa, the 107 students and faculty members were ushered into the courtyard, where hors d'oeuvres and lemonade were served by 2009 graduates Hannah Sinclair, Carrie Thomas, and Catherine Marler. At about 7 p.m., everyone was brought inside the ballroom to the sound of Suzanne Ballam, the harp player, serenading the guests as they sat down.

After teacher Mel Witcher formally opened

Junior/Senior with a prayer, students were brought by table to the buffet line. Steamed vegetables, hot rolls, and a chicken plate was the main entrée, and chef-cooked pasta was also available to eat. For dessert, assortments of different cakes were available: chocolate with chocolate icing, vanilla with vanilla icing, and strawberry with strawberry icing.

"The chicken was really good," junior Brandon Jones said. "Everything was very filling and the pasta blew my mind!"

When everyone had their fill of delectable food, a slide show was presented to honor the seniors. "Oooohs" and "awwwwws" were heard every 10 seconds as a picture of a baby would pop up, followed by a present-day photo of the senior. After the slide show finished, the junior class officers went up and presented a gift to the attending seniors: a painted black mask and a picture of the senior class.

The special event was planned and organized by the junior class officers: president Brunson, vice president Polly Park, secretary Tina Grogan, treasurer Diem Ho, historian Alison Riedesel, and StuCo representative Mariah Robinson. Class sponsors are Cissy Johnson and Michele Broadway.

"I had an amazing time," senior Brady Johnson said. "It was really enjoyable and easy going. The food was slammin'! It was an overall great time to unify with the high school one last time."

Rotich baby begins race of life

levi **MATUS**
reporter

Coach Jacob Rotich and his wife, former BCS teacher Hellen Rotich, welcomed a son, Jonathan Kipnam Rotich, on Thursday, May 6. After a C-section delivery, the baby weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces, and was 20½ inches long.

Rotich said both Hellen and Jonathan are doing well.

"It's exciting," Rotich said. "(Being a father)

changes your whole life and the way you think about things."

Jonathan will share his middle name with his great-grandfather. When Rotich asked his father to select a middle name for Jonathan, he picked "Kipnam," which means "touch" in Kalenjin.

Since the family came home from the hospital, Rotich has been busy keeping the school's computers working while handling added responsibilities at home.

"I am getting sleep, but not all of the night," Rotich said.