

# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. XXI NO. 8

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MAY 2009

## IN SHORT

### Playground workday

Volunteers are still needed for the year's final playground workday on Saturday, May 16. Under the supervision of parents Lynn Petrik and Emmanuel Ankutse, parents and children plan to arrive at 9 a.m. and install the climbing dome for the new upper elementary playground. Drinks and pizza will be provided.

### Crown winners

This year's Children's Crown Award reading program had a record number of students read all 20 books, according to BCS elementary librarian Sandra Morrow, who also founded the Crown Awards. Four third-graders read all the books, and in all 38 students in grades 3-6 completed the list.

### Senior honored

Senior Meghan Quinn received third place acknowledgment for the state's 10th congressional district in this year's nationwide Congressional Art Competition. She and her sister Jennifer, a sophomore, entered photographs in the contest, and these are both hanging in Rep. Michael McCaul's office downtown. Meghan's photo was taken last summer in Cambridge, England.

### Jog-a-fun winners

Four of the school's five top money-raisers for this year's Jog-a-fun share a last name. Siblings Jackson (third grade) and Victoria Ryan (first grade), and siblings Caroline (second grade) and Julia Ryan (kindergarten), joined first-grader Nicholas Hunka to select their prizes during an assembly last month.

## Old faithful return for annual event

kaalah **MANONGDO**  
reporter

While students anxiously dressed up and lined up, preparing to perform, Cadillacs and Oldsmobiles occupied the parking lot, and the campus was filled with old-timers who were visiting from near and far to support their grandchildren.

Brentwood Christian's 27th annual Grandparents' Day was held on Friday, May 8. Grandparents had the opportunity to watch their grandchildren perform on stage, learn about what they're studying in school, and

attend a fine arts event that evening.

A come-and-go registration and breakfast was held for the grandparents from 8 to 9 in the morning.

Afterward, students presented songs in the auditorium. Kindergarten began, dressed up as "Country Cousins," followed by the rest of elementary. Each included a theme and costume, which included the second grade's "Celebrated Chefs" and fourth grade's "The Sweet Tooth Gang." Fifth through eighth grade and faculty sang two "Songs of Devotion"

see **Grandparents' Day**, page 4



photo: Katie Legband

**TASTY TUNES** "Celebrated Chefs" from second grade perform a medley of songs about food during Grandparents' Day festivities on May 8.

## Students excel at PSIA

*BCS better than ever at state competition*

mark **NESSLAGE**  
reporter

Over the past four years, the name "Brentwood Christian School" has become synonymous with the words "academic success." At the PSIA (Private Schools Interscholastic Association) state competition on April 25 in Fort Worth,

the BCS elementary and junior high school teams proved Brentwood's academic strength yet again.

Brentwood competed in the "AA" division, which is for larger private schools. A total of 91 schools had students who qualified for state in the AA division. Out of all of these schools,

see **Ho**, page 3

## Campus stands strong through swine flu scare

ashley **HARPER**  
reporter

You have just sneezed into your hand with a loud "ACHOO!" so you get up and walk over to the sink to wash your hands. As you're turning on the water you notice a sign you didn't see the day before. A pig sits in the middle of the page, circled, with a red line running through it. Underneath it reads: Prevent Swine Flu, wash your hands.

Swine flu, otherwise known as the H1N1 flu, quickly became a topic of concern since it first appeared in Mexico in late April. With this outbreak, 14 schools in Texas closed down temporarily, and 12 school districts also shut their doors for a few days. Two Austin schools and an additional preschool are among that number. These schools had all reopened by May 11.

Round Rock ISD canceled all after-school activities from April 30 to May 11. Schools were encouraged by the Texas Education Agency to close down if a student was diagnosed with swine flu.

Brentwood has taken many precautions including putting up signs reminding students to wash their hands. Teachers also disinfected doorknobs, desks, and other hard surfaces after school. The athletic department cleaned the locker rooms and the janitorial staff has taken extra care to clean the restrooms and doorknobs. Antibacterial sanitizer is available for students to use, although school nurse Nancy Meyer pointed out that washing hands with soap and water is better. Meyer sprayed the upper elementary building with disinfectant.

Meyer said that if a student were to come down with symptoms of the flu she would talk to that student's parents and then refer them to a doctor.

"If the test came back positive I would report it to the administration and they would make the decision to close the school down," she said.

According to Meyer the virus travels through "droplet transmission," which is the saliva that people expel when they cough or sneeze. Shaking hands with the infected person can potentially pass the virus on. Meyer said that in order to prevent this it is best to wash hands frequently, cough or sneeze into a tissue, and if one is not available, then into the crook of the elbow.

Symptoms of swine flu include coughing, sneezing, fever, sore throat, fatigue, and in some cases vomiting and diarrhea.



STORYTIME WITH LAURA PETERSON

# The adventures of Johnny Norwood

*This is the eighth and final chapter in a fictional series written by the editor-in-chief.*

A famous philosopher once said, “You don’t know whatcha got till it’s gone; you paved Paradise to put up a parking lot.” This was the tune stuck in Johnny’s head as he sat in Mrs. Gromley’s classroom pondering the changes that he had undergone in the last few weeks. He sat, reminiscing about the good old days, remembering a time when his biggest problem was getting to the front of the lunch line. Yes, Ivan had stolen his lunch money on occasion; and yes, Myles had driven him insane with his incessant inquiries; and yes, he had spent an awful lot of time and energy trying to impress the little redhead. But all of these worries paled in comparison to the predicament in which he found himself lately.

Johnny had made an important discovery when he reluctantly forked over \$65 for tickets to the Spring Formal. Apparently at Hundred Acre High, going to the banquet together means you’re “going together.” Johnny could

not properly enjoy his too-fancy chicken and skimpy sliver of cheesecake due to this unfortunate social mandate. However, that evening a monumental realization dawned on Johnny: as Wendy rattled on about the color of the ribbon on his boutonniere, Johnny suddenly found that he didn’t care beans what the redhead thought about anything, and especially what she thought about him. Gone were the days of desperately stirring up small talk; gone were the days of being embarrassed about the lunch table he sat at; gone were the days of trying to be the kind of guy she was looking for. Johnny thought it was about time he felt comfortable in his own shoes. (Although the rentals that came with his tux were starting to pinch his toes).

Rather than make a scene at the banquet, Johnny decided to end their little “relationship” quietly at school the following Monday, but his confrontation didn’t go quite as he had planned. Wendy simply sighed, grabbed his hands tenderly, and said, “Johnny, don’t worry. I’m willing to work through our problems. We just need to communicate.”

Johnny repeated this process exactly seventeen times, but it was to no avail. He tried every line in the book, but “It’s not you, it’s me” just wasn’t cutting it. She simply wasn’t getting the message. Johnny thought the least she could do was change her relationship status on facebook to “It’s complicated.”

In a school as small as H.A.H., it was hard to avoid someone for long, and Johnny was growing weary of the almost daily breakups. It was exhausting. An invitation to Wendy’s house for dinner with her parents was the final straw. Johnny knew he had to change tactics. After some serious thinking, he came up with a plan. He had to find a way to get her on the offensive. *She* would have to dump *him*, and to manage that he had to become Undateable, which would take planning and precision, strategy and stealth, and Johnny knew just the guy to help.

The following day Johnny set out to put his plan into action. He strode purposefully into the cafeteria, directly to the man of the hour.

“Hey there, Myles,” Johnny said in a would-be casual voice as he pulled up a chair next to him. Myles didn’t respond. He and Myles hadn’t exchanged two words in over a month, so he knew diplomacy would be essential.

“Look, I know you’re angry with me. But I could really use your help.”

Myles turned slowly to face him, his eyebrows trembling vindictively.

“And why would I help you, Johnny? Or should I call you Brutus?”

Johnny fought to keep a straight face as he proceeded to explain the situation. By the time

he got around to “Myles, I need her to dump me,” Myles reluctantly agreed to take part in Operation Humiliation.

For the next three days, Johnny took every opportunity to make a complete fool of himself. He knew that Wendy’s popularity was her Achilles heel, and if he could just make himself a cause of embarrassment for her, she would drop him like a hot potato. However, she proved to be much harder to crack than he had originally thought. Myles constructed a list of brilliantly obnoxious habits for

Johnny to adopt, including blowing his nose at top volume, singing off-key through the hallways, and finding opportunities to insert a tidbit regarding the technological intricacies of the USS Enterprise in every conversation.

“That’s all I got, Johnny,” Myles said when Johnny met up with him after school, discouraged after yet another day of failure. But just then they passed a sign which read “End of year Talent Show Tryouts!!!” which set the cogs in Johnny’s brain to turning once more...

“You sure you wanna do this, Johnny?” Myles asked as he helped Johnny don his wig backstage. The night of the Talent Show had finally arrived. Johnny stared at his reflection in the mirror, wondering what had possessed him to squeeze into the bright red, skin-tight leotard. He quickly put on the bathrobe that Myles had brought. Then he spotted *her* way down at the other end of the curtain. He was

see **Johnny**, page 7

INTRODUCING: Skylar Haws

## My turn’s next

At this point, I am pretty sure most of you know me, or at least can recognize me as “that tall blonde guy who ran for Student Council.” Well, thanks to teacher recommendations, “tall-white-and-skinny” is going to be the editor-in-chief of the Bear Facts next school year.

I am extremely honored that I have the chance to be a part of the Bear Facts during my last year at Brentwood, and my primary goal will be to make the newspaper more popular among the student body. Being the editor-in-training, I know this might sound terrible, but I admit that there have been a few articles in previous Bear Facts publications that I neglected to read because I was disinterested in “the news.”

But without fail, there were two articles I was always excited to read. The first was any article that had to do with a friend of mine. The second was the senior feature. I always looked forward to these stories and grabbed the nearest Bear Facts lying around because I wanted to read about my classmates.

It is from this that I have realized what I love most about our school is the friendship and community I have with my fellow students. When I read the Bear Facts, I really want to see more of the students’ personal lives – rather than students in the news. The only problem is that there are way more people than there are senior features – and most of us (myself included) are not the kind of people who would normally get a spot in the limelight.

Therefore, fellow Brentwoodians, it is a personal aspiration of mine to focus my monthly editorial on you. I have many different ideas about what I want to write next year. A few of my editorial sections may include Haiku About You, The Sky View, The Poetry Corner, Letters to the Editor, So You Think You Know Everyone, and The Good Brentwoodian. What specifically are these going to be about? You will have to stick around to find out.

## 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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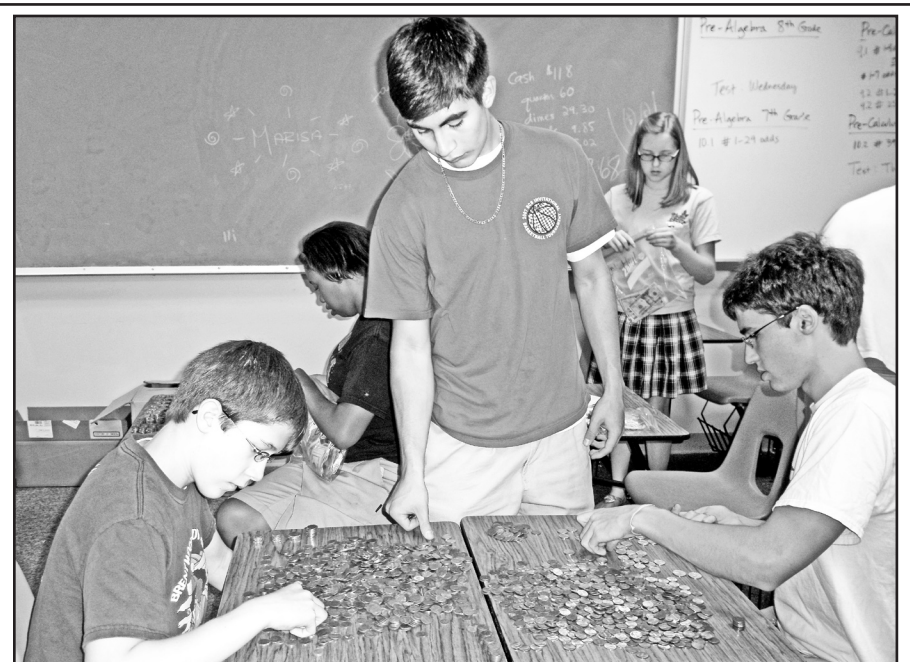


photo: Laura Peterson

**LOOSE CHANGE** Spiritual Life Committee members Garrett Burkhardt (10), Jacob Cardenas (11), and Caleb Geer (11) count coins for the Money for Medicines Campaign, which raised more than \$12,000 this year. See pg. 8 for the full story.



# Kindergarten Campout: Express version

Leah **UNGLAUB-BROWN**  
reporter

About 45 BCS kindergartners traded the oaks and rocks of Brentwood Christian for the lush green grass of the Dell Diamond at their annual campout on Friday, May 1. Two exciting opportunities were twisted up into a once-in-a-lifetime experience for children and parents alike.

The campout originally was scheduled for

Friday, April 17, on the Brentwood grounds, but rain caused it to be rescheduled. The campout was dangerously close to being cancelled, as it is the usual custom to just cancel the event, according to teacher Diane Troutman.

Fortunately, the Ryan family offered a helping hand.

"My daughter started crying when she heard the campout was rained out, so I saw what I could figure out," said parent Alison Ryan, wife of Reese Ryan, who is part owner of the Round Rock Express.

The campout consisted of three kindergarten classes, the kindergartners' parents, and their teachers Troutman, Linda Allen, and Karla Smith. Parents set their tents up in right field, or as one kindergartner described it, the "magic grass."

The fun times were a go, with free play on the baseball field where many kids went off and played soccer and baseball, and what ever else their big imaginations whipped up. They also had access to the playscape and basketball court.

Kids gathered on the field to watch the movie "Cars" on the big screen after they made s'mores in a fire pit beyond the outfield wall. Lights were out at 11:30. The event ended with parents rounding up their children and packing up the next morning at about 9 a.m.

"My favorite part was when we all got in our tents and yelled goodnight to each other," kindergartner Caroline Griffith said.

"It's nice to do something different," Troutman said. "No one has ever done this. It's a once-in-a-lifetime deal."

The 14-year tradition was started by current first-grade teacher Geri Archer and Troutman the first year they taught kindergarten. They hold the campout to close their Cowboy and Texas unit.

"It's a very engaging educational experience," parent Michelle Mohrman said.



photo: Leah Unglaub-Brown

**DIAMOND DARLINGS** Autumn Rader and Abbie Archer enjoy each other's company at the Kindergarten Campout, which was held on Friday, May 1, at the Dell Diamond.

## Band, choir perform admirably

*As in sports, district realignment brings tougher competition*

taylor **SHAW**  
reporter

Brentwood Christian's choir and band recently competed in the TAPPS state meetings at The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton. The choir came in third place and the band came in fifth.

Competition was tougher for the band and choir this year because of the new district alignment which eliminated 6A, adding bigger schools to 5A and placing some of last year's 5A schools in 4A, where Brentwood competes.

The band's fifth-place finish out of 16 schools at the April 18 meet was satisfying to director Travis Pollard, whose band also finished fifth last year.

"I think it was a great showing, considering we were the smallest school in the district," Pollard said.

The concert band earned a score of 2 for prepared music and sight reading. The Jazz band and Jazz Combo both received 1s for their performances. The Trombone Trio, made up of senior Peter Johannigman and juniors Matthew Gardner and Zach Strietelmeier, received a 1.

These performances were among the nine entries that contributed to Brentwood's overall score. Pollard said the most entries that a 4A school had in state was 12, so the band was able to stay competitive despite the size advantage the larger schools have.

The choir also faced difficulties with the new district, but just as band did, they performed strongly at their April 17 meet, according to choir director Missy Weaver.

For several years the choir has been an area of pride for students and faculty at Brentwood Christian, as they have performed strongly in every competition they take part in, including

five state titles in six years.

Weaver and several students said the new district is a lot harder because the other schools have so many members in their choirs, but Brentwood's choir was still able to keep the tradition of great performances going. Several of their entries earned 1s, including: Freshman/Sophomore Girls Small Ensemble, Encore Small Ensemble, Seniors Sacred Ensemble, Encore Sacred Ensemble, Mixed Large Ensemble Sight Reading, Treble Large Ensemble Sight Reading, and nine soloists.

Choir members reported encountering many difficulties, one being that they had to run through pouring rain and perform soaking wet. But in the face of all these troubles, Weaver said she thought the choir did an excellent job.

"They did a great job representing the school, and we'll have a lot of memories," she said.

## Ho wins twice as BCS finishes second in state

continued from page 1

the BCS elementary team placed fourth, and the junior high team placed second. Overall, BCS students earned second place in state.

"Our students performed remarkably," said Dr. Libby Weed, who acts as Brentwood's coordinator for participation in PSIA. "To have five of them take first place – and Aaron (Ho) take two – is really quite a feat."

In order to go to the state meet, students had to place high enough in their events at the district meet in March.

The elementary team, which consisted of students in grades 1-5, matched last year's fourth-place performance. Second-grader Miller Boykin was the only first-place winner, as he won spelling.

Members of the elementary team who contributed to the team score include first-grader Victoria Ryan; second-graders Whit Allee, Emmanuel Ankutse, and Boykin; fourth-grader Luke Allen; and fifth-graders Tiara Allen, Andrew Armstrong, and Brendan Holloway.

The junior high team, which was made up of students from grades 6-8, turned in their most successful performance ever at the state meet. Their previous best came last year, when they placed fourth.

Seventh-grader Aaron Ho led the way by winning both of his events – number sense and mathematics.

Though only a fifth grader, Armstrong won sixth-grade calculator applications. He also placed in three elementary events.

Other students who won an event include sixth-grader Tyler Clark (prose interpretation) and eighth-grader Priscilla Glenn (impromptu speaking). Other students who contributed to the junior high's impressive team score are eighth-grader Jackson Graessle and sixth-graders Michael Lam and Matthew Scarborough.

With all the success Brentwood experienced, many might wonder what the secret to these students' success was. Ho said that the reason for his success was "studying and practice." Armstrong also found his success by studying, often an hour and a half per day in the months leading up to PSIA.

However, another reason the teams placed as high as they did was the parents who helped train them.

"This is mostly a parent-coached event," Dr. Weed said. "They spend hours coaching, preparing, and encouraging. I just can't say enough good about the parents."

Brentwood first competed in PSIA in its inaugural year, 1997. Since then, BCS has steadily improved their performance each year, culminating in this year's number-two overall finish.

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Eddie Carlin**

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2009.

# Novel idea: Lanky linguist sets sail

*Class president also writer, debater, musician, passionate defender of Christian faith*

ben LANCASTER  
reporter

“Wow! You’re sooooo tall!”  
“Are you awesome at basketball?”

These are the kinds of statements and questions that senior Eddie Carlin has to deal with on a day-to-day basis on account of his towering 6-foot-6-inch build. Although just about everyone is forced to look up to him because of his height, friends and classmates look up to him for many other reasons.

Eddie has lived in Austin his whole life and has lived just up the hill from Brentwood Christian since he was about two years old. He came to BCS in the sixth grade from Sacred Heart Catholic School, along with fellow seniors Meghan Quinn and Olivia Brinson.

In his time at Brentwood he has participated in many different activities, ranging from basketball, in elementary and junior high, to senior class president. He is a proficient writer, participating in National Novel Writing Month for the past three years, a skilled pianist, and he was active and successful on the debate team this year, taking third in TCSIT.

Although this year was the only year Eddie was on a formal debate team, ever since he arrived at BCS he has been known for his extensive knowledge of Christianity and his ability to debate passionately about it. This passion also led him to be a youth leader at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, where he has now been leading for four years.

“Eddie was quick to step up as a youth leader at church, and every time the opportunity arises he is willing and able to impart his understanding of the Christian faith to others,”

senior Trevor Brightwell says.

Younger brother Patrick, a BCS sophomore, also commented on Eddie’s leadership.

“He has been a really good role model and has always been willing to answer any questions I had about my faith,” Patrick says.

His willingness to help others understand Christianity is a reflection of his all-around considerate nature, which shone through last year when Eddie decided he wanted to take classmate Colleen Jung to the Junior/Senior Formal. He did not simply ask her to go, but went to the trouble to ask in a way that would be meaningful to her.

In Music Theory, he was playing a piano accompaniment for a piece that Jung was singing, and he had written, “Will you go to Junior/Senior with me?” on the last page of the music so that Colleen, who was turning the pages, would read it at the end of the song.

“I loved how much effort he put into asking me because he wanted to make me feel special, and it worked,” Colleen says.

“It was really sweet and thoughtful,” senior Amber Doyle says. “He likes to make things special for people.”

Eddie also likes to have fun. He isn’t the loud and rambunctious type, but he appreciates a good joke and loves to make them. One time in Calculus someone

commented on how being told, “Let’s draw a picture” by the teacher every day makes them feel like they’re back in Kindergarten. Eddie, much to the amusement of those who noticed, promptly grabbed his pencil in his fist, widened his eyes, stuck his tongue out of the side of his mouth, and began to doodle on his paper, a perfect impression of a young child trying to create a masterpiece.

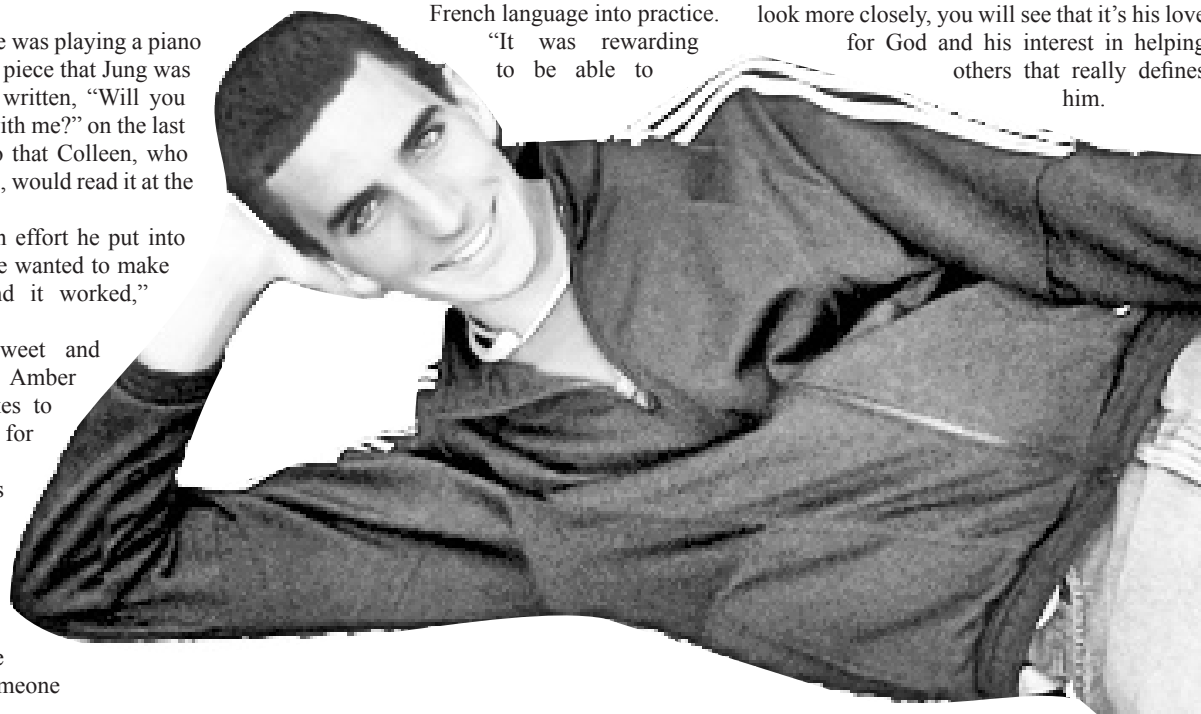
He enjoys himself around school friends, and one of the experiences he cherishes is his trip to Europe this year, because it allowed him to put his fairly extensive study of the French language into practice.

“It was rewarding to be able to

communicate and act as the interpreter for our group in Europe,” Eddie says. “After that experience, I think I know even more that I’d like to do that after college.”

He will attend Texas A&M University in the fall and plans to learn and study more languages while he pursues his major in international studies. After college he hopes to get a job which enables him to travel all over the world and learn about other peoples and cultures as he works as an interpreter.

Eddie’s height may be the first thing you notice about him, but if you take the time to look more closely, you will see that it’s his love for God and his interest in helping others that really defines him.



## Grandparents’ Day

continued from page 1

together.

Afterward, president Marquita Moss presented the Grandparent of the Year award to retired Major General Richard D. Smith of the Air Force, the father of teacher Kaleen Graessle.

After a song from Encore, high school students and faculty sang three “Hymns of Faith.”

The grandparents were then dismissed for about two hours of classroom visits. Elementary classes presented games, slideshows, puppet skits, and the traditional fourth-grade play, a drama called “Historical Hysteria.”

Secondary classes held 20-minute sessions in classrooms. Grandparents had a chance to take a walk through their grandchild’s chemistry classroom, see a Zambia presentation, listen in on a history lesson, or hear about D.C. and Europe trips over spring break.

Although school was dismissed at noon, the fun-filled day was not over. “Way Off Broadway,” an evening with BCS fine arts, began at 7 p.m. that night and the following night in the Family Life Center. This included a presentation of Brentwood’s award-winning one-act play “Into the Woods,” as well as theater students who performed humorous and dramatic interpretations and duets.

“The night went pretty well. Performing ‘Into the Woods’ was my favorite,” said freshman Kailey Rodden, who played Cinderella in the one-act. “Performing is always frantic, but it’s fun at the same time.”

The night also featured Encore, the jazz band, and musical soloists. There was also an art exhibit, done by TCSIT and TAPPS winning artists, and senior portfolios. Students and parents could view these during intermission.

## Physics class ready to “roll”

carter BOYD  
reporter

Physics is defined as a science that deals with matter and energy and their interactions. Entertainment is defined as amusement or diversion provided, especially by performers. Entertainment by physics, however, is not found in any dictionary. But BCS science teacher Brenda Lippincott is writing a definition.

Taking 32 Brentwood Christian seniors to Six Flags might appear to be a blow-off day for Lippincott and her students, but when the 63-page packet of “Applications of physics and mathematics to Six Flags Fiesta Texas” hit the table with a thud, all thoughts of a fun day were tainted.

Students are required to fill out pages of illustrations of irregular loops, accelerometers perpendicular to an axis, and angles of elevation.

“Basically, the packet is a way to make

science fun and applicable,” Lippincott said.

Although laziness would usually prevail, and students would ride roller coasters all day, incentives keep them at work. Students organize into 12 groups of two or three, and each person is given a small portion of the questions to complete. Answering the questions requires hours of grueling research, including the Rattler, Poltergeist, Roadrunner, and other thrill rides. If a group’s packet is completed by 2 p.m. on the day of the trip, students are given the privilege to study the physics of water and log rides in the water park.

“It’ll be great to apply what we’ve learned in physics to the aspects of roller coasters and stuff,” senior Bryant Davis forecasted.

Whether the little scientists decide to study the speed of acceleration of a roller coaster car loaded with Brentwood students, or the effect a spinning thrill ride has on the weight of a person, even physics can be entertaining.



## Faculty reaping rewards of better health

**eddie CARLIN**  
copy editor

How long can a resolution last? For several BCS faculty members, all school year. While the majority of Americans are still suffering from obesity and poor health, some Brentwood teachers have risen to their own challenges to become healthier, fitter people.

Chloe Campbell, Missy Weaver, Tere Hager, Kellsey Smith, and Heather Hammock, with the goal to improve their overall health, formed an informal group at the beginning of the school year affectionately dubbed "The Lunch Bunch." According to Campbell, she and Weaver were already a part of Weight Watchers, and they adapted the program for the group at school. Most of them did not have specific goals in the beginning, but after about eight months of steady progress, the Lunch Bunch ladies are weighing in on their experience.

According to Weaver, they still walk in the neighborhood on a regular basis, and "at least some do it every day." In her own experience, Weaver has observed that she can now walk farther and faster than she could in September, when the group took shape.

Campbell, who has spearheaded the effort, reports that she has lost almost 60 pounds over the course of the school year. She continues to run with teacher April Hejl and Smith for about 40 minutes at a time, and she ran in the Chuy's 5K on May 9.

Looking back on how the program has affected her, Campbell said she's "feeling stronger and more energetic."

When asked about their plans for the future now that the school year is almost over, Campbell said she intends to continue on her own, with a goal of running three or four days a week during the summer, but she hopes to renew the Lunch Bunch next school year as well.

Hammock, who helped form the group, said she has unfortunately been too busy with her first year at Brentwood to participate as much as she would like, but that now she's "all set for summer."

"I plan on being *much* healthier," she said, hoping to fully participate next school year.

Hager reported that the core four (Weaver, Campbell, Smith, and herself) still walk regularly, though how often they do so depends on their schedules, which are usually quite full during the spring. She observed that the group's positive influence has affected even the teachers who haven't walked regularly but who eat lunch with the group, saying that everyone is very enthusiastic about bringing healthier

see **Faculty**, page 7

## New horizons ahead for seniors

**jay WILES**  
reporter

As the year is winding down, BCS seniors are preparing for the change that will occur when they attend college in the fall.

Out of the class of 38 students, 37 know where they want to attend and 33 know what they would like to study.

The seniors will attend a total of 15 different schools in the fall.

Rachel Kwon will be traveling the farthest from Austin, as she plans to enroll as a pre-med student at Michigan State University.

A close second in distance is Alexis Gardner, who is going to major in illustration at the Columbus (Ohio) College of Art and Design.

The seniors staying the closest to home are Gina Kim, Ben Lancaster, and Chau Tang, who will attend the University of Texas at Austin, and Audrei Welter, who is going to Concordia

University.

Thirteen of the seniors will attend a Church of Christ-affiliated school – seven at Abilene Christian, four at Oklahoma Christian, and two at Harding.

"It's exciting for me to go out to a new town and new school, since I've been going to Brentwood since first grade," said senior Mark Nesslage, who will attend Harding.

The public college receiving the largest number of Brentwood Christian seniors is Texas A&M, where six of the seniors will be heading.

Fourteen seniors will attend a public university in the fall while the remaining 24 will attend a private institution. There are nine seniors who will be traveling outside the state of Texas.

Thirty-three of the seniors know what they would like to study in the fall, with psychology and engineering as the most popular majors.

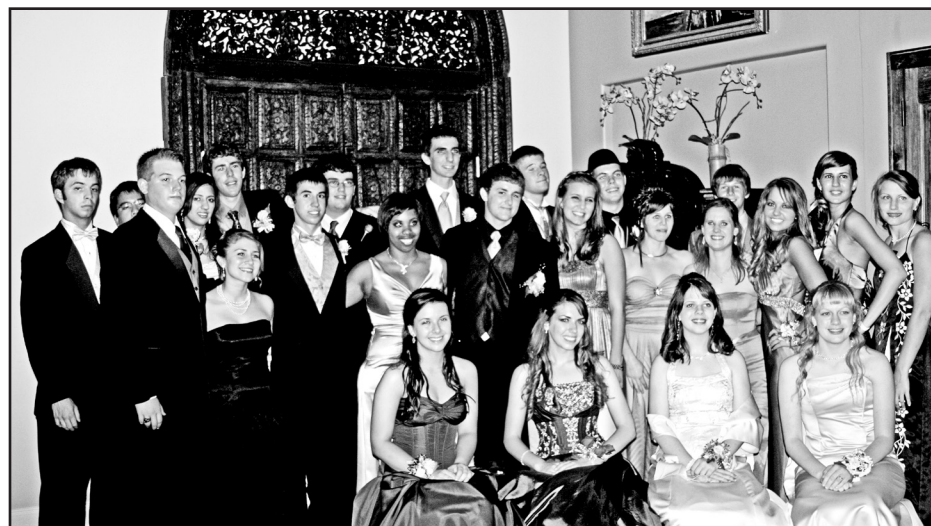


photo: Glenda Morrow

**HIGH CLASS** Members of the BCS senior class pose at their recent Formal.

## Teachers taking off

*Secondary says goodbye to three instructors*

**trevor ATHERTON**  
reporter

Every year Brentwood Christian students have to say goodbye to teachers who are moving on. One staff member and three high school teachers will be gone next fall: Mark Broadway, Megan Kite, Lynda Pierce, and Lindsey Pierson.

Pierce will be retiring after 24 years at Brentwood, during which she has seen her two daughters graduate – Lindsey ('02) and Sissy ('04). Her time at BCS has spanned from being director of Children's Ark to helping students pick colleges, as she currently does in her job as a guidance counselor.

Her plan is to volunteer for Life Care Pregnancy Services and serve the community she has lived in for so long. She said she

enjoyed her time at Brentwood, especially keeping up with past Brentwood students and what they have done with their lives.

"I love it when my students come back to Austin and I see how successful they are," Pierce said.

Lindsey Pierson, the BCS theater director, is leaving for Amarillo, where her husband will be working on his doctorate in physical therapy. Pierson said she plans on going to school at West Texas A&M, which is 10 miles down the road, and possibly work for the speech therapy school. She will be missed greatly by her theater students.

"I'll miss her a lot; she's helped me a lot in acting," junior Brady Johnson said, "and she also knows how to have fun in class rather than look at the plays like it's all a bunch of work."

see **Teachers**, page 8

## What's next for Class of '09 ?

**Abilene Christian University**

L'nae Allen, *undecided*

Emilie Baros, *nursing*

Bryant Davis, *finance, accounting*

Haleigh Davis, *education, interior design*

Amy Mise, *chemistry*

Rebekah Singleton, *undecided*

Nick Sterling, *health/fitness, Bible*

**Baylor University**

Olivia Brinson, *psychology*

Jay Yi, *business*

**Blinn College**

Hannah Sinclair, *business marketing*

**Columbus College of Art and Design**

Alexis Gardner, *illustration*

**Concordia University**

Audrei Welter, *kinesiology*

**Harding University**

Amber Doyle, *criminal justice*

Mark Nesslage, *undecided*

**Michigan State University**

Rachel Kwon, *pre-med*

**Oklahoma Christian University**

Andrew McClellan, *engineering*

Laura Peterson, *art*

Courtney Pool, *teaching ESL*

Jay Wiles, *broadcast journ./political science*

**Pensacola Christian College**

Leah Dillon, *forestry*

**Rice University**

Peter Johannigman, *engineering*

**Southern Methodist University**

Katie Legband, *political science/psychology*

**Texas A&M University**

Trever Brightwell, *mechanical engineering*

Eddie Carlin, *international studies*

John Cha, *engineering*

Jordan Cleveland, *English/psychology*

Seth Cole, *biomedical science*

Meghan Quinn, *psychology*

**Texas State University**

Catherine Marler, *business marketing*

Nate Shackelford, *marketing or kinesiology*

**University of Mary Hardin-Baylor**

Colleen Jung, *psychology*

**University of Texas at Austin**

Gina Kim, *bilingual*

Ben Lancaster, *architectural engineering*

Chau Tang, *pre-med*

**University of Texas at San Antonio**

Brad Hughes, *kinesiology*

Cody Iltis, *undecided*

Carrie Thomas, *interior design/architecture*

**Undecided**

Marguerite Vichier-Guerre, *undecided*

# Two vaulters, one distance runner reach state

*Track team faces stiffer competition in this year's district, regional meets*

**katie LEGBAND**  
sports editor

Senior Andrew McClellan and freshman Brittany Brunson both set personal records and placed fifth in their events at the track and field state meet May 8 and 9 at the Baylor track stadium.

McClellan cleared a height of 12 feet in the pole vault, and Brunson ran a 5:34 in the mile. Senior Audrei Welter also qualified for state in pole vault and placed eighth.

"Competition was intense this year, but I had a lot of fun pole vaulting and trying to beat my personal record," McClellan said. "I also had a lot of fun training and hanging out with the team."

Brunson also had fun with her first year in high school track,

"It was all so crazy, but I'm glad I got to go to state," she said.

Two weeks before at the district meet at San Antonio Christian, athletes who finished in the top four of their events qualified for regionals. Brunson won the mile with a 5:36 and placed second in the 800 meters with a 2:34.

Senior Mark Nesslage took third in the two mile, running a 10:33. He finished fifth in the mile with a 4:55, but a runner dropped out, meaning Nesslage qualified in both events.

Junior Ashley Clement ran a personal best of 1:04 in the 400 meters and took fourth. In the pole vault McClellan tied for second at 10-6, and Welter took third for girls. Sophomore Alyssa Legband also qualified fourth in the 200 meters with a time of 29.0, and junior Tyla Wells qualified in discus with a third-place throw of 84 feet.

The girls' 4 x 200 relay team – senior Hannah

Sinclair, Wells, Legband, and sophomore Mariah Robinson – took fourth place when Sinclair leaned across the line at the last second to beat Incarnate Word to go to regionals. The 4 x 400 relay team – Brunson, Legband,

Clement, and sophomore Brittany Johnson – automatically qualified since there were only four teams who competed.

"I love the 4 x 400 relay," Clement said. "The 400 is my favorite race, and the girls I run with

are my favorites."

At regionals, held May 1 in Houston, athletes again needed a top-four finish to advance to state. McClellan took third in pole vault at 11 feet, and Welter cleared 7 feet for her personal best and fourth place.

Brunson placed sixth in the 800 with a time of 2:31, and fourth in the mile with a 5:46. Legband placed eighth in the 200, as did Clement in the 400. The 4 x 200 relay team snagged seventh, and the 4 x 400 team took eighth.

Wells took sixth in discus with a throw of 85 feet – one and a half feet from fourth place and a trip to state. Nesslage placed seventh in the mile and eighth in the two mile.

Since the TAPPS 6A division was taken away this year and all the divisions were realigned, the BCS track team was running against almost all new schools. In district, the track team had run against two out of the nine teams in previous districts. The girls, who had won district the past four years, placed fifth overall.

"Overall, it was a good season," head coach Joseph Walker said. "We had opportunities that we could have maximized that we didn't take advantage of, but also there were good things that were surprising."



photo: Katie Legband

**HANDING OFF** Junior Ashley Clement hands the baton to sophomore Brittany Johnson, who runs the final leg of Brentwood's 4 x 400 meter relay, at the district meet in San Antonio on April 25. The girls qualified for regionals but did not make it to state.

## Up-and-coming girls honing basketball skills

*Loftis focusing on off-season tournaments to keep young Lady Bears at high level*

**brian PETERSON**  
reporter

After four district championships the past four years, the Lady Bears basketball team hopes to pass on this successful trend to future team members.

In an effort to continue a tradition of excellence in the girls' program, fifth- through eighth-grade Lady Bears have begun to compete in the offseason with teams in the Central Texas area, most recently in Floresville. Varsity coach Devan Loftis and parent John Vandygriff are coaching the elementary and junior high teams, respectively. There are 10 players on each of the two teams.

Playing against what Loftis calls "tough

competition," they hope to see some quality teams and eventually be able to compete.

"A lot of times the teams they play (during the season) in elementary aren't competitive, so we want them to get accustomed to playing some better teams before they go into the junior high and high school leagues," Loftis said.

Though they are not playing in an official league, Loftis said there are a number of teams in and around Austin that they can play. Tournaments are available almost every weekend year-around, and they can play as many or as few as they want. Loftis said most of the teams they play are not associated with specific schools but are "club" teams. He said they are very competitive, consisting of players from many public schools.

In their first tournaments on the weekend of April 18 for the elementary and April 25 for the junior high, both teams won only one game. But Loftis said they are still getting used to it and hope to improve with each game.

"We want the girls to have fun," Loftis said. "That's the most important thing. When they lose games they can't get discouraged, because they're playing kids from all over the city."

Loftis said this was not an idea he came up with on his own, but that he knew a lot of players who participated in similar leagues, as well as coaches who encouraged their players to do the same. The opportunity for the younger Lady Bears to practice with varsity players such as senior Olivia Brinson and with high school coaches is also something that these teams

provide. They have been practicing every day after school for several weeks in order to be ready for these tournaments.

"We work a lot on fundamentals like triple-threat position and dribbling, so they will have that foundation and won't have to work on that later," Brinson said.

The team planned to go to a tournament the first weekend in May, but it was cancelled due to concerns about swine flu. Loftis said he hopes they will be able to go to another tournament soon. He also said he hopes to continue to play with the younger Lady Bears in future summers so that he can get to see the players before they begin to play on the high school teams.



# Softball, baseball seasons draw to quiet end

Jacob **CARDENAS**  
reporter

The Brentwood Christian baseball team struggled this year, failing to make the playoffs and posting a 2-12 district record.

The softball team fared a bit better, making the playoffs, but they lost 10-0 in the first round to Fort Bend Baptist Academy on Saturday, May 2. They finished with a 4-6 district record.

Though the girls are disappointed that they lost and are no longer in the playoffs, no one expressed disappointment in the way they played. According to head coach Paul Sladek, Fort Bend has a pitcher who has signed to play for the University of Texas next season, and she throws about 70 mph. According to senior Carrie Thomas, 70 mph in softball is equivalent to 100 mph in baseball, so the resulting loss "wasn't that bad."

"Although we lost, we played really well and we still kept our heads and hearts in it," Thomas said.

Leading up to the playoff matchup, the girls managed to win two of their last three games. On April 16, freshman Haley Decker pitched a no-hitter as the Lady Bears cruised to a 16-0 victory over San Marcos Baptist Academy.

Five days later, the girls lost 10-3 to San Antonio Christian, but the score was tied 2-2 at the end of the 4th inning. SACS scored eight runs in the 5th inning to seal the victory.

"It was a heartbreaker. I was balling my eyes out, man," Sladek said.

On April 23 the girls ended their district season strong with a 22-3 thrashing of San Antonio TMI. Freshman Kailey Rodden had an outstanding performance, going a perfect four-for-four and hitting a home run.

As for next season, Sladek remains optimistic.

"People don't understand. This team is only going to get better," he said.

Junior Katie Miertschin led the team with a .500 batting average in district. Senior Hannah Sinclair led the team with 13 runs and 7 RBIs

in district. Sophomore Somare Peyton followed close behind with 12 runs and 4 RBIs.

The baseball team finished the season with a pair of 16-0 losses to St. Stephen's and Victoria St. Joseph. But the seniors on the team show no resentment for the disappointing season.

"It was fun being a senior and leader on the team," Bryant Davis said. "And it was nice seeing everybody give it their all."

Senior Trever Brightwell, who shared pitching duties with Davis, also remained positive about his career at Brentwood, though he had reasons to be frustrated with the team's defense.

"It's been a great experience," he said. "I'm going to really miss it."

Coach Scott Cunningham couldn't say enough about the senior leadership on the team and the hard work put forth by everybody.

"Obviously we didn't win as many ball games as we'd have liked," he said. "But not everything's negative. Our seniors really stepped it up. And they had fun doing it."

## Faculty training, dropping weight

continued from page 5

choices to eat.

"I think the longest running thing that has come out of it is the walking, and it's certainly the longest consistent health-improvement discipline I've done in a long time," Hager said.

While they are not members of the Lunch Bunch, coaches Efrain Contreras, Paul Sladek, and Devan Loftis have been following their own fitness regime. For a period of 90 days from November through January, the three followed the P90X program, a series of DVDs which includes a wide variety of intense strength and cardio exercises ranging from plyometrics to yoga.

According to Contreras, they would meet in the gym classroom at 7 a.m. every day during the week, and on Saturdays, they would usually meet at someone's house and watch the DVDs there.

"It really challenged me," Contreras said. "I've never been in better shape since I played pro baseball. People still notice the difference it's made even a couple months after doing the program."

Sladek said that at the beginning of the program he could barely do one pull-up, but even three months after completing the program, he can still do at least 10. He said he has lost 18 pounds while Contreras has lost 15. Additionally, Contreras noticed his increased energy and healthier food choices while he followed the exercise routine, claiming he managed to go without his morning cup of coffee for the length of the program.

The two coaches are very enthusiastic about the program and its benefits and plan to start over for the summer. It is so effective, they said, that at least 10 people, including students and faculty members, have asked for the DVDs.

## Johnny

continued from page 2

ready.

Myles wished Johnny good luck, and as he turned to head over to his seat in the audience, Johnny called out to him.

"Hey, Myles - thanks."

"That's what Hall Buddies are for," Myles replied with a grin as they shook hands. All was forgiven.

Johnny sat down to wait for them to call out his act, rehearsing in his head, when he felt a tap on the shoulder. He knew that delicate touch all too well by now.

"Johnny, I need to talk to you." Wendy nervously played with a strand of her hair and stared determinedly at the floor.

"Look, I don't want to hurt your feelings or anything, but I just don't think this relationship is working out. I mean, you're a great guy and all, but...I think we'd be better off as just friends, if that's all right with you."

Johnny could only manage a dazed "Sure" in reply. She kissed him swiftly on the cheek and scampered off. Johnny sat in a state of puzzled amazement, not quite sure whether to be annoyed or euphoric, and then simply had to laugh. A wave of contentment settled over him as he realized that his problems were over...

"AAAAND NOW, PLEASE WELCOME TO THE STAGE JOHNNYYY NORWOOOD, WITH AN ORIGINAL INTERPRETIVE DANCE TOOO Phil Collins' 'In the Air Tonight' !!!"

...well, maybe not *all* of his problems.

Johnny shrugged off his robe, took a deep breath, threw his dignity to the wind, and stepped out into the spotlight. Each day would bring many battles, and Johnny knew that the only way to conquer them was one at a time.



photo: Kim Sinclair

**LADY BEARS** Front row, from left: Somare Peyton, Katie Miertschin, Jenny Eason, Megan Montgomery, and Bailey Hardin; back row is Coach Peyton, Kailey Rodden, Hannah Sinclair, Carrie Thomas, Christen Zurovec, Haley Decker, and Coach Sladek.

# Field Day: timeless tradition rolls on

Megan **MONACELLI**  
reporter

"Let's go, Zach, let's go!" cheered fellow kindergartners to encourage their friend Zach Billante in the card relay during last month's Field Day. He darted out, eyes glued to the ground as he searched for the next consecutive card of his suit.

The long-time tradition of outdoor and indoor games for elementary students continued for grades K-2 on Friday, April 24, and for grades 3-5 on Friday, May 1.

This day consisted of about 12 to 13 games, and for K-2 it was solely meant to be a fun and entertaining day, according to Field Day

director Kellsey Smith. For example, all kindergarten students participate in all of the events, which are mostly simple relays.

"Kindergarten through second grade got to just come out, have fun with their classmates, and play games they normally don't get to play," Smith said.

For third through fifth grade, however, the day is meant to create some competition. By creating a more competitive atmosphere, Smith said these kids are learning to not only be good winners but also to be good losers. Only two students from each class participate in events such as the 50-yard dash, softball throw, and the long jump; in team games such as the water balloon launch and the three-legged race, more

students participate.

Fifth graders said the water balloon launch was their favorite event. They also said Field Day was intense and fun at the same time.

"It was really competitive," fifth-grader Tiara Allen said.

Upper elementary grades were given more responsibility in Field Day. Fifth grade voted on the Field Day T-shirt from different designs Smith had, and sixth grade helped out with the K-2 Field Day by doing whatever was needed.

Field Day is run by Smith and Paul Sladek, the elementary P.E. teachers, alongside parent volunteers. There were about 30 parent volunteers for the K-2 Field Day and about 15 for the older students' event.



# Junior/Senior: sunset at the Oasis

benjamin **INGRAM**  
reporter

Junior/Senior. Every Brentwood Christian girl's dream. The day they can dress up in their most elegant dresses and feel the most beautiful they've felt in their lives. The entrancing view

at sunset, their dapper dates – and, of course, the after party.

The annual Junior/Senior Formal was held on May 1 at the Oasis, a restaurant that overlooks the beautiful Lake Travis and is very popular at sunset. Students slowly but surely began arriving at the front of the restaurant at

about 6:15 p.m., where they had their pictures taken with their dates. Then they proceeded up to the third floor where the banquet room was. Students mingled and went outside to take pictures with their friends.

After awhile, everyone was served a salad with a spicy dressing. The main course was either a chicken breast or a Salisbury steak, served with mashed potatoes, steamed vegetables, and a roll.

"It was simple and elegant, and the lake was beautiful," junior Megan Montgomery said. "The food was awesome. I think I could eat that food for the rest of my life and be content."

By this time it was about 7:30 and the track athletes were arriving from their regional meet in Houston. Some people went out and talked and took pictures with the people they hadn't seen yet, while others ate cheesecake and a very "chocolatey" cake.

At about 8:15 the seniors were given their gift from the juniors: a photo montage, with their individual names on the frame. Seniors then presented a slideshow of each senior that included a baby picture, young picture, and older picture of each senior.

At about 9:15, a few limos that some students rented began arriving again to pick them up and bring them to the after parties at the home of junior Katie Miertschin or senior Haleigh Davis.

"Everyone looked amazing, and it was just a relaxing and enjoyable evening," Montgomery said.



photo: Olivia Brinson

**I AM SMILING** Chau Tang and friend Amber Doyle pose for a picture on one of the balconies of the Oasis restaurant on Lake Travis at the Junior/Senior Formal on May 1. After a fancy dinner of steak or chicken, those in attendance watched one of the beautiful sunsets for which the Oasis is known. This sunset did not signal the end of a fun evening, however, as students enjoyed each others' company well into the night.

## Jazz Under the Stars

### *StuCo plans musical close to school year*

gabe **BRETERNITZ**  
reporter

The year is drawing to a close. Students have already checked out. Their attention is focused more on the coming months of summertime leisure than on the pesky, ever-present schoolwork. Even teachers must be feeling the laziness of the warmer weather weighing down on them. Everywhere people are falling victim to the siren song of summer vacation.

But at least one group of students continues at their labor with beeswax stuffed in their ears. StuCo has one final event planned – Jazz Under the Stars.

Jazz Under the Stars, which will take place Friday, May 22, is simply an open-invitation social function. Tables and chairs will be set up in the courtyard as the high school jazz band and combo play a variety of jazzy tones as entertainment. Light refreshments will be

served. But the main event is simply enjoying the company of your friends under a starry night sky.

"I expect all of high school to show up," StuCo adviser Linda Riedesel joked, "and I also encourage parents to come. Admission is not limited to students."

Riedesel added that there will be no childcare provided.

The cover charge of \$8 will benefit the high school band department. High school band instructor Travis Pollard said he hopes to use the money, "among other possibilities, to buy a pair of conga drums, repair instruments that need it, and acquire some new music stands." High school choir teacher Missy Weaver will be also singing a few songs with the jazz combo.

"Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy a great, safe, social opportunity and help out the band," Riedesel said.

## Teachers leaving

continued from page 5

"I'll miss Brentwood a lot," said Pierson, who was at BCS for two years. "There was a family bond that was developed at one act that I will miss greatly."

Megan Kite, who taught environmental science and biology for just one year, is planning to further her education and possibly go to medical school. Her students enjoy her laid-back teaching methods.

"She was an awesome teacher and I know we'll all miss her next year," junior Henry Rhea said.

Although her environmental science classes claim that they're her favorite, her biology students will miss her also.

"We had a lot of fun dissecting things this year; I'm going to miss her so much," freshman Kayle Morin said.

After seven years at BCS, Mark Broadway is leaving to look for new teaching opportunities at public schools. One advantage this will give him, he said, is an increased ability to fund his annual trips to Zambia.

Currently the head of the science department, Broadway has primarily taught seventh-grade Life Science and freshman Biology. He also initiated an AP Biology course last year.

## Money for Meds nets \$12,000

charles **KIM**  
reporter

Students of BCS contributed \$12,222.33 in the fifth annual Money for Medicines campaign last month. This amount of money will help more than 2,000 people in Zambia, through the work of the Zambia Medical Mission.

During the campaign, many students worked really hard to raise the money. However, there were a few outstanding students and classes who encouraged other students to participate and created an exciting atmosphere around the campus. The senior class held a bake sale on April 21, and all the money raised through the sales of breakfast tacos, cookies, brownies, and other items went to the Money for Medicines campaign.

Junior Reagan Smith was applauded for his outstanding enthusiasm by his classmates. For past two campaigns, Smith has come up in front of his class, encouraged, and motivated his classmates to get involve in this great event. As a result, he helped put his class into second place in the contest to raise the most money.

At the end of the two-week campaign, special awards were given to the classes that raised the most money. This year, April Hejl's second grade and Glenda Morrow's fourth grade received an ice cream party for bringing the most money in lower and upper elementary, respectively. Hejl's class brought \$889.43, and Morrow's class brought \$2070.13, which topped all classes.

For junior high, Mark Broadway's seventh-grade class earned a jeans day for bring the most money, which was \$876.78. For high school, David Peyton's senior girls were given extended off-campus lunch for contributing \$1,173.

Michele Broadway, who with her husband collects all the donations, said last year's campaign, which raised more than \$20,000, benefited from several large donations. This year, she said there was only one large gift, which seems to be an effect of the current economic crisis. However, the Broadways said they were very happy that this year's contribution was mostly from the students rather than the parents, who have made the most contributions for the last several years. They were amazed what the students in BCS could do to follow God's teaching.

"I'm just touched by the generosity of our students," Mrs. Broadway said. "It was fun to watch God at work."

Many Zambians live in poor conditions; usually there are too many people living in each house, and the medical facilities there are very poor, distant for most people, and not well run.