



IN SHORT

StuCo election results

President: Bailey Hardin
 Vice president: Jackson Graessle
 Secretary: Patti White
 Treasurer: Jackson Hager
 Historian: Elena Batlle
 Senior class rep: Sydney Jung
 Junior class rep: Rachel Orick
 Sophomore class rep: Bryce Morin
 Freshman class rep: Tyler Clark

Violinist earns honor

Eighth-grader Mia Dedear and former BCS classmate Grace Song were given the honor of playing violin in the Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, May 1. This is a group of mainly high school musicians, and it is rare for eighth graders to be selected for the orchestra. The final piece of their performance was directed by Maestro Peter Bay of the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

Jazz Under the Lights

The jazz band held its annual "Jazz Under the Stars" fundraiser on Thursday night, May 12. It was a chance for students to slow down, enjoy coffee, punch, and desserts, and listen to relaxing music. Due to rainy weather earlier in the day, the event was held in the FLC, which had lights strung in the rafters.

New ads on 105.9-FM

As part of a new marketing plan BCS is making radio ads for The Spirit 105.9-FM. In a recent survey students were asked to finish the sentence, "My favorite thing about Brentwood is – ." Students whose responses are selected will travel to the radio station with admissions directors Karla Smith and Kimberly McLain to record the new commercial.

BCS takes top prize in PSIA state meet

priscilla **GLENN**
 reporter

Brentwood Christian brought home the first-place trophy in the middle school division at the PSIA state tournament, 59 points ahead of the second-place school, on April 30.

At the event, which took place in Fort Worth at Texas Christian University, seventh-grader Andrew Armstrong earned 45 points for BCS by placing first in all three of his math events.

PSIA coordinator Kay Taylor announced in chapel the next week that BCS had also earned the most points overall – including elementary competitors – out of the 253 schools that compete in PSIA, even though there was no official "overall" winner.

The 26 junior high and elementary students who represented BCS after qualifying at the district meet on March 5, left on Friday, April 29, to compete at state. Before the meet, elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed said

she had had high hopes for this year as she expected "the middle school team to place at least in the top five, maybe top two." Last year the middle school team placed second. This year, they ended the tournament with 156 points, and with 12 points from the elementary, this brought the team total to 168 points, which is 3.67 points ahead of Austin St. Theresa's, the second-place school.

see **BCS**, page 7

Grandparents receive honor, enjoy activities

elena **BATLLE**
 reporter

Some ears, many through hearing aids, pick up the sounds of musical voices floating in and out of the auditorium. There are some tears, laughs, and hugs, even much excitement in people's voices while they talk about students' projects on display, and how great a duet performance was. This can only mean that grandparents have populated most of BCS again for the 29th annual Grandparents' Day.

"We want to honor grandparents," school president Marquita Moss said before the event. "Many of them pay the tuition for their grandchildren. Many of them serve as volunteers here at school."

Friday, May 6, began with breakfast served to about 400 grandparents in the FLC. One of the main attractions of that morning was the vocal program directed by music teacher Sondra Strietelmeier and choir teacher Missy Weaver. As tradition goes, kindergarten through fourth grade dressed up in costumes and sang songs related to their outfits. Fifth through eighth

see **GRANDPARENTS**, page 8



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Mission Possible Senior NHS member David Ko digs up some dirt as part of a service day sponsored by the NHS on May 13. Society members chose from among several service opportunities, including Mission Possible, a ministry that builds homes.

Internationals attracted to BCS reputation

jenny **NGUYEN**
 reporter

Brentwood Christian currently has 35 foreign students in secondary, including two from Brazil, 21 from Korea, two from Mexico, one from Taiwan, two from Thailand, and seven from Vietnam.

So how can Brentwood attract so many foreigners? Nancy Tindel, the school's registrar, said Brentwood's outstanding reputation attracts a lot of international students. After years of working with new students and issuing the government-required forms, she said the school provides what parents and students look for:

a positive Christian environment along with excellent academic standards. She said factors such as good college preparatory programs, and an especially high percentage of students entering good universities, are highly considered.

Another crucial factor is Brentwood's competitive and affordable tuition. The school's current tuition for a high school student is \$6,050, compared to an average of about \$10,000 for other local private schools.

"We are a kind of paradox," BCS director of development Brandon Tatum said. "We offer 'elite'-school quality with a tuition that opens our doors to mainstream families."

This is especially significant for international

students, who have to pay full tuition before school starts because the school has to save the students' positions. Native students can pay in divided payment plans throughout the year.

Foreign students come to America for a variety of reasons, but most come for the many universities and career paths.

"America has better variety of majors in its universities," said senior Diem Ho, who moved to America in eighth grade. "U.S. has fine arts and such while the Vietnamese education system seems to focus on science and math only."

Senior Mike Lee, a Korean who has been

see **FOREIGN**, page 5

Let me be Franco: Carlos Franco

Departing student issues heartfelt “gracias”

It’s not hard to forget how fast time can pass by without us even noticing it. I feel like the day I arrived at Brentwood Christian was just yesterday – the excitement of living in a new country and studying in a new school, as well as the nerves of the unknown, new rules, new studying subjects, and new culture.

I got to admit that at the beginning of this year, I hated this school. I preferred my past school at Mexico, but I came to realize that every time you change schools, you pass through three stages: hatred, putting up with it, and loving it so much you don’t want to go away.

During my stay in Brentwood I was able to notice various differences from schools in Mexico. For example, the way of teaching in Mexico is far stricter. Many of the actions of students during class here could get you kicked out of the classroom there, like sleeping, eating, talking while the teacher is talking, or not working. But that doesn’t have to be necessarily bad; the teaching style in the U.S. creates an ambience of respect and coexistence between students and teachers, something that would be considered rare in Mexico.

The first thing I noticed when I entered Brentwood was the high morale, and respect not only for the teacher but for the students, compared to the surface, forced respect shown

to teachers in Mexican schools. There, we are forced to “respect” the teachers, but among students we are showing constant signs of disrespect toward them. Here it was a new concept for me to be able to create friendships so easily, even with teachers, and to have the freedom to behave in such a casual way. I even remember thinking, “There are some students in this school whose attitude of reckless superiority wouldn’t let them survive one day in my old school.” I ended up enjoying this attitude in my classes, mainly because it created interesting discussion and because it was fun to hear them talk sometimes about subjects they didn’t really know as if they did.

One thing I wasn’t so fond of is the preconceived racial precepts I encountered. For example, do you know how many times people made fun of me because I sometimes use sunblock? They have the idea that Mexicans cannot get sunburned. I advise you, if you are one of them, to change this kind of thinking and get informed, otherwise you can end up looking ignorant. Another example was that by being a Mexican some thought I had to be in some kind of gang, and be in constant interaction with drugs or weapons. Let me tell you, the situation in Mexico is not as you might imagine it. I have never seen drugs in my life, nor touched an actual weapon. I don’t belong to any gang, and I assure you that most, if not all, of my friends in Mexico haven’t either.

I think America is a very organized place to live. Everything is well regulated, and the security level is excellent, which I like very much. But I think there is a general lack of social attention. What I saw this year was that after school “social life” practically disappears; nobody sees each other outside school, with some exceptions on the weekends. I blame part of this to distances in Austin – it is neither practical nor cheap to travel 20 miles to your friend’s house just to visit him or her.

I was able to notice cultural differences in social interaction. For example, when I tried to hang out with friends I had to tell them with almost four days of anticipation. It is also frowned upon to arrive unexpected to somebody’s house, something I was very used to doing in Mexico.

This year has also shaped me in an international aspect. When I lived in Mexico, if you asked me where Korea or Vietnam was, I wouldn’t have been able to tell you exactly. I knew they were in Asia, but I never had a real reason to notice them above other countries nearby. I also realize the importance of languages as a way to communicate with other cultures more in depth.

This has been an unforgettable experience for me. My sister and I will cherish the memories made at this school, and I would totally recommend this experience to friends in Mexico. If I was able to go back in time, I think there is nothing I would change; every single part of the experience was valuable to me.

I want to thank the teachers for teaching me no different from the way other students are taught, and for their patience at the beginning of the year. I know most of you gave your best for helping me have an enjoyable year. For teachers that didn’t like me so much, I got to realize it might have been my fault.

I want to say thanks to everyone I met, especially to Bryan Williams, who was the first person to give me his hand and was always there when I needed help. Thanks also to the Korean and Vietnam guys who gave me hilarious times.

Gracias por ayudarme a hacer esta experiencia una experiencia inolvidable, les deseo lo mejor, espero volverlos a ver y doy gracias por la amabilidad y amistad que me brindaron. Brentwood Christian es ahora parte de mi vida. Si alguna vez llegan a ir a México avisenme y espero hayan tenido buenos tiempos conmigo y nos veremos luego. Gracias.

Megan’s Musings: Megan Monacelli

A new dawn, a new editor-in-chief

Change is around the corner as we wrap up this school year and embark upon adventures of trips, sleep, and swimming that the summer holds. We must sneak in the dreaded summer reading in the nooks and crannies of our fun.

The current seniors excitedly await their graduation and prepare to step into the world of college and the freedom that comes with it. They will actually have to do their own laundry and wake up to their alarm instead of relying on their parents’ final wake-up call.

This year’s fifth and sixth graders will seek new identity in middle school, and the fall musical, “The Sound of Music,” a classic, will debut in the new arts and sciences building that we’ve all witnessed go up this year.

New StuCo members will plan events to spice up the next school year, and a new Encore will dig into the hearts of listeners, encouraging their audience and praising His name.

And in the spirit of change, or maybe just because it’s school, new words will inevitably surround your academic world. Words in textbooks, lectures, conversations at the lunch

table and on the merry-go-round; scientific terms, vocabulary words, and even words associated with numbers will saturate your day-to-day life.

So, in the midst of change and newness, to where will the Bear Facts float?

Distinct changes could grace the pages and delight your eyes when reporters interrupt your classes to pass out the next issue. Games may temporarily suspend your reading as you keep up on the events at Brentwood and learn more about teachers and seniors – a chance for you to have a hand in the pages. And finally, you, the reader and BCS student, may be reflected through these changes.

Constants will be kept, however. Sports headlines will still tell of the winning seasons, features will still give you a glimpse into the lives of seniors and teachers, and hidden, or blatantly staring back at you on the editorial page, will be ideas that could brighten your day with a dose of laughter, or spark thought with a spoonful of different viewpoints.

Listen to Lee: Mike Lee

Christian living means more than going to church

We live in a century when technology has made many things in our lives easier. However, we perhaps also live with a belief that absolutely everything in this century is easier – or should be so. Sometimes, we want our faith to be easier too.

For some Christians, the cross is no longer a burden that they carry on their shoulders, but an ornament they wear around their necks. For some others – well, they simply forget about the cross.

But not completely – so they can still consider themselves Christians. They store their crosses deep within their hearts and lock them away. They carry their crosses only on two occasions: Sundays, and when they feel their lives are in danger and want to make sure they wake up in heaven if they actually die. These Christians, for whom the cross has become a mere tool, are sometimes called “Sunday Christians.”

“Sunday Christians” is not an abstract idea that exists only in the sermons of pastors. In fact, the most stunning of my experiences with Sunday Christians was from my pastor, who also was my guardian for a year. Because I lived with him, I knew him both as a pastor and as a person. One of the most memorable sermons he delivered was on Ephesians 4:26 – “Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.” It was memorable not only because of the potency with which he delivered the message, but also because he did not live up to it.

What happened was this. Days after the memorable sermon, the pastor and I had an argument in late evening. The friction tested the emotion of both of us, and I was so agitated that I could not sleep. I was angry at him, so I kept thinking about him. The upshot of being angry at my pastor was, somewhat ironically, remembering his sermon from Sunday, about Ephesians 4:26. I was absorbed by a wave of shame, because I realized how easily I had forgotten the verse that touched me. So I prayed, found peace, and slept, imagining a warm and fuzzy reconciliation with the pastor in the morning – that never came.

Of course, there came the following day, and so did the following morning. But I sensed that something had gone wrong. I saw it in the pastor’s aggressive eyes and heard it in his murmur with which he responded to my “good morning.” He was still angry. Then he officially confirmed his anger during morning Bible reading, in an extended and bitter rant blaming me for arguing with a pastor, and declaring my punishment. He had been gritting his teeth overnight. I would have argued back, but I was completely caught off guard.

But I am rather glad I didn’t fight back. Now, I do not wish to direct my rant at his hypocrisy, nor point my finger at him. I’d rather point out the fact that even the servant of God can be vulnerable and forget about the cross, so who are we to say we are safe?

see WWJD, page 5

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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The Bear Facts is available online at
www.brentwoodchristian.org.

Murder mystery entertains at Jr/Sr to mixed reactions

carter **BOYD**
reporter

It was late evening, and guests milled about at a wealthy woman's birthday party, enjoying the formal dinner in peace, until gunshots erupted from the hallway. A man had been shot by a cap gun and pretended to die. Then it was up to a room full of well-dressed high school students to determine which of the five eccentric suspects, all pleading innocent, was responsible ... and to do so while practicing formal etiquette.

Brentwood Christian School's 2011 Junior/Senior Formal took place on Friday, April 29, at the Bella Notte in downtown Round Rock. Students began arriving at 6 p.m. to a decorated receiving room and a fun photo booth featuring various costumes in keeping with the theme of the evening: "Old Hollywood." Attendees quenched their thirst from a bowl of punch while waiting for their peers to arrive. When the little room was full to overflowing, the doors opened to reveal the main dining room, elegantly decorated. Guests munched on what many would call undersized meals of pasta with sauce and chicken or meatballs, then proceeded to enjoy variously flavored cakes, all the while

witnessing a surprise.

While dining, guests were treated to a murder mystery. The officers for the Class of 2012 hired an entertainment group that specializes in dinner parties to perform at the formal. This marks the first time Junior/Senior has featured a theatrical performance as the night's entertainment. The theatre group performed a murder mystery in three acts, during each course, telling the story of an unfortunate accountant murdered by his boss' wife. Unexpected and loud, the evening's entertainment was not universally well received.

"I can see how, from their point of view, someone might have been responsible for the man's death," senior James Rambin said about the murder mystery. "But personally, I think his bad acting killed him."

After a senior slide show put together by the senior class officers, the formal wound down and officially closed. Students exited the main dining room, but only temporarily. A non-BCS-sponsored after-party occurred at the venue immediately following the event, which was planned by junior Shannon Lesko's mother and hosted by parents of juniors Kailey Rodden and Laura Combs, along with other parents. The event staff cleared the tables, a DJ set up a sound

system, and a fun time was had. Most students attended the after-party, though some chose to head home and watch movies or congregate at nearby fast food establishments instead.

"Diane Lesko was wonderful and made the whole thing possible," parent Tara Rodden said

see **JR/SR**, page 7



photos: Carter Boyd

Strike a pose A group of sophomores and juniors take a photo at "the photobooth" which allowed attendees to dress up and take unique photographs.

Forty seniors conclude high school careers, get ready for college

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

Each generation is slightly changed from the last, and each accomplishes different feats. Every generation has left its mark on the world, and each will take a different path to achieve that legacy.

This year's BCS seniors, too, have left their marks and are taking a step on the path to accomplishing their legacy. In past years many classes have sent large numbers of graduates to ACU, Harding, or other Christian universities; for example, the Class of 2010 sent 17 grads – or 31 percent of the class – to Christian universities. The Class of 2011, however, will send only seven to Christian schools.

All but five of the graduating seniors are staying within the boundaries of the state of Texas. Of the 40 seniors, 21 will be attending either Texas A&M University, University of Texas-San Antonio, Texas State University, or University of North Texas.

A popular major for BCS graduates over the last few years has been engineering, and the trend continues this year with six seniors majoring in engineering. Last year five graduates pursued a degree in nursing, while this year no one is going into the nursing field.

Seniors pick their colleges and majors for different reasons. Some choose based on the fact that relatives or friends went to school there or majored in that field; others have known what they wanted to do all their lives. Somare Peyton's cousins forced her to fill out an application for Lubbock Christian, and she ended up choosing that school. Others visited the campus before they knew it was the one.


"I went to an Honors Symposium (at Harding) last summer and fell in love with the campus," Mandy Wiles said.

Some seniors have put a lot of thought and prayer into their decisions of school and major. Patrick Carlin decided to go to a seminary so that he could be a priest. Others pick a major they are interested in but do not know exactly

what to do, and some find their calling without intending too.

















"My friend's dad is a dentist, and I went and watched him and fell in love with it," Brett Withem said.

Some students have found new interests while investigating possible majors. Levi Matus originally considered architecture, but after attending a Visualization demonstration, he found that game design piqued his interest.



CLASS OF 2011

Colleges and Majors

 <p>Abilene Christian University Garrett Burkhart, criminal justice</p>	 <p>Southwestern University Matt Krall, computer-related</p>	 <p>University of Southern California Mariah Robinson, theatre</p>
 <p>Austin Community College Blake Bradshaw, automotive Levi Matus, game design</p>	 <p>Texas A&M University Tara Cole, education Brittany Johnson, elementary education Caleb Kronke, biology Alison Riedesel, industrial engineering</p>	 <p>University of Texas-Austin Diem Ho, undecided Honey Khang, psychology</p>
 <p>Harding University Mandy Wiles, art therapy</p>	 <p>Texas State University Ashley Gardner, education/social work Jennifer Quinn, physical therapy Tommy Schiffgens, undecided Derek Tresslar, business Sheila Watiri, accounting</p>	 <p>University of Texas-Arlington Will You, mechanical engineering</p>
 <p>Lubbock Christian University Somare Peyton, elementary education</p>	 <p>Texas Tech University Kevin George, computer engineering Matthew Welter, mechanical engineering</p>	 <p>University of Texas-San Antonio David Ko, undecided Mike Lee, engineering Tina Grogan, business Immad Qussad, finance Daniel Robinson, mathematics Erica Shultz, communications</p>
 <p>Pepperdine University Brett Withem, pre-dental Brandon Jones, business administration</p>	 <p>University of North Texas Ryan Doyle, biology Danielle Kawaja, photography Alyssa Legband, elementary education James Rambin, physics Victoria Stewart, theatre</p>	 <p>University of Texas-Tyler Ryan Brunson, engineering</p>
 <p>Rice University Gabe Breternitz, undecided engineering Polly Park, biology</p>	 <p>Stephen F. Austin Brian Peterson, liberal arts</p>	<p>Undecided Deborah Castro, psychology</p>

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Mariah Robinson

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2011.

Aspiring actress leaves a cheerful legacy

gabriel BRETERNITZ
editor-in-chief

Anyone on campus who claims not to know Mariah Robinson is either blind and deaf or lying. She's basically impossible to avoid, not that you'd ever want to anyway. For the past 13 years, Mariah has involved herself in nearly everything Brentwood Christian has to offer – be it music, theater, student government, honor societies, sports, cheer, service projects, academic pursuits, and many more obscure yet fulfilling activities. In fact, it may be easier to list the things she hasn't done: band.

"Just wasn't my cup of tea," Mariah says, but she also points out that she played piano for several years and should get some credit for that.

Mariah's most visible extra-curricular is definitely her involvement in theater. She discovered her passion for acting as a little girl and has participated in countless BCS theatrical productions since one of her earliest roles in the fourth grade as Betsy Ross in the play "Historical Hysteria." Mariah says that acting helped her grow as a person.

"I used to be quiet and shy, so acting helped me escape that and be outgoing," Mariah says. "After a while, I just got used to expressing myself."

Mariah has received many honors for her performances onstage, including making All-Star Cast at TCSIT one-act competition and winning Brentwood's Most Dedicated Actress award twice. However, her acting experience also extends to other forms of theater like dramatic monologues and duets, which she performs yearly at TCSIT. Most recently, she received second place performing a selection from "Pretty Fire" by Charlayne Woodard and fourth place in a dramatic duet with senior and close friend Caleb Kronke.

"Mariah is truly an artist," former theater teacher Lindsey Pierson says. "I know I am a

better person for knowing her, and that is the greatest compliment I can give."

In addition to her theatrical interests, Mariah keeps herself very busy with other activities. She served as president of the student council this year, and she has been a part of StuCo since her sophomore year. This year, she reinvented herself into both a soccer player and a cheerleader, to the delight of her fellow squad members, who admired her for her "lack of fear about being weird."

"Mariah performs an exorcism dance at every cheer practice," junior Shannon Lesko says. "She would literally deform her body."

Stories like these about Mariah aren't hard to find; her friends gush about her antics and lack of inhibitions. Junior Laura Combs recounts a time when she pretended to be a ballerina at the House of Torment. Mariah herself admits she would love to "go downtown dressed in tutus and a n i m a l masks" but can't seem



to find anyone to do it with her.

"She bounces off the walls when fun needs to be had," Kronke says.

Mariah's friends also quickly acknowledge her tenderness and loyalty. Senior Alyssa Legband says she knows she can "count on her for anything," and senior Brittany Johnson says she considers Mariah "this year's closest friend." Both seniors also describe her as their best friend.

In the fall, Mariah will be attending the University of Southern California and majoring in theater.

"My ultimate goal is to do it all: plays, movies, everything," Mariah says. "I know it's generic, but I want to act because I love it. I know I may not make it or get rich and famous, but I feel like entertainment is what I want to do."

Although Mariah's plans for the immediate future aren't quite so definite, she is sure about what she wants to do afterward: open her own cupcake business, get married, and have three kids – one boy and two girls.

Even as she looks to the future, Mariah also says she will miss Brentwood. She calls BCS her "second home" because she spent so much time after school and on weekends on campus. She wants to be remembered simply as "someone who was always positive, smiling, and happy," and her many friends affirm that this is, indeed, likely to be her legacy.

"Mariah is so outgoing and friendly – I'll miss her dearly," Brittany Johnson says.

Way Off Broadway final FLC production

kailey RODDEN
reporter

After perusing multiple works of art while listening to a delightful jazz number, guests take a seat in the auditorium. The lights dim, and a hush goes over the crowd. There is a slight pause; lights come up on a small makeshift stage, and a shaggy-haired boy walks on to entertain the audience with his witty humor.

The fourth-annual Way Off Broadway show on May 6 and 7 was composed of every aspect of BCS fine arts: drama, art, and music. The jazz band and Encore serenaded guests in-between performances of drama pieces that placed in last month's TCSIT competition.

Students prepared three weeks for what was to be the final show in the FLC. Practices during the final "play week" lasted until 10 p.m. Inside the FLC students were abuzz, running from hair and makeup to the stage to practice their pieces. When students weren't performing

during rehearsals, they could be found pacing in circles around separate corners, practicing lines, and quietly running through duets.

A full spectrum of performances was showcased during the evening. The members of the jazz band and Encore performed, as did an additional jazz combo. Junior Kailey Rodden and freshman Bryce Morin performed humorous interpretations, while seniors Caleb Kronke and Mariah Robinson did dramatic interpretations. Two dramatic duets were shown: junior Shannon Lesko and Rodden performed "Beaches" on Friday, while Kronke and Robinson performed "Just Passing" on Saturday. After the interpretations, students performed duets, jazz numbers, songs, and the one-act play "The Actor's Nightmare."

"The show was wonderful! The audience was very encouraging," drama director Cindy Singleton said. "They really laughed the whole time, and many said that they were very moved by the dramatic pieces."

Students had a similar response.

"I really enjoyed it," said sophomore Ciro Castro. "Encore sang beautifully, the play was hilarious, and the jazz band added an enjoyable twist to the evening."

While upperclassmen reigned supreme during the show, many freshmen and sophomores took parts in all aspects of Way Off Broadway, with many learning the ropes behind the stage. Freshmen Morin, Marisol Lawson, Jackson Hager, Jamie Messinger, and Alex Singleton all took part in the show.

At the end of the night, all seniors involved in the fine arts were called to the stage. Parents beamed and teared up, and many of the seniors onstage exchanged hugs and sobs.

"This was a wonderful way to end my senior year," senior Victoria Stewart said. "I'm going to miss the whole experience, especially play week. I'm so proud of the younger kids, and I can't wait to come back and see what they pull together next year!"

Money for Medicines raises \$10,132

hannah KWON
reporter

Do you have compassion to save lives? Brentwood Christian School students sure do, raising a total of \$10,132.48 for medicines that can save and improve the lives of thousands of Zambians.

From April 15 to 28, BCS students from kindergarten to 12th grade scraped up Lincolns and Washingtons for their seventh-annual Money for Medicines Fundraiser. The medicines bought with the money will be delivered to Zambia, a country in Southern Africa that ranks 150 out of 169 countries, according to the 2010 estimated Human Development Index.

As always, there were prizes for classes who raised the most money. Elementary and junior high competed with their study halls, and high school students competed with their Bible classes. For lower elementary students, April Hejl's second grade won, and for upper elementary Carrie Hunter's fifth grade and Becky Stewart's sixth grade tied, winning an ice-cream party.

In junior high, Rosemary Henderson's eighth grade won, getting a jeans day, and in high school, Missy Weaver's ninth grade and Brooke Hollingsworth's eleventh grade tied, winning an extended off-campus lunch.

Everything from major diseases like malaria to simple illnesses like headaches happens regularly in Zambia. Though these things are curable, many people die due to lack of medicines. BCS raises money to send off medicines to support Zambians through Zambia Medical Mission.

All the medicines are delivered to Namwianga Mission in Kalomo, Zambia. It has clinics and schools from elementary through college. The originally expensive medicines are provided cheap by charity organizations and pharmacists who either provide the medicines at a very low cost or donate it for free.

The relationship between BCS and Namwianga Mission began with math teacher Michele Broadway. She began going on medical missions to Zambia in 2002, and in 2005 BCS started this project.

"It's what Jesus would do," Broadway said. "Students donating money for Zambians just show how much they love God. Students are supporting those whom they'll never meet."

WWJD? Think before you joke

continued from page 2

Even David – the man after God’s own heart – failed, and Abraham – a friend of God – failed. I realize that we should not be disappointed by the weakness of people, nor should we depend too heavily on them – especially so, because we have Jesus. We can ask ourselves, what would Jesus do?

“WWJD” is indeed a common question among Christians – often inquired in BCS, too. Unfortunately, many fail to ask the question correctly. “Mr. Teacher, what would Jesus do,” a student may ask. “Would he burden us with a load of homework, punish us with detention, or suffocate us with another test?”

This merely is a silly joke, I know; certainly the students of arguably the most wonderful school in the universe intended no harm in such a prank. Nevertheless, we should be cautious, because sometimes silly jokes reflect the thoughts deep within.

The best way to ask this profound question is to ask yourself. It takes commitment to do so, because you might have to alter your lifestyle and carry the burden to follow the footsteps of Jesus. This will not grant you the 21st-century-style easy faith, but the right one. After all, Christianity is not a convenience, but a commitment.

Rumors of Rufi’s demise greatly exaggerated

via **KHADEM**
reporter

For over 15 years, Rufi’s Patio & Grill has been serving the students of Brentwood Christian breakfast tacos. But rumors of Rufi’s closing began circulating earlier this semester throughout campus. Students even signed a goodbye poster for the thought-to-be departing restaurant.

Recently, owner Joe Silguero explained by saying that Rufi’s was planning on shutting down, but at the last minute, a private investor came in and gave the restaurant enough money to survive.

However, Silguero said that Rufi’s is still in a tough situation, with many large corporations and businesses in their zone of business outsourcing their employees and shutting down locally, thus significantly narrowing Rufi’s influx of customers. Many families have lost their disposable income, further reducing the number

of customers at Rufi’s.

“Ever since the recession hit, we’ve been losing a lot of business,” Silguero said. “Many families have parents who lost their jobs, and have tightened up their budgets accordingly. So to save cash, they don’t eat out for breakfast, they just grab a bowl of cereal at home instead.”

In order to make ends meet, employees at Rufi’s must be able to tackle a variety of tasks, from sweeping and dishwashing to electrical maintenance.

Silguero also said that various changes are going to be happening at Rufi’s, including new signs, paintings, lunch menu, plates, and more.

A business move that is bound to be popular with customers is the decision to prepare and sell breakfast tacos all day during business hours.

“Well, we’ve actually started selling breakfast tacos all day a little while ago, but we haven’t announced that yet,” Silguero said.

Though Rufi’s is in financial trouble, Silguero said that he enjoys preparing food and serving

hungry customers, and that he appreciates the experiences customers provide, including the BCS administration, students, and alumni.

“There will always be a space in my heart for Brentwood, as I’ve fed a lot of the students and administration,” Silguero said.

Many BCS students feel the same way about the restaurant.

“I like Rufi’s – I like their breakfast tacos,” senior Blake Bradshaw said. “The location is convenient, and it’s not air conditioned, so it feels like an old school restaurant.”



photo: Gabriel Breternitz

Tacos and tamales Rufi’s Patio & Grill has been open for 15 years, but recently the restaurant has had difficulties maintaining sales. Owner Joe Silguero said he believes this is due to the slow economy, but he continues to enjoy serving hungry customers.

Foreign students learn to adapt; enrich school in many ways

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at Brentwood for six years, also said studying abroad is a good opportunity because the U.S. education system is better than that of many countries. In addition, it is understood that students who study and graduate from developed countries such as America have a better chance for a high-salary job when they return home.

Brentwood teachers point out different benefits of having international students.

“I love that they are here,” math teacher Kaleen Graessle said. “I hope that we are a blessing to them as they are to us.”

She said international students not only bring different perspectives, but also a variety of ethnicity. She also said math is generally easier than other subjects for them because it doesn’t

involve many language difficulties.

English and history teacher Jessica Love also acknowledges the benefits of having foreign students. She said she enjoys having students with new and unique views in her class discussions.

Karla Smith, Brentwood’s director of admissions, said she deeply admires the willingness of foreign students’ parents to sacrifice financially and emotionally to give their children a better future. She said she also respects the students’ braveness to study in a strange country. Furthermore, she said Brentwood’s international students add a lot of depth to the BCS family, giving the entire student body the opportunity to grow beyond their own community.

Native students also enjoy the presence of foreign friends.

“It’s really cool to have international friends around,” sophomore Mary Monacelli said. “They can be helpful foreign language teachers.”

President Marquita Moss said that while international students add a rich dimension to the school, they comprise only five percent of the school’s student body. She said the school currently has no plans to increase the percentage and will continue to focus primarily on the U.S.

For the international students, it is often hard to adapt to the new environment, language, culture, and even food. Not surprisingly, many have homesickness, culture shock, and even

language barriers – especially when all are required to study a third language in order to graduate. Sophomore Joseph Kang, for example, said it was hard for him to eat American food when he first came three years ago, and he still prefers Korean food. In addition, it is still hard for non-native speaking students to handle high-level English in reading and writing.

Six years ago, Brentwood began an English as Second Language program to aid Korean students who were challenged by language difficulties. The program operated from 2005 to 2007, taught by Kay Taylor, who had K-8 certification in teaching. Korean students who went to Brentwood through Global Vision Christian School, a Korean organization, had to participate in the program if their English skills were not proficient enough. Participants would pay through GVCS for the specially hired teacher. The program ended, however, because of insufficient funds.

This year, more international students than ever are actively participating in a variety of school activities such as band, choir, and sports. They have contributed to the school’s success in academic, athletic, and fine arts competitions.

“I am pleased that the foreign students can branch out and integrate in the school as a whole,” math teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth said. “It’s good that they can be involved in a way that benefits the school.”



photo: Gabriel Breternitz

Foreign faces A group of international students poses for a quick photo. Foreign students at BCS make up five percent of the student body.

Softball wins district; disappointed in playoffs

matthew **ARCHER**
reporter

The softball team's season came to an end with a 10-0 loss against Bryan St. Joseph in the first round of the playoffs on Tuesday, May 3. St. Joseph finished second in their district while the Lady Bears came in as district champions.

The girls had a good crowd supporting them at their home field in Balcones, but it wasn't enough to get them out of a poor start. The Lady Bears began sluggish, and were down 6-0 before their first bat. Head coach Paul Sladek said his team actually hit the ball better than they had all year but just couldn't find holes. That, and allowing too many base runners and "free passes," proved to be too much for the team, as the game ended with a "run rule" in the fifth inning.

"I was very disappointed," Sladek said. "We expect to be able to play with anybody and strive to compete against everyone, and to fall short like that, it's a tough pill to swallow."

The team played a warm-up game against Shiner St. Paul on Tuesday, April 26. They lost the game 14-4 with senior Somare Peyton, junior Diana Torres, and sophomore Lanae Hollingsworth each getting a hit in the loss.

On Tuesday, April 19, the team was scheduled to play Waco Texas Christian, but Waco canceled, giving the team the victory and securing their district championship.

"I am really excited that our team won district," junior Kailey Rodden said. "It makes me think that we can do even better next year."

On Friday, April 15, the girls beat St. Dominic

Savio 15-14 in the conclusion of a previously postponed game. Torres, Hollingsworth, and junior Bailey Hardin accounted for 11 of the 15 runs. Sladek also said junior Haley Decker "shut the door" by not allowing any runs in the eighth inning.

After a short break the teams played the game that was originally scheduled for that date and lost 7-2. Hollingsworth, Torres, and sophomore Danielle Riedesel all had hits in the loss.

The team finished with a 10-6 record overall. Sladek said the season was very exciting and he was pleased with winning district and many of the girls making all-district teams.

Hollingsworth was named the district MVP. Sladek called that an "amazing accomplishment" and said he thought it was the first time a Brentwood softball player has received that honor.

Hollingsworth was also first-team all-state, while Hardin made second.

The girls who earned first-team all-district honors were Peyton, Hardin, Rodden, Torres, and Hollingsworth. Juniors Decker and Sydney Jung, and sophomore Katie Montgomery, were named second team, and sophomore Danielle Riedesel and freshman Maysie Bartos were given honorable mention.

This year Torres led the team in hitting with a .588 average. Hardin

led the team in runs with 16, and Hollingsworth led in extra-base hits with 10 and RBIs with 15.

Sladek said expectations for next year "will be determined." He says he has some good players coming up from eighth grade, and depending on whether or not girls return to the team next year, he will have a solid group of players.



photo: Mark Merford

The best Sophomore catcher Lanae Hollingsworth was voted district MVP by the coaches.

Baseball team fades, misses playoffs

ciro **CASTRO**
reporter

A month ago, it looked like the baseball team would make playoffs with their high optimism and early success, but several factors such as ineligibility and disappointing losses prevented the boys from achieving their goal.

The late-breaking news that only two teams from their district would make playoffs also demoralized the players, since they were in third place after playing each team once. However, head coach Efrain Contreras said his expectations in the beginning of the season were not very high anyway.

"We didn't have many players that had played baseball before, so I wasn't expecting much," he said. "I just wanted us to play."

Junior Diego Cole led the team with a batting average of .471. Senior captains Matthew Welter and Tommy Schiffgens followed with averages of .431 and .373, respectively.

A good phrase to describe the season is "up and down," according to Contreras.

"We had good moments and not-so-good moments," he said. "But despite ineligibility and injuries, we gave it all we got and I was pleased."

The last home game for the Bears, on April 15, was one they will most likely not forget very soon. Although they eventually lost, the boys came back twice, almost ending the game

with a win. The game's intensity was at its peak when the score was 13-12 with the Bears one run behind Central Texas Christian, with two outs and two strikes in the final inning. Right before the pitch, Contreras ordered senior Brett Withem to start running from first, which distracted the pitcher and made him turn around, resulting in a balk and a run scored by senior Brandon Jones, who was on third. This sent the game into extra innings, and Central Texas Christian scored five unanswered runs to win the game, 18-13.

After the Central Texas game, the coaches told the players that only two of the teams would go to the playoffs, not three. With this information, the boys had lost their chances to go to the playoffs but still decided to try to end the season on a high note. They traveled to Waco on April 19 to play Texas Christian, and the game began fairly balanced. However, as the Bears continued making errors on defense, Waco continued scoring. Despite batting well, Brentwood ended the game in a 14-7 loss.

Two days later, the Bears could not prevent a defeat to Round Rock Christian. In the last inning, the boys led 10-9. They only had to hold the Crusaders for one more inning to win the game, but Round Rock scored two runs, sending the Bears to their fifth loss in a row. With this win, Round Rock finished ahead of Brentwood in third place.

Schiffgens was disappointed at the defeat.

"We have never lost to Round Rock Christian throughout my entire high school career," he said.

Schiffgens, Welter, Jones, Withem, and Derek Tresslar will graduate this year. Schiffgens most often played catcher, while Welter pitched, Jones played third base, Withem played first base, and Tresslar was an outfielder.

Contreras said next year's success will depend on the students' grades and how fast the freshmen develop.

"We have some good talent coming, but we're definitely gonna be a young team," he said. "We'll still have some seniors, but we will certainly have to improve."

Contreras also said that to be a good team next year, they will have to start with the fundamentals like running the bases and bunting.

"The main thing we need to work on is defense," he said. "We hit the ball pretty well, but our defense was lacking a little."

Cole agreed with Contreras about next year's team.

"We might struggle to make a team," he said. "But I also think that we will finish in the top of the district."

Contreras mentioned that even though there are five seniors leaving, there are approximately six eighth graders who will play next year.

"The eighth graders have some good players," he said. "They will certainly help our team next year."

BCS to keep every teacher, principal says

joseph **KANG**
reporter

"I don't believe this is unusual for BCS, nor is it unusual for other schools, but it is a little unusual for me, personally, because it is the first time this has happened since I came to BCS."

Secondary principal Jared Lee confirmed that all current teachers, including those in elementary, plan to return to BCS next school year. However, guidance counselor Rebecca Ellis will leave.

The return of all the teachers will give Lee extra time in the spring and summer, since replacing teachers is a difficult and time-consuming process. Lee said he tries hard to be thorough to get the best teachers for BCS.

"I am proud of the team of teachers that I have the privilege of working with," he said. "They all do outstanding work for His kingdom every day."

Moreover, Lee said he will not look to hire any more new teachers, and most will have the same teaching assignments.

With the formation of the middle school next year, current elementary computer teacher Michelle Mohrmann might teach sixth-grade science classes, Lee said, depending upon enrollment in the grade.

"This is a tremendous burden off my shoulders, but I will definitely have a lot of stuff to fill that free time with," Lee said.

According to Lee, Ellis counselled students successfully and she liked her job; however, Ellis said she wants to spend more time with her three-year-old girl, Hadley.

"It was hard decision, but I think this is God's guidance," she said.

Although it is her first year, Ellis said she has lots of good memories of helping students, her mentor group, and various school events. She said she wants to return if she has another chance.

Nonetheless, returning the entire teaching staff is unusual to any school. Because of the economic recession, schools across the nation must reduce educational cost, and it has resulted in the dismissal of numerous public school teachers. This creates a very tight job market.

"Each year we ask teachers if they want to return, and all have said they do," Lee said. "I'm sure the economy and job market factor into this, but I truly believe that they all *want* to be here. Great teachers can find jobs in just about any economy or job market."

Track girls take fourth in state, led by Glenn, Brunson

matthew **ONABAJO**
reporter

The varsity girls placed fourth overall at the state track meet on May 6-7 in Waco. The team was led by sophomore Priscilla Glenn, who finished second in one event and fourth in two others, and junior Brittany Brunson, who placed third in two events.

Head coach Katie Smith said she was pleased with the girls' performance despite bringing only seven athletes to state.

"To be in the top four in the state with only seven girls is amazing," she said.

Smith said she was also impressed that the team scored 45½ points without any state champions or top-three relay finishes.

Glenn placed second in pole vault, tying her personal best at 10 feet; she was fourth in the 100-meter hurdles (17.07) and 300-meter hurdles (48.78). Brunson was third in both the 1600 (5:41) and 3200 (12:19).

Sophomore Michelle Dembosky placed third in discus (96-8), and sophomore Morgan Vandygriff got fourth in the 400 (1:03.69). Sophomore Serena George placed fifth in high jump (4-10).

One week prior to the state meet, the team competed in the regional meet April 28 in Hallettsville, 75 miles southeast of Austin, where the girls finished first overall, beating out the second-place team by 29 points. Athletes need to place fourth or higher to qualify for the state meet.

Dembosky, Glenn, and Vandygriff all placed first in their respective events. Dembosky threw 93-10 in discus, Glenn vaulted a personal-best 10-0 in pole vault, and Vandygriff ran 1:02 in the 400, a personal record. She also was third in the triple jump (31-6), while George was fourth in high jump (4-8).

Vandygriff was the anchor for the 4x400 team in a dramatic relay race along with Brunson, George, and Glenn. Vandygriff trailed until the last 100 meters, when she sprinted ahead and seized first by a large margin.

Brunson finished second in both the 1600 (5:38.03) and 3200 (12:13.38). Glenn took second in the 300 hurdles (49.29) and third in the 100 hurdles (17.29).

Juniors Katie Clement and Kat Taylor were also regional qualifiers for the girls, in the 3200 and shot put, respectively.

BCS parent Jeff Glenn uploaded footage from the state meet, as well as the 4x400 relay win in regionals, on the school website at www.brentwoodchristian.org/track.

On April 19, the boys' and girls' teams competed at the district meet in Lockhart. The girls finished second out of eight schools, and the boys were sixth of nine schools.

Athletes who finished fourth or better at the district meet qualified for the regional meet, and every athlete on the girls' team qualified.

Brunson won the 1600 and 3200 with times of 5:51.84 and 12:58.10, respectively. Vandygriff won the 400 (1:03.59) and triple jump (32-1¼).

Glenn placed second in the 300 hurdles (49.89) and third in two events: 100 hurdles (17.43) and long jump (15-5). Dembosky placed second in discus (87-8¼), and Taylor finished fourth in shot put (26-8½). George finished third in high jump, clearing 4-08, and finished fourth in the 100 meters (13.83).

George also ran on the 4x400 team along with Brunson, Glenn, and Vandygriff, earning second in 4.24.90.

The girls' 4x100 team got second with a team of George, Vandygriff, senior Ashley Gardner, and freshman Alex Singleton, running 54.34.

Glenn, George, and Singleton automatically

qualified in pole vault, sweeping the top three spots, since no other schools competed. They vaulted 9-6, 7-6, and 5-0, respectively.

For the boys, junior Marcus McCormick finished second in both the 1600 (5:11.8) and 3200 (11:31.6).

Senior Ryan Brunson finished second in discus (118-7½), third in pole vault (8-6), and fourth in shot put (36-5½). Freshman Kent Howell vaulted 7-6 in pole vault, earning fourth.

The next day, the team went to Walnut Creek and participated in a fun run. Athletes chased each other with shaving cream, water guns, and balloons. Smith said the run allows athletes to "let off steam" and take a break from the season. Athletes in track or cross country had the option to participate.

For the boys' team, Brunson, Howell, and McCormick qualified for regionals, but no one advanced to state.

Still, coach Craig Moore said the boys can improve by "carrying forward what we started so well – enthusiasm." Moore said the team was young, which gives them something to build on. Moore also said they needed more depth in order to do well in relays, which give double points. He said he hopes to recruit more people before the next season for relays and hurdles.

"For the number of guys we had, we did well," he said. "The ones we had were inspirational."

Smith said she was excited for next year's results since most of the team is returning. She said the team will need to step it up for next year in order to do better.

"If we want to move up to the next level, competing for a state championship, we not only need everyone, but we need to get to that next level with our top athletes so they can be competing for individual first-place finishes," she said.



photo: Jeff Glenn

Up and over Sophomore Priscilla Glenn easily clears her mark, competing in the pole vault at the state meet in Waco on May 6. Her final jump was exactly ten feet, the best vault for a BCS girl in five years and enough to earn her second place in state.

BCS tops among 253 schools

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"I am extremely pleased with our students' performance at state," Weed said. "To end up as the highest-scoring out of all the 253 PSIA schools in the state is truly amazing! The students were well coached, and their parents were all very supportive."

Armstrong's three victories were in Calculator 6-8, Mathematics 7, and Number Sense 7. Eighth-grader Michael Lam earned first in Mathematics 8, and seventh-grader Josh Sass, who competed as an eighth-grader, earned first in Number Sense 8.

Sixth-grader Luke Allen placed first in Spelling 6 and third in Vocabulary 6. His sister, seventh-grader Tiara Allen, earned third in Spelling 7/8. Seventh-grader Brendan Hollaway was second in Mathematics 7, while sixth-grader Abby White earned second in Prose Interpretation 6, and sixth-grader Gabie Nguyen was third in Number Sense 6.

"I like competing at PSIA because it's fun, and a good use of talent," Armstrong said. "I also feel I did my absolute best this year in all my events. My favorite tradition though, after winning at PSIA, is to go to celebrate with my

friends at the huge water park (in Grapevine), Great Wolf Lodge."

Students started to prepare for PSIA in October and practiced at least once a week for each of their events. Practices were held after school in various classrooms, mostly led by parent volunteers. Some students, like the Allens, practiced a great deal at home so they were prepared when the competition arose.

Some of the coaches were teachers at BCS, like Kaleen Graessle and Cissy Johnson, who coached Calculator Applications 6-8 and Science 6-8, respectively. Most of the coaches, though, were parent volunteers. They usually stayed about an hour after school on their designated coaching days, and though most coaches only coached one event, some coached more. David Armstrong coached both Mathematics and Number Sense 6-8, and he stayed after school on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"I am blessed to work with a group of bright students who are willing to work hard to prepare for the math competitions," Armstrong said. "The better performing students would take tests during the week, identifying the areas that needed focus, and bring back questions to ask during our sessions."

Jr/Sr marked by 'issues'

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of the after-party. "It was at least \$950 for the whole thing, but I think it was well worth it, and a great thing to provide for the kids."

The evening came with a few mishaps, as was expected. When students entered the main dining room, five students were left without a place to sit, and the catering staff ran out of pasta while serving students seconds. While the food fiasco went unresolved, a table was brought in for the awkward standers.

"I think that overall, it was a great success.

The officers did a great job, and students seemed to be having a great time," junior class sponsor and event chaperone Lori Morin said. "There were only a couple major issues."

Along with the hit-and-miss entertainment and the odd mishaps of the night, Junior/Senior 2011 was cause for excitement in a different way. Invitations to the formal were distributed

on April Fools, and although only the junior girls were pranked, there was still much buzz about the invitations. The junior class officers designed custom View-Masters to use as invitations. Most people will recall the little black toy with interchangeable photo reels, and most BCS students will remember them as invitations. The reels featured black-and-white photos of the venue with informational

text overlaid, and were received well by students and faculty alike.

It may not have been filling and it may not have been quiet, but this year's formal was certainly

unique. From the minute the first students arrived to the wee hours of the next morning, Brentwood students will certainly not forget eating, mystery-solving, talking, dancing, or anything else they may or may not have enjoyed about their 2011 Junior/Senior.

"Overall, it was a great success. There were only a couple major issues."

Grandparents continue early-May Brentwood tradition

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grade followed with a couple of spiritual songs, and the high school concluded the performance with three more worship songs, as in years past.

Before the high school sang, Moss recognized two grandparents. The Grandparent Service Award was presented to Betty Miller for the amazing job she had done coaching vocabulary for PSIA interscholastic competition. She is the grandmother of sixth-grader Mary Ruiz and first-grader Lilly Ruiz.

The Grandparent of the Year Award was bestowed on Fay Brown, the grandmother of third-grader Stormy Koger. She and her husband have been generous supporters of the school since Stormy enrolled in kindergarten four years ago. They also named seats in the new theater and attended the annual Partnership Dinner. Mrs. Brown began her work as a regular volunteer in Sandy Patterson's second-grade class last year and now comes in weekly to volunteer in Evelyn Ellis's third grade.

"She sees something that needs being done, and she does it," Moss said. "She is a true blessing to Brentwood."

After the performance, the grandparents had the freedom to walk around the school while looking for their grandchildren's classrooms to view their projects and activities with proud smiles and sweet comments.

"We had a play called Historical Hysteria, and my grandparents really enjoyed it," fourth-grader Tom Merzlov said. "They came from Russia to come see me. This was their first year."

Secondary students attended three 25-minute sessions in different classes with their

grandparents. Topics of these sessions included the Zambia Medical Mission, Geometry bridge projects, a showcase from art classes, theater performances, the 2010-2011 yearbook, senior

trebuchets, and several more.

Students were let out of school when the clock struck noon so they could get a chance to spend the rest of the afternoon with their grandparents.



photo: Mary Monacelli

Pre-flight check Third-grader Cade Young gets help from his grandparents as they prepare to fly the kite he made and decorated, on Grandparents' Day, May 6.

Different traditions have been formed by many students with their grandparents going out to lunch.

"My grandparents and I always go somewhere different to eat every year," freshman Kent Howell said. "This year we went to California Pizza Kitchen at the Domain. I really enjoyed sharing that with them, especially the pizza."

In the evening the grandparents and their families were invited to the fourth annual "Way off Broadway: An Evening with the Fine Arts." This included a performance of the one-act play, some humorous and dramatic duets and interpretations, different Encore and jazz band selections, and many displays of art pieces.

Years ago, grandparents stayed the whole school day and ate lunch with their grandchildren in the cafeteria, according to Moss. One year, in the late '80s, lunch was held in the unfinished high school building – back when it was just one story on the north side of the current building. Eventually space was outgrown, so the school decided to do breakfast instead. Grandparents also grew tired before the day was over, so they were dismissed at noon enabling them to go to lunch with their grandchildren elsewhere.

Moss said the school started the tradition of Grandparents' Day to help strengthen family ties at a time when many families live at distances and are fragmented. Grandparents' Day was a way to provide an occasion to bring those who live far away to Austin to spend time with their grandchildren. Because grandparents are at a different time in life, Moss said they can express a different facet of God's unconditional love that is so nourishing to children.

Campbell returns early; freshmen, juniors relieved

JACKSON HAGER
reporter

Students were pleasantly surprised to see English teacher Chloe Campbell returning to teach a week earlier than she was expected. The much loved teacher was on maternity leave to spend time with her new baby boy Samuel, born on Feb. 10. She was greeted with many cheers and hugs as she returned to the classroom on Monday, April 25.

"It's because I missed my awesome freshmen, of course!" said Campbell, before adding, "Also the juniors – them, too."

The substitute teacher who was to take her place was former teacher Linda Pimentel, but due to health issues, Pimentel was replaced by a total of four different teachers during Campbell's absence.

This led to much confusion among the students. Many of the juniors and freshmen expressed annoyance, as they claimed this

led to not being prepared for tests and to lower grades. Both classes blamed much of this on the varying teaching styles of the substitutes, and claimed that they spent much of their class time on subjects that were not expected. Students also found the substitutes were not used to the joking and casual nature that kids have grown to love about the class.

"They all wanted something different," junior Katie Clement said.

Campbell said she loved spending time with her new baby, with her favorite parts being when he smiled and laughed. She spent two weeks still getting full pay, saying "those

were all of my sick days from the last six years." The rest of the time she received half-pay, the money going to pay the substitutes.

Campbell said she plans to continue teaching in the fall, although she and her husband Andrew have not yet made plans for the care of Samuel next school year and are looking for someone who can help.

"It's because I missed my awesome freshmen, of course!"

Band, choir put on fine shows

e.j. SUNG
reporter

At Brentwood Christian, the word "spring" always goes together with band and choir concerts, as beautiful music and singing attract a full audience in the auditorium.

BCS held its spring all-level band concert on April 21 and choir concert on April 26.

As in recent years, the band concert had the high school jazz band fill in between sets. One of their songs featured junior Marcus McCormick's tenor saxophone solo.

Among the junior high band's songs was "Moscow 1941," which expressed the tension of Russian soldiers defending against the German invasion during World War II. Small children could be seen waking up alertly as soon as they heard the loud, rumbling sounds of snare and bass drums.

Senior Polly Park and eighth-grader Mia Dedear were featured flute solos for the high school band's "Flower Duet."

Band instructor Travis Pollard showed gratitude to three seniors – Kevin George, Tara Cole, and Park – by calling their names after the third song, "Shenandoah." The seniors honored Pollard for the hard work he has done and gave him a present, "Starcraft 2." The concert ended with the light and powerful "Sparks."

The choir concert was moved forward two days because of a conflict with the TAPPS regional track meet in Houston.

Encore began the show, and then entertained the audience each time different choirs moved on and off the stage.

The men's ensemble, which consisted of high school boys, opened with "Bonse Aba," which is a traditional Zambian song. Sophomores Travis Clark and Anthony Milan led the song with a duet, and junior Bryan Williams played a conga drum.

Near the end of the concert, choir director Missy Weaver introduced 17 seniors to thank them for their hard work. Weaver was then honored with a bouquet from the seniors.

The new Center for Science and the Arts is expected to be used starting in the fall. Pollard and Weaver showed great excitement about using the new building.

"The new facility solves a lot of problems for us," Pollard said.

He said the current room is too small for the largest band class, but the new building will provide more room and more space for storage.

Weaver said she is excited about the larger classroom, where her students won't be squeezed so tightly anymore, and the new stage.

"We'll be able to prepare better for our performances with the new stage," Weaver said.