



THE BEAR FACTS



VOL. 25 NO. 7

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MAY 2013

IN SHORT

Upcoming graduations

Commencement for the BCS Class of 2013 will be Friday, May 31, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. Kindergarten graduation is at 9 a.m. the same day, while fifth and eighth graders receive their diplomas Wednesday, June 5.

Bailey honored

Senior Steven Bailey received the inaugural Bear Spirit Award at the academic awards banquet May 17. President Marquita Moss presented the award after noting his countless hours of hard work solving technological problems, always done with enthusiasm and a joyful spirit.

Also at the banquet, Matthew Onabajo was named Mr. BCHS, while Lanae Hollingsworth and Morgan Vandygriff shared the title of Miss BCHS.

Armstrong competes

Freshman Andrew Armstrong was among only 235 students to take the USAJMO, a math contest for American students in 10th grade or below. He was also selected as one of 45 students to represent Texas at the American Regional Mathematics League competition in Iowa on June 1.

BCS celebrates Jubilee

Brentwood Christian celebrated its 50th birthday on May 4 with a crowd of about 375 people in the Family Life Center. The Jubilee had great food and inflatable stations for children, as well as the band Jane & the Gentlemen, featuring BCS alumna Abbie Boyd ('10). At the event, organized by Kevin Claypool and Steven Colwell, school board chairman Jay Burcham announced that elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed will have the choir room named in her honor.

Track girls take second at state

By MJ Sung

The varsity girls' track team placed second at the TAPPS 3A state meet in Waco on May 11. This was the highest finish ever for the BCS track program.

Brentwood's girls also won first place in the 4x400 relay, setting a school record in the process. The team had four state champions, which was also the best in school history.

Coach Katie Smith said her athletes were a very special group.

"I cannot say how proud I am of these young ladies," Smith said. "They worked so hard all season and performed amazing when it counted at district and state."

Brentwood's 4x400 relay team, composed of senior Priscilla Glenn, sophomore Nicole Glenn, freshman Martha Hughes, and senior Morgan Vandygriff, won first place with a time of 4:10.67. In that race, which many have enjoyed watching on YouTube, Vandygriff took the baton from Hughes for the anchor leg with a slight lead over Bay Area and Covenant Christian. But she knew Covenant's anchor had defeated her to win gold in the 400 earlier, meaning this girl would likely be catching her.

However, after Vandygriff eventually pulled away from Bay Area's runner, she held off Covenant in the home stretch to win the gold.

"I knew the other team had a good anchor leg, but I actually just ran, not knowing how close the others ran," Vandygriff said.

Priscilla Glenn won first place in pole vault



photo: Melissa Vandygriff

Champions The 4x400 relay team (senior Priscilla Glenn, senior Morgan Vandygriff, sophomore Nicole Glenn, and freshman Martha Hughes) won gold at state on May 4.

with a height of 10-6, setting a personal record. She also won first place in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 46.31. She was third in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 16.24, and fifth in long jump, leaping 16-11½ feet, setting

a school record.

Glenn said she was really excited to earn four new PRs at state and three gold medals. She also

see **Glenn**, page 6

TCSIT first: middle school, high school sweep

By Grace Cammack

Nearly 100 Brentwood warriors returned on April 20 with not one, not two, but 12 gold medals and both first place trophies after three days of competing, testing, and winning at TCSIT. After 15 trips of winning only one first place trophy, Brentwood brought home the gold for both high school and middle school for the first time.

The high school won sweepstakes for the fourteenth time in the past 20 years. The middle school was able to claim the top trophy as its own for the second time.

"I knew how gifted these students were, but to see it was amazing," new TCSIT coordinator Michelle Mallett said.

It began on the rainy morning of April 18 with two shiny charter buses to transport the student competitors. Mallett said she made the decision to use charter buses instead of parent vehicles to help the students feel more like a team during the four-hour trip to Abilene. The time on the bus was used for teams to practice together. The bus experience was received with a resounding "yes" from the students, although some did get carsick along the way as a result of hours of intense concentration.

"Other than everyone getting sick from studying, the buses were super fun!" freshman Natalie Williams said. "We got to have a lot of bonding time."

While the debate, art, and journalism teams were competing on Thursday afternoon, the

rest of the team was busy studying in a newly reserved room off the ACU campus library. This was another addition to the TCSIT experience brought on by Mallett.

"I loved the good study and prep time," said previous TCSIT coordinator Dr. Libby Weed, who traveled with the team and helped oversee the middle school bus.

The desire for team spirit was satisfied by the time the awards ceremony rolled around on Saturday. The four hours together in transit and the support during various competitions helped boost everyone's morale and confidence.

"Whenever someone from Brentwood was

see **TCSIT**, page 8

Next year's editor-in-chief: Grace Cammack

Beware over-involvement; get some refreshing sleep!

Now that I have your attention, let's begin with a short introduction. Don't worry, it'll be brief. I dislike introductions as much as anyone. Probably more, because I'm horrible with names. Moving on.

I arrived at Brentwood in second grade, took a year to make close friends, and the rest is history. Besides the obvious friends and family, I enjoy kids, theater, and art. I'll stop there before I begin to sound like a dating profile.

See? Short and sweet.

It's just a few weeks until I begin my thirteenth year of school, only to be followed by at least four more years of "higher education." I'll soon be sitting at the height of my high school career, and what have I got to show for it?

Quite a bit, actually.

High school has taught me not only the required curriculum, but also how to deal with people. Whether or not I have learned the correct methods of how to do this is a different story. But this isn't my point.

What is my point?

That's an excellent question.

While school is a good thing, too much can be bad. Yes, you heard me correctly. Often what happens is, once you hit the last two or three years, school decides to eat up all of your time, like a starving homeless man sitting in front of a Thanksgiving dinner. And we let it, don't we?

A "fully integrated" student will arrive at school at 8 a.m., go through normal classes until 3:30 p.m., spend at least two hours doing whatever it is you sporty people do, grab dinner (maybe) before heading over to play/musical practice until maybe nine, spend five to 20 minutes going home (trying not to fall asleep at the wheel) and stay up until three a.m. doing homework. Five hours later you prepare to do it all again, a bit more sleepy than the day before.

Really?

I've always been told that quality is better than quantity. I'm sure someone famous at some point in time said it as well. Apply this "quote" to the situation above. See? I'm not saying that playing sports, doing a play, or working hard is bad. But doing them all at once?

When you try everything life has to offer, this means each aspect can't get your full, undivided attention, thus, a drop in quality. The habits we form today we'll keep into our adult lives. I know it sounds like a cheesy piece of advice, but it's true. Just ask any adult. Trying to be the one who can do it all is more than difficult, even for the greatest time manager. Somewhere you'll slip up, and the quality of your work will show it.

Imagine, years from now, driving your kids to school before 8 a.m., heading to your job, grabbing dinner for your family on the way home after picking your kids up from school, eating said dinner, kissing your spouse, playing with your kids, putting them to bed, working on the project that needs to be done before the end of the quarter, and heading off to bed before waking up to do it again, still as tired as you were in high school.

Transferring the habits learned now into this situation is a disaster waiting to happen. Yes, you've learned to multi-task, but you've also learned to sacrifice your well-being and the quality of your work for the sake of what? A grade now? A promotion later?

Work accomplished at three in the morning

is often undecipherable later in the day. Don't do it if you can't tell what you did later. As an adult the stakes are higher. The resultant sleep deprivation from doing everything at once often leads to grouchiness, which will lead you to snap at your boss at work, or at your spouse and kids at home. Neither option is favorable.

Problem: yes. Solution: it varies. I'm not saying you have to stop playing sports, doing a play, or working for an A. Go ahead, but keep an eye on the clock and the calendar. The next time you are staring at your online profile, ask yourself if there's anything that needs to be done. You're obviously alert, and your brain will respond positively to a challenge. Go ahead – roll your eyes. I won't be offended. Plan things out so you can get it done to the best of your ability.

There is a line where quantity overruns quality, where I can finish all of my homework for the week but not remember doing – much less learning – from any of it. If you're still working on a load of homework at 11:30 p.m., stop. Go to bed. Heaven forbid you try to get a good night's rest so you can be prepared with questions the following day. I'm not saying quit a major project because it's past your bedtime, but don't keep working when you know it won't be your best work. You'll thank me later.



THE BEAR FACTS

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

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

Editor-in-Chief

Lanae Hollingsworth

Photo Editor

Joseph Kang

Reporters

Maddie Ashworth	Jin Ha Jeong
Nicholas Bergeron	Joseph Kang
Grace Cammack	Hannah Kwon
Connor Crowe	Jonathon Reich
Morgan Gage	Joshua Sass
Madalyn Garelick	Charlie Sinclair
John Hollingsworth	M.J. Sung
	Becca Willingham

Adviser

Jonathan Weed

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

Thoughts Worth Thinking: Lanae Hollingsworth

BCS not perfect, but blessings abound

Honestly, after 13 years at Brentwood I am ready to leave.

It is almost too long to be in one place even if you love it, though I am not sure that is the word I would use to describe my relationship with Brentwood. I have great friends and a wonderful life, but I am ready to try new things. This is exactly what I am going to do, because I am moving 2,200 miles away from home, going to a metropolitan area of 3.5 million people, and making new friends.

I wonder so much what the next few years are going to bring after I leave the only school I have ever known. It is OK; I am ready, because when I start college I will be 19 with four incredible years of high school under my belt.

I have seen in the last few months that there are many paths our lives can take, and the decisions we make determine the course we will follow. There were a couple of times I considered transferring to Pflugerville High School to play softball, but the path I saw myself on at PHS looked as if it would lead me down a one-track path of AP classes and softball and nothing else. I did not want that to be all I was; I wanted to live life as someone who could enjoy many things, people, and experiences.

Yes, the last four years have had their low points – a lot of them. There were classes in which I was not challenged, and there were administrative decisions I did not understand. At times I was so frustrated that one incident would have sent me to Pflugerville High; thank Coach Loftis and the fact that 5'4" people can play basketball here. In the end, obviously I stayed.

Why, you ask, would I call the last four years incredible and then say I almost did not stay?

The last four years have changed me, but not in ways I would have expected. Looking back, I have seen God at work in amazing ways. The most reassuring way would be watching the effects of constant love at Brentwood. They are truly astounding. As Christians we are constantly saying that love is transformational, but I often think that people do not see or feel the effects of love, myself included. At Brentwood in the last four years, I have seen people be completely changed by a constant, accepting love. I can adhere and be a part of a belief that is able to assist in that.

That might make it sound like the only reason I stayed at Brentwood was to watch other people, but it was not. I stayed because I felt

loved for who I am. There have been so many times when people have been understanding about me missing something and followed with the words, "That is what you need to be doing."

My decision ended up being about relationships; love works both ways. I decided that staying afforded me the ability to deepen my relationships and form new ones, especially with younger students. If I had gone to PHS I would not be able to have a Connect class, make kindergartners feel special, and hang out with middle school students; all of which have blessed me in so many ways. I have been completely changed. I have found out what it means to learn from one another. I promise I am a much more laid back, outgoing, caring person than I would be without all my friends, peers, and teachers here.

Being at Brentwood has allowed me to get what I consider a well-rounded education, which includes everything from learning country songs and calculus to basketball and Sonic drink combinations. I believe I am prepared to go to college, interact confidently with all the people I meet, and find a place where I can be a part of transforming love. Thank you, Brentwood.

Group of 39 favors Texas, medicine

By Jonathon Reich

More seniors than usual have elected to stay close to home their first year of “freedom.” While saying goodbye may be just as painful for friends and family of these graduates, only seven out of Brentwood’s 39 seniors have decided to leave the state for their freshman year of college.

Oklahoma and Arkansas tie as the most common out-of-state destinations, each with two BCS students. In previous years five or six students have all gone to the same state. The seniors going the farthest away from Texas are Joseph Kang, who will attend the University of California at Berkeley, and Lanae Hollingsworth, who will go to Seattle Pacific University.

The students will attend 20 different colleges and universities in the fall, the most common being Abilene Christian University and Austin Community College, with five students each.

This year a larger portion of the class than in previous years is choosing the medical field as its major. One of these – Dennis Clifford, who will major in nursing – said he looks forward

to the opportunities involved with being one of the few nurses of his gender.

“Male nurses are highly demanded jobs,” Clifford said. “And I like to help people.”

Amanda Conway plans to attend UTSA, where she will major in business, hoping to use her future knowledge to one day take over Build-A-Bear. However, she said she is willing to settle for opening her own animal charity.

Conway said she was inspired by the work Mission Possible does, and she wanted to start something like it. Conway also admitted that she connects with animals easily. The combination of these traits would seem to qualify her for being a future founder of an animal charity.

Priscilla Glenn, who will attend college at UT-Arlington, is another student who will major in a medical-related field. Glenn, who has chosen to study genetics, said she has been interested in that since she was in second grade, when she questioned why her brother’s eye color was different from the rest of her family. And luckily for her, her continued interest in genetics offers her a multitude of opportunities for the future.

“I can do whatever I want with it,” Glenn said. “(But) it’s a lot of schooling.”

While some seniors’ plans include making it through college alive, getting married, and deciding what they want to do for a living, others are planning their lives with more spiritual intentions. Anthony Milan said he wants to be a missionary. He doesn’t know much about where he’s going to go, but a place he has thought about is Guatemala, the country from which his sister was adopted.

“(It’s) not set in stone yet,” Milan said. “I’m still waiting to figure out plans.”

While he waits, Milan said he is planning on going to his dream college, Belmont University in Tennessee, where he will take on a double major involving two of his big passions in life: music and computer science.

Class sponsor Kaleen Graessle said this year’s seniors have made a positive impact on every component of school life.

“We will miss them, but I know they are prepared to make a greater impact in the world,” she said. “They just need to remember to come back to visit.”

‘Biggest loser’ prize awaits healthy teacher

By Becca Willingham

A few faculty and staff members at Brentwood Christian have been working hard to shed pounds and eat right this year. By the end of the month, one of them will be named Brentwood’s “biggest loser,” winning several hundred dollars. Others will win cash prizes for accomplishing their fitness goals.

In its fourth year, the BCS Employee Fitness Plan is a mandatory contest in which teachers, administration, and staff of BCS work on eating right and exercising. Last year the “biggest loser” contest began, with PE teacher Paul Sladek taking the \$100 grand prize for shedding the highest percentage of body weight over the course of the year.

Jonathan Weed, who heads up the fitness plan, said he hopes for a cash prize of \$500 for the winner of the competition, but this will require more participation from the faculty in donating money to the cause.

A new contest this year gives each person the option of setting a personal fitness goal. At the end of the year a panel will determine who came closest to meeting their goal, or whose accomplishment was the most impressive, and there will be cash prizes for the top three finishers.

One of this year’s contenders for “biggest loser” is third-grade teacher Evelyn Ellis, who has lost 44 pounds since the beginning of summer. She said she and her husband made a decision to work together and change their habits because they wanted to be healthy.

In total Ellis has lost 85 pounds over a span of 16 months, starting in January of last year. She said she has been using the Weight Watchers program, which includes eating right and exercising.

Asked how she would spend the prize money, Ellis said, “I have a list of things I would do with an extra \$500.” Some of these things include buying clothes, visiting her kids, or “doing something crazy” like skydiving.

Ellis said the Employee Fitness Program has helped her in her fitness journey because it’s encouraging to have other people around her working toward a common goal. She said the program was not her initial motivation, but it is helpful because it rewards good habits.

“Working in an environment that encourages me daily in my walk with God and my goals to be healthy is a blessing,” Ellis said.

STAYING WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI Colleges and majors or areas of study

- Abilene Christian University**
Garrett Gentry - information technology
Bevin Koyikolathu - undecided
Brooklyn Merkord - elementary education
Rachel Orick - nursing
Desiree Tresslar - special education
- Austin Community College**
Wyatt Allee - psychology
Steven Bailey - aerospace engineering
Elena Battle - international relations
Masha Heins - criminal justice
Long Ho - undecided
- Baylor University**
Jackson Graessle - graphic design
Niky McCaffety - political science
- Belmont University**
Anthony Milan - commercial mus./comp. sci
- Concordia University**
Catherine Amann - business
- Harding University**
Morgan Vandygriff - education
Hannah Witcher - elementary education

- Lubbock Christian University**
Serena George - accounting
- Oklahoma Christian University**
Travis Clark - computer engineering
- Seattle Pacific University**
Lanae Hollingsworth - exercise science
- Tarleton State University**
Dominic Ramos - pre-physical therapy
- Texas A&M**
Michelle Dembosky - biomedical sciences
Danielle Riedesel - international studies
Rachael Wells - interdisciplinary studies
- Texas State University**
Dennis Clifford - nursing
- Texas Tech University**
Seokhyun Koh - petroleum
Ben Verghese - mech. biomedical engineering
Benjamin Willingham - undecided (pre-med)
- University of California at Berkeley**
Joseph Kang - biology

- University of Denver**
Mary Monacelli - hospitality management
- University of Oklahoma**
Courtney Flores - journalism
- University of Texas**
Ginger Huh - biomedical engineering
- UT at Arlington**
Priscilla Glenn - genetics
Matthew Onabajo - biochemistry
- UT at Dallas**
Kia Khadem - undecided
Serene Nermal - arts and sciences
- UT at San Antonio**
Matthew Archer - business
Amanda Conway - business and accounting
Julia Le - biochemistry
Tiffany Truong - liberal arts

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Jackson Graessle

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

Witty, eclectic senior knows a lot about fun

By Hannah Kwon

How much talent, enthusiasm, and energy can a single person possibly have? The answer describes Jackson Graessle, an art fanatic who seems to be just as crazy about his friends and teachers around him.

Jackson is well known around campus as the

lanky senior who is constantly in on some kind of action. Whether it is activities as Student Council president, creating art for TAPPS and TCSIT contests, or singing in the choir, his energy seems unstoppable.

His enthusiasm takes over academics as well. Though Jackson is involved in many extracurricular activities around school, he still maintains A's for all his classes. Jackson is enrolled in some of the highest level courses BCS offers, including the AP Calculus class taught by Kaleen Graessle, his own mother.

As outstanding as his résumé might be, the fact that Jackson has been part of the school since he was born cannot be overlooked. Even well before he was born, Jackson has been in the Brentwood community. When he was just 10 days old, Pam Hardin, the current athletics office assistant, played with him by the lunch checkout line.

Mrs. Graessle, mathematics teacher of 20 years at BCS, introduced her family to Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ as well as the school itself. And Jackson hasn't squandered any of these years in BCS. Reputable among friends and teachers, Jackson is loved among the crowd of Brentwood.

"His perspective on life seems to be to just have fun and enjoy good friends and good times," junior Jackson Hager says.

Fellow senior Matthew Onabajo describes him as having the quickest wit in school.

"Jackson is spontaneous, and he is very easy going," Matthew says. "He lights up the room with his jokes."

Sophomore Rachel Dixon and Hager both describe him as goofy and eccentric around friends. Hager says his friendship with Jackson is like a brotherhood. They talk about books, TV, life, and food, referencing dozens of different shows. The two Jacksons became great friends because they enjoy similar things and are always up to trying new things together. In last year's StuCo election, the two Jacksons won the election as president and vice president under their campaign slogan "Jackson & Jackson."

Around teachers, Jackson is joking and funny, but still very respectful. At home, he is not much different. According to his sister Isabelle, a BCS sophomore, Jackson is enthusiastic and full of energy around his sisters and his parents. He gets to spend a great deal of quality time with Isabelle and with Genevieve, a BCS fifth grader.

"We play games together, and we go on bike

rides to Half Price Books," says Isabelle. "He also opens up new music to me."

Since Jackson is leaving for college soon, the two siblings decided to send each other care packages with new CDs and other little things that remind them of each other.

"I am going to cry when he goes off to college," Isabelle says.

Jackson describes his relationship with his family as superb.

"I love my family, and it is going to be hard without them," says Jackson. "I can't wait to come back and visit from college."

Jackson is headed off to Baylor University as a graphic design major, minoring in film and media design in order to make movies or go into the graphic design field eventually.

In his free time, Jackson enjoys watching TV shows like "Community" and loves watching movies and reading books. He also likes to read articles about these TV shows, movies, and books.

But there's more to Jackson than just a guy who just wants to watch shows with his friends. He says his time spent at Brentwood has greatly supported his love of Jesus Christ.

"Bible classes with Coach (Brandon) Tatum and Mr. (Mel) Witcher have developed my beliefs and helped me to create a solid faith," Jackson says. "I love talking about my faith, and these two teachers in Brentwood have created great opportunities for me."

By next year, a rangy figure will be striding across the Baylor campus, spreading positive energy and sharing enthusiasm about art and Jesus Christ.



photo: submitted

Way Off Broadway showcases wealth of artistic talent

By Morgan Gage

Lights, camera, action! This year's Way Off Broadway, or "WoB" as some have begun to call it through social media, was a big success once again.

The show was hosted after Grandparents' Day on May 3 and after the school's 50-year Jubilee on May 4, and many students, parents, and teachers could be seen at the Saturday performance accompanied by children covered in face paint wearing brightly colored T-shirts and happy smiles.

BCS senior Niky McCaffety opened the night, and then Encore performed two pieces accompanied by the school's Jazz Band. After that came a humorous interpretation by junior Bryce Morin and a dramatic interpretation by

McCaffety.

Encore followed with "I Won't Give Up" by Jason Mraz, before two more interpretations – a humorous one by freshman Hope Kronke and another dramatic one by sophomore Tyler Clark. Afterward, Jazz Band played two songs before intermission.

During the break, viewers streamed into the lobby, where they conversed with their friends, purchased snacks, and observed all the artwork set out on tables. In the main lobby there were three tables for Brentwood's three most successful senior artists: Serene Nermal, Jackson Graessle, and Michelle Dembosky. The science wing exhibited art by other students, and Encore CDs were also sold in the lobby for \$15.

Senior Travis Clark and Morin opened Part II with a dramatic duet based on the Jewish Holo-

caust. Then came a humorous duet by freshman Natalie Williams and Tyler Clark entitled "It's Not You, It's Me," which is all about bad breakups.

"Way off Broadway is extremely fun!" Williams said. "Whenever the band or someone is performing on stage we dance and go crazy. Sometimes we hide in the black curtains, making funny faces and attempting to get the band member to crack up."

Next came the grand champion one act play, "Shadows." Directed by Cindy Singleton, the cast was led by McCaffety, who played the main character, Erica. This elderly woman

see **Broadway**, page 8



photo: Kay Taylor

Are you there? Senior Niky McCaffety, juniors Bryce Morin and Joanna Stewart, and sophomores Diedre Smith and Haley Hutson perform in the TCSIT one-act "Shadows."

Five ladies set to say goodbye to Brentwood

By Maddie Ashworth

BCS is losing four teachers and a member of the office staff at the end of the school year. Kendra Dean, Cissy Johnson, Jessica Love, Valerie McBride, and Linda Riedesel, will all be leaving BCS to take on a variety of different plans for the future.

Love is leaving BCS after five years of teaching mostly high school English and Yearbook. She has taught many classes, ranging from eighth-grade history to sophomore, junior, and senior English classes, to sophomore girls Bible.

If you walk past her room on any given day you will often find students working on yearbook pages, talking with friends, or talking about grammar. Love's room is one where many students tend to gather when they need to talk to someone.

"I know this sounds cheesy, but I will miss the relationships I've developed with my students," she said.

Love said she will miss Brentwood, but she is excited to rejoin her husband, who got a job in Colorado several weeks ago after a long time searching for work. She said she hopes to enjoy her summer in Colorado by relaxing and taking in the scenery the state has to offer. Although she has no long-term plans, Love said she does plan on tutoring students.

Algebra I and IPC teacher Cissy Johnson is leaving BCS after nine years of service. Johnson is often seen helping and tutoring students who need extra time. She makes it very clear to students she is always available to help them.

"I enjoy knowing that the students get the concept. I love seeing the light bulb go on!" Johnson said, adding that when she leaves she will miss the "wonderful" students.

Johnson has plans to stay in Austin for now and manage a rental property in College Station, where she will eventually move so she can see her grandchildren more often.

Most students who have gone through Johnson's class would likely agree that her bubbly personality shines through in everything she does. Johnson shows her Christ-like attitude when she shows the students how God's hand is at work in every aspect of science and math.

Valerie McBride is leaving BCS after one year, but she will stay in Austin to pursue a career as a costume director technician. McBride

teaches junior AP English and freshman English, and she also established a crocheting club that meets during lunch.

"I want to try to find what I'm called to do before I decide on a career," McBride said.

McBride has developed many relationships with her students, and she said one of the things she will miss the most is the fun jokes that happen every day.

"They keep me on my toes," she said. "Many of the students were ahead, so I had to reteach myself as we progressed to stay ahead of them."

The vibrant personality known as Linda Riedesel is leaving Brentwood after 12 years of performing many different duties in the high school offices. But she is not going far, having decided to work at Village Christian Apartments, where she hopes to plan more service opportunities between Brentwood and the apartment community. She said she will enjoy her new job because as an event coordinator she gets to play all day.

Riedesel said the best thing that happened to her while at Brentwood was after her husband died in 2008. She loved the way everyone took such good care of her.

"It happened on the watch where people took care of me," she said. "Everyone just wrapped me up."

Riedesel said she will miss the interactions that go on all day and the chaos that comes from both being around kids and working in the office. The long time StuCo sponsor said she will miss the students the most.

Another teacher leaving after one year is Kendra Dean, who will pursue her master's degree in Spanish translation and interpretation in the fall at UT-Brownsville. She said at first she thought she could both teach and get her master's, but throughout the semester she realized it would be too much work, and she would not be able to do a good job on both.

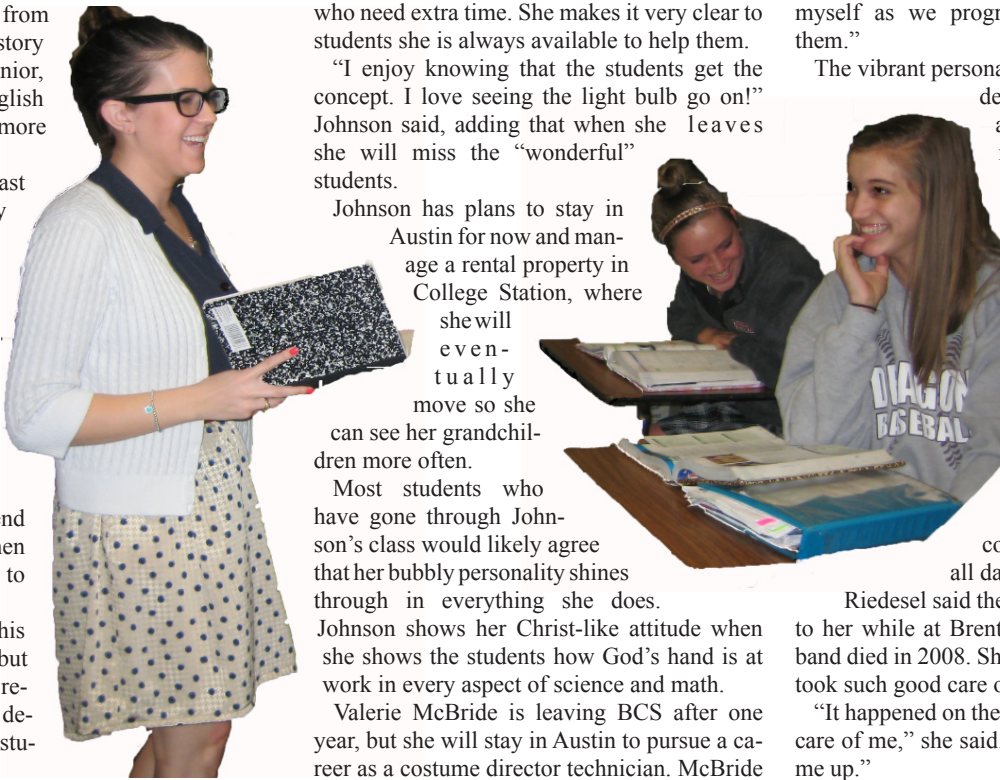
Dean said leaving was an extremely difficult decision she had to make.

"This year I had a hard time making it to extracurricular activities for students, because I was working two jobs and it's hard to always tell them I'm busy and can't go," she said.

Dean said she does not plan on leaving education forever, but only until she has finished her master's degree. A sponsor of next month's BCS mission trip to Honduras, she has been asked by South Texas Children's Home to help lead mission trips to the Dominican Republic next year.

Dean said she has made many great memories while at Brentwood.

"There are little things, like some of the crazy students in my fourth-period class, that made every day more fun and entertaining," she said.



Brentwood finishes fourth in Henderson Cup

By Nicholas Bergeron

Years of dedication and hard work have culminated into a landmark year for Brentwood Christian in competition. When final scores were tallied last week, Brentwood stood fourth place among 45 schools for the TAPPS 3A Henderson Overall Championship Cup, having never before placed. Brentwood followed two points behind Colleyville Christian, and a mere six points behind Bullard Brook Hill, which won with 73 points.

The Henderson Cup is a competition for overall performance in TAPPS that compares scores in fine arts, sports, and academics between schools classified by size. Scores are determined by placement in contests or playoffs, ranging from a maximum of 10 points given for a championship to two points for fifth place

or qualifying for playoffs in a sport.

For fine arts, athletics, and academics, this year's TAPPS competition has been one to remember. Brentwood took first in choral music and academics. The athletics department also placed well in TAPPS, contributing a collective 25 points to BCS's 55. Girls' track and basketball led the way with eight points each, having each fallen one spot short of a state championship.

"Our success this year is due to a higher level of accomplishment in both athletics and fine arts," Brentwood president Marquita Moss said. "We usually do well in these areas, some better one year than the next, but this year we have done well in all these areas at the same time."

Brentwood did not participate in the TAPPS academics category until 2008, preferring to

focus on TCSIT alone for academic competition. But change was influenced by then-senior Alex Johannigman's article "Seniors offer TCSIT tips for the future," run in the April 2007 issue of The Bear Facts, in which Johannigman proposed participation in TAPPS. The very next year, Brentwood competed in academic TAPPS and won. Without this, BCS would have much more difficulty achieving the current high standing in the overall competition.

Recalling the collective firsts both high school and middle school took in TCSIT, one can see a trend of achievement even greater than Brentwood students' norm.

"It's one of the strongest years in memory," high school math teacher Kaleen Graessle said. "Our kids are really focused on development and growth, and that focus is showing its fruits."

PSIA team places 15th

By Joshua Sass

After placing in the top three for the past two years, Brentwood had a "building year" in the PSIA state competition, placing 15th out of the 110 schools in middle school and 15th of 99 in the elementary division.

Nine BCS students placed at the competition, which was held at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth on April 29.

In the middle school division, four students placed in five events. Eighth-grader Gabie Nguyen was fourth in Science 8 and fifth in Number Sense. Seventh-grader Nicole Petrik placed third in On-site Drawing; sixth-grader Jacelyn Wishard took fourth in Ready Writing 6; and eighth-grader Rachel Beggs was sixth in On-site Drawing.

In the elementary division, five students placed. Second-grader Kaylee Grossman was second in Storytelling 2, and fifth-grader Emma Nguyen placed fourth in Number Sense 5. Fourth-grader Aaron Sass took fifth in Number Sense 4, and fourth-grader Andrew Geevarghese took fifth in Mathematics 4. Fourth-grader Noble Wilson was sixth in Listening Skills.

Softball girls defeat first-place team; fall in playoffs

By Jin Ha Jeong

Brentwood's varsity softball team lost its first-round playoff game 8-3 on May 2 against Katy Faith West, who was the champion of its district.

Softball coach Paul Sladek said the other team's coaches were shocked that Brentwood played a close game. BCS scored one run in the first inning and two more in the final inning as they started to figure out the Katy pitcher. Sophomore Yara Qussad had a hit to move a runner around in the seventh inning before freshman Nicole Gentry hit a double to knock in the last two runs.

After the first two innings junior Cynthia Smith settled into her pitching groove and only allowed three more runs to score.

During the game, there was a strong wind blowing in from the outfield. Three BCS batters – Gentry, senior Lanae Hollingsworth, and Qussad – hit balls that Sladek said would have been home runs, but they were hindered by a gust. Sladek also said the opposing pitcher was very good; she gave Brentwood trouble with lots of inside pitches. Though they lost, Sladek

said he was proud of his team.

"This gives us a lot of confidence going into next year," he said.

The team fell one win short of getting first place in district, but they did beat first-place Keystone in the last game of the regular season on April 23. Keystone started off with several runs, but Brentwood caught up at the end of the first inning. After a fierce game, BCS defeated the first-place team 17-11, but they remained in second because they had one more loss than Keystone did.

During this game, Gentry hit what Sladek said was the first over-the-fence home run in Brentwood softball history.

"I was really excited when it happened," Gentry said. "I felt accomplished."

Gentry was named the district MVP. Joining her on the



photo: Brent Hollingsworth

Are you ready for this? Freshman Nicole Gentry, looking to field a ball during the Lady Bears' playoff game on May 2, batted .800 and was named district MVP.

first team for all-district were Hollingsworth and freshman Sofia Torres. Second-team all-district included Qussad and juniors Maysie Bartos and Smith. Gentry made first-team all-state, and Hollingsworth was named second-team all-state.

Gentry led the team with an .800 batting average and 41 RBIs, followed by Hollingsworth with .643 and 33 RBIs.

Brentwood is losing two seniors: Julia Le and Hollingsworth. Sladek said Hollingsworth is a huge loss, having been a major part of the team for four years.

Coach Sladek said he was satisfied with this year's results, and he complimented the team for reaching higher expectations. He said the team is really young, so he expects better results in the near future when the girls get more game experience.

"Our success will get better as we get more mature on and off the field," Sladek said.

A year from now, he said the girls could have a lot more to celebrate.

"Next year our goal is a district championship, and if all goes well, our ceiling is a state title," Sladek said.

Glenn closes BCS career with five state championships

continued from page 1

said she was blessed to have such a great team.

"I am very satisfied and content as I know that I gave my best for my team," Glenn said. "It is all of our hard work that made those results possible."

Glenn ended her high school career with five state championships in four different events, repeating two years in a row for the 300-meter hurdles.

Vandygriff placed second in the 400 meters with a time of 59.61, and second in the 200 meters with a time of 26.18.

Senior Serena George placed third in high jump (4-10). Nicole Glenn placed fifth in triple jump (33-1) and sixth in high jump. Senior Michelle Dembosky placed fifth in discus.

"We have a lot of talented athletes returning and some great incoming freshmen," Smith said. "So I am excited about our future."

For the boys in state, senior Anthony Milan placed fifth in pole vault with a height of 9-06, and junior Kent Howell placed sixth in pole vault (8-06).

It was the first time in four years the boys advanced athletes to the state meet. Coach Jacob Rotich said his athletes performed very well. He also said he is excited about the new freshmen, and he thinks the team's future is bright.

"The boys met my expectations, and they were all dedicated in their events," Rotich said.



photo: Melissa Vandygriff

We did it! Senior Morgan Vandygriff crosses the finish line to win gold for BCS in the 4x400 relay at the state meet in Waco.

District meet results Bastrop, April 18

BCS girls were district champs; boys took fourth overall. Following are the individual results for girls who qualified for regionals, then boys.

First place: Priscilla Glenn: long jump (16-04¾), pole vault (8-06), 300-meter hurdles (46.38); Nicole Glenn: triple jump (33-02), high jump (4-10); Morgan Vandygriff: 400 meters (1:04.39); 4x100 relay team (Hughes, Hardin, George, NGlenn), 56.86; 4x400 relay team (PGlenn, Hughes, NGlenn, Vandygriff), 4:29.01

Second place: PGlenn: 100-meter hurdles (17.02); Vandygriff: 200 meters (26.38); Serena George: high jump (4-10); Michelle Dembosky: discus (82-06); Martha Hughes: pole vault (8-00)

Third place: George: pole vault (6-00), 100 meters (13.49), 200 meters (28.08); Hughes: 400 meters (1:10.73)

Fourth place: Vandygriff: triple jump (30-03½), long jump (14-04½)

First place: Anthony Milan: pole vault (8-06)
Second place: Kent Howell: pole vault (7-00)

Third place: Matthew Scarborough: pole vault (5-00); Jonny Clifford: 200 meters (23.76); Howell: long jump; 4x100 relay team (Howell, JClifford, DClifford, Milan), 47.59

Fourth place: 4x400 relay team (Mory, Shake, Sass, McCormick), 4:20

Region meet results Houston, May 4

BCS girls finished second. Following are the individual results for girls who qualified for state, then boys.

First place: PGlenn: pole vault (10-00), 300-meter hurdles (46.31); Vandygriff: 200 meters (26.53), 400 meters (59.46); Dembosky: discus (86-06½); 4x400 relay team (PGlenn, NGlenn, Hughes, Vandygriff), 4:14.14

Third place: PGlenn: 100-meter hurdles (17.12); NGlenn: triple jump (33-02¾); George: pole vault (8-00)

Fourth place: PGlenn: long jump (15-7¼); George: high jump (4-10)

Second place: Milan: pole vault (9-06)

Third place: Howell: pole vault (8-06)

Baseball team makes playoffs, loses in doubleheader

By John Hollingsworth

The Brentwood Christian baseball team finished its season with 13-2 and 11-1 losses to Brazos Christian in a best two-out-of-three series in the first round of the TAPPS 3A playoffs on May 2 in Brenham.

The boys made a tremendous comeback in the second half of the regular season. After starting out 1-3 in district, they came roaring back to win eight straight games to finish in second place. The team did not lose a district game after March 21.

Brentwood had a key win against St. Gerard Catholic High School on April 20, with sophomore Ben Powell pitching a masterful game. If they had lost this game, the Bears would have probably had to play an extra game to break a tie for second in district.

Unfortunately in the playoffs, the boys played one of their worst games of the season in the first game, made worse by a 25 mph wind and a temperature in the low 60s that kept dropping. The team couldn't make the routine plays they had made so many times during the season.

The Bears' two runs came when sophomore Cody Hunt singled in two runs in the fifth inning, but it was too little too late, as they were run-ruled. Powell pitched well for the first four innings, giving up several runs on errors, and freshman John Hollingsworth came in to finish the game.

After a 30-minute break – during which players tried to get warm because the temperature had slipped into the 50s with continuing high winds – the two teams returned to the field for the second game. BCS jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead with Hollingsworth singling to right-center to drive in Powell.

Junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer pitched well for the Bears despite numerous errors by Brentwood. The team faced another good pitcher

and could not get the bats rolling at all after the first inning. The game ended with the Eagles' center fielder hitting a two-run home run to end the game by run-rule again.

"You have to give Brazos credit – they had good pitching, fielding, and hitting. They were a solid all-around team," head coach Brian Thrift said.

Before the playoffs had even begun Brentwood faced a setback, losing a starter to low grades.

"It was a challenging task for the team because we had to switch some people's positions because of ineligibility," Thrift said. "We had people in uncomfortable positions with very little time to prepare."

Overall Brentwood had their best season since making the playoffs in 2009. After missing the playoffs the last three years the team hopes to carry over some of that momentum to next year.

"I was very happy with the whole season," Thrift said. "The kids worked hard with our coaching staff while I finished basketball. I saw lots of improvement compared to last year, and we have some kids that want to make this program better."

Treut-Shaffer was named MVP of the district and second team all-state. Joining him on the first team were Powell, sophomore Zach Marsh, and freshman Jake Velasco. Hollingsworth and Hunt made the second team.

The team has no seniors graduating and expects to gain at least two solid players from eighth grade.

"Expectations will be high next year," Thrift said. "We will have our core guys coming back and we are adding some talented freshmen. We expect to compete for a district championship next year."

Many players had hoped for more, but the season was generally considered a success.

"We didn't end up the way we wanted to, but we aren't losing any seniors, so we can come back ready to improve on this year," Marsh said.

Treut-Shaffer led the team in batting with a .559 average, followed by Velasco at .385. Treut-Shaffer also led the team with 19 hits and 15 RBIs. Velasco led the team with 12 steals, while Hollingsworth led with 17 walks.

Powell, the team's pitching ace, pitched less than half of the season but led the team in most categories. He had a 1.56 ERA, allowing only 10 hits and four earned runs, with 32 strikeouts in 18 innings, and opponents batted just .147 against him. Treut-Shaffer led the team with three wins, while Hollingsworth allowed no walks in 17 innings on the mound.

Following are the results of the last three regular season games:

4/19: @ Concordia 12-0 W

Brentwood jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead and never looked back. The team was led by Velasco and Hollingsworth, who each had a hit and scored three times. The coaching staff utilized the entire pitching staff to prep for a long weekend of baseball consisting of three games in four days.

4/20: @ St. Gerard 7-1 W

In a battle for second place against a team that beat Brentwood earlier in the year, Powell pitched a complete game three-hitter, allowing no earned runs while striking out 10 batters on just 84 pitches. Hollingsworth, Powell, and Velasco led the offensive attack, combining for five hits and five RBIs.

4/22: @ CTCS 10-1 W

In a game to secure second place in district, the Bears had one of their best all-around games. Treut-Shaffer pitched well, allowing only five hits and three walks in six innings. Hollingsworth came in to close out the game, pitching a solid seventh inning. Treut-Shaffer led the way offensively as well, going 2-for-4 with a triple and a single. The team had one of their best defensive games of the year with only one error, giving them a fielding percentage of .970 as a team.



photo: Lanae Hollingsworth

Straighten it out Junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer, who was named the district MVP, fouls off a pitch during the Bears' 12-0 win again Concordia on April 19.

Spiritual Emphasis Day features scavenger hunt, workout, more

By Connor Crowe

High school students headed toward the theater after first period on Tuesday, April 29, for the almost-annual Spiritual Emphasis Day. This day's theme was "Do Hard Things," and it included a scavenger hunt, an obstacle course, talks from a friend of Steven Colwell's, human pyramids, and more.

Although students were glad that they did not have any classes or homework, many expressed negative opinions about the day. Many students said that the obstacle course was pointless and they didn't like working out in jeans or the school uniform. Some also complained that the day was boring.

Senior Travis Clark, who helped plan the event, said he was aware of the criticism.

"If one student was affected by it and had become more active in their faith because of it, then good work had been done, not by us, but by God," Clark said.

The Spiritual Life Committee's 15 to 20 members, like last year, planned the events. Clark and classmate Anthony Milan took a lead role in preparing and carrying out the event, having started planning back in September.

After first period, the day was kicked off in the theater by SLC adviser Stephen Colwell. Colwell introduced Chris Stewart, who runs a non-profit organization that tutors children in Kansas and who is a good friend of his.

After Stewart finished speaking, the high school was then split into groups and sent to either the obstacle course on the soccer field or the scavenger hunt.

For the scavenger hunt, the SLC sent groups of 10 students throughout the campus to look for places and items using scriptures. During the activity though, some groups knew they weren't going to win or got tired and eventually stopped trying.

The obstacle course was led by CrossFit coach Ryan Christian and his friend. They had the students split up into two teams and compete against each other in a series of what some students called "workouts" or simply "CrossFit." The teams had to throw sandbags, roll tires, and

run in order to win. All the students ended with a competitive game or two of tug-a-war.

Next, James Henley, the youth minister at Brentwood Oaks, led an event in which students made human sculptures in the church courtyard. One of the structures included human pyramids, in which students kept trying to build the pyramid taller and taller until everyone eventually collapsed on top of each other.

After the human sculptures was an extended lunch. The day ended with another talk from Stewart and singing in the theater.

"The goal of the day was to get all of the students out of their normal school day routine and make them think," Colwell said "I think we were able to do that."

THE BEAR FACTS MAY 2013

TCSIT: historic sweep for BCS

continued from page 1

called, we cheered louder than anyone else, even if we didn't know them," sophomore Megan Burcham said.

With Brentwood competitors named in nearly every event, hands and throats soon became sore from cheering and clapping.

The TCSIT one act play competition took place in March. Brentwood took a production of "Shadows," which earned the highest possible score and was also named grand champion. Senior Niky McCaffety won "Best Actress," and junior Joanna Stewart and sophomore Tyler Clark were named "All-Star Cast" members.

Freshman-sophomore duo Williams and Clark won first for their humorous duet, "It's Not You, It's Me." Each of them also took a dramatic interpretation to the competition, both placing well.

The middle school play, "Dr. Yanush Korczak," won first in Group Acting. Eighth-grader Kristyn Chambers won first in oratory.

"I was incredibly nervous. Everyone stood behind me and encouraged me even though I

doubted myself," Chambers said. "There's no way I would've been able to (win) without everyone's support."

Brentwood emerged victorious in many written events as well. Freshman Andrew Armstrong won first in Number Sense, Calculator Application, and Algebra II, and was on the second-place Team Math, along with classmate Josh Sass. Sass placed first in Geometry, second in Number Sense, and fourth in Calculator.

The Bear Facts won first among newspapers.

Eighth-grader Gabie Nguyen also stormed the middle school testing rooms, placing first in Number Sense, Calculator Application, and Algebra I, which is actually a high school event. She also placed second in Comprehensive Math. Seventh-grader Kaitlyn Baird won first in History.

"I don't think we could've won without everyone giving their best," senior Travis Clark said. "That says a lot about our drive for excellence, but more importantly it shows that God is continuing to work through Brentwood as a community, not just a bunch of individuals."



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Lucky 13 Thirteen members of the Class of '13 pose with their medals and trophies after leading Brentwood Christian to first place in TCSIT last month in Abilene.

'Broadway'

continued from page 4

lived in the only complete room among the frame of a destroyed house where her children burned to death several years before because of her own mistake. There, she is taken care of by a man and a woman (played by Tyler Clark and sophomore Kaylee Angello), while she keeps seeing the ghosts of her children who come to try and convince her to leave.

Encore then came on and sang "In My Life" as a tribute to the seniors. Several soon-to-be graduates walked on stage and received roses

as they stood before their peers. Once the song finished, four boxes of flowers were brought out – three white and one black – to be handed to each of the fine arts teachers: Singleton, Lori Morin, Travis Pollard, and Missy Weaver. A selected senior gave a brief speech for each of them as they were handed the flowers.

"It's one of my favorite shows of the year because we always work together on it," Weaver said. "It's a show that's interesting and always keeps your attention because it's constantly changing."



photo: Stephen Colwell

Grandparents' Day

First graders (left) helped continue the 31-year tradition of celebrating grandparents at BCS. During the morning program, Wesley and Joyce Roach, grandparents of senior Morgan Vandygriff, were named Grandparents of the Year. After the musical presentations, all the guests visited classrooms with their grandchildren.

Jr/Sr brings night of relaxation

By Madalyn Garelick

Tables and chairs were arranged, food was cooked, dresses were zipped, ties were knotted, makeup and hair were done, and the sun began to peer through the rain clouds. The scene was set for a night of elegance. It was time for the long, hard work the junior class and sponsors had put into this event to finally pay off.

"A Night of Elegance" was the theme for Brentwood Christian's annual Jr./Sr. Formal, which took place on Friday, April 26, at 6 p.m. and continued till 8 p.m. at Twin Creeks Country Club in Cedar Park.

Although there was no scheduled entertainment for the evening, guests still enjoyed having time to mingle with classmates, munch on some hors d'oeuvres, and snap a few pictures on the outdoor covered patio that overlooked the luscious green rolling hills of the Texas Hill Country.

"I think it was a very successful night," junior class president Avery Westerlund said. "Everyone seemed to have a good time, and there was something there for everyone to enjoy."

After all guests had arrived at the country club, students made their way into the dining area right inside the patio and dinner was served. Guests had their choice of a custom pasta station, or cajun pork loin, or both. An assortment of appetizers accompanied the main course such as bacon-wrapped sirloin, bruschetta, and ham and cheese bread balls. The dessert for the occasion was cupcakes donated by junior Maysie Bartos' aunt, who is the owner of Make It Sweet bakery on Burnet Road.

The seniors enjoyed

a trip down memory lane through a slideshow of pictures, and laughter was shared while students read through the traditional wills and prophecies.

Senior Courtney Flores was prophesied to have her own clothing line, be a multi-millionaire by 30, and marry Ryan Gosling. Senior Elena Battle was prophesied to be dancing in the streets of London surrounded by beautiful men.

Senior Ben Verghese willed junior Jesse Sailors a box of fireworks and some matches so he can continue to light up the world with his crazy antics. Senior Long Ho willed junior Skylar Treut-Shaffer the ability to be a bodybuilder and pick up every chick at the gym he goes to.

When the clock struck 8 p.m., faculty was kindly asked to exit the country club. When all faculty had made their way out, the DJ cranked up the tunes and people made their way back out to the patio and onto the dance floor. This year the junior class allowed all sophomores to attend the after party to make it a bigger crowd.



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Debonair set Seniors Long Ho and Ginger Huh, along with junior MJ Sung and sophomore Gina Huh, enjoy Jr./Sr.