



## IN SHORT

### Graduation next week

Commencement for the BCS Class of 2012 will be Friday, May 25, in the auditorium. Kindergarten graduation is the same day, while fifth and eighth graders have their ceremonies on Wednesday, May 30, also in the auditorium.

### Kayle Morin honored

Senior Kayle Morin will be honored as this year's TAPPS 3A Female Fine Arts Student of the Year. She will receive a plaque and the \$500 Russell Scholarship at the TAPPS awards banquet in San Antonio on June 8, TAPPS director Edd Burleson announced on Monday, May 14.

The award recognizes excellence across multiple TAPPS fine arts events. Morin placed in three state-level TAPPS meets, including art, vocal music, and academic/speech, and was a state champion in art and vocal music. She has been accepted to Lubbock Christian University on a music scholarship.

### Jazz Under the Stars

Tickets are still available for the fourth annual Jazz Under the Stars tomorrow, May 19, at 8 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Jazz Band and Jazz Combo will entertain along with some special guest vocalists, and refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. The box office will be open for ticket sales from 2-4 p.m. today, and tickets can be purchased with cash, check, or credit card. All sales support the BCS band.

### NHS service day

National Honor Society members missed school on Friday, May 11, to serve in several different capacities. Some groups helped with Field Day, others sorted World Bible School material, and still others worked at the Capital Area Food Bank. At lunch time, they headed to Pfluger Park for an end-of-year party.

## Glenn leads track to third in state

matthew **ARCHER**  
reporter

The varsity girls' track team placed third at the TAPPS 3A state meet on May 4 and 5, which is the highest finish ever for the BCS track program. The meet was held in Waco at the Hart-Patterson track complex on the Baylor campus.

Junior Priscilla Glenn won two events, leading Brentwood Christian to a total of 82 points, which was only five away from the second-place school, Carrollton Prince of Peace, and 28 points away from state champion Colleyville Covenant Christian.

Glenn won the 300-meter hurdles, taking nearly two seconds off her own school record with a time of 46.53 seconds, and the long jump, leaping 16-5¾ feet. She also placed in the top three in the pole vault and her two relays.

"This is an amazing accomplishment," girls' coach Katie Smith said. "I have really been impressed this season with her poise under pressure, her support of her team, and her sportsmanship with her competitors. That is what truly makes her a champion."

According to Smith, this was the first time a Brentwood student has ever become state champion in two different events. Glenn scored a total of 37 points, the most of any 3A female

athlete.

"(When I won) I felt shock, but then pure excitement and joy took over as I knew all my hard work had paid off," Glenn said.

Senior Brittany Brunson placed second in the

mile at 5:34, tying her own school record, and fourth in the two mile (12:26).

Junior Michelle Dembosky also set a school

see **TRACK**, page 7



photo: Jeff Glenn

**Top performer** Junior Priscilla Glenn prepares to vault at the TAPPS 3A state meet in Waco on May 5. Glenn medaled in five events and was state champ in two of them.

## BCS says farewell to Lee

### *Secondary principal leaving for Midland*

megan **MONACELLI**  
editor-in-chief

"I appreciate you."

This little phrase has come to define someone at BCS among the faculty, and to many, this says more about character than anything else.

As the year wraps up, BCS students prepare to say goodbye to homework, projects, and extracurricular practices. While students may smile at kissing these goodbye, another inevitable goodbye might not be so easy.

Secondary principal Jared Lee announced Sep. 1 that he will be moving to Midland this summer to join his wife, Stephanie, and young daughter, Avery, who have already moved there. He will be the academic dean at Midland Christian School, the school from which he graduated and where his father is the superintendent.

Lee admits that Midland is dry and an "old person town" with a negativity associated with it, but the primary reasons for moving were about his family: His wife, who graduated from UT law school in Dec., was offered a position at Cotton Bledsoe law firm in Midland, and Avery would be close to her grandparents.

"Having Avery near her grandparents is im-

portant," Lee said. "She cries when we leave my parents' house, and it just breaks my heart."

Despite the opportunities awaiting him and his family, Lee said he is going to miss the relationships at BCS.

"It's cliché to say, but I'm really going to miss the camaraderie with the teachers, parents, and students here at BCS," Lee said.

The academic and extracurricular rigor that BCS provides is not only something that Lee said he will miss, but also something he hopes to develop at Midland Christian. He said he also hopes that he will be remembered for making the principal position at BCS more stable.

Prior to Lee taking the principal position at BCS five years ago, the school had a rough time keeping that position filled, and that contributed to the formation of his goals and how they were implemented during his time.

"One of my goals was to bring consistency to our discipline, procedures, and policies," Lee said.

In order to do that, though, he needed the teachers on his side, he said. According to Lee one of his insecurities coming into the job was

see **LEE**, page 5

## Two teachers, librarian set for retirement

jonathon **REICH**  
reporter

Along with secondary principal Jared Lee, four other prominent teachers in the BCS community are leaving. Three of these are retiring, two after more than 20 years of service at the school.

Twenty-eight years ago, Sandra Morrow enrolled her kindergartner, Paul, at BCS. After realizing she was a certified librarian, a teacher asked her about taking a job as a part-time librarian, which she accepted. After a few years, she moved on full time, and since then has served Brentwood Christian's elementary well by supplying books and smiles in the elementary library.

Morrow said one of her favorite experiences during her time here has been "placing a book in a child's hand that they're

see **BCS**, page 5



*An-nyeong (Good-bye):* EJ Sung

## Leaving BCS; not leaving God

I still remember the first time I walked through the hallways of BCS. Walking into Mrs. Graessle's Geometry class three years ago, I was full of worries, excitement, anticipation, and other feelings that I can't describe. However, after a few months, I realized that Brentwood is a school with kind and amiable students, staff, teachers, and coaches. It was great to be a part of Brentwood Christian School. I could list some of the fun and joyful moments I have had at Brentwood, but that would be meaningless in the limited space of an editorial.

Yes. Largely, things at BCS went safely, securely, and peacefully. Unlike in some public schools, the students caused only minor troubles. However, as I look back on my high school years, I sometimes wondered what would have happened if I had attended a public school, not a Christian school. Public schools have more variety of courses and sports, numerous and diverse students, larger rooms, and better facilities and lab equipment than typical Christian schools have. I also thought that maybe I could have had broader and better experiences as a student in a public school. Nevertheless, my conclusion was that my time in BCS was all worth it.

Although I was born into a Christian family and attended church since I was a baby, I was not passionate about going to church or knowing about God. Honestly, at first, the Bible classes at Brentwood meant nothing to me but just another class that I needed to make a good grade in. However, whether I wanted to take the class seriously or not, I was given the task to think about God and read the Bible. Again, whether I enjoyed it or not, I lived my four years with my Bible always on my desk because of the class. Since the Bible was conspicuous on my desk, I sometimes opened it and read some verses, which was something I never did before. Perhaps, at first, I read it because I was so bored. Or maybe I felt bad that I did not open the Bible even once of my own will during the week. Whatever the reason was, the point is that I became dependent on God gradually. The sources of overcoming difficulties or dilemmas were my Bible and praying. This was the first time in my life when I truly regarded myself as a "Christian."

Being in public school's classrooms might have been more exciting and fun, but what I

see **SUNG**, page 7

*Megan's Musings:* Megan Monacelli

## My verdict: It was worth it

It's the home stretch. Graduation is merely a week away and finals are literally days away. As I look back on the last 13 years of my life, all spent at Brentwood, I can't help but wonder if my private education was really worth it. Was every penny of my parents' paycheck sent to BCS really worth the "education taught from a Christian perspective"?

I will be moving out of the state to a public university in a little over two months, and I have to wonder if my Brentwood education has prepared me not only for a more rigorous academic schedule, but also to step out of my Christian cocoon properly equipped with the tools necessary to withstand pressures against my faith.

While there are pros and cons to every situation, I have to lean toward the side of my education holding value. Sure, Brentwood doesn't offer dual credit, some teachers are overworked, a wide variety of classes aren't offered, AP classes are limited, learning to properly write a research paper isn't taught until senior year, and aspects of the dress code policy are ridiculous (certain colored socks are not allowed... really?).

Any student could ramble off a set of personal grievances against Brentwood, but when

I stop and think about how my life would be different had I attended a different school, the pros seem to far outweigh the cons.

The relatively small size of the school can sometimes be disadvantageous especially when it comes to varied class offerings. The trade-off, however, is that the size has also allowed me the opportunity and flexibility to participate in many extra-curricular activities.

I can play sports, write for the school newspaper, be in NHS, and take AP courses all without too much schedule clashing. Yes, it's very busy, but I don't have to sacrifice one passion for another. I can equally develop and explore my talents, and many students can attest to this reality. We have softball players who act, AP Calculus students who sing in Encore, and cross country runners who double as StuCo members.

At a public school many students are competing for different roles in extra-curricular activities and the scheduling is not as flexible as it is here at Brentwood. Many students are forced to choose between two activities because they simply don't have the time to do both. It seems here at Brentwood, teachers and administra-

see **MONACELLI**, page 8

## 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](http://www.brentwoodchristian.org).

*Thoughts Worth Thinking:* Lanae Hollingsworth

## New editor-in-chief issues summer challenge

Two sentences to describe me: I play varsity basketball and softball and will be president of National Honor Society and editor-in-chief of the newspaper next year. My career at Brentwood began in kindergarten and will end in a year; my brother will be a freshman, and my mother is a teacher here.

So what am I thinking about as the school year comes to a close? Freedom! As students struggle though the last two weeks of school, they look toward the freedom of summer. There are fewer rules, fewer restraints, and there is an opportunity to do absolutely nothing. Although for a while doing nothing is fabulous, as I look back on last summer when I did a lot of that, I wish I had done something a lot more worthwhile.

Last summer I spent quite a large portion of my summer lying around my house watching TV or pondering what to do. Watching bad TV is nice for a while, but it quickly makes you lethargic. This summer I want to do more with the time I have, and I encourage you to do so also. Some of you may give many reasons why playing video games or watching TV all day every day is a valid use of your time, but I would like to present several ideas that would be better for you and other people. I am not saying that you should not play video games or watch TV at all, but you might at least contemplate limiting the time you spend on them. Think about the future; do something so that when your children ask you what you did over summer vacation you sound like you had a life, or at least a partial one. As my mother has told me many times: Live life, because it is way more rewarding than watching other people live life.

If you insist on playing video games or watching TV all day, at least do it with someone else. Invite a friend over, see if a neighbor would play with you, or horror of all horrors, play with a sibling. This will at least provide you with some memorable moments to look

back on as you prepare to move on with your life after high school.

One of the most healthful things you can do this summer is exercise. So over the summer, try

see **HOLLINGSWORTH**, page 8



photo: Linda Allen

**Tradition continues** Lyla Kate Jackson, Lianna Mohrmann, and Julia Mathew – all from Sharon Howard's kindergarten class – were among those who enjoyed this year's Kindergarten Campout on April 27-28 at the BCS campus.



# Thirtieth Grandparents' Day honors, uplifts, entertains

Joseph **KANG**  
reporter

"Tom and Mary Riley have two sons who graduated from BCS in the 1990s," Dr. Libby Weed said. "Now their older son has three children in the school."

Thirty years are sufficient time to give title of "grand" to parents. To honor these important people in children's lives and to give them an opportunity to enjoy a special day with their grandchildren, BCS held the 30th annual Grandparents' Day for nearly 400 "grand" parents on May 4.

As traditions tend to be, the Grandparents' Day schedule was similar to those of the past. During breakfast at 8 a.m., school president Marquita Moss gave a speech, and grandparents received door prizes in the Family Life Center. An hour later, grandparents saw vocal presentations by costumed classes in the auditorium. After all the presentations, grandparents visited the classrooms with their grandchildren.

According to Missy Weaver, who is in charge of the secondary vocal presentations, the elementary students had a theme for each grade, and it helped with the flow of songs and costumes, while secondary students had a sacred a cappella.

Weaver said there are always challenges in Grandparents' Day singing. In secondary, more than half of the students singing are not

in choir. Weaver said some students might not even understand some of her instructions.

"We do the best we can," she said. "The audience enjoyed them, so that is a success in my book."

After the auditorium events were completed, the kindergartners had a rodeo; the first graders watched a video presentation of the year; the second graders square danced in the FLC; the third graders flew kites on the soccer field with their grandparents; the fourth graders put on a play about American history; and the fifth graders interviewed their grandparents about their childhood.

In the secondary, there were three 25-minute sessions that grandparents could attend with their grandchildren. Some were general sessions, like Michele Broadway's Money for Medicines, while others were specific classes from the curriculum. Seventh- to twelfth-grade students ranked their top preferences, and Sandy Wiles, who is in charge of secondary sessions, assigned students to a suitable place.

Sixth-grade students were rotated among Karen Peyton's Bible, Becky Stewart's English, and Michelle Mohrmann's Science.

Some National Honor Society members did not go to secondary sessions, serving grandparents at breakfast and welcoming them in the hallways instead.

Beginning last year, the Association of Parents, Teachers, and Friends (PTF) underwrote

the breakfast, so grandparents were not charged.

BCS honors at least one grandparent every year. Floyd Rogers, who is the grandparent of two children in the school and the parent of two BCS graduates, received the Grandparent of the Year award. He is currently on the school board and guided the board through the development of a new strategic vision.

Dr. Weed oversaw the auditorium program, while Weaver and Sondra Strietelmeier planned and prepared the presentations. Carrie Hunter coordinated the elementary sessions after the auditorium program, and Wiles took the secondary sessions. PTF Grandparents' Day coordinator Melinda Stockton managed the breakfast meal, and Moss oversaw the program at breakfast.

"It takes a whole school to make a great Grandparents' Day, and all the people made that happen," Dr. Weed said. "We have many grandparents tell us what a wonderful thing it is to see their grandchildren in school and know what kind of school they are attending. We think that anything we can do to draw families closer is worth doing."



photo: Amanda Conway

**Generations** Fifth-grader Jaclyn Wishard and her grandmother enjoy time together on May 4.

## 'Broadway' shines in new venue

Jackson **HAGER**  
reporter

What do Irish men, Billy Joel, and fine pieces of art have to do with each other? They all had a place in this year's "Way Off Broadway," presented on May 4 and 5 in the Ivy Lea Worley Barton Theater.

This year performing was the Grand Champion one act play, several duets and interpretations, Encore, and the Jazz Band. Over half of the seats for Friday night's performance were pre-sold online, and about 100 more tickets were sold at the box office that night. The Saturday performance was not as large, but more than 250 tickets were sold.

"It was the coolest thing I have ever seen at Brentwood," junior Joy Martin said.

Art contest pieces were available for viewing in the science wing this year, with a few present in the lobby in order to attract attention.

Encore performed several songs, including "Beautiful Day" by U2 and "River of Dreams" by Billy Joel, both of which were performed with members of the Jazz Band.

The drama department presented their one act play "Mr. Flannery's Ocean," which was Grand Champion at TCSIT this year. It featured "Best Actor" winner Bryce Morin, a sophomore, and "Best Actress" winner Kailey Rodden, a senior.

Rodden also performed a humorous interpretation, while classmates Katie Clement and Shannon Lesko performed a duet, and Lesko

also had a dramatic interp.

Senior Kayle Morin did a dramatic interp, while two pairs of students entertained with humorous duets: sophomore Grace Cammack and freshman Dierdre Smith, and junior Travis Clark and freshman Haley Hutson.

One of the biggest changes in this year's show was the use of the new theater. All the directors agreed that the new stage was a huge relief, since there would be no need to do monotonous tasks such as having to set up the entire stage, which is what had been done in previous years. Other advantages included a real lighting and sound system, and lots of room.

A recent addition to the theater was a backdrop in which different lights fill up the backdrop with a variety of colors, adding to the atmosphere. Band director Travis Pollard was excited about this year's show and the fact that it will be the first to be on a proper stage, with proper lighting and sound.

Overall, the shows were well-received. Many people said they particularly enjoyed the opening Encore song "Beautiful Day" and the one act play. The show's directors agreed that it was a success.

"It was just so moving to see students involved in so many things," drama director Cindy Singleton said.

Choir director Missy Weaver was also pleased.

"It was a great representation of the talent we have here at Brentwood," she said.

## BCS takes third place at PSIA

Charlie **SINCLAIR**  
reporter

Seventeen Brentwood Christian students in first through eighth grades made the journey to Fort Worth on April 28 at the campus of TCU, where they placed third in the middle school division and third overall at the PSIA state academic competition.

Last year, Brentwood was the overall champion out of more than 120 schools in the AA division.

"Both (Dr. Libby) Weed and I are very proud of both (elementary and middle school) teams, and we see great potential for next year," PSIA coordinator Kay Taylor said.

Eighth-grader Andrew Armstrong was first in Mathematics 8 and in Music Memory 8, making a perfect score in both events, and was second in Number Sense 8.

Seventh-grader Rachel Beggs got fourth in Listening 6-8, and her classmate Gabie Nguyen was fifth in Mathematics 7, fourth in Number Sense 7, and third in Vocabulary 7/8.

Eighth-grader Josh Sass earned fifth in Calculator Applications 6-8 and fourth in Mathematics 8, while eighth-grader Natalie Williams got first in Poetry Interpretation 7/8.

According to Dr. Weed, who assisted Taylor with directing the PSIA team, several parents,

and students of Brentwood greatly contributed to the school's success. But Weed reserved special praise for the Gardner family: Don and Sharon Gardner, Matthew Gardner (class of 2010), and senior Daniel Gardner.

"Mr. and Mrs. Gardner are a big part of the foundation for our success in academic contests over the years, especially math events," Dr. Weed said.

Mrs. Gardner has coached Number Sense and Mathematics for 10 years. She and her husband have graded tests at both PSIA and TCSIT for hours on end every year. Mr. Gardner and his sons have set up templates for tabulation and have run the tab room at PSIA district and at state many times. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner have both graded at TAPPS district and state every year of Brentwood's involvement as well.

"Their presence at every event, their instruction and encouragement, and their love of learning and developing God-given talents has inspired many, many students," Dr. Weed said.

The presentation of the middle school trophy will be on May 24 at 9:50 a.m. With first through eighth grade in attendance, PSIA director Pat Walters will present the middle school trophy to Kay Taylor.



**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Kayle Morin**

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

# Theatrical artist with angelic voice has kindness to match

**kailey RODDEN**  
reporter

When you're talking with a friend between classes and you hear an angelic voice singing a Disney song, there is only one person that voice can belong to.

Kayle Morin is possibly most well known by her classmates for her singing voice. Oftentimes during study halls she can be heard humming or singing a joyful tune; her voice is commonly heard drifting throughout the corridors at BCS, and her clear tone can be easily recognized during hall singing. However, owning more than just a standout voice in Encore and choir, Kayle has been in 11 Brentwood plays, and countless art pieces have been displayed at "Way Off Broadway" since her freshman year, making her a true "triple threat."

Yes, Kayle is without question one of the most involved students at BCS. One of the "Brentwood Babies," she has attended BCS since her kindergarten year and lives right up the street from the school.

"My home is actually my second home," she jokes.

Her mother, Lori Morin, is the art teacher and director of the fine arts department at BCS, and her brother Bryce is a sophomore. The close relationship to the school is handy, because Kayle easily spends most of her time there. She is involved in nearly every activity BCS has to offer, even trying out track once. Meanwhile, she manages to maintain straight A's, being a part of the school's Academic Hall of Fame and Who's Who. All in all, Kayle is a true Renaissance lady.

And yet one of Kayle's notable characteristics is her klutziness. If you watch closely enough, you can find her tripping over herself many times a day, especially during late night play practices, and then giggling uncontrollably at herself. In fact, during "The Sound of Music" last fall, it was both a joke and a concern that she would accidentally fall into the orchestra pit in the new theater. After all, falling off the stage is not a new concept, for she walked right off the stage in "Beauty and the Beast" and completely missed her chair during the TCSIT one act competition last year.

"Yes, I have a propensity for falling off of things," Kayle says.

This klutziness often allows for people to strike up conversation after asking about her well-being. Kayle is one of the warmest people on campus, never shying away from a conversation or an off-campus get-together. She has some sort of connection to almost every high school student and to several in middle school as well. But underneath the giggles she shares, Kayle is a true friend.

"She is kind and compassionate to everyone she meets, always looking for the good in them," classmate and friend Kat Taylor says.

Among her friends, Kayle's kindness and faith are her most notable qualities. Extremely patient, quiet, and demure, her personality seems a strong contrast to the outgoing one she shows on stage. Her kindness seems to know no bounds, and it may be a family trait. Her home has been open to foster children and is now home to

two foreign exchange students. This example that her mom sets for being generous and loving has really impacted Kayle.

"My family are some of the people who inspire me the most. My mom has a gift for being a friend," Kayle says. "Bryce is similar in that respect; they both show incredible strength, and I want to be more like them."



## 'Evening with Arts' features ideal formal setting

**david LEE**  
reporter

Dressed in suits and dresses, juniors and seniors of Brentwood Christian School went to River Place Country Club and had dinner for their Junior/Senior Formal on April 27.

This year's theme was "An Evening with the Arts," and there were three caricature painters who made funny drawings of seniors. Junior class president Niky McCaffety said she was worried that not all 38 seniors in attendance would get the chance to be drawn, but the artists were able to draw each one.

Also there was music from the start of the formal to the end. Junior Joy Martin's father and sister played piano and cello, and former BCS student Mia Dedear played violin.

According to junior treasurer Ginger Huh, the class looked at many other places but officers were very satisfied with River Place because it had a very good view and environment. Located in Northwest Austin, the country club has hills and valleys which provide cliffs, ravines, big trees, and waterfalls. Also, they were offered with good deal because a friend of junior Serena George is a member of the club.

During the formal, seniors gave the traditional wills to juniors. Celeste Cole willed Masha Heins her track tan and her dependence

on 5-hour Energy. Chris Marler willed Jordan Varnier his ability to sleep in math and still make a 100.

Students were very satisfied with this year's formal. Junior Dominic Ramos said he enjoyed

the atmosphere and had fun playing with decorative silicon balls on the table.

Also, there was an after party at senior Tyler Davis' house. Students who went to the party swam, ate, and watched movies.



photo: Kaleen Graessle

**Animated evening** Senior Shannon Lesko waits patiently while an artist draws her caricature before dinner at River Place Country Club at this year's Junior/Senior Formal on April 27. Beside Lesko, classmates Brittany Brunson and Megan Gum also pose.

It is obvious that God has gifted Kayle with many gifts, but Kayle has had her own bit of hardship as well. Her father, Juan, died when she was in the third grade. Despite this tragedy, she has held strong in her faith.

"There are times when I wonder about who my dad was and what kind of life I would've had," she says, "but then I realized that God had a purpose for this event, even if only to mold me into the person I am now."

This faith in God leaks into everything Kayle does, whether it be singing or schoolwork.

"Kayle is the most talented student I have ever met in my teaching career," choir director Missy Weaver says. "The beauty behind Kayle is that she doesn't even know how good she is at everything! She has the gentlest, kindest spirit, and she uses her talents to the glory of the Father."

Kayle will be attending Lubbock Christian University this fall, majoring in music.

"I've had so many good relationships with both students and teachers here at BCS," she says. "I'm really going to miss them."

## Local actors bring revenue, show to theater

**jin ha JEONG**  
reporter

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin will present the comic opera "Patience" at Brentwood Christian's new Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater in June.

Austin's Gilbert & Sullivan Society is a performing organization that does not own a theater or performing venue; therefore, every year they rent a space to perform.

"Patience" is one of the 14 comic operas by William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.

According to elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed, who is also the president of Austin G&S, this event will benefit BCS in many ways. One of the benefits is that some BCS theater students will be able to assist with costumes, makeup, lighting, sound, or other aspects of the show. Another benefit is that a lot of people will come and see the campus — people who might never otherwise come. This could bring BCS new students and could raise Brentwood's profile in the community.

But Dr. Weed said the greatest benefit is that the theater is now finished and equipped for any performance. This might make other professional theater companies want to rent the theater, which could increase income to help with upkeep and other school projects.

Several years ago, Dr. Weed told the G&S board members about Brentwood's plans to build a performing arts center. Last August, when the Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater was

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# BCS losing top-notch teachers after combined 66 years

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**Sandra Morrow**

excited about and seeing them skip out the door." She said she has done her best over the years to encourage kids to read.

One of Morrow's biggest accomplishments while at BCS was creating the Lamplighter and Children's Crown

reading awards for children's book authors. She wanted a program to encourage wholesome values in children's books.

To show her how grateful they are for her long service and commitment to BCS, the faculty threw her retirement party on April 21.

"It's been a tremendous privilege to work with so many children over the years and to enjoy the Christian fellowship we all share here," Morrow said.

After 17 years at home with her children, Jodie Coyle realized she was interested in returning to teach at a Christian school. When a position came open for a fourth-grade teacher at Brentwood, she applied, and now, more than 24 years later, she has decided it's time to retire.

Coyle received a retirement party from Brentwood's faculty on April 29 to honor her faithful service. As she and her husband are retiring at the



**Jodie Coyle**

same time, Coyle said she plans on traveling around the country with him to sightsee and visit relatives who live across the continent. Along with relaxing and enjoying other pleasures of life, she also said she looks

forward to working in other ministries in the church, specifically ladies' Bible studies and other service activities.

Although she is looking forward to retirement, she did say she will miss many things about Brentwood, including getting to spend time with her grandchildren after school every day, the families and Christian friends she has gotten to know over the years, and most specifically her long-time teaching partner Glenda Morrow, saying, "Lucy will be lonely at home without sharing her days at BCS with Ethel."

"It was evident from the beginning that this is where God wanted me to serve Him, and each year I knew that my fourth graders were children He had graciously given to me for a moment in their lives and mine," Coyle said. "I thank God for Brentwood and all the precious memories I have to cherish in my heart."



**Efrain Contreras**

Brentwood will also be losing secondary Spanish teacher and athletics coach Efrain Contreras, who has been a member of the BCS faculty for eight years. Contreras said he's leaving because he would like to find a job closer to his home

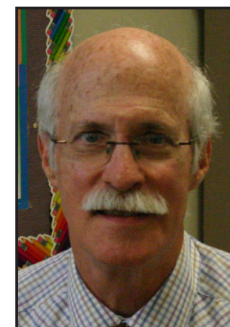
in Lockhart, while he also admitted that he would enjoy coaching baseball again.

Over the years, Contreras has taught every secondary Spanish class BCS has offered, and has also been head coach for varsity baseball and volleyball, in addition to leading off-season workouts and different PE classes.

Many people say they will miss "Coach C," like sophomore Chris Lee, who thought he was a wonderful teacher and was looking forward to having him again in Spanish III.

"I feel like God brought me here," Contreras said. "(Now I feel) He's telling me it's time to move on to new challenges and opportunities."

About six years ago, Craig Moore started to hear about BCS from some of his friends who had kids attending the school. After spending more time with them, he realized he enjoyed being around the type of people they seemed to be,



**Craig Moore**

so when a position opened he applied. Now, he has decided it's time to retire.

During his time here, Moore has taught many more classes than some who have been teaching for a much longer period of time, while also coaching track as

well. He has also started a tradition of publishing some creative writing of BCS secondary students each spring.

Moore has certainly been loved for his teaching as well as his personality by a good number of students. Many students, upon realizing that Moore was retiring, literally let out gasps of shock. Seniors Allison O'Dell and Caitlin Messinger were particularly distressed, saying it was a shame younger students would not get to know him, and that they were looking forward to visiting him in the future. The general consensus was that this was definitely not, as Moore would put it, "Marvelous!"

"(My time here) has been wonderful," Moore said. "I love the faculty and staff, I love the students, and I feel especially blessed to have been able to teach the material I teach. It's been a good, positive experience everywhere."

## Lee known for positive attitude, humility

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his age. He was young for a high school principal, and his perception of how the teachers, students, and parents would treat and respect him intimidated him. He said he also felt a little intimidated coming into a position of authority over some teachers who were older and wiser than he was.

Teachers, however, said Lee is open to suggestions and criticisms, and generally eager to learn.

"One of his defining attributes is his humility," secondary teacher Mel Witcher said. "His willingness to hear others' thoughts, suggestions, and feedback alleviates the age difference."

Lee said that the work to bring confidence back to both the school and principal position was a team effort and ultimately the work of God through him and the faculty and teachers.

Another goal Lee had was to boost student morale.

"I like this place, and I want students and teachers to take pride in being a part of Biblical education," Lee said. "I want them to feel that being a Bear means something."

Students and teachers alike can attest to the fact that Lee has not only boosted morale, but also contributed to the school in positive ways.

According to Witcher, Lee's youthful energy coupled with his open-door policy has helped

create a positive atmosphere while still maintaining order necessary to learn.

"Lee has respect for both students and teachers," Witcher said. "He honors teachers and their authority while still working with and listening to students."

Witcher also said his sense of confidentiality and ability to keep matters private has won him the respect of students and teachers.

"He doesn't tolerate gossiping between teachers or students, and matters concerning certain people will only be made known to those people," Witcher said.

Among students Lee is known for some quirks, such as pausing more than ample time after he begins an announcement, and saying "peppa rally" instead of "pep rally."

Witcher said the biggest thing he will miss is Lee's open faith and encouraging words. At the end of faculty meetings and every time a teacher walks out of Lee's office, Lee says three little words that have a bigger impact on teachers than he may realize: "I appreciate you."

This phrase indicates that Lee realizes he is part of something bigger than himself, Witcher said.

Lee said he hopes the new principal will continue the process of technology and student collaboration in the classroom, dual credit offerings, and chapel improvements.

"Creating an environment in chapel that encourages student worship is something I've al-

ways wanted to improve on," Lee said.

Lee said he hopes he is remembered by his faith and how Christ worked in him.



photo: Mary Monacelli

**Appreciated** After five years as secondary principal, Mr. Lee is headed for Midland.

## Theater

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completed, Dr. Weed invited them to see it.

While they liked what they saw, there was a problem. The school had not been able to fully equip the theater for a full-scale professional production. So the G&S board members brought their production team to find out what they needed to make it ready for a professional production.

When BCS board member Fred Strietelmeier received a cost estimate for the upgrades, it came to \$57,000. Since the school had received donations totaling \$30,000 from two donors in December, that left BCS needing \$27,000.

So the two sides worked out an agreement. According to Dr. Weed, G&S will pay BCS the \$27,000 now to be used toward equipping the theater, in exchange for an agreement that G&S can perform at BCS for the next three years.

The installation on the stage was successfully completed during the month of April.

Austin's Gilbert and Sullivan Society will perform their show from June 7-17, on Thursday through Saturday nights at 8 p.m., on Sundays at 3 p.m., and on the second Saturday at both 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dr. Weed said the ticket price will be \$7 for children and \$25 for adults, with a discount for advance and group orders. She also said anyone interested in attending is welcome to contact her about a "Brentwood discount."



# Softball team falls hard in bi-district playoffs

madalyn **GARELICK**  
reporter

This year's varsity softball season came to an end on Monday, April 30, as the team lost in the first round of playoffs to Richardson Canyon Creek. Brentwood finished second in district with a 6-5 record.

"The last game did not go as well as we'd like, but we will be more prepared next year for this kind of team," head coach Paul Sladek said.

The team traveled to McKinney on Sunday, April 29, and stayed in a hotel so that they would not have to make the long drive on the same day as the game. The playoff began at 3 p.m. on Monday, and from the beginning the girls knew what the outcome would be. They said Canyon Creek was a talented team that placed their hits well and had strong pitching. The Bears had some running and defensive errors that contributed to the loss. The game ended after three innings with a score of 24-3.

"Although we did not do as well as we wanted in the playoffs, everyone did a great job of staying positive," sophomore Maysie Bartos said.

The softball team will say goodbye to three seniors: centerfielder Bailey Hardin, first baseman Kailey Rodden, and Diana Torres, who pitched and played third base.

The rest of the girls have now begun their strength training and cardio workouts in

order to ensure that they will make it further in the playoffs next season. Sladek has many goals for the team to accomplish and sees a bright future for this group.

"Our softball team only has expectations, and

next year it will be to bring that district championship back to our school," Sladek said. "We will do video work, and several kids are getting pitching lessons. I'm looking forward to seeing the talent the eighth grade brings, too."

Three girls were named first-team all-district: junior catcher Lanae Hollingsworth, and seniors Rodden and Torres. Hollingsworth was also named honorable mention all-state.

Making second-team all-district were Hardin, juniors Julia Le and Danielle Riedesel, and sophomore Cynthia Smith.

The Lady Bears had three more games in their regular season before they headed off to McKinney for the playoffs:

**4/18: St. Andrews 17-8 L**

St. Andrews had 13 hits and the Bears had five hits. The girls also made quite a few errors, resulting in an overall disappointing loss.

**4/19: @ San Juan D. 27-9 W**

This game was an easy win for the team, as they pounded out 22 hits. Bartos went 5-for-5, junior Danielle Riedesel hit a home run, and the girls had fewer errors. The game ended after four innings.

**4/22: @ Waco Chr. 19-6 W**

After two innings this game was tied 2-2 and seemed it would be a close game, but the Bears scored a remarkable nine runs in the fourth inning. They ended the game after five innings with sophomore Cynthia Smith pitching.

"You get better (if you) never stop learning your passion," Sladek said.



photo: Mark Merkord

**Ready stance** Senior first baseman, Kailey Rodden prepares to make a play in the softball team's 27-9 win over San Juan Diego on April 19. The girls finished second in district but lost in the first round of playoffs.

# Brentwood about to reward faculty's 'biggest loser'

hannah **KWON**  
reporter

After two years directing the BCS Employee Fitness Plan with Tere Hager, secondary teacher Jonathan Weed decided there needed to be some extra incentive to raise the level of enthusiasm among the teachers. This year, the competition is going to crown Brentwood's "biggest loser," giving \$100 funded by PTF to the BCS employee who achieved the highest percentage of weight loss over the course of the year.

With only a few days remaining until awards will be given, there are two who stand out as the strongest candidates for the weight-loss award: secondary librarian Tere Hager and P.E. coach Paul Sladek, both of whom say they have been working out not just for the contest but for their health.

Anybody at school can tell how different and healthier they appear now.

"It's truly inspiring," said Chloe Campbell, English teacher and a close friend of Hager. "Tere has stuck to running for almost a year now."

The girls on Coach Sladek's softball team also witnessed great change in him.

"It is almost crazy," sophomore Alex Singleton said. "Coach Sladek looks so different from before. He is leaner but definitely stronger because he built muscles."

Hager says she has lost 35 pounds since last May. At first, she decided to run because she wanted to take off some weight and get into shape, but eventually her health dramatically improved as well.

"I never thought of myself as an athletic person," Hager said. "But I actually enjoy and look forward to running in the morning."

She has been working out three times a week from five to six in the morning. Hager runs with her Labrador and uses this time to pray and enjoy her peaceful neighborhood. Though Hager is still in the process of reaching her target weight, she says she feels energetic all the time already.

Sladek says he decided to lose weight for himself, his career, and his softball teams. He has been working out at 24-Hour Fitness for five months with a personal trainer who helps him push through the hour-long workouts which he does six times a week. Lunges, kettlebells, and shoulder presses are a few portions of the workouts. His diet has also changed tremendously – he mostly consumes proteins and greens with an occasional burger and fries. He has been working out since the end of last year, and his total weight loss is 33 pounds.

"If I am asking my softball kids to do a lot

# Baseball eyes future success

madalyn **GARELICK**  
reporter

With some big goals for next season, the Bears' baseball team has begun their journey to reach them. Their season ended on Monday, April 23, with a doubleheader against Round Rock Christian and Central Texas Christian in Georgetown.

The first game ended in an 8-7 comeback victory for RRCA, but the Bears came back to win the second game against CTCS. It ended 6-4 when the lights went out in the seventh inning and no one could figure out how to turn them back on. Senior Diego Cole pitched the first game and freshman Ben Powell pitched the second game.

Now it's time for the team to focus on improving their strength and mental approach, says head coach Brian Thrift.

He and basketball coach Brandon Tatum decided to combine their teams into one off-season program. They agree that the two teams have some of the same qualities they need to improve. Both teams consist of many underclassmen, and both need to improve their game from a muscular standpoint.

"We want to give them a workout to improve their core that they can continue on into the summer," Thrift said. "The season was an improvement. We are a young team consisting of 11 underclassmen out of a 14-man team. Our goals for next year are to win our new district."

Thrift said that the team has good potential for reaching playoffs next year, and he is excited to see the new talent coming from middle school.

Two players on the team received individual awards for the season. Cole was named first-team all district and was named seventh-best player in the district. Junior Garrett Gentry was named to the second team.

of workouts, I should be able to do what they do and even more," Sladek said. "I was also getting close to being diabetic and wanted no part of it."

The BCS Employee Fitness Plan is a mandatory "contest" in which all teachers, staff, and administration participate. Weed said the main goal is to encourage healthier eating habits and exercise. There are three leagues this year, offering a variety in the level of participation required. Teams are composed of three people, and participants earn points for exercising and eating healthy. The winning team in each league gets T-shirts, and the top individuals earn certificates.

While Weed said the main purpose of the fitness plan is to benefit the faculty, he hopes the students will benefit from having more energetic teachers who model healthy habits.

# Savvy seniors set to soar, say 'sayonara'

dennis **CLIFFORD**  
reporter

Every year, Brentwood Christian School has to release its student leaders, the seniors, into a brave new world. Their high school journey has ended, and they prepare to face an entirely different animal all together: college.

By the end of the school year, seniors have decided where they want their lives to take them after high school, and the decision is easier for some than for others. This year BCS will send 17 of its 50 seniors to Christian colleges, of whom five will attend Abilene Christian and six will go to Harding University. Last year's class had seven out of 40 students enroll in a religious university.

Seventeen of the graduates this year will be attending school outside of Texas, with 33 staying in the state. Coincidentally, 17 is also the number of students who will be the only ones of their class going to a particular school; the most common destinations are ACU, Austin Community College, Harding, UT-Austin, and UT-San Antonio.

A popular major in years past has been en-

gineering, and this year five of the seniors will have that major, such as Tony Dang, who is pursuing telecommunication engineering to follow the family business. This year, the most popular major is nursing – six seniors will major in that, as opposed to last year's class in which no one pursued that field.

Seniors choose their college and major for various reasons. Some may be following their childhood dream and have known exactly what they wanted to do for years; others may have known what they wanted to do, but only recently decided where they wanted to go. Several more still haven't declared their major. Many decided based on influences such as where their parents went to school, or if they have friends going there.

Bryan Williams will be majoring in business administration with a specialty in marketing, because he says his family's business was never strong with advertising, but also because it fascinates him.

"I've always been interested since I was a kid," Williams said. "I always liked the idea of using advertising to manipulate people."

Brittany Brunson said she will be going to UT

Tyler to play on the women's basketball team. Her big brother Ryan, a BCS graduate from last year, is also attending there, and is another big factor in her decision.

Tyler Davis will be majoring in information tech and digital design. He seeks to work on computer systems, which is a hobby of his.

"This sort of thing suits me," Davis said. "It's something I've wanted to do since the eighth grade, and I'm good at this sort of thing."

Real-life boyfriend and girlfriend Duc Ahn Phan and Karlie Mattison will both be attending Oklahoma State University, both with a double major. Mattison will major in accounting and marketing, while Phan will major in business management and pre-med. He ultimately seeks to open his own Practitioner Clinic.

"Pretty much every teenage girl is interested in marketing," Mattison said. "If I major in two things I will have better opportunities for a better job."

Some students seek careers that involve serving the public, like Ashtyn Pate, who will major in criminal justice and pursue a career in addiction counseling.

## Track

continued from page 1

record in the discus throw (98-6), finishing in second place.

Junior Morgan Vandygriff placed third in the 400 (1:00.52), and freshman Nicole Glenn placed second in the high jump (5-0), setting a school record.

The 4x400 relay team, comprising both Glenn sisters, Brunson, and Vandygriff, earned third with a time of 4:17.54.

"Not only is this the most successful track team in school history, finishing third in state, but these are some of the most dedicated, team oriented girls I have ever coached," Smith said.

Two weeks earlier both the boys' and girls' teams traveled to Hallettsville to compete in the regional track meet. The girls' team placed first with 144 points, scoring 60 points more than the second-place school, and the boys finished in 14th place with four points.

The boys took seven athletes to the meet in nine different events, while the girls took 12 people in 15 events.

At the meet Brunson won the mile and two mile with times of 5:48 and 12:38, respectively. Vandygriff won the 400, finishing at 1:02.35, and Glenn took first in the pole vault with a height of 10-0.

The girls' 4x400 relay team finished first with a time of 4:16.3, breaking their own school record once again.

For the boys, senior Marcus McCormick placed fifth in the mile with a time of 5:04, and senior Trent George also got fifth in the shot put with a throw of 36-0.

Boys' track coach Jacob Rotich said he was a little disappointed that no one advanced to the state meet, but he told the team after the meet not to worry about it but to begin focusing on next year.

"We have big plans to work hard in the summer and earlier in the school year, and I'm really excited to see how we will do next year," Rotich said.

## Sung: wisdom

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gained from Brentwood cannot be compared to what I would have earned by attending a public school. Other people normally search for drugs, alcohol, or simply for material things when they are in deep dilemmas. They easily deviate into corrupt paths, but we, the students of Brentwood, should know that God is the answer. While others struggle to overcome the temptations, we turn to God for wisdom.

My hope is that when I get out of BCS, I can continue to interact with God daily. My new environment will not be like Brentwood. There will be different arguments, perspectives, and stubborn disagreements. However, studying in BCS has prepared me to stay strong in new environments. Seniors are on our own and some of us will be without our parents close by. In a positive phrase, "we are free," but in a negative way "we are vulnerable." Let's not waste the time we spent and the things we learned in BCS, but take advantage of graduating from Brentwood.

## Seniors go coast to coast for college

### Colleges and majors or areas of study



#### Abilene Christian University

Laura Combs - early childhood education  
Tyler Davis - info technology, digital design  
Sydney Jung - athletic training  
Haley Shake - nursing  
Kat Taylor - nursing

#### Angelo State University

Ashtyn Pate - criminal justice

#### Austin Community College

Tony Dang - telecommunications engineering  
Megan Gum - nursing  
Schuyler Hagen - psychology  
Loriann Harper - undecided  
Soo Lee - mathematics  
Brianna Maguire - fashion

#### Baylor University

Dorey Chiu - business  
Shannon Lesko - biology

#### Blinn Junior College

Chris Marler - software engineering

#### Colorado State University

Megan Monacelli - bio ethics, pre-med

#### Concordia University

Bryan Williams - business administration

#### Harding University

Bridgette Beck - undecided  
Kaleb Chambers - youth and family ministry  
Katie Clement - nursing or broadcast journ.

#### Harding (continued)

Bailey Hardin - nursing  
Marcus McCormick - history  
Mark Nestor - Biblical texts

#### Lubbock Christian University

Kayle Morin - music

#### Missouri Univ. of Science and Technology

Daniel Gardner - mining engineering

#### Oklahoma State University

Karlie Mattison - accounting, marketing  
Duc Ahn Phan - business, pre-med

#### Parson's The New School for Design

Julie Kwon - fashion design

#### Pepperdine University

Kailey Rodden - history

#### Rutgers University

David Lee - pre-pharmacy  
Sydney Min - pre-pharmacy

#### Savannah College of Art and Design

Carter Boyd - graphic design

#### Texas A&M University

Haley Decker - undecided

#### Texas State University

Trent George - undecided  
Simon Na - athletic training

#### Texas Tech University

Danielle Tresslar - pre-pharmacy

#### University of Texas

Min Shin - computer engineering  
EJ Sung - economics  
Anh Tang - biology  
Tipp Umrod - medical lab science

#### UT-San Antonio

Celeste Cole - undecided  
Diego Cole - undecided  
Chance Morris - undecided  
Diana Torres - civil engineering

#### University of Texas at Tyler

Brittany Brunson - undecided

#### University of Central Florida

Nick Marler - business

#### Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chloe Kim - psychology

#### University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Allison O'Dell - business

#### University of Incarnate Word

Caitlin Messinger - nursing

#### Victoria Community College

Ashley Harper - criminal justice



# New Student Council president aims for fun, loves to eat

*Bear Facts reporter Kia Khadem recently talked with incoming Student Council president Jackson Graessle. Here is a portion of the interview.*

## What changes do you have planned for Student Council next year?

Well I'm not planning on actually doing huge things, but instead I'm planning on doing a ton of fun little things. For example, I'm going to get a list of random weird days, like Pancake Day or Lemonade Day, and find some fun way to celebrate them. I also want to do things that people will enjoy, like game nights and movie nights. I want people to know that StuCo knows how to keep Brentwood a fun place to go. (I know that you enjoy gaming, and I enjoy gaming, so I will support and help advertise for LAN parties.)

## Who needs school when you have video games?

Anybody who wants to have friends. Video games are great – I admit, I play them all the time – but I love nothing more than hanging out with my friends. I hope not to offend any teachers, but classes are not the most fun thing about school. The most fun aspect of school has to be the social aspect. You can hang out with your friends easily with very little effort, and that's what StuCo is there for.

## Who says that I don't have friends?

Nobody.

## On another point, how did you come up with "Jackson and Jackson"?

Well, I'm Jackson, and (new StuCo vice president Jackson Hager) is also Jackson, so it was pretty easy to think of. We had done it last year and we both got voted in, and we were thinking, "Hey, we're both running unopposed and don't want to come up with a new election ploy. Let's use last year's!"

## What is the primary responsibility of the Student Council president?

The StuCo president tells StuCo how they are going to make the year fun. I get to tell them what to do and help them do it, but StuCo actually does all the hard labor. You can't blame me for all of the awesome stuff that they do, because it's not all me. It's people like Rachel Dixon and Tyler Clark and Bryce Morin who know how to cheer people up in the best way possible. These people (along with several others) are the people who bring the spirit of fun to B-Wood.

## How does StuCo work with the school?

The Student Council president has always communicated frequently with the principal. The principal has to approve and will generally help the president come up with awesome ideas for how to make the year fun, because all principals (unless they're on television) love it when their students are having fun.

## What changes have occurred to the school because of Student Council's influence?

Well, because of Student Council, seniors can wear the outerwear of the college they plan on attending, which is awesome, but only one of the several changes that have occurred.

## How are you going to deal with the new principal and the changes to the administration? Do you think it will hinder or open up new opportunities?

I think that at first, I will be hesitant to be as open as I have been with Mr. Lee. For an adult in charge of a private Christian school, he is a really awesome guy, and I know that Brentwood will pick a great principal, but I'm pretty sure I won't be as close to him or her as I was to Mr. Lee. I will try as hard as I can to make him or her feel welcome.

## How does Student Council work with the feedback from students?

Student Council will take your opinions, see what they can do, and probably fix it and make it more fun. We just like fun and eating.

## Are there any activities by Student Council that were cancelled due to a lack of interest from the students?

The talent show. I wanted the talent show as much as several hyped students and we had to cancel it due to lack of participation, and we were very upset about this. Several friends and

I had begun planning a rendition of "Let it Be" by The Beatles, composed only of meows.

## What's the most positively received activity Student Council has enacted? The most negatively received activity?

The most positive will pretty much always be Homecoming, because it is huge! The most negatively received activity is ... well, I actually can't think of anything. I have enjoyed all of them and that might have blinded me a little.

## Where's StuCo's favorite place to hang out?

StuCo loves hanging out at school, but StuCo also loves Rufi's. Before the golf tournament we went there and loved it so much we decided to possibly have meetings there next year.

## What's special about Rufi's?

It's a local, family-friendly place that has wonderful people who love to just hang out and talk with you. Oh, and they make tacos.

## I'm guessing StuCo likes tacos?

StuCo LOVES tacos. Collectively. By collectively, I mean mostly me.

## How does StuCo feel about the student population?

I feel like the student population is a great group of kids overall, but I believe that they're not having near as much fun as they should be. Now, I'm not all of StuCo myself, but I do love having fun, and I want the population to enjoy their time here an incredible amount.

## Monacelli: Grateful for BCS

continued from page 2

tors understand students' desire to participate in many activities, and they want to allow students the opportunity to learn, develop, and enjoy their talents for the glory of God. Homecoming, Way Off Broadway, and different activities like this allow students to show off their work outside the classroom, and BCS has encouraged the development of individual talents with the construction of the Center for Science and the Arts building.

I'm grateful for the opportunity and flexibility Brentwood has provided me to explore and expand my talents, and it has given me more confidence as I prepare to live on my own. I know what I'm good at and what I'm not so good at. I know what I like and I am able to more easily choose what activities I want to pursue in college.

Perhaps the biggest upside I've experienced, however, is the opportunity to have relationships with teachers that small classes seem to foster. I know all of my teachers personally and I consider a handful of them friends. More personalized, poignant, and directed learning is not only possible, but also encouraged. I feel comfortable going to my teachers with questions outside of class, and I go to some for advice. I celebrate with some when I receive college and scholarship offers. I ask others about their home life, kids, and plans, and I have more than one teacher's phone number.

The opportunity to have relationships like this is invaluable because it has opened the door for me to share and grow my faith. The

relationships allow me to take what I learn in the classroom about the world around me and Christianity and further question, discuss, and consider the implications of my faith in a secular world. I can bounce ideas and thoughts off of teachers because the relationships enable me to converse freely.

Some teachers really care about the spiritual and intellectual growth of students, and while teachers don't technically have office hours, they make themselves available outside of class to talk with students about school work, the Bible, or simply about their everyday life.

The caring of teachers and the relationships BCS tries to build is perhaps most clearly seen in mentor groups. BCS gets that we are made to be in community with each other and so they carve out time to encourage strengthening the bond between students and teachers. I have greatly benefitted from this aspect of the school and it has definitely contributed beneficially to both my spiritual and intellectual knowledge and maturity.

Surveying the benefits and drawbacks of my private education, I have to conclude that it has been worth it. I feel prepared to enter a college classroom, and perhaps more importantly, I feel equipped to not only stand up for my faith, but also actively live out my faith in meaningful and purposeful ways.

I take pride in my education and I hope you too realize that being a BCS Bear means something. I encourage you to do what I failed to do until my senior year. Take advantage of the opportunities at Brentwood. Get involved and develop relationships with teachers. Find out who you are and pursue a deeper faith.

## Hollingsworth: Use time well

continued from page 2

running, going to the pool, taking a hike with friends, doing yoga, or playing a dance video game. You can always take it in baby steps – walk to the mailbox. Maybe set a goal such as great abs by the time school starts, or do it with a friend to keep you accountable. One of my favorite outdoor activities is kayaking. Find a coupon, take a friend, and spend an evening or morning on Lady Bird Lake when the temperature is slightly cooler, and you still have the ability to cool down by taking a dip. Exercising provides numerous benefits such as staying in shape, not gaining weight, and working off all the junk food eaten during the summer. You would not want to gain the "freshman 15" before you get to college.

Summer provides a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends that you do not get to see often during school. I know it's hotter than you during the summer, but there are several options that could fill your time. Something I enjoy doing is getting an iced coffee or drink from Sonic happy hour and going to the Domain or the mall. Another idea would be to become a true Austinite by eating Amy's Ice Cream and playing on the cows at the Arboretum. I cannot think of a better way to make memories than watching your friends try to get on top of every single one of those cows. You could also go to the movies or hang out at someone's house and swim or play board

or card games, work a puzzle, or bake the ever popular cupcakes.

Another option for using your time judiciously over the summer would be volunteering somewhere. This does not have to mean getting hot and sweaty; there are many air-conditioned opportunities. Volunteering has several advantages. The service hours can be counted toward the distinguished scholar program or an honor society. It will also look good on your college application or job résumé. If you know

what you want to do, you can prob-

ably find an opportunity in that field. Most churches have some form of VBS, and there are other places like hospitals, vet clinics, and YMCAs.

Finally, although you are probably sick and tired of learning, by about the end of June you might want to start feeding your brain again. Summer is a time that you could investigate and learn about something

that truly matters to you that you might not get to learn at school. Read a book you enjoy or do a crossword. Exercising your brain keeps it healthier longer.

While not everyone has access to the same things or flexibility in their schedule, there are things you can do to get off the couch. All you have to do is find them. I know that I will be searching for ways to stay fit, have fun, learn, and volunteer with family and friends.

