



THE BEAR FACTS



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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

APRIL 2015

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IN SHORT

Math League

BCS ended up fourth in state – its best finish ever – in the 2014-15 Texas State Math League competition. Junior Andrew Armstrong, who missed only one of the 36 problems, was third among individuals. Also among the state's top students were senior Hyunjin Park, followed by juniors Martha Hughes and Yunxi Wei, and senior Karen Yang.

Book Fair

Many students enjoyed this year's Under the Sea themed annual Scholastic Book Fair that took place March 30-April 2 in the FLC and brought in a total of about \$9,000. In charge were elementary librarian Tere Hager and PTF book fair chairperson Anita Chambers, who helped set up the fair with assistance from 20 other parent volunteers. The fair allowed students to purchase books and help fund Brentwood's libraries. About 25 percent of the profits come back to the school, Hager said, allowing BCS libraries to get needed funds.

Rosedale events

Brentwood's NHS sophomores and seniors spread their love to the special needs children at Rosedale with an Easter celebration on April 1. The day featured an Easter egg hunt for the elementary-age kids, as well as bingo, cupcake decorating, crafts, and face painting. NHS will return to Rosedale on April 17 for their Track and Field Day. This will be the last trip of the school year and will include all eligible sophomores, juniors, and seniors in NHS.

High school takes first in TCSIT

By Camille Sunshine

After weeks of hard work, BCS high school students took first place at the Texas Christian Schools Interscholastic Tournament on April 9-11, while the middle school placed second.

"Every single TCSIT student worked hard, and their diligence paid off," event coordinator

Michelle Mallett said.

The high school won by a margin of 108 points, more than 60 points over the average distance between first and second place. Last year BCS finished second in both middle school and high school, but the school has received 18 first-place trophies overall since their first victory in 1994.

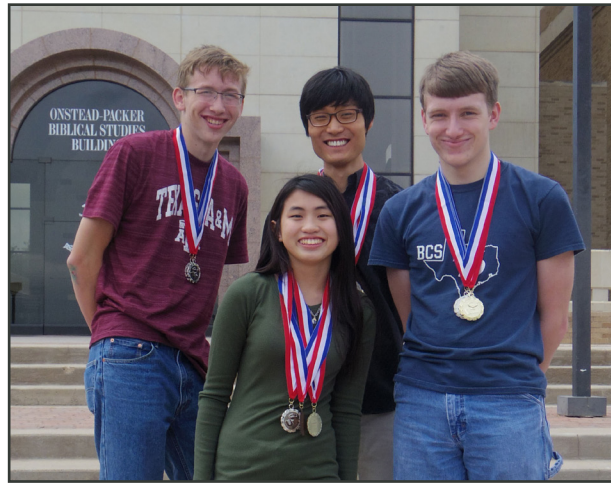


photo: KALEEN GRAESSLE

Mathletes Junior Joshua Sass (left), senior Hyunjin Park (top middle), junior Andrew Armstrong (right), and sophomore Gabie Nguyen formed BCS's math team and played a key role in Brentwood's first-place finish.

The high school one-act play's victory was its fourth in a row at TCSIT. The competition took place Feb. 21, and Brentwood did a production of *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, which earned the highest possible score. The grand champion was not named until the rest of the winners on April 11.

Senior Tyler Clark received the Best Actor award. Seniors Kaylie Angello and Haley Hutson got all-star cast, and freshman Lauren Weilemann got honorable mention.

Both the yearbook (Bear Tracks) and newspaper (Bear Facts) took the top award, while freshman Benjamin Helyer was the champion in Lincoln-Douglas debate.

The team math competitors,

made up of senior Hyunjin Park, juniors Joshua Sass and Andrew Armstrong, and sophomore Gabie Nguyen, placed second. Armstrong, Sass, and Park received the top three places in number sense, respectively. Armstrong, Park, and Nguyen earned the top three spots in calculator applications.

Park and Armstrong placed first and second in comprehensive math, and Nguyen and sophomore Ruth Kim won the top two places in Algebra II. Sophomore Khue Tran was first in geometry, and Tran, Nguyen, and Kim placed second, third, and fourth in chemistry.

Park also received a gold medal in physics and a bronze in science, while Armstrong placed in science and poetry. Sass also placed in comprehensive math.

Sophomores Sam Stone and Rachel Beggs were first and second in headline writing. Stone also won spelling, and Beggs took third in Bible knowledge. Sophomore Camille Sunshine placed second in news writing, third in dramatic interpretation, and fourth in feature writing.

Freshman Jenna Beggs earned second in English girls' Bible reading and also placed in headline writing. Senior Nicole Glenn and freshman Madison Wells placed second and third in on-site drawing. Glenn also placed in photography.

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Jog-a-fun debuts obstacle course and 3K

By Mary Womack

Running a 5K, throwing spears, crawling on the ground, and climbing walls is not a typical part of the BCS curriculum, but on April 8 these were common activities.

Jog-a-fun 2015 was held last week, and despite gray skies, the temperature was pleasant for joggers, and the day was a success. Originally scheduled for March 3, the annual fundraiser was rescheduled to four weeks later due to weather complications.

The day featured prominent changes – one being that middle school ran a 3K rather than laps. Another new installation was an obstacle course along the high school 5K route. The obstacle course consisted of an army crawl, javelin throw, tire jumps, tire pulls, a balance beam, and hurdles varying from three to eight

feet high.

High school students ran in the middle of the day, and they had the privilege of continuing the "color-run" tradition. At various places along the course Student Council members and elementary students who had earned the honor would hurl the bright corn-starch concoction at passing runners.

Those who had signed a waiver and wore a green wristband were able to participate in the various obstacles found along the course, which again took runners through the upper elementary playground and the baseball field. The obstacles were brought by Mylo Obstacle Fitness, who provided a worker at each obstacle to help runners stay safe.

Students said the obstacle course was some-

see Jog-a-fun, page 6



photo: DOROTHY WALTERS

Major hops Sixth-grader Isaac Stanglin leaps over the six-foot wall during the middle school 3K on April 8.

Cultural attitudes toward gender roles challenged

Speaking for the Ladies: Camille Sunshine

I am not the typical modern American woman. I classify myself as a nerd, am somewhat socially awkward, and obsess over things many people my age have either not heard of or would never imagine having anything to do with in all their lives because it is about or written by dead people.

I am a classic literature freak, and two of my favorite authors are Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. In all of their books, they portray women in a light that is very different from

that in which so many women are portrayed in today's books and TV shows. They are graceful, gracious, noble, pure, gentle, kind, patient, loving, and self-sacrificing for their loved ones if need be

- qualities that are getting harder and harder to find in the women we see around us. Where have Elizabeth Bennet and Rose Maylie gone?

As I get older, I find myself hoping that I will grow up to become like these women that I read about. However, I feel like the world around me is pulling me in a different direction. There is tension between becoming more like the traditional American woman and becoming more like the modern American woman.

As I Christian, I turn to the Bible when I am faced with confusing circumstances. Proverbs 31 describes the Godly woman, saying, "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

Many women complain that this is an unattainable standard, but I believe it is a standard we should be striving for. Instead, many women ignore their own faults and criticize men, saying chivalry is dead and there are no gentlemen left in the world. But what about ladies? How many real ladies are left in the world?

The traditional woman was a lady; she always waited for a man to chase her, and she was never the one to chase. She loved beauty and enjoyed learning things like French and art.

She cared for her husband and children, was never crude, and was always polite and pure.

However, it is true that in the past, while many women were more pure, they were also given an identity from society that said they were supposed to be idiotic, empty-headed, weak, and basically useless besides housecleaning and cooking. I think in an effort to leave that time in our history, our society has gone way overboard, to the extent that women are supposed to be always right, always

strong, always as good as, if not better than, men.

I am as glad as anyone else that women, at least in America, are considered men's equals now. But

I believe many women have lost a lot of good things that those of 100 years ago had, such as their femininity. The world is pushing women to be men: strong, athletic, unflinching, the breadwinners, etc. What happened to the gracefulness and gentleness that ought to be found in a woman? If all humans are men, where will we get motherhood, nurturing, affection?

Elisabeth Elliot, a former missionary to Ecuador, said, "It is a naive sort of feminism that insists that women prove their ability to do all the things that men do. This is a distortion and a travesty. Men have never sought to prove that they can do all the things women do. Why subject women to purely masculine criteria? Women can and ought to be judged by the criteria of femininity, for it is in their femininity that they participate in the human race."

My mom, whom I believe to be one of the most amazing women on the face of the earth, has been criticized because she is a stay-at-home mom, as if taking care of her family full-time somehow makes her incompetent or lazy. Some people seem to think she should get a "real job" doing something "more important."

There are many good things about the way our world has progressed, and I am happy for women's rights. But, although I acknowledge that this is very contrary to popular opinion, I believe that women, including myself, would do well to become a little more like women in the past.

On the Gents: Jonathon Reich

AS THE REALITY OF GRADUATION CONTINUES TO SLOWLY CREEP UP ON THE SENIORS, I'VE BEGUN QUESTIONING MYSELF IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. AM I READY AND CAPABLE OF LIVING ON MY OWN? WILL I BE ABLE TO HANDLE LIFE'S UNEXPECTED DILEMMAS? WHO DO I WANT TO BE? AM I THE KIND OF MAN I NEED TO BE?

IN MANY WAYS, THESE QUESTIONS HAVE COME BACK TO MY SENSE OF IDENTITY, WHICH I'VE FOUND DEPENDS SOMEWHAT ON HOW I SEE MYSELF AS A "MAN"; AND THOSE WHO KNOW ME CAN ATTEST THAT I AM NOT A VERY MANLY MAN. OFTEN, I FIND MYSELF COMING UP SHORT OF SOCIETY'S UNWRITTEN EXPECTATIONS ABOUT HOW I SHOULD ACT AS A MAN, LEAVING A FEELING OF INADEQUACY. I FIND IT FAIRLY EVIDENT THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE STRUGGLING TO "BE THE MAN" SOCIETY EXPECTS. IF WE KNOW THE HARM THESE STEREOTYPES DO, WHY SHOULD WE PERPETUATE THEM?

PERHAPS WE DO IN PART BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY WE HAVE PINPOINTING THEM. THESE STEREOTYPES FOR MOST MAY SIMPLY BE "THE WAY THINGS ARE," WITH NO REASON TO QUESTION THEM. DOES THE FACT THAT MEN DON'T CRY AS MUCH AS WOMEN DO COME FROM SOCIETY OR SIMPLY OUR BIOLOGY? WHAT ABOUT HOW MEN GENERALLY TAKE PLEASURE IN SHOOTING GUNS AND WORKING WITH CARS AND TOOLS MORE THAN WOMEN DO?

TO BEGIN DEBUNKING THESE STEREOTYPES, LET'S START WITH THE BASICS: SPORTS. MEN ENJOY SPORTS, EACH GENERALLY FOLLOWING HIS FAVORITE TEAMS AND KNOWING THE RULES AND PLAYERS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT, AT SOME POINT, MEN HAVE PLAYED ONE OF THESE SPORTS IN THEIR FREE TIME. BUT SPORTS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING - OTHER VARIETIES OF PHYSICAL OR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES EXCITE MEN, FROM FISHING TO WORKING ON CARS.

CONTINUING DOWN SOCIETY'S TRAIL OF EXPECTATIONS, MEN ARE THE MORE LOGICAL GENDER. NOT BEING TIED DOWN BY THEIR EMOTIONS AS MUCH AS WOMEN ARE MEANS THAT THEY'RE ABLE TO DO BETTER AT MATH AND TO EXCEL IN WORK IN STEM CAREERS. TEACHING, SECRETARY WORK, OR THE LIKE WOULD PROBABLY BORE A MAN.

ALTHOUGH THIS IS CHANGING, MEN HAVE LONG BEEN DEEMED THE BREADWINNERS. HUSBANDS SUPPORT THE FAMILY WITH A CAREER, WHICH LEAVES WOMEN ENOUGH TIME

TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE AND KIDS. THIS HELPS MEN DEVELOP A PROTECTIVE, CONFIDENT, AND "IN CHARGE" ATTITUDE THAT HELPS BRING SUCCESS THROUGH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THEIR LIVES.

HOPEFULLY IT'S EVIDENT THAT THESE CHARACTERISTICS ARE NOT PRESENT IN ALL MEN, BUT ARE ASPECTS WE GENERALLY EXPECT OF MEN. NOT ALL MEN LOVE SPORTS OR OTHER PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES - AND EVEN IF THEY DO, ENJOYING THESE IS CERTAINLY NOT GENDER-SPECIFIC. TO CALL MEN THE MORE LOGICAL GENDER DISPLAYS QUITE A BIT OF ARROGANCE OR IGNORANCE. AS FOR BEING BORED BY TEACHING, TAKE A LOOK AT OUR OWN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING STAFF.

WHILE THESE IDEAS ARE BEING CHALLENGED, IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE MASCULINE QUALITIES

AREN'T INHERENTLY BAD. I ENJOY PLAYING SOCCER, TRY TO DO MY CALCULUS HOMEWORK, AND EXPECT THAT SOMEDAY I WILL HAVE A JOB THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO PROVIDE. WHAT CAUSES HARM IS THE IDEA THAT THESE QUALITIES ONLY APPLY TO MEN, OR APPLY TO EVERY MAN. MEN WHOSE WIVES PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES SHOULDN'T FEEL THREATENED OR WORTHLESS, AND NEITHER SHOULD THOSE WHO DON'T ENJOY SPORTS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE BIBLE DOES NOT GIVE A CLEAR DEFINITION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAN OF GOD, BUT IT DOES BRING SOME WISDOM TO THE ISSUE. LOOKING TO THE LIFE OF JESUS IS A HELPFUL FIRST STEP; A MAN LIKE JESUS WILL SEEK TO DO GOD'S WILL (HEBREWS 10:9), BEING A MAN OF PRAYER (MARK 1:35), DOING EVERYTHING IN LOVE (1 CORINTHIANS 16:14). 1 TIMOTHY GIVES SOME PARTICULAR WISDOM ON THE ISSUE, CALLING ELDERS AND DEACONS TO BE "TEMPERATE, SELF-CONTROLLED, RESPECTABLE, HOSPITABLE, ABLE TO TEACH, NOT GIVEN TO DRUNKENNESS, NOT VIOLENT BUT GENTLE, NOT QUARRELSOME, NOT A LOVER OF MONEY." THESE IMAGES ARE CERTAINLY DIFFERENT THAN SOCIETY'S EXPECTATIONS.

IF AN INDIVIDUAL DOESN'T LIVE UP TO WHAT SOCIETY SAYS IT MEANS TO BE A MAN, IT DOESN'T MEAN HE IS WORTH LESS. INSTEAD OF EVALUATING EACH MAN ON THE BASIS OF MASCULINITY, WE SHOULD APPROACH EACH INDIVIDUAL UNIQUELY, WHERE ONE'S SPECIFIC QUALITIES - THEIR MIX OF MASCULINE AND FEMININE CHARACTERISTICS - IS THE BASIS OF IDENTITY.

If an individual doesn't live up to what society says it means to be a man, does it mean he's worth any less?

THE BEAR FACTS APRIL 2015

Choir wins fifth straight state championship; band excels

By Kira Juranek

BCS high school choir students won first place for the fifth consecutive year after competing in the TAPPS 3A state competition on Friday, March 27, in Belton.

A day later, the high school band earned fourth place in the TAPPS 3A instrumental competition. Both events took place at the Mary Hardin-Baylor campus.

This is the choir's tenth time in the last 12 years to be state champs. Brentwood finished with a score of 530 total points, and 12 out of the 26 events that performed received a "one" rating, meaning superior. Juniors Sarah Arbuckle, Andrew Armstrong, Nicholas Bergeron, and Kristen Jang all earned a "one"

for their solos. The BCS large vocal ensemble was given a "two" rating, and the vocal sight reading received a "one."

"Receiving a 'one' rating in any category is the highest honor, and I am super proud of all of my choirs and soloists for working so hard this year," choir director John McMeen said. "I couldn't ask for a better group of students to work with."

Brentwood's band finished fourth out of the 15 3A schools represented, which was one spot below last year's placing. Their total of 295 points beat last year's score by 45 points.

Senior Kate Zipperer and junior Andrew Armstrong both were given a "one" rating on their solos, which band director Travis Pollard said is very hard to do. BCS students

performed in 19 events, and 11 of those received a "one." The BCS concert band sight reading earned a "one," while the BCS concert band large ensemble and jazz ensemble received a "two."

Pollard also said he was pleased with the improvement made by the saxophone quartet.

In order to take first place, Pollard said Brentwood would need to enter 25-30 events.

"I think this is within the realm of possibility in a few years if we continue to grow," he said.



photo: Lori Morin

The few, the proud The high school band performed in the TAPPS state competition at UMHB on Saturday, March 28, beating their previous score by 45 points.

Italy trip filled with superlatives for seniors

By Maddie Ashworth

The BCS senior class is cursed. Ask any senior who has been at BCS since around seventh grade, and they'll tell you about the many incidents including buses breaking down, retreats being forgotten about, and ropes courses being flooded. The curse has made for some pretty fun memories, and stories I won't soon forget, but the most recent incident was the large percentage of seniors on the Italy trip getting sick! If you have never gotten food poisoning with your classmates while you are thousands of miles from home, you haven't truly bonded.

But in no way did the Class of 2015 let illness slow them down.

After a nine-hour flight to London and a two-hour flight to Milan, we hopped off the plane ready to see the beauty that lies in Italy! The first stop was in Verona, the place where tourists flock to see "Juliet's Balcony." Even though the story of Romeo and Juliet is fictional, it is still fun to stop and see the statue of Juliet. There also happens to be an amphitheater where the band One Direction played; the venue is featured in their movie.

In the first few hours, many of us had our first taste of Italy, including gelato! Most of us had gotten little to no sleep on the flight in, so there was a lot of crazy sleep deprived teens walking around. Getting onto the charter bus that night was one of the greatest feelings.

Venice was an incredible experience, and a gondola ride is something I think everyone should do at least once in their lives. Venice is like a cartoon

city: Even when you finally see the beauty of it, somehow it still doesn't seem real. I think most of the seniors would agree that one more day in Venice would have been nice, but moving on to Florence was not disappointing.

Upon arriving in Florence the beloved Coach Robson stopped by to visit us! He stuck around with us through the tours that day. Walking all throughout Florence was incredible. There were buildings older than America that were in the center of town. I thought most of the cathedrals and buildings looked fake, because they were so intricately designed and massive!

The first day in Florence was partially touring the city with a guide, and then we were given free time. This meant extra time to find Wi-Fi and gelato, the perfect combination. The hotel was outside of Florence, but was by far the best hotel we stayed in. Each night many of us sat in the lobby bonding, and discussing the sights from the day we had, while others got much needed sleep, or found gelato shops

around town.

Florence was the first city where students had an entire free-day option, or the option to go to the leaning tower of Pisa. The trip to Pisa was a great bonus to visiting Florence, and nobody knew you got to go up into the tower! I took a free day in Florence, which consisted of shopping, but not just normal shopping. It included bargaining, and if you were tough enough, a \$60 purse could cost you much less.

Our next stop was Assisi, which is where Saint Francis started his ministry, and the Saint Francis Basilica is one of the most stunning churches I have ever seen. The art on the walls was so intricate and told stories of Jesus. The church was a very sacred place – the remains of Saint Francis were there – and people from around the world go to pray in the chapel. Not only did Assisi have the church, but also the best food I have ever eaten, and a medieval castle that you can walk around and climb! The castle had a staircase you climb to

get to the top, and once you got there the view was breathtaking. For miles the Italian countryside surrounds the hillside town of Assisi. Leaving Assisi was difficult, but everyone was excited to get to see Rome.

The first day in Rome was touring the city, as well as Vatican City. The first sight of the day was the Colosseum. Our tour guide was an archeologist who showed us one of the statues that she had dug up herself! The Colosseum was massive and unlike anything in America. Archeologists are



photo: Jeff Glenn

The Squad Brentwood's seniors pose in front of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, a city that offered shopping and gelato.

TCSIT champs

continued from page 1

Freshman Katie Griffith won first in social studies, as well as placing in humorous duets with classmate Merideth Mallett.

Junior Margelid Baez got a silver medal in Spanish comprehension, and sophomore Charlie Vazquez won Spanish boys' Bible reading.

In middle school, eighth-grader Whit Allee took first place in science and eighth-grade math, as well as third in high school Algebra I. Seventh-grader Genevieve Graessle won in picture memory, and eighth-grader Emmanuel Ankutse placed second in spelling and third in science.

Middle school team math, composed of eighth-grader Darrin Nguyen, seventh-grader Emma Nguyen, and sixth-graders Nathaniel Nguyen and Aaron Sass, placed first. E. Nguyen and D. Nguyen also placed first and second in number sense. E. Nguyen received gold medals in seventh-grade math and calculator, and D. Nguyen placed in eighth-grade math and calculator.

Eighth-grader Daniel Lane took first in social studies; sixth-grader Julia Glenn placed third in poetry and fourth in original oratory; and seventh-grader Adrie Gruis was third in a duet with classmate Addison Alberda.

The first charter bus left BCS with the high school participants at 7 a.m. on April 9, and the middle school charter bus followed at noon. The competitors made it home around 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Many students were excited about staying in a different hotel this year, but after the fire alarms went off mistakenly three times early Saturday morning, the thrill of a new place had worn off.

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Jonathon Reich*

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2015.

Dependable journalist opens doors to discussion

By Nicholas Bergeron

The tight, presentable haircut plus the scholarly black glasses – combined, of course, with the reserved gentle demeanor – form the universal initial impression of Jonathon Reich: polite and quiet. He can be found holding doors open for people all across the Brentwood campus, and NHS sponsor Kaleen Graessle calls him “an excellent example of all the ideals of NHS.”

Behind his friendly, easy smile, however, more is going on. The closer you get to him, the clearer the entire picture becomes. Jonathon is not only mature and kind, and more than just another pleasant introvert; he is willing to push himself outside his comfort zone to help others. An Eagle Scout, NHS treasurer, editor of the school newspaper, and soccer team captain, Jonathon has made himself an asset to Brentwood and to the larger community through his consistent work ethic.

Perhaps Jonathon’s responsibility and hard-working mentality can be attributed in part to his background in Boy Scouts, which from a young age teaches scouts to be “loyal, helpful, friendly,” among other qualities. As a member of Pyro patrol – a sub-unit of troop 4277 whose emblem is a flaming mushroom – Jonathon was noted for his “quiet demeanor and steady resolution” by his scoutmaster.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jonathon designed and implemented a backboard – a platform to shoot balls off of – for the Pflugerville Area Youth Soccer League. The project proceeded from a pencil-and-graph-paper design stage to three layers of paperwork to gathering materials and planning workdays. Building the structure involved digging into the ground and

pouring cement for the steel supporting beams.

“It was more difficult than I originally thought, but I’m proud of the results,” Jonathon said.

It’s fitting that Jonathon’s Eagle Scout project should involve soccer. Both of his parents played soccer as adults, and so do all three of his siblings. It’s no surprise, then, that he concluded his BCS career as team captain – and in fact, among his teammates, “captain” is used interchangeably with his name on and off the field.

“Jonathon is our leader,” junior all-state player Joshua Sass says. “He’s the guy in charge because he’s the one who filled the void” created when a key player from last year’s team graduated.

But Jonathon’s career in high school soccer did not begin as well as it ended.

“I hadn’t played since middle school,” Jonathon says, recalling his first year on the high school team as a sophomore. “I was really bad.”

He worked hard to catch up to his teammates, running three miles a day over the summer for conditioning. Now, his defensive ability has earned him another nickname, “The Wall,” because “you can’t get a ball past him.”

Our man of many monikers has yet another nickname: The Baby Whisperer. This one he earned in 2007 on his family’s trip to China, during which they adopted his brother Michael. As they visited prospective adoptees around China, Jonathon helped calm confused and upset babies. Jonathon puts this skill to use in his after school job in extended care, but his love for kids comes through in his family life as well.

Jonathon and his freshman brother David, who, like the Biblical duo, have been “comrades since we were little,” can often be seen

joking and giving each other a brotherly hard time, and the Reich kids can often be found kicking a soccer ball around in their backyard.

“I feel very blessed to have been raised in a family that has been stable and supportive,” Jonathon says.

Despite being quiet and reserved in person, Jonathon doesn’t hesitate to speak out about his views. For example, in Humanities class, students are regularly instructed to submit current events to discuss in class. Jonathon’s current events range from police brutality to privacy issues and, in discussion, his teacher says he “challenges his classmates strongly without ever being disrespectful.”

“He has a strong libertarian streak,” Mel Witcher says. “He questions authority on the basis of a higher authority.”

A frequent reader of books about economics and political theory, Jonathon developed an interest in the topics his sophomore year, when blogs on the Internet sparked his desire to research

social issues more deeply.

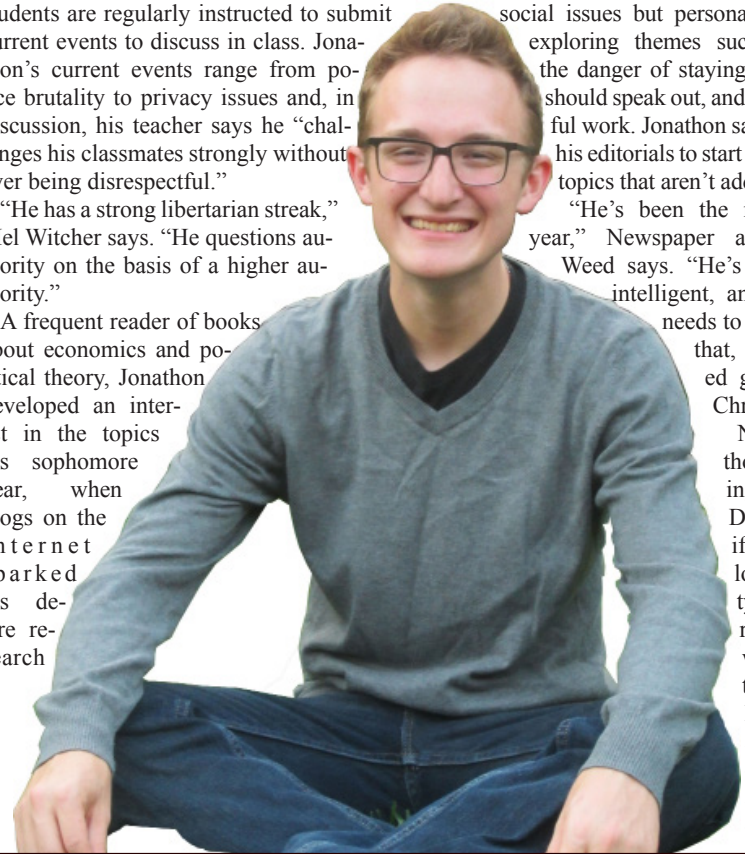
“He has the mind of a true journalist,” senior Hyunjin Park says. “His opinions are generally reliable and informed.”

Jonathon’s passion for social responsibility is part of his draw to Newspaper; as Bear Facts editor, his editorials allow him a means to convey new ideas to the public.

His editorials explore not only wide-frame social issues but personal topics as well, exploring themes such as loneliness, the danger of staying silent when you should speak out, and finding meaningful work. Jonathon says he aims to use his editorials to start discussions about topics that aren’t addressed enough.

“He’s been the ideal editor this year,” Newspaper adviser Jonathan Weed says. “He’s dependable and intelligent, and he does what needs to be done. Besides that, he’s a big-hearted guy who models Christian character.”

Next fall Jonathon will be holding doors at UT-Dallas. But even if his hair grows long and his knot-tying skills grow rusty, Jonathon will always be the one with a helping hand and a challenging question. He’ll always be the captain.



BCS takes third in academics, sixth in art at state

By Kaitlyn Baird

The competition was fierce at this year’s TAPPS state academic meet on March 23 and 24 at the Waco Convention Center, with Brentwood Christian finishing third overall in academics and sixth in art.

BCS ended the first day of the academic meet in fourth place. They took the lead at one point on the second day before being passed by Houston St. Thomas Episcopal and eventual winner Round Rock Christian.

“We did outstanding,” TAPPS competition coordinator Michelle Mallett said.

Nine out of the 24 Brentwood students who competed in the academic competition finished in the top eight of their events, thus

earning points for their school. BCS finished with 104 points, losing to Round Rock Christian by 12 points.

Junior Andrew Armstrong led Brentwood by winning three events: number sense, calculator, and advanced math. Junior Josh Sass took first in mathematics and third in number sense, and senior Hyunjin Park placed second in advanced math. Sophomore Gabie Nguyen placed second in mathematics and sixth in calculator.

Senior Haley Hutson was third in solo acting, and juniors Laura Doyle and Natalie Williams placed sixth in duet acting. Armstrong finished fifth in poetry interpretation, and freshman Benjamin Helyer took sixth in persuasive speaking.

Park was fourth in science, and Armstrong fifth. Park also placed fifth in literary criticism.

Freshman Kaitlyn Baird was fifth in spelling and eighth in social studies. The yearbook, *Where Everybody Knows Your Name*, was fourth.

“I’m proud of the hard work everyone did, especially considering it was the day back from spring break,” Hutson said.

This year’s TAPPS state championship was different because there was no preliminary district competition to qualify for the state meet. Schools were allowed to send two students in each category directly to the state competition. According to Mallett, this was done because there were too many conflicts with other extracurricular activities.

Last year, Brentwood won first at the TAPPS district and regional competition for both academics and art. They finished second at the

state academic contest with 78 points, falling short to Houston St. Thomas by three points.

BCS was also second in art last year, while this year’s group finished sixth with 50 points.

Senior Deirdre Smith won in two film events for her video *Sight*. She also placed sixth in sculpture/relief and eighth in communication design.

Freshman Madison Wells placed in three events, while senior Duc Minh Phan placed in two events, and senior Nicole Glenn also placed and received an honorable mention.

Junior Elise Lilya and freshman Louie Heilweil each placed in one event.

“The fact that we placed in enough categories to get sixth at state is incredible,” art teacher Lori Morin said.

TEACHER FEATURE: Jonathan Weed

Bear Facts adviser finally relents, allows story on self

By Jonathon Reich

For the last 14 years, his name has consistently appeared in every issue of the Bear Facts. Yet despite his continued presence, the name “Jonathan Weed” has remained an enigma behind the veil of adviser.

“I just always wanted to avoid the possibility of criticism for featuring myself in the publication that so many people associate with me,” says Weed. “I really don’t mind the attention.”

Weed’s lack of press certainly doesn’t represent a lack of work at BCS. Since joining the faculty in 1999, Weed has taught a variety of classes, including Texas History, World Geography, Economics, Bible, and P.E., to name a few, while serving as a coach for high school and middle school sports teams for his first 10 years at BCS. His lesser known feats include his weekly grammar tips, which middle and high school students alike enjoy.

“His grammar tips are hilarious,” seventh-grader Adrie Gruis says.

Yet leaving descriptions of Weed at that would be a mistake. While he has described himself as “a man of few words when possible,” students remember him for his “helpful” teaching style, slight monotone, and misunderstood sense of humor.

Sophomore Rachel Beggs says she remembers a funny scene from her seventh-grade year, when a senior was asleep in her chair from the previous class. Instead of waking the student up, Weed asked Beggs to stand in the back of the class until the senior woke up.

Fellow teachers similarly recognize his “surprising sense of humor,” as well as his talent for recognizing incongruities.

“He combines a deep reverence for God and love of his family with a charming irreverence for almost everything else,” fellow teacher Mel Witcher jokes. “Well, that’s an overstatement.”

Before taking on a teaching role at BCS,

Weed attended the school from his early pre-K years until graduating with the Class of 1991. Dr. Libby Weed, his mother and former elementary principal, remembers his good work ethic as well as his blooming “mischievous” side during his elementary years.

“That always puzzled me a bit, because at home he was pretty nearly always compliant and obedient,” Dr. Weed says.

As a student, Weed was taught by current teachers Becky Stewart and Kaleen Graessle. Graessle, who taught Weed in Physics and Geometry, remembers him and his friends as “collectively mischievous.”

“His group stood out more so than others because they were clever and fun,” Graessle says.

After graduating from BCS, Weed attended ACU, where he earned a history degree in 1995. During his college years he struggled with deciding his career path, and he later attended UT, earning a Bachelor of Journalism in 1997. During this time, Weed continued to be involved at BCS through substitute teaching.

Weed began work at the Austin American-Statesman after graduating from UT, where he did “low-level” journalism and worked with the author of a question/answer column. After more than a year, he took a different turn and applied for a teaching position at BCS.

Weed’s strong roots in teaching and Brentwood all stem from the larger Weed family. Dr. Weed served as elementary principal for 30 years, while Weed’s father, Michael, is a retired professor at Austin Graduate School of Theology. His older sister Susan Womack was a member of Brentwood’s first graduating class in 1988, taught full-time in the past, and now serves as a substitute teacher at the school.

Some may notice him running around the BCS neighborhoods with a stroller, or biking with several children in tow, after school hours. Weed says he enjoys exercising with his kids, as it allows him to spend more time with them

while adding a bit of a challenge.

“I never imagined how much joy I could get by just being with my family,” Weed says. “I don’t want my exercise routine to take away from family time.”

Weed met his wife Amber in 2003, after a preacher friend of both families gave Weed her email address. After spending some time figuring out what to say, Weed took the chance.

“I crafted what I thought was just the right email,” Weed says, “which is a hard thing to do when you don’t even know the person.”

After emailing for a month, they began meeting more frequently, driving back and forth from Austin to Ft. Worth. They were married in 2004 by the preacher who introduced them. Now, they have three children: Luke, Natalie, and Anna, with whom their dad enjoys playing a wide variety of childish games.

“Natalie told me the other day that she loves it when Daddy comes home from school, because he always turns on music and dances with her,” Dr. Weed says.

Yet knowing how to dance or throw a ball is the least of what Weed says he wishes to pass on to his children. Rather than holding any specific goals for his children, Weed says he hopes they can grow up to be “confident, wise, faithful servants of the Lord.”

“The Gospel is certainly the most important thing I can get across to my students, and it’s what I most want to pass along to my own children,” Weed says.

While the reality of Weed’s

faith is undeniable, he also emphasized that it takes an effort to hold on to his faith, and Witcher says he has seen this determination.

“He’s always thinking about what it means to be a Christian with whatever’s before him,” Witcher says.

Weed also stressed that he hopes students understand that questioning and doubt are normal parts of faith, and that in the end, the effort it takes to hold on to faith is worthwhile.

“In times of confusion and weak faith, I choose to believe,” Weed says. “My confidence in the Biblical Creator who loves us has been at the center of my life.”



photo: Jonathon Reich

“Advising” Jonathan Weed looks over stories with sophomore Thomas Yates during Newspaper class.

Reflections of Italy: Senior shares experiences from trip

continued from page 3

still digging up new artifacts and tunnels; they hope to someday have more open to the public.

Next up on the schedule was the ancient Roman Forum. This was the downtown of ancient Rome. There were marble stones in the ground everywhere, which turned out to be the actual stone that Romans had walked on! The Forum greets about 4.5 million sightseers annually, and somehow the stone is still there.

After a wonderful tour through The Forum we walked for what felt like a very long time, to have a quick lunch before the tour of the Vatican City. This place felt like a different

world because you left the streets of Rome, went through security, and entered into an extremely old and historic place. We hit the most famous spots, such as St. Peter’s Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. St. Peter’s was huge! The walls were covered in art, and it was an extremely beautiful place to see. The Sistine Chapel is amazing, because you wonder how someone was able to cover an entire room with intricate artwork.

After an exciting day we were given free time in Rome to do whatever we wanted. Many people went to an Opera Dinner; we went to see an ancient pagan temple called The Pantheon. At night this building is lit up, and you cannot go

in, but just seeing the huge building from outside is enough. Sponsor Kevin Claypool bargained with a street vendor and was able to get a wooden basket from 55 Euros down to 10! Jimmy the street vendor wasn’t very pleased about this, but it was a victory for Claypool.

The next day began with the ancient Roman Catacombs, and this was my very favorite part of the trip! Our tour guide was a priest who led us through the vast tunnels. Many of the remains were taken out either by pillagers or through excavating, but some are still there. The guide was able to show me some actual remains because I was up at the front, and asking probably way too many questions.

The rest of our last day in Rome was a free day. Students went shopping, visited ancient ruins, and so much more! The Trevi Fountain was under construction, but slightly visible. That evening our tour sponsor bought everyone gelato, and it was amazing. Leaving Rome was sad, because everyone wanted to stay in Italy. We had a heartfelt parting with our tour sponsor; after eight days we had all grown closer.

The trip was a bonding experience with everyone. Seeing the fantastic sights of Italy together created memories nobody will soon forget. Even illness wasn’t able to keep us down, as we pushed through, determined to make this trip the best.

Softball team improves, hopes for playoffs

By Grace Rogge

With a 2-3 record in district, the Lady Bears are currently in third place and still in the hunt for playoffs, which begin April 28. BCS must win two of their final three games to compete in the playoffs.

A setback occurred two weeks ago when junior catcher Sam Woolverton injured her back, forcing other players to step up. Junior Madi French stepped in as catcher for three games and Yara Qussad for one.

Another difficulty Brentwood has faced is the fact that they only have one pitcher.

"Sofia Torres is no surprise our most valuable player; she has just gotten better and better," head coach Paul Sladek said.

Sladek said the team's greatest improvements during the season have come on the defensive side of the game.

"We have made a lot of strides in fielding, catching, and throwing," Sladek said.

The team's biggest weakness has been offense. Sladek said the hits have improved but the team needs to improve on swinging at more strikes and letting more balls go by. He said the team must work on making adjustments and staying focused throughout the game.

Torres, a junior, leads the team with a batting average of .519, followed by junior Hope Kronke (.471) and French (.455). Torres also leads with five doubles and three triples.

Qussad and Torres lead the team in runs with 17 each. Woolverton leads with 11 RBIs.

Following are the team's most recent results:

3/13-15: BCS Softball Invitational

The Lady Bears placed third in the silver bracket after winning two out of the four games

played. They lost to Marble Falls Faith Academy 8-0 on Thursday. On Friday they beat Lanier 6-0, led by Woolverton and Kronke, who each had two RBIs. Brentwood's second game of the day was a 14-0 loss against Canyon Creek. The girls won their Saturday game against San Juan Diego 18-0. French led the team with three runs and three RBIs.

3/24: @ TSD 26-20 W

The Lady Bears opened their district season and pulled out a win in the dark after a four-hour battle. Brentwood pulled ahead by four runs in the first inning and were winning 16-4 after their half of the fourth. TSD then scored 10 runs in the bottom of the inning. But BCS pulled away with five runs in the sixth and four more in the seventh. Torres had three hits and scored five runs. Qussad scored five runs and had four RBIs.

3/26: St. Joseph 9-8 W

Trailing by a run going into the bottom of the seventh, BCS got a single from freshman Kira Juranek and then a triple from Kronke, tying the game. One out later, junior Shelby Greer knocked in Kronke with a walk-off single. French had a home run; on the mound, Torres had nine strikeouts.

3/30: CTCS 8-6 L

This was Brentwood's first district loss. It was tied in the seventh before CTCS scored twice. Kronke had three hits; she and junior Hailey Miller scored two runs each.

3/31: St Andrews 8-7 L

Tied after seven innings, the Lady Bears lost this non-district game in an extra inning. The St. Andrews pitcher struck out 12 batters. Qussad, Torres, and French each scored two runs, and Torres was 2-for-4 including two RBIs and a triple. Torres pitched all eight innings, making 15 innings in a 24-hour span.

4/7: Waco Vanguard 13-2 L

Brentwood fell to the defending state champions. Vanguard scored eight runs in the fourth inning and had a total of 15 hits.

4/13: @ Waco Vanguard 16-0 L

Vanguard's leadoff batter hit a home run on the first pitch, and it was never close.



photo: submitted

Swing, batter Junior Sofia Torres slugs one into left field during a recent district game.

Varsity track to compete in district next week

By Elijah Cunningham

Brentwood's varsity track teams are preparing for the district track meet April 21 at Central Catholic in San Antonio. The Bears have had a few problems due to injury and weather so far this season, and they haven't yet had the full team at one meet.

District is going to be harder this year, head coach Katie Smith said, due to the presence of some new teams. The girls won district last year, but the confidence of the returning athletes is mixed with some uncertainty.

"It's a little bit scary going into district with only doing relays (at a meet) once," junior Martha Hughes said.

The first meet was March 7 at St. Andrews, against a large number of schools. Smith said it gave the athletes a good starting point to prepare for the rest of the season.

Brentwood's second meet, the Lexington Relays, took place on March 12. The girls placed

eighth in varsity and third in junior varsity. The boys competed on the JV level, finishing ninth.

Brentwood had several people injured, Smith said, and thus did not run relays in order to help these athletes rest. Smith said those who competed did very well. Junior Ope Okupe won all three of her JV events with 13.6 in the 100 meters, 28.38 in the 200, and 1:09.54 in the 400. Hughes won the varsity pole vault (9-6), and Hutson placed second in the varsity 800 (2:34).

The BCS girls came in third at the Seeger relays on March 28 at TSD, behind Bastrop Tribe Consolidated and John Paul II (New Braunfels). Brentwood was missing athletes due to the state band competition and once again did not run any relays.

The Bears competed only in varsity. Okupe placed second in the 200, and sophomore Abby White finished second in the 100m hurdles. Junior Keely Hardin was second in discus.

The boys placed ninth overall. Junior Joshua Sass placed third in the 400 and fifth in the 800.

Freshman Dillon Smith placed seventh in the 200, and freshman Hunter Burcham came in seventh in discus.

The teams had a meet scheduled in Tyler on April 9, but storms in the area cancelled the meet, and they entered the RRCA relays on April 11 instead. This meet amounted to a practice for district, as several BCS athletes were again unable to be there.

Hughes got to compete in the Texas Relays on March 28 at UT, as she also did last year. Hughes holds the current TAPPS 3A state pole vault record of 11-6.25 and a personal record of 11-9. Her family was in the stands, and her coach was able to be on the field.

Hughes did not clear the bar this year, but she said she was excited being able to be on the field where she hopes to compete one day as a UT student-athlete.

"I hope in future years Brentwood will be able to get more people to go, just for the experience," she said.

Jog-a-fun

continued from page 1

thing fun and new, but for those concerned about getting a fast time, it wasn't the best option.

After the run, some of the brave high school students and a few daring teachers grabbed a bag of the colored starch to participate in a color bomb. Students commented that the colorful smoke seemed to linger in the air for about 15 minutes afterward.

While high school students ran the route four times to equal a 5K, middle school students ran a slightly longer route twice.

For most students, this meant the running was over in less than 30 minutes, which made the new run preferable to laps.

"It was better and a lot quicker, and more fun," eighth-grader Tomy Merzlov said.

For the younger students, organizers Michele Weilemann and Sarah Wilson worked with PE coach Katie Smith to ensure that the lap size was appropriate. They measured the track at 1/9 mile, which Smith said had been the length for several years. In the early days of the jog, long-time teachers say the track was 1/8 mile.

But there was more than just running to keep students busy. After their run elementary students played on multiple bouncy houses. Secondary students were also provided with many activities during the day to keep them busy, such as a photo scavenger hunt. And of course, after running, students were given snow cones and orange and banana slices.

As always, the kindergartners were the first group out to the field, and they began running at 8:10 with each grade through fifth following in chronological order.

The top lap runners this year were three fifth-grade boys who ran a total of 35: Keller Jackson, Jack Leidlein, and Brandon Tindel. For the girls, fifth-grader Sydney Cooper ran 31 laps, and four other girls ran 30.

But the one who actually ran the most laps was former kindergarten teacher Linda Allen, who came back to campus from Abilene to run with her former students. She ran a total of 90 laps, the equivalent of 10 miles.

In the middle school 3K, race officials said there were problems with students' timing chips not being triggered at the start or finish, most likely because the students did not cross over the appropriate mats. Unofficially, students agreed that the top three finishers were eighth-graders Chase Blackman and Riley Walker, and seventh-grader Ryan Elvin.

High school students also questioned the official results of their run, but it was generally agreed that all-state cross country runner Evan Herring, a senior, finished first. The girls' top finisher was freshman MacAnne Herring.

THE BEAR FACTS APRIL 2015

Hollingsworth leads BCS golf team to second in district

By Lila Therrell

The BCS varsity golf team finished second in the district tournament on Monday, April 13, at the La Loma course at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. This qualified the Bears for the regional tournament on April 20 in Conroe.

Brentwood shot a team score of 351, which is the best score in school history. It continued what has been an outstanding season for the golf team.

“Every year our team gets better,” coach John Vandygriff said. “I’m so proud of the guys for fighting through sickness and the elements to play the best golf that BCS has ever seen.”

Junior John Hollingsworth led the Bears in the district tournament with a 75, finishing in second place overall. Freshman David Tiner was seventh with an 82, and junior Graham Marks was ninth with an 84. Junior Mason Miller shot a 110, which was his best round ever.

The boys won second place at the March 30 TAPPS Preview at Stone Tree in Killeen, winning the first team trophy in BCS golf history. They finished with a team score of 374, well behind winner Waco Vanguard, who scored under 300.

The following Monday, April 6, Brentwood competed in the Hyde Park Invitational at Avery Ranch, which had been rained out on March 9 and rescheduled. The team as a whole shot a 382, but Hollingsworth took home the first place trophy for individuals, shooting an even par 72.

“I’d never played the course before, so I didn’t feel as prepared as I normally would,” Hollingsworth said.

Since he didn’t know the layout and was unfamiliar with things like the speed of the greens, he said he just played safer.

“It always feels good to beat Hyde Park,” he said.

His teammates were not shocked by his tri-

umph during the tournament.

“Hollingsworth will typically shoot in the 70s to low 80s on a bad day,” Tiner said.

Brentwood also took part in the Grey Rock Tournament on March 23. They returned to school without a place, but Tiner said they “had lots of fun” even though some of them came back with sunburns.

During this tournament one of the kids on another team actually hit himself in the face with the golf ball by hitting it off a tree and having it boomeranging back to smack him in the face.

The boys have been practicing every Wednesday with coaches Vandygriff and Brant Troutman at Golf Smith, the Morris Willams Golf Course, and Star Ranch Golf Course.

“I love the fact that we’ve still got a young team that should flourish in the coming years,” Vandygriff said. “Experienced freshman David Tiner adds another quality golfer to the team this year.”



photo: John Vandygriff

Masterful Junior John Hollingsworth poses with the first-place trophy he won at the Hyde Park Invitational on April 6.

Baseball team mercilessly crushing foes, eyeing district title

By Joshua Sass

The varsity Bears baseball team started the district season roughly, struggling with errors and mental mistakes. But now the Bears have won five straight games by a combined score of 76-2 and are tied for the district lead with a 6-1 record. Players have expressed confidence in their chances to make a run in the playoffs.

Head coach Brian Thrift said the season is going well and the team is continuously improving, but they still have a lot of work to do before they can compete for a state championship. Nevertheless, Thrift said he believes in the team’s potential to go deep into playoffs and win a district championship.

The Bears’ biggest struggle so far would be the weather. Currently Brentwood is suffering

from their lack of game experience since five preseason games were cancelled due to weather. Thrift said these games would have been “huge” in the preparation needed for playoffs.

Leading the team in hitting, through last week’s games, are junior Jake Velasco (.444) and senior Zach Marsh (.407). Other top hitters are senior Aaron Garcia (.385), junior John Hollingsworth (.370), and sophomore Michael Hickl (.350).

Velasco and Hollingsworth lead the way in runs scored with 17 and 16, respectively, and Velasco also leads with 16 RBIs.

On the mound, sophomore Garrison Ryberg has been the ace, picking up seven wins.

Following are the team’s most recent results:

3/24: St. Joseph 5-3 W

Despite committing frequent mental errors and failing to capitalize on those of their opponents, Brentwood picked up a win in their first home game of the season. Sophomore Garrison Ryberg pitched all seven innings, and senior Charlie Sinclair led the offensive attack with two hits and an RBI. Players said they needed to decrease the amount of mistakes made, and that it would seriously harm the team’s chances later.

3/27: Round Rock 9-7 L

The Bears struggled with mental mistakes once more, and players

described the experience as an all-around “bad game.” Still, the Bears almost won, fighting to bring the game close but not being able to grab the lead.

Marsh pitched seven innings, and Velasco had two hits, two runs, and three RBIs.

3/31: @ Waco Vanguard 10-0 W

Brentwood easily demolished their weaker opponent, scoring seven runs in the fourth and fifth innings, as players said the Bears were noticeably improved. Ryberg pitched five innings and had five strikeouts. Garcia and Marsh each had two hits and three RBIs.

4/2: Central Texas Christian 12-2 W

The Bears dominated, committing zero errors on defense, while Hollingsworth struck out eight batters and walked none to pick up the win. Marsh led hitting with two hits, two runs, and three RBIs.

4/7: @ Concordia Academy 13-0 W

The Bears scored nine runs in the first inning and never looked back as they cruised to their five-inning mercy rule victory. Ryberg, Marsh, Hollingsworth, and freshman Patrick Hanrahan were the pitchers.

4/10: @ St. Joseph 9-0 W

Velasco put the Bears ahead in the first inning with a two-run home run, and Ryberg pitched a complete game shutout. Brentwood played exceptionally in the field as well, turning three double plays and allowing only four hits.

4/14: Concordia Academy 32-0 W

Brentwood demolished their opponent before the mercy rule took effect. Marsh pitched, and Velasco led the way with a home run and another hit that bounced off the wall for a double.



photo: Lanae Hollingsworth

Smack! Sophomore Garrison Ryberg takes a swing during the Bears’ home opener against St. Joseph on March 24. Ryberg pitched the entire game, leading BCS to victory.

New City of Austin recycling regulations require rapid reform

By Tony Lee

Brentwood Christian School is now applying a new mandatory recycling plan that began March 16, with new recycling bins and containers, and rules on what to recycle by the City of Austin.

Changes already in place at BCS due to the new laws include updated signs that will be put on recycling bins found in every classroom, helping students to understand what should be recycled and what should not. This list includes items such as paper, plastics #1-7, glass bottles, and aluminum. Similar to the rules for residential recycling, materials such as pizza boxes, food, plastic bags, and Styrofoam can not be recycled.

Since the classroom bins should fill up more quickly now, school controller Jeff Morris said the janitorial staff will now be instructed to empty these bins in addition to trash cans.

The City of Austin's new regulations state that businesses such as schools and churches need to begin recycling more items, accord-

ing to teacher Michelle Mohrmann, who is helping BCS make the change. If the school is not compliant, she said, it could face fines and extra fees for trash pick up.

"Our paper recycling program was once a fundraiser," Mohrmann said. "But now the changes are mandatory."

These new regulations can be accessed online at austintexas.gov/uro. The changes are due to the gradually increasing requirement for landfill diversion by the city, which has prompted BCS to move from separate paper, aluminum, and plant recycling to the single stream recycle system that Brentwood has now adopted.

Moreover, starting in 2016 the school cafeteria will need to start recycling compostable material. Food leftovers from plates will need to be disposed of separately.

The collection schedule has also changed. The blue trash dumpster will no longer be picked up every day. Instead, the trash and recycling dumpsters will each be emptied every other day. Mohrmann said that the school's goal is to recycle more and reduce trash, so the

truck won't have to make extra trips for the blue container, which would incur fines for the school.

Mohrmann has been in charge of the BCS paper recycling program for about eight years and was asked to help explain the change to the Brentwood community based on her familiarity with the program.

Ray Herrold, who is responsible for facilities at Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ and arranges trash and recycling collection for trash pickups with the trash company, has been letting the school and the church know what they should be doing to meet the new requirements by the City of Austin.

"This change will allow us to help our community manage landfill growth without increasing our cost for disposal services," Herrold said.

The school's janitorial ser-

vice has been recycling soda cans, and workers who take care of the landscape have recycled all that material for mulch, according to Herrold. Depending on the situation and which team is doing the work, Herrold said recycling has been going on for a long time.

Now the school simply needs to increase its recycling volume, Morris said, so that it does not incur any fines.



photo: Jonathon Reich

Choose wisely Trash (left) is no longer picked up every day, making increased recycling (right) essential.

THE BEAR FACTS

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

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

Eighth grade tours with Holocaust survivor

By Thomas Yates

Eighth-grade students visited the Houston Holocaust Museum on March 25 as part of their Anne Frank and Holocaust unit for English class. At the museum, which stands as a testament to the horrors of the Holocaust and the bravery of the survivors, they observed relics from the event and were able to meet a survivor.

In Kay Taylor's English class, the students had recently completed *The Diary of Anne Frank* and had started *The Hiding Place*.

Taylor said the museum was mostly photographs and relics that had been donated by survivors and their families. The museum also contained artifacts collected from the concentration camps, and showed a movie called "Voices," which told the painful stories of survivors. Some of the artifacts included a Danish fishing boat like those that helped Danish Jews escape, and a railroad car similar to the cars that transported Jews.

"It was really interesting to see and hear the stories of the Holocaust survivors," eighth-grader Gavin Damra said.

Many of the students had been to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., just a few weeks before this. The museum in Washington focuses on the broader spectrum of the Holocaust, while the Houston museum focuses on the survivors who live in Houston.

Several students enjoyed being led through the museum by Anna Steinberger, who was no

ordinary tour guide. She was living proof that the Holocaust happened, since she herself was a survivor. Steinberger was born in Radom, Poland, and escaped from Germany when she was 11. History teacher Jimmie Harper, who also went to the museum, said that "talking with her was a profound experience."

"I think it is important to seek out knowledge, where it congregates," Harper said. "Museums are a good place for it."

The tour was about two hours long, Taylor

said, and will continue to grow in length as more items are donated. She said a significant part of the tour was the mini-movie. Most of today's living Holocaust survivors were about the age of the Brentwood students when it all happened, and this movie displayed the tragedy, as many survivors tearfully told their stories of torture and loss.

Besides Harper and Taylor, secondary principal Carol Johnson and teacher Michelle Mohrmann went on the trip.



photo: Kay Taylor

Making memories The eighth-grade class poses in front of the Houston Holocaust museum, which was full of personal items and other artifacts from survivors.