



THE BEAR FACTS



VOL. 28 NO. 1

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2015

Tackle football era begins at BCS with effort, excitement

By Jackson Baird

Only nine months earlier, students had gathered in the Athletic Center to hear the news: Brentwood was getting tackle football. Dozens of boys began dreaming about the day when they could put on the pads and helmet to defend the Brentwood green and white. Now, it was time for the first home game.

Sep. 12 was a day for the record books at Brentwood Christian School. The Bears' first varsity home game for tackle football was unlike anything the school had ever seen.

The new grandstands were overflowing with eager fans, waiting for their football team to take the newly sodded field against the Concordia Academy Cardinals.

Five games into their first tackle football season, the Bears have a record of 1-4. But as their huge, come-from-behind 65-63 win over the Cardinals indicated, the team plays with passion and has a lot of talent.

"They have done an excellent job of executing," head coach Stan Caffey said. "Our guys are very intelligent and hardworking."

The slow start seems to have no effect on the players' outlook on the season. When asked

how he feels about the upcoming games, senior halfback and defensive end Jake Dillard responded with confidence.

"With every game we are getting better and better," he said. "I'm confident we can win every game we play."

Festivities for the season started off with a bang on the first day of school, as secondary students learned the fight song and went over rules of six-man football. A week later, the whole school filled the Athletic Center and cheered on the team at a pep rally.

Then on Sep. 5 approximately 600 students, faculty, and alumni piled into cars and buses

and made the long trek up to Abilene for the school's first-ever tackle football game. Junior Jordan Johnson had a part in eight touchdowns during the game against the Abilene Christian Panthers, and Brentwood held the lead at halftime.

The lead changed hands several times, and although the Bears fought hard and rallied late, they ended up just short of the win with a 59-51 loss.

A week later came the first-ever home game on the newly renovated field against Concor-

see **Football**, page 7

'Not your typical musical' opens tonight

By Benjamin Helyer

"I can see that you've got quite a mind for your age! Why, one think and you dragged me right onto the stage! Now, I'm here, there is no telling what may ensue, with a Cat such as me, and a Thinker like you!"

The BCS fine arts department will be showing five performances of *Seussical*, the fall musical, beginning tonight after several months of preparation with a cast, crew, chorus, and orchestra together totalling nearly 100 participants. New theater director Michelle Alexander says the performance is intended to bring excitement and fun to the whole audience, and contains a wide variety of music ranging from jazz and gospel to rock and pop.

"I think it will surprise people," said sophomore Merideth Mallett, who will be playing the Cat in the Hat. "It's not our typical musical here at BCS."

Seussical will be shown Friday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m., and then at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on both



photo: Benjamin Helyer

Up and away Cast, crew, and musicians working on *Seussical* have faced the challenges of high level music and choreography, and now the show is ready to go.

Saturday, Oct. 10, and Saturday, Oct. 17. The box office in the CSA will be open today and Oct. 12-16, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:00 p.m. each day. Online sales are available at brentwoodchristian.seatyourself.biz up until four hours before performance time. Show organizers strongly encourage that tickets be purchased before performances to prevent lines right before the show.

First appearing on Broadway in 2000, *Seussical* was inspired by the works of the children's author Dr. Seuss, and roughly follows the story of the *Horton Hears a Who!* along with several other Seuss stories, including *The Cat in the Hat* and *The Lorax*. The play had two national tours of the United States following its debut

on Broadway.

Last spring, former theater director Cindy Singleton, band director Travis Pollard, and choir director John McMeen narrowed down the musicals based on what cast would be available and chose *Seussical*. Other deciding factors were McMeen's familiarity with the show and the fact that it had been considered in several previous years, including two years ago when *Annie* was finally chosen.

Seussical also marks Brentwood's first musical with the almost completely new fine arts staff. Michelle Alexander was hired as the new theater director shortly before the practices for

see **Seussical**, page 3

Armstrong, Hughes reach elite ranking

Seniors Andrew Armstrong and Martha Hughes were honored as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program in all-school chapel on Sep. 17, and four other seniors were named Commended Scholars.

Approximately 1.5 million students nationwide took the PSAT, and only about 15,000 made it to the National Merit Scholar semifinalist level.

The only other year BCS had two seniors attain this high honor was exactly 10 years ago, when Laura Miller and David Runyon became National Merit Scholars.

Seniors attaining the Commended Scholar ranking this year were Nicholas Bergeron, Hannah Hutton, Kayla Lane, and Nicholas Pittner.

Hughes worked with an SAT tutor to try to gain the "extra boost" she would need to score high enough on the qualifying test. She also said she has been taking the PSAT every year since seventh grade.

Armstrong prepared with an online course, and he also took the test multiple times.

To be a National Merit Scholar, students who have been named semifinalists must have a committee review their applications. Those who validated their high PSAT score by doing well on the SAT I and list a college that participates in the National Merit Scholar program will be accepted. Students find out in February if they qualified to be a National Merit Scholar.

Seussical quick notes

What: biennial BCS musical**Who:** nearly 100 students involved in cast/crew/chorus/pit**When:** 7 p.m. on Oct. 9; 2 and 7 p.m. on Oct. 10 and 17**Where:** BCS Theater**Tickets:** various (see story)

Read It and Weep: Nick Bergeron

Editor reflects on contemporary meaning of adulthood

I recently turned 18, which is legally speaking a big deal. I'm now eligible to pay taxes, be drafted into the military, and vote for our country's leaders. There was no maturity fairy who flew over my bed at 11:59 on Oct. 8 to wave a magical wand over me, instilling in me career goals, responsibility, and a desire to read the business sections of newspapers. Many people my age wonder if they are actually true adults yet, or if they already are and have been. What's the difference between a child and an adult?

Since the 19th century, we've had the word "teen" to help us answer that question. A teen is in between an adult and a child. A teen is expected to have a greater level of responsibility than a child, but is held to lower expectations of responsibility and duty than an adult.

We may need a new term now to refer to peo-

ple in a transition stage between dependence and independence. In the '60s, for example, the path to adulthood was much shorter and more streamlined. You'd graduate high school, go to college if you wanted, marry, have some children and buy a Ford, all by the time you're 25. A septuagenarian may tell you all of this with a smug superiority

over those entitled millennials, but the truth is the world is much more complicated than it used to be. If you want to secure yourself a financial position above the poverty line, you're most likely going to need at least a bachelor's degree, but college tuition is more expensive now than it used to be. When you've finished

that, you'll be left trying to get your foot in the door of a very crowded room that is the current job market. All that considered, it makes sense that the gestation period for a fully self-sufficient adult is longer now than it used to be.

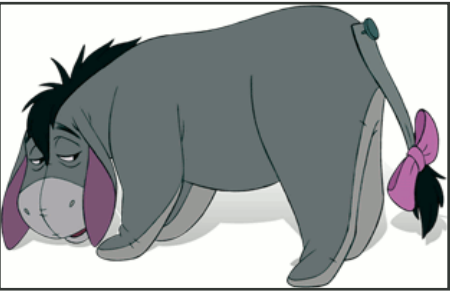
I've got an ego, so I reel at the idea of taking longer to become a "proper" adult than previous generations. But perhaps we're not going about defining adulthood the right way. Rather than defining adulthood by material things, maybe we should look at it as a way of making decisions. 1 Corinthians 13:11 says, "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to child-

Adulthood isn't something that happens to us at a certain age... instead it's a way of behaving.

Lighting the Darkness: Camille Sunshine

Depression both real and common; not shameful

"Good morning, Pooh Bear," said Eeyore gloomily. "If it is a good morning," he said. "Which I doubt," said he. "Why, what's the matter?" "Nothing, Pooh Bear, nothing. We can't all, and some of us don't. That's all there is to it." "Can't all what?" said Pooh, rubbing his nose. "Gaiety. Song-and-dance. Here we go round the mulberry bush."



For some of us, being joyful and fun all the time is a daily fight. I know I am putting myself out there, but I truly hope this doesn't make you feel like you have to treat me differently:

I, like Eeyore, have depression.

My purpose in writing this is to raise awareness among those who don't have depression and to encourage the people who do.

According to the University of Michigan Depression Center, "Depression is a real illness that impacts the brain. Anyone suffering from depression will tell you, it's not imaginary or 'all in your head.' Depression is more than just feeling 'down.' It is a serious illness caused by changes in brain chemistry."

Depression can take many different forms. It can show itself as hopelessness, emptiness, anger, sadness, anxiety, or apathy. People with depression often draw back from family, friends, and things they love. Depression can cause you to hate yourself or feel extremely tired.

For me, I often feel worthless and hopeless, which can lead to an apathetic attitude toward things I would normally be passionate about. I'm often very tired, and find it hard to match my friends' bubbly personalities and happy-go-lucky moods. I also worry about everything and anything, no matter how irrational it may be.

If you know someone with depression, you don't have to pity them or tread lightly around

them. Just be there for them and don't worry if your attempts to encourage do not succeed. Logic will not help someone out of depression.

When I am depressed, someone who will just quietly understand helps me so much more than someone who tries to cheer me up. The one thing that makes it worse is when people tell me to snap out of it or just stop being mopey. I try to work through it, but depression cannot be snapped out of like a bad mood.

If you, like me, have depression, I want you to know this does not make you a bad person. It doesn't mean you're just being pessimistic.

You should also know that you're not alone. The more I look into depression, the more I see that a lot of people have this. According to teenhelp.com, one in five teens has depression.

In the past, people with depression have been seen as somewhat unstable or even crazy. This is an extreme misconception. Depression is a disorder that can be lived with just like diabetes or celiac disease.

In fact, many people have made history or created lasting positives, even though they lived with depression: Buzz Aldrin, Abraham Lincoln, Ludwig van Beethoven, Winston Churchill, Calvin Coolidge, Charles Dickens, Ernest Heming-

way, Isaac Newton, Michelangelo, Leo Tolstoy, and Vincent Van Gogh all struggled with it.

Some modern actors, artists, and authors have become famous despite their depression: Jim Carrey, Carrie Fisher, Billy Joel, J.K. Rowling, and Emma Thompson are just a few.

People handle depression in many different ways: working out, doing things they enjoy, taking medication, doing therapy, or spending time with people. Rowling started writing the Harry Potter series to cope. Lincoln told jokes to keep depression away, and was also able to help those around him who shared his struggles by encouraging them in his letters.

"Remember in the depth and even the agony of despondency, that very shortly you are to feel well again," Lincoln wrote.

I usually spend time doing things I love with the people I love. Spending time in God's word also helps a lot.

But if depression turns into a desire to hurt yourself or someone else, you need to seek help.

I'm sharing this because I know that when I look around, I see a lot of people who just seem to have their lives all together. They look at the world with a smile, laugh in the face of failure, and whatever they want they get. I know I'm not like that, and if I really think about it I know those "perfect people" aren't like that either. As humans, we are so afraid of people seeing who we really are, so we hide behind masks, attempting to disguise that we all share a common brokenness.

In 2 Cor. 12:9, Paul writes, "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

Right before this verse, Paul talks about the

ish ways." As Paul sees it, adulthood isn't something that happens to us at a certain age, nor is it a level of responsibility, but instead it's a way of behaving. To go from being a child to being a man or a woman, we must elevate our reasoning and act responsibly.

We shouldn't think of being an adult as something that simply happens one day after you've gone through a certain rite of passage, but rather as a matter of degree. There are 17-year-olds I've met who struck me as very selfless and responsible, while some 30-year-olds still act like small children. Rather than worrying about what rite of passage we have to go through to be proper adults, we should rather adjust our behavior and thinking to be more selfless, patient, and Godly, and the rest will follow in time.

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.

thorn in his flesh. He prayed to God for the thorn to be removed, but it was not. When I considered sharing my "thorn," depression, I thought of this verse and decided to share in the hope that God may be glorified through me.

Whether you choose to share your thorn with others or not, I pray my words will bring you the hope that comes from the "God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

Changes sweep through BCS hallways, athletic facilities

By Michelle Emmel

As junior Nicholas Dunagan passes through the newly remodeled hallways of building C and then down to the Athletic Center to get ready for football practice, he realizes that Brentwood has changed for the better.

“The changes,” Dunagan said, “provide us with more opportunities to try new things, to expand our knowledge, and grow closer to God.”

During a special assembly for sixth through twelfth graders on the first day of school, vice president of development Dr. Kevin Claypool showed pictures on the screen while announcing several major changes that took place over the summer in buildings A, B, and C, as well as with athletic facilities.

“All the changes that happened,” Dr. Claypool said, “stemmed from the idea of continuing to make Brentwood a place students, faculty, and staff could be proud of.”

Some of the changes were a part of usual summer maintenance, including new carpeting, blinds, paint touch-ups, new library shelves, and the fixing of water fountains. The dividing walls in the boys’ restrooms were much appreciated by the male students and faculty.

Other changes were more weighty, such as the remodeling of offices and the purchase of new buses. Recently wrapped with BCS information and logo, the buses can seat more

than 40 high school students in one, and about 30 in the other.

One of the changes that secondary students see every day is the new appearance of the hallways in building C. Wall and window wraps were put up to encourage Bear spirit. There are also floor-to-ceiling ads for five different Christian universities showcasing their campuses: Abilene Christian University, Oklahoma Christian University, Lubbock Christian University, Mary Hardin-Baylor, and York College. Dr. Claypool said ACU and OCU representatives came to BCS to do their own work while the other ones were done by Minutemen Press.

“I love that we have added some spirit to the hallways,” junior Hope Hutson said. “It looks amazing and shows the pride we have for our Bears.”

Building A also underwent a major hallway appearance change when the bulletin boards were removed.

“I think it is a lot more calming,” second-grade teacher Sandy Patterson said. “The fact that we don’t have to do bulletin boards anymore makes all the teachers happy.”

According to athletic director Brian Thrift, an important change that needed to be done was the remodeling of the athletic field for the safety of the soccer and football teams.

“The field was very necessary for our athletic programs,” Thrift said. “It allows us to do more things with our soccer team and football teams.

It has provided a major source of school spirit. Our future plans are to continue to improve all of our facilities.”

The new field took about two months to remodel and expanded a little more than 30 yards, costing about \$130,000. Thrift said fundraising and private donations helped pay for the field, with the biggest contributions coming from the football kickoff dinner last school year.

The new field allows the football program to

transition from six-man to 11-man, and also gives BCS the ability to play on campus.

The Family Life Center also recently went through renovations which include new paint, carpet, and tiles. The new football locker room has also been constructed in the FLC.

Dr. Claypool said the president’s office was responsible in leading the collective decision regarding the changes that have taken place.



photo: Madi French

College spirit Seniors pose in front of the Lubbock Christian University wall wrap in the C building hallway that features ads for five different Christian universities.

First fall Jog aims for \$150K

By Isabel Harris

Jog-a-fun, the BCS fundraiser for more than 30 years, has been moved to Nov. 5 this year, from its usual place in March.

Jog chairman Dr. Kevin Claypool said he made the decision to move Jog-a-fun during the summer, in an effort to bring more predictable weather to the event. Partnership Dinner, which for more than 20 years has been held late in the fall semester, has been moved to the spring.

“I love cold weather, so (jogging in November) is going to be a good thing,” senior Sarah Arbuckle said.

Dr. Claypool said the incentives for this year’s jog are going to be “amped up.” All students have already received free T-shirts, and a day off of school for raising enough money is still an incentive for secondary students.

After asking students what type of prizes they would like to have, Dr. Claypool announced on Oct. 1 that the top prize among high school students is a three-day/two-night stay in San Francisco, Calif. Only four students will be able to

go, and the way to be in the drawing for the trip is to raise \$150 and submit 20 letters.

Dr. Claypool said this year’s goal for Jog-a-fun is to raise \$150,000, after last year’s event brought in \$130,000.

This year, all secondary students will have the choice of doing the color run. Dr. Claypool said he ordered 200 pounds of colored powder, which means there are going to be a lot of students in color by the end of the day.

For high school students, the day will consist of the usual games stations that have been a part of the Jog-a-fun festivities in previous years. So students can expect to have breakfast taco time and of course the intense spoons tournaments.

Plans are also being made for a high school Powerpuff volleyball game, in which girls will coach two high school boys’ teams.

The 5K will be run around the school as usual, and will include both high school and middle school. Laps for the elementary students will not be run on the athletic field this year, but will instead be in the field behind the FLC and the gazebo.

Seussical

continued from page 1

the musical began. Additionally, McMeen has only been at the school since last year, and because BCS shows musicals every other year, *Seussical* is his first musical to participate in with BCS. Pollard, on the other hand, has been at Brentwood for several years and assisted in several of the fine arts department’s musicals.

The new personnel are not lacking in experience, however, especially with regards to *Seussical*. Alexander has acted in *Seussical* several times, and in addition to McMeen’s history with the musical, he has also participated in the production of several musicals in the past throughout his college and high school years. Pollard said the directors’ lack of experience with BCS musicals will not be a factor.

“I feel like it will be just as good as in previous years,” he said. “I feel like the preparation is going quicker this year.”

Despite these benefits that have come with the production this year, the performance still has its challenges. McMeen noted that *Seussical* had the widest variety of music in any musical that he has seen, and due to this there are

many songs and dances that the cast must learn to perform.

“*Seussical* is the hardest show I’ve ever had to do,” he said.

Another challenge noted by McMeen was that of a large cast. In total, Pollard and McMeen expect approximately 100 people to be involved with the production of the play. This includes about 50 in the cast and crew, including freshman Corrie Hager as JoJo, senior Andrew Armstrong as Horton, senior Laura Doyle as Gertrude, junior Hope Hutson as Mayzie, senior Hope Kronke as the Sour Kangaroo, and freshman Whit Allee and senior Sarah Arbuckle as Mr. and Mrs. Mayor.

Alexander and McMeen each noted the challenge of choreography. To fill the necessity of training for the cast, Brentwood brought on Abby Marrs, a choreographer, to assist with the musical. Alexander knew Marrs from college, where she aided Alexander with choreography classes.

In addition to choreography and singing, an orchestra will be playing during the musical, organized by Pollard. However, the orchestra will be led by McMeen during the actual performances, because Pollard will be playing several instruments, including flute and piccolo.

Nineteen staff members added to Brentwood

By Camille Sunshine

Brentwood Christian has eight new teachers, six new staff members, and five new coaches this year. "All the new hires are spectacular," secondary principal Carol Johnson said.

Abbie Boyd, BCS Class of 2010, is the new fourth-grade teacher. She attended ACU and got a degree in elementary education with a minor in music. Just out of college, Boyd said she is eager to use what she learned.

Boyd, who started attending Brentwood in pre-school, said it is weird now to be a teacher at the same place.

"I'm kind of a newbie, kind of an oldie," Boyd said.

She said she enjoys traveling and being outside, and said it is her dream to own a traveling flower shop called the Blooming Bus. She also said she is able to jump rope while pogo-sticking.

Laura Nance has replaced Lori Morin as the art teacher. She attended Lubbock Christian University and studied art and classroom management. Nance grew up on a cattle ranch in Andrews, northwest of Midland, and has participated in barrel races and owned horses. She and her husband Karson are members at Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ.

Nance enjoys cooking, walking her dog Rosco, and painting.

Michelle Alexander is the new speech and theater teacher. She holds a degree in musical theater from ACU and is originally from Round Rock. Alexander says most of the women in her family, including her mother, are teachers, and she says these influences inspired her to teach.

Alexander said she enjoys reading, listening to live music, going to concerts, and of course, theater. She is on the praise team at Westover Hills Church of Christ, and heard about the job opportunity at BCS from childhood friend and BCS librarian Danielle McGhee.

Alexander said she loves to sing and make people

laugh. She also said she has some new ideas for Brentwood theater. For example, she hopes to start a musical theater choreography course, and she also wants to look at a wider variety of plays.

"I like shows that make you think, shows that push the envelope a little bit," she said.

"Miss Alexander is amazing," Johnson said. "She brings a lot of experience, knowledge, and youth to theater. Parents and students alike find her refreshing."

Deborah Strickland is teaching eighth-grade history and seventh-grade Bible this year. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree as a reading specialist, both from Abilene Christian.

Strickland, whose classroom is one door down from that of her daughter, Chloe Campbell, was born and raised in New Mexico and previously taught at Abilene Christian School. She and husband David also have four grandchildren.

Strickland said she enjoys cooking, traveling, gardening, quilting, learning to play the violin, and reading, especially her Bible.

"I love God above all else and I believe He put me here for a purpose," Strickland said.

Vini Montesdeoca, the husband of Spanish teacher Rachel Montesdeoca, is the new Spanish I and II teacher. He and his wife have two children: four-year-old Luke and two-month-old Keren Elaine.

Montesdeoca is from Cuenca, Ecuador, and has lived in the United States for six years. Before taking the job at Brentwood, he was working as a preacher, which he still does sometimes.

Montesdeoca enjoys sports, such as soccer and volleyball, and mountain climbing. He also said he loves to teach.

"I believe it's one way to connect with people," Montesdeoca said. "I also believe that teaching was the way Jesus worked with people. It's a ministry."

He and his family attend Leander Latin Church of Christ.

Suzu Benton, who taught second grade at Brentwood from 1995-97, is the new

first-grade teacher. She has a degree in elementary education with a minor in English.

Benton has three children, two of whom go to Brentwood: Sam in sixth grade, Blake in ninth grade, and Nancy, who is a freshman at Texas A&M. She and her family attend Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ. Benton said she enjoys cooking, traveling, and reading.

Tiye Cort is also a new teacher at Brentwood, teaching ninth-grade English and junior Bible. Originally from Boston, Cort received her bachelor's and master's degrees in her home town: a bachelor's in science and management from Wentworth University of Technology and a master's in secondary education at Emmanuel College. She is now working on a doctorate in special education at UT.

When asked what her goals for the year are, she said she wants to help her English students to become better writers and her Bible students to become more comfortable with talking about the Bible.

"I hope to challenge my students and push them to push themselves," Cort said.

In her free time, she said she enjoys spending time with friends, shopping, abstract painting, traveling, and having "good food and good conversation." Since moving to Austin, she has been attending East Side Church of Christ.

Evan Johnson teaches seventh-grade math and science, as well as eighth-grade Bible. He got a degree in mid-level math and science at Harding University, and is originally from Atlanta, Georgia.

Johnson and his wife Hannah attend Westover Hills Church of Christ. Johnson enjoys kayaking, running, and drinking coffee. He says he is excited about teaching science and Bible, both of which he has never taught before.

Amanda Stanglin, who taught first grade at Brentwood last year, is now the elementary music and art teacher for grades K4 through fourth grade.

"I have always loved music," she said. "It's so great to come in and do what I love every day."

On Monday through Wednesday, Stanglin teaches kindergarten through third grade music, and on Thursdays and Fridays she teaches K4 music and kindergarten through fourth grade



Montesdeoca

art. Stanglin said the biggest thing she misses from last year is getting to know her students on a more personal level.

The guidance counselor position, previously held by Sandy Wiles, has been split into two positions: the academic adviser and the Christian counselor.

Julia Lowen, originally from Ojai, Calif., is the new academic adviser. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling and guidance from California

Lutheran University. Lowen enjoys baking, working out, and working with an orphanage in Haiti.

Before coming to Brentwood, Lowen was working as the assistant counselor at St. Bonaventure High School in Ventura, Calif.

Karyn Morris is the Christian counselor, and this position deals with the personal and social aspects of counseling. Morris said she is always available to listen and give advice, and she also works with Lowen on schedules and college applications. Morris is married to Jeff Morris, Brentwood Christian's chief financial officer.

Originally from Taylor, Morris studied accounting at ACU. She enjoys running, reading, playing and watching sports, and traveling. The Morrises attend Westover Hills Church of Christ. This year, Morris said she wants to help the community come closer together, creating a fun environment.

Cindy Marks has replaced Mary Kay Clark as the elementary executive assistant. She has five children, including Ariana (BCS 2014) and junior Graham, and six grandchildren.

Originally from Staten Island, New York, Marks is half Italian and half French and grew up speaking Italian and English. She is a self-proclaimed "word nerd," and enjoys sailing on the ocean, oil painting, biking, and reading her Bible. She also describes herself as a very relaxed person.

"I don't worry about anything," she said. "My goal is to learn every elementary student's name. I love kids, and God made everyone unique."

Lizzie Fleet was hired into a new position – the support services coordinator. She takes care



Strickland



all photos by Madison Warner

Alexander



Lowen

see **New**, page 5

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2015

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Chandler Alberda

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2016.

Sassy StuCo pres adds pizzazz, gets things done

By Rebecca Tilley

Chandler Alberda, known as “mom” by many of her friends, is well liked by all. While most know her as the soothing, laid back voice of the morning announcements or as the Student Council president, there is much more to this tall and slender, fun-loving senior than many may know.

Chandler is one who gets things done. She is the co-founder of the most recent addition to the C building: the Positive Vibes boards in both the middle school and high school hallways; what’s more, she consistently writes letters to each person whose name appears on either board. Unrelated to her role in StuCo, this feature arose when Chandler and junior Addy Hardin had an idea and made it happen.

This is exactly the kind of thing she is good at. Shelby Greer, a classmate and close friend of Chandler’s since they were Brentwood kindergartners, says people regularly come to Chandler for help. Confident, but without a bossy edge, Chandler just takes charge of a situation and makes things happen.

“Whenever anyone wants anything done, they ask Chandler,” Greer says.

Need another example? They’re abundant. Just recently Chandler started a new Bible study for the senior girls. They meet every Monday at Chandler’s house during off-campus lunch. At the first meeting, Chandler led a discussion about a chapter in a book called *Graceful*, which the girls read prior to the meeting.

“I feel like I see opportunities at Brentwood that other people don’t see,” Chandler said. “If you ask the right people and do the right things, then you can get things done.”

Of course, she does quite a lot with Student Council, too, and StuCo sponsor Danielle McGhee says she is impressed with Chandler’s “creative leadership, wittiness, and charm.”

“I know that if she puts her mind to something, I know she will execute it to the best of her abilities and get it done.”

While she always seems to have time for one more thing, Chandler’s days are full. She keeps herself busy not only by picking up her own inspired tasks or doing random projects for the school, but also as a stage manager for *Seussical*, as the softball manager, and with dance. Dance has been a big part of Chandler’s life since she was four.

“It’s not my life, but my thing,” she explains. “Probably what I’m best at.”

She does ballet, tap, jazz, and pointe, and spends about 10 hours a week dancing. With Shelby, the two have done this together since they were very small, and they are now captains of their performance team.

Chandler also played the violin in the pit for both *Annie* and *Sound of Music*. In the latter, she says she was the only middle schooler in the entire play.

Chandler was born in Denver while her father was in med school. She and her dad share a sarcasm that is unappreciated by her mother. “Sometimes the slight jokes and sass and sar-

casm can really get people to pay attention,” she says with her trademark matter-of-fact tone.

Her mother loves parties and events – planning them is her job, and Chandler attributes a lot of her own ability in this area to her mom’s influence.

Add her eighth-grade sister, Addison – “partners in crime is how I’d describe our relationship” – and you have a pretty close family.

“My family has given me amazing lessons and support, and I couldn’t be more happy to have them,” Chandler says.

Chandler’s other family – Hope Kronke, Emily Wagner, Shelby, Brenna Decker, and Diego Batlle – are her best friends at school. She says they call her “mom” because she always seems to know about when and where things are, and what is happening.

“She just knows everything,” Shelby says. Even when she is in Montana during Christmas and in the summer, Chandler will sometimes help out the family or tell the group what to do when they are indecisive.

Chandler plans to go to Hope College in Holland, Mich., where unlike in Texas, cold whether exists longer than a blink of the eye.

“I don’t think I can take the heat any longer,” she says.

While she plans to study business or communication, she’ll surely be involved in much more than just studying for classes.

And whatever she takes on, you know she’ll get it done.



New hires

continued from page 4

of substitute teachers, items being ordered, and elementary lunch.

Fleet says she is excited about being able to work in a Christian environment. Originally from Shallowater, near Lubbock, she heard about BCS from her days as a recruiter at ACU. As a student there, she started out in theater but finished with a psychology degree.

Fleet enjoys exercising, watching Netflix, reading Christian fiction, and doing outdoor activities with her husband, Austin. They are members at Westover Hills Church of Christ.

Clarissa Vazquez, mom of junior Charlie and freshman Nyna Vazquez, has taken a newly-created position at BCS – the fine arts assistant, who will be helping the fine arts teachers.

She received a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and communication from Austin College and is originally from San Antonio. She said she enjoys playing tennis and telling jokes.

The Vazquez family attends Saint Matthews Episcopal Church. Vazquez also owns a screen printing and embroidery business.

Oriana Gonzalez is the new marketing and communications manager. She was born in Venezuela and lived there until she was 10, when she moved to Texas. Since then, she has lived all over Texas.

Gonzalez got a degree in marketing from Abilene Christian University with a minor in digital media. She has been married for one year to Kyle Wilson. She is fluent in both Spanish and English, and enjoys watching movies with her husband. They attend Westover Hills Church of Christ.

“I’m really excited about getting a chance to let people know what’s going on on campus at all times,” she said. She also said she wants to get both parents and students excited about coming to events at BCS.

Cindy Nestor, who taught fourth grade last year, is now the executive assistant for secondary. Nestor said when she heard about the opportunity, she felt called to take it.

“I kind of felt like God was nudging me this way,” she said.

Nestor said she enjoys being around many kids and parents, but misses all her “sweet” elementary teacher friends.

Stan Caffey is the head coach for middle school and varsity football. He played football for four years at Sul Ross University, and is originally from Seminole.

Before coming to Brentwood, Caffey was head football coach at the high school in Winters.

“My goal for this year, just like I tell the boys, is that I want them to be the kind of team people want to root for,” he said. “I want them to give effort. People respect that.”

He and his wife Becky Lynn have been married for 40 years and have three kids, all of whom are also high school coaches.

Caffey enjoys reading and gardening, and he and his wife attend Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ.

Correy Washington, who joined Caffey in moving from Winters to Austin, is the defen-

sive coordinator. He played football at ACU and got a degree in business management. Originally from Houston, Washington enjoys playing sports, reading, and listening to music, especially jazz.

“I can play just about any percussion instrument,” he said.

Washington said he is excited about coaching football at BCS, and hopes to win a few more games and keep everyone healthy.

Alexandria Overton is the new cheer sponsor this year, and she is engaged to marry secondary principal Carol Johnson’s oldest son, Albert, in March.

“This is my first time teaching a squad, and it’s definitely my favorite job,” said Overton, who cheered at Hutto High School and Southwestern University. “Before I’d only taught youth cheer and tumbling in college.”

There are two other new coaches: **Jeff Bates**, middle and high school boys’ cross country coach, and **Kelly Kolich**, assistant volleyball coach.

Soccer boys punish opponents, eye state title

By Joshua Sass

While the BCS varsity boys' soccer team is on track to win the illustrious state title, they've already accomplished something else entirely. The Bears, after years of neglect and low fan attendance, have finally become a team that's "fun to watch," head coach Cash Miller said.

With a roaring crowd behind them, Brentwood is 11-1 and district champions. The first round of playoffs will be on Oct. 12 against Brownsville at home. If they can advance through three rounds of playoffs, the Bears will play in the state championship on Oct. 24 in Waco.

The Bears lost in last year's state championship game 6-4 against Longview Heritage

Christian, and despite losing six seniors, Brentwood is anticipating that this could be the year.

"I'm proud to be part of this journey with these men and look forward to bringing that state championship trophy home to BCS," Miller said.

Seniors Mason McCormick and Joshua Sass lead the team with 41 and 40 goals, respectively. Junior Brandon Patterson has 21 assists. Following are game results thus far:

8/21: Lutheran High 18-1 W

Brentwood began their season with a bang, scoring what was most likely a school record number of goals in a game by a team and an individual, as Sass scored 10 goals. McCormick had five goals, and junior Brandon Patterson led with five assists.

8/25: @ Universal City 15-2 W

Brentwood destroyed their first opponent on the road with another offensive firepower demonstration. Sass and McCormick led scoring with five goals each, while junior Alex Matthew had two assists.

9/1: @ Keystone 8-3 W

Against the second-place district opponent Brentwood cruised once more. Despite allowing three goals, the Bears easily pulled away in the second half with Sass scoring all five of his goals then. Patterson had two goals, and McCormick led with three assists.

9/4: C.A.S.A. 17-0 W

Brentwood obliterated another district opponent. McCormick led scoring with six goals, while Patterson and Sass each scored five. Patterson had three assists.

9/8: @ Concordia 5-0 W

The Bears' opponents decided to "park the bus" in an attempt to stall the Brentwood offensive machine, packing their players back on defense while only leaving one player on offense. But even the entire team could not withstand the Bears' attacking power for an entire 80 minutes. The eventual first goal led to a collapse on the Concordia defensive front, and the route began. McCormick led scoring with three goals, and junior Austin Greene had two assists.

9/11: Waldorf 8-0 W

Waldorf employed a defense similar to Concordia's, but the Bears easily overran their struggling opponent. McCormick and Sass each had two goals, while Sass had three assists.

9/18: Universal City 10-0 W

The Bears faced a team with only nine eligible players. About 30 minutes into the game, Sass and the opposing keeper had a head-to-head collision, leaving both unconscious. Sass

was on his feet after a few moments but did not return to the game, finishing with three goals. The other player suffered a concussion and was taken to the hospital before being cleared to play the next day. After the delay, the game was shortened by 20 minutes.

9/25: Keystone 4-3 L

Brentwood was handed their first loss of the season. The Bears came out flat after the game was delayed for an hour due to lightning. After quickly going up 1-0, everything went wrong. Two defensive mistakes led to two goals and a 2-2 tie at halftime. After going up 3-2 quickly in the second half, Brentwood made another key error that led to a third Keystone goal, and with five minutes remaining scored an own goal to go down 4-3.

Despite what players agreed was poor reffing on both sides, the Bears still missed numerous opportunities to score.

"The Keystone game was a devastating blow to us," Miller said. "But as we regrouped and reevaluated our goals, we have become even stronger as a team."

9/29: @ C.A.S.A. 14-1 W

BCS delivered another crushing defeat with a renaissance of offense as the team got back into stride. Sass led scoring with six goals while McCormick had five. Patterson had six assists.

10/2: Concordia 10-0 W

On senior night, the Bears put on an explosive demonstration of offense against a team that had limited the scoring machine previously to only five goals. With only a 2-0 lead at halftime, Brentwood saved most of the excitement for the second half.

McCormick led scoring with five goals, and Sass had four assists.

10/6: @ Waldorf 3-0 W

eighth as a team.

During the St. Andrews Invitational, held on Sep. 12, girls placed fifth. Rzepniewski finished in 13:43, and Lane following close behind in 13:55.

In the Cedar Park Invitational on Sep. 17, Stanglin led the Bears with a time of 22:37. The girls' team finished third overall in the small private school varsity race, with Rzepniewski finishing in 13:41.

The Brenham Hillacious Invitational, held on Sep. 26, is known as the most hilly course in Texas. Results were not available for that meet.

On Oct. 3, the Bears competed at McNeil, a large meet with many public schools. Tiner shaved nearly a minute off of his previous best time, and freshman Nathan Ging followed with a time of 21:39. Other results were not available.



photo: Avery Miller

Impossible to stop Brentwood senior Mason McCormick races past Waldorf defenders while junior Austin Greene (left) and senior Joshua Sass offer support during an 8-0 BCS route on Sep. 11. The Bears are hoping for a state championship this month.

New coach helps young cross country team prepare for state

By Mary Womack

Some non-runners might have a preconceived notion that cross country is monotonous, but this year the sport has been refreshed at BCS with a new coach and a young, fresh-faced team.

Already five meets into the season, and with the state meet approaching in three weeks, the varsity teams are vigorously preparing for the state meet, which will be on Oct. 31 in Waco. But first the teams will compete in the district meet on Oct. 17 in Marble Falls.

Last year, the girls' team placed third overall at state, and the boys placed eighth.

"We have a good mix of experienced runners and new talent," girls' coach Katie Smith said. "Everyone wants to compete and to win."

The boys' team has undergone a big change

this year with the addition of new coach Jeffery Bates. A strength and conditioning coach at Lifetime Fitness, Bates inquired about potential coaching jobs while enrolling his daughter in pre-K at Brentwood in the summer. While in high school in Houston, Bates competed in track and basketball. He now trains for marathons with his wife.

Although Bates is a seasoned runner and coach, his coaching experience has been with adults. Coaching high school and middle school at BCS has brought him great satisfaction, he says, and he is eager to help "grow the program." He said he wants to help the boys become more committed, and to help them become familiar with how their bodies work.

"Strength and conditioning is huge," Bates said, stressing the need to build more muscle in order to avoid injury.

The two high school teams consist of two seniors, three juniors, four sophomores, and four freshmen. However, the boys' team has no one older than sophomore David Tiner, who is their top runner on the 3.1-mile course with a personal record of 19:07, followed by freshman Paul Stanglin with a PR of 21:54.

The boys have competed in JV races, but have not qualified for a team score at any meet, since they have not had the minimum of five runners present.

Freshman Lauren Rzepniewski is the top runner for the girls on the two-mile course with a PR this season of 13:42, followed by senior Kayla Lane, whose best is 13:51.

The Belton Invitational, held Aug. 28, was a good start for the Bears. Rzepniewski was the first Brentwood finisher with a time of 14:31, one second ahead of Lane. The girls finished

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2015

Volleyball team shines as girls focus on state title

By Joshua Sass

The Lady Bears are crushing opponents left and right throughout district, starting with a 9-0 record after defeating Texas School for the Deaf 3-0 on Oct. 6.

The first round of playoffs will begin soon after the final district game on Oct. 20.

“Coming into this year’s volleyball season,” senior Kara Teal said, “everyone was filled with excitement and determination to make it all the way to state.”

The Lady Bears entered this season with two goals: growing together as a team for the seniors’ final year and capturing the ever elusive state title. The Lady Bears have overcome many obstacles on their trek through district with injury, sickness, and a draining pre-season.

“As the season has gone on, we have hit a lot of road bumps with injuries and sickness, but that’s just part of the game,” Teal said. “Sometimes you get knocked down, but you just have to get right back up and push through hard times.”

While the Lady Bears are on cruise control through district, having yet to lose a set, Brentwood is missing a key player from their roster. Senior Blair Westerlund has been fighting illness since before district began and is currently not able to compete with the Lady Bears for

an undetermined amount of time. Teal also injured her arm and missed the first part of the district season, but she has returned.

“Our squad is gaining confidence each match that they play,” head coach Veronica Lee said. “They are playing more disciplined volleyball and making less errors. We are led by two outstanding seniors, Jami Lee and Keely Hardin, who have taken the initiative to lead their team.”

Through Sep. 29, Lee leads the team with 199 kills, and Westerlund leads with 3.0 kills per set. Lee leads with 45 aces, followed by junior Addison Hardin with 44. Lee leads with 88 blocks, and Teal has 82. Hardin has the most digs with 330.

Brentwood started practice on July 3 and their season began Aug. 6. To strengthen the team for a state title run, their first month of competitive play featured a multitude of 5A and 6A public schools.

One of their first victories came against Round Rock High. After winning 3-1 on Aug. 10, Keely Hardin said it was an extremely satisfying win because of the rivalry between individual players. Several Lady Bears had played with and competed against some Round Rock players for years in select volleyball.

Volleyball rankings in the Austin American-Statesman had BCS at number four in Central

Texas when the Lady Bears went up against number-five Lake Travis on Aug. 15. Brentwood then swept Lake Travis 3-0, demonstrating that they were deserving of their rank. The Lady Bears are currently ranked fourth.

Brentwood finished 5-1 and won second place at the annual BCS Bestpack Invitational last month. After sweeping five consecutive games, the Lady Bears lost 2-1 to St. Andrews in the championship game. Brentwood students of all ages were excused from class to cheer for and celebrate with the Lady Bears during their competition.

Last year the Lady Bears fell in the state championship, for the second consecutive year, to Arlington Grace Prep 3-1. This year players assert that the previous team was not as mentally tough as they are now. They say they believe they can reach the state championship game and win.

“Last year I think we only focused on (the



photo: Madison Bailey

Walking on air Junior Claire Polasek soars for a kill during their victory over Westwood. Ranked fourth among all Central Texas schools, BCS has high expectations.

championship),” senior Tori Troutman said. “Pressure was very high, and that might have caused us to fall short. This year we keep the goal in mind, but we take it game by game.”

Football team improves against tough schedule

continued from page 1

dia. With the noisy Claw Crew in the bleachers and the voice of public address announcer Steve Sunshine ringing out under sunny skies, the game was a tug-of-war match from the beginning. Each team exchanged touchdowns one after another.

Down by 12 with only four minutes remaining, Brentwood seemed to have fallen just short of victory. But the Bears, with the home field advantage and ecstatic crowd cheering for them till the end, pulled off the dramatic win 65-63.

Freshman Blake Benton had seven catches for 149 yards, and freshman Micah Best scored on three touchdown catches. Johnson had 22 carries for 176 yards and five touchdowns, and sophomore Hunter Burcham had two rushing touchdowns.

Johnson led the team with 12 tackles, and senior Jake Dillard added 11 tackles.

At home the following Saturday, the Bears faced one of the best teams

in the state, and the big, fast defenders were too much for the young Bears. BCS was “forty-fived,” meaning they were losing by more than 45 points at halftime – a common result in the fast-paced world of six-man football. The final score was 72-20.

But Brentwood did have some bright spots. Johnson completed 19 of 25 passes for 296 yards and three touchdowns. Best had five catches for 88 yards and one touchdown, and Benton had six catches for 97 yards and a score.

Senior Robert Lesko had three carries for 58 yards and a touchdown, and Burcham had five catches for 53 yards.

“When you’re starting a program, you have your good days and bad days,” Caffey said after the game. “We had a bad day, and Veritas had nearly a perfect day.”

The Bears headed out of town on Sep. 25 to take on Katy Faith West, again bringing along a large crowd of supporters.

The highly favored Eagles from Katy found the Bears to be no pushover as Brentwood led the game 22-20 at halftime. In the end, the Bears lost 60-44.

Johnson connected with Benton for three touchdowns, and Johnson ran for two more scores. Best added another TD catch, and

coaches said the Bear defense showed great improvement.

On Oct. 2, and for the third week in a row, the Bears faced a top-ranked team when they traveled to play Hill Country. The Bear defense held the Knights on many occasions but could not get off the field on fourth down. They lost 60-32.

With the most difficult part of the season over, Caffey expressed optimism about finishing strong. He also pointed out that Brentwood is ranked in the top three in the state for six-man independents.

Caffey said he expects the team to compete just fine when they join a district next year.

“I would not be surprised if we are in the playoffs next year,” he said.

Johnson leads the Bears in passing with 951 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also leads the team in rushing with 477 yards and 12 scores.

Benton has 30 receptions for 370 yards and five touchdowns, while Best has 19 catches for 363 yards and six touchdowns.

On defense, the Bears are led by Johnson and Benton, with 36 tackles each. Lesko and Dillard each have 32 tackles.



photo: Dorothy Walters

Not today Junior Jordan Johnson avoids an ACHS defender during Brentwood’s first-ever tackle football game, played in Abilene on Sep. 5. The Bears lost 59-51 in a thrilling contest.

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2015

Senior retreat inspires devotion

By Nick Bergeron

Two busloads of seniors, accompanied by several of their teachers, secondary principal Carol Johnson, and school president Jay Burcham, set out from BCS at 7 a.m. on Aug. 30 for the traditional senior retreat at Camp Buckner, a rustic retreat spot close to Marble Falls. When they arrived, they started off the day with singing, and Burcham gave a talk encouraging the seniors to pursue leadership.

During the course of the day, the seniors engaged in various activities designed to be entertaining and to build community. Although the giant swing and tightrope drew much attention, the main attraction of the ropes course was the “leap of faith,” which many students recalled doing at their seventh-grade retreat.

The seniors explored their “spiritual disciplines” through activities organized by teachers. For example, those who were interested in connecting with God through nature took a quiet contemplative walk through the scenery of Central Texas; those who favored traditionalism quietly studied scripture with humanities

teacher Mel Witcher using the ancient practice of Lectio Divina.

“It was brilliantly uplifting in my soul,” Garrett Shake said. “I enjoyed becoming more in tune with nature.”

Students met to discuss how they could establish their class legacy by improving Brentwood. The senior girls decided to organize a class Bible study, which meets on Mondays during lunch in the home of the class president, Chandler Alberda. The “Claw Crew,” a group of students dedicated to fostering school spirit at sporting events, was founded.

The senior class also thought up ways to improve chapel, making it more interactive and encouraging every student to sing and worship. The next school chapel featured a newly formed praise team as a result.

Around a bonfire, students sang and listened to a devotional lesson from history teacher Jimmie Harper. Some gathered around the basketball court after dark for late-night hoops.

Early-bird seniors gathered to watch the sunrise and listened to a talk from Witcher.

After everyone was awake, students flocked



photo: Kai Liu-Harper

Born again John Hollingsworth is baptized by Jimmie Harper at Camp Buckner.

to the pond to kayak, swim, and launch each other off a giant balloon dubbed “the Blob.”

That afternoon, during free time, 45 students gathered around to watch John Hollingsworth be baptized by Harper.

“I think (the retreat) was a valuable time,” Martha Hughes said. “It was a general reminder to be a leader.”

Freshmen swim, sing, bond at Camp Buckner

By Jane Hughes

Smack! Lauren Rzepniewski flies through the air before bracing herself against the slap of the water. Resurfacing, she is all smiles as

she swims to the ladder to do the Blob again.

In the early afternoon of Sep. 13, 51 BCS freshmen loaded into vans ready to spend the next two days at Camp Buckner for their class retreat.



photo: Dorothy Walters

We have liftoff Freshman Curtis Mack bounces off the Blob at this year’s freshman retreat, held at Camp Buckner on Sep. 13-14. Students discussed goals and bonded.

“I loved getting to bond with all of my classmates,” Jaclyn Wishard said. “We became closer as a class and had a lot of fun!”

The Class of 2019 spent two “fun but exhausting” days at the same place they had seventh-grade retreat two years earlier. They did things such as swimming, basketball, devotions, hikes, and even capture the flag in darkness, which the boys won.

“I loved watching people play basketball, but another thing I enjoyed about the retreat was swimming and watching people do tricks into the pool,” Tristan Hildebrandt said.

The class officers, led by president Whit Allee, discussed what goals the class should pursue throughout high school and how they want to be remembered.

“We want to be remembered by our awesomeness, honesty, kindness, helpfulness, and most importantly our Christ-like attitudes,” Jane Hughes said.

The boys led a devotion Monday morning. After several songs, Brayden George shared a few words of encouragement with his classmates.

The class grew closer through all the activities and encouraged each other by putting notecards into decorated bags made for each student.

Through the help of the freshman class sponsors, Tere Hager and Dorothy Walters, the Class of 2019 grew closer to each other and to God on their freshman retreat.

Students scatter for Spiritual Day

By Camille Sunshine and Mary Womack

Students said this year’s Spiritual Emphasis Day held on Sep. 30 bonded grades together and showed people what the world outside Brentwood was like.

To start off the day, students congregated in the CSA for announcements and worship. Math teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth introduced the focus of the day, which was found at the end of this year’s theme verse, Philippians 4:5: “The Lord is near.” Students were asked to focus on God’s presence throughout the day.

Grades then broke up into two groups each and went to serve the community, taking 26 different vehicles to nine different locations. Seniors went to Community First and Meals on Wheels; juniors went to Head Start in Georgetown; sophomores went to Village Christian Apartments and Texas Baptist Children’s Home; and freshmen went to Head Start in Florence or Leander.

Senior Kayla Lane, who went to Community First, said she enjoyed feeding goats.

“It was pretty awesome,” she said. “They took selfies with me.”

Although many students came back sweaty and blistered, some said they appreciated the hard work.

“I thought it was a great time to build character,” freshman Whit Allee said. “Everyone knows hard work equals character building.”

Many students said they felt the day brought them closer together as a class.

“I really enjoyed this Spiritual Emphasis Day,” sophomore Hannah Velasco said. “I felt like as a class we got really far and we really did address making steps to become better as a class. It was a really good bonding day.”

Sophomore Austin Biegert said he got to hang pictures for an elderly woman at Village Christian Apartments. She had traveled a lot with her husband and had art from all over the world.

“It was fun getting to help out old people,” he said. “It makes them happy.”

The students ate lunch at various places before coming back to BCS in the afternoon.

When the students arrived back at BCS, they rotated with the rest of their grade between four activities: a game involving pool noodles and a miniature football, silent reflection outside, sculpting installation art, and a class meeting.

“It’s great that we have a day where we can focus on being aware of God’s presence,” said Dr. Hollingsworth, who led the Spiritual Emphasis Day activities for the second year in a row.