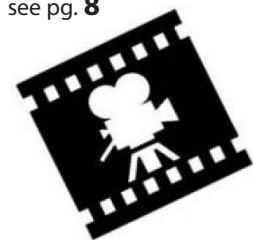


THE BEAR FACTS



VOL. 28 NO. 4

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2016

Bears look strong in hunt for district title

By Andrew Schmitz

The varsity boys' basketball team is sitting in first place in district with a record of 9-2 entering their last week of district play. If the Bears win their final three games, they will be district

champs for the first time since 2014.

Last year BCS came in second place in district with a 9-4 record. This will be the Bears' sixth consecutive year making the playoffs.

The boys have won eight of their last 10 games and continue to play well in district. Af-

ter beating BCS last week, Texas School for the Deaf pulled into a tie for second place with Faith Academy of Marble Falls.

"The season started out kind of rough, but it's gotten a lot better," junior Jordan Johnson said.

Head coach Brian Thrift said the team has really improved as a group.

"We have been getting good leadership from our upper-classmen, and our chemistry is pretty good," he said.

Thrift said he is pleased with the way the team has reduced turnovers, which has given them more shot opportunities. But the inconsistent free throw shooting has continued.

"Free throws can really make a difference in an outcome of a game," he said.

The Bears have been dominating most of their opponents, including crushing second-place Central Texas Christian on homecoming.

But that game was not as easy as it could have been, and Thrift said it showed the team's resolve and their "desire to be

see **Boys**, page 6

BCS spelling bee won by two students

By Benjamin Helyer

"Miracle: M-I-R-A-C-L-E; miracle," says third-grader Jocelyn Galvan during the final round of the Brentwood Christian School Spelling Bee in the school auditorium on Tuesday, Jan. 26. "Correct," comes the reply from the judges. With this, one of the youngest competitors on stage took the title of champion, and Brentwood had its youngest-ever champion of the bee.

However, eighth-grader Genevieve Graessle will also be allowed to advance to the next level due to a controversial ruling in the bee, and she received her trophy during middle school chapel on Jan. 28.

When the final duo, Galvan and Graessle, began the concluding round, Galvan was given the word "governance," but stated the word "governments." The judges stopped her and repeated the word, but she proceeded to say and spell the incorrect word.

see **Spelling**, page 4



photo: Darnell Mack

Rush hour Junior Jordan Johnson pushes the ball up court in the homecoming game against CTCS on Jan. 8. After falling behind early, the Bears stormed back to win 67-48, led by Johnson's 31 points.

Former BCS teacher fondly remembered by alumni, faculty

By Camille Sunshine

"But in the end, it's only a passing thing, this shadow. Even darkness must pass. A new day will come. And when the sun shines it will shine out the clearer. Those were the stories that stayed with you."

These words from one of Tolkein's Hobbits, printed in the program at the funeral for Gary Moss last month, capture Moss's positive and joyful outlook on life. Moss, the husband of former BCS president Marquita Moss, who served as the first youth minister at Brentwood Church of Christ and taught at BCS for 20 years, passed away on Jan. 5 at age 73 after a five-month battle with lung cancer. Moss is survived by his wife of 49 years, three children, and eight grandchildren, three of whom attend BCS.

"Although I only had two classes with him, I will always remember Mr. Moss for his hu-

mor and kind words," said BCS alumnus Mark Nesslage ('09). "His classes were challenging but fair, and as a result he imparted a lot of knowledge throughout his years as a teacher at Brentwood."

Math and humanities teacher, builder, real estate agent, father, grandfather, and friend, Moss was admired by many students for his versatility in so many aspects of life.

"What I appreciated most about Mr. Moss was that he was a Renaissance man – a jack of all trades," BCS alumnus Brandon Click ('04) said. "Not many

teachers are well enough versed in such disparate subjects as humanities and algebra to teach them both. He was even good with his hands and helped by doing things like building a wooden bridge from scratch behind the gym. The school will miss him."

Moss was indeed a skilled handy-man. He built several play-scapes for Brentwood, including two on the old Arroyo Seco campus in the 1970s. His creations at the current campus included one in the shape of a dinosaur and another three-level masterpiece in the large

oak trees that once provided shade by the athletic field bleachers.

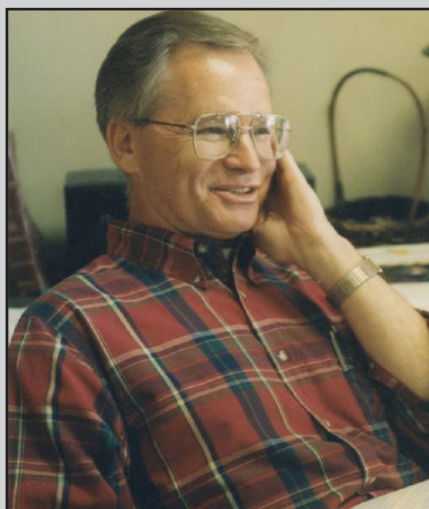
He also built a tall fortress in former elementary principal and family friend Libby Weed's backyard.

"It was so much fun to see it come together," said Weed's granddaughter, BCS junior Mary Womack. "He put so much creativity into it, and I still enjoy it to this day."

Moss was born in Texarkana on March 3, 1942, but lived in Austin for his adult life. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1965 and did graduate work at UT and Texas State University. He taught math at Lamar Middle School for three years while volunteering with the Brentwood Church of Christ youth group.

In 1969, he became Brentwood's first youth minister, and was responsible for taking stu-

see **Moss**, page 5



Read It and Weep: Nick Bergeron

Quality of artistic experience often sacrificed for quantity

Think how listening to music must have been before the invention of recording. Every song you heard would have to have been performed live, and many pieces the average person would be lucky to even hear once. One would want to pay close attention to every note, since he likely would never hear the piece again.

Listeners don't have that problem nowadays. From my phone I can listen to anything from a Jimi Hendrix concert to a Russian Orthodox chant with no more effort than is required to type a few words. Overall these technological advancements have been wonderful for music fans. We can study and listen to our favorite pieces again and again without the daunting investment of time and money

that used to be required.

There is, however, a subtle downside that comes with this added convenience. The ability to enjoy not only music but all kinds of experiences – film, literature, natural landmarks – “on demand” as it is, has the potential to devalue these experiences, making them commonplace and banal. For example, imagine you're a middle-class American in the 1800s with a penchant for Bach. If you wanted to hear Bach, you'd have to listen to it performed. Maybe you'd have a piano or violin of your own, and you'd learn to play his simpler compositions yourself, but to hear most of Bach's notoriously difficult music you'd have to travel into a city with a concert hall to hear it per-

formed, a luxury you'd likely be able to afford once or twice a year at best.

This scenario sounds inconvenient and frustrating, but there's an upshot to music becoming so rare: it would become sacred. When you did finally scrape together enough money to go hear the French Suites performed in Chicago you would not likely doze off during the concert. On the contrary you'd give it your full attention, and you'd experience the music for all of its power. Your problem of not being able to hear your favorite music often would inspire you to appreciate it even more.

Today's Bach enthusiast faces a different problem. When you call your insurance company and they put you on hold, you may hear the Prelude in C major through your tinny phone speaker. At home you may put on the Brandenburg Concerto as background music while you do your homework or clean the house. We have no lack of opportunities to hear music, but how often do we really listen?

This is a question that scares me personally as a music listener. Throughout an average week I consume a great deal of music, movies, and literature, but how much attention do I really give it? If I'm honest, much of the music I listen to is merely background music while I work on Calculus problems; many of the films I watch I do so while texting my friends; and often when I'm reading I find my attention drifting off to personal or school issues. It seems the convenience technology has given us is a double-edged sword – the amount of media we can consume has increased, but our capacity to pay attention hasn't. There's still only so much energy we can devote to music or books or baseball games, but because they're so readily available today we feel tempted to attempt the impossible task of watching every MLB game or reading (and understanding) every book in the library.

This problem can be solved, but the solution isn't necessarily easily. We need to be mindful of how much energy we have to devote to each activity, and be honest with ourselves when we truly cannot commit the time and attention to something that it deserves. We need to say to ourselves, “Sure, I could watch *Terminator* while cleaning the house and texting my cousin and thinking about what I'm going to do this weekend, but that wouldn't really do it justice.” It is time we all collectively admitted that multitasking isn't as good as we tend to think it is. An oft-cited University of London study showed that multitasking during cognitive tasks lowers IQ points on a similar level to smoking marijuana or going a night without sleep. Some participants' IQs dropped 15 points, to the level of an average eight-year-

old. So, as a general rule of thumb, if you're trying to do something you wouldn't trust a third-grader or a hippy to do, best give it your undivided attention.

Maybe it's our fear of not getting to do everything, to hear every piece of music or watch every movie, that drives us to try to cram as much material into our lives as we can. If that's the case, we ought to stop kidding ourselves and accept that we can experience only a tiny sliver of the experiences the world offers. Remember, thou art mortal. All flesh is as grass. Sorry to be the one to break it to you.

I've found I enjoy the things I get to experience better when I concentrate on them for themselves, rather than seeing them as entries in a catalogue. In my life I'll get to enjoy maybe 1/10,000th of the art and music and nature there is available. But life isn't a contest to see who can read the most books or watch the most movies, and even the hungriest reader or film watcher could barely make a dent in all the books and movies out there in the 80-some-odd years he or she is allotted.

So, accept your limitations. Don't try to listen to, read, watch, see everything. You'll enjoy it better.

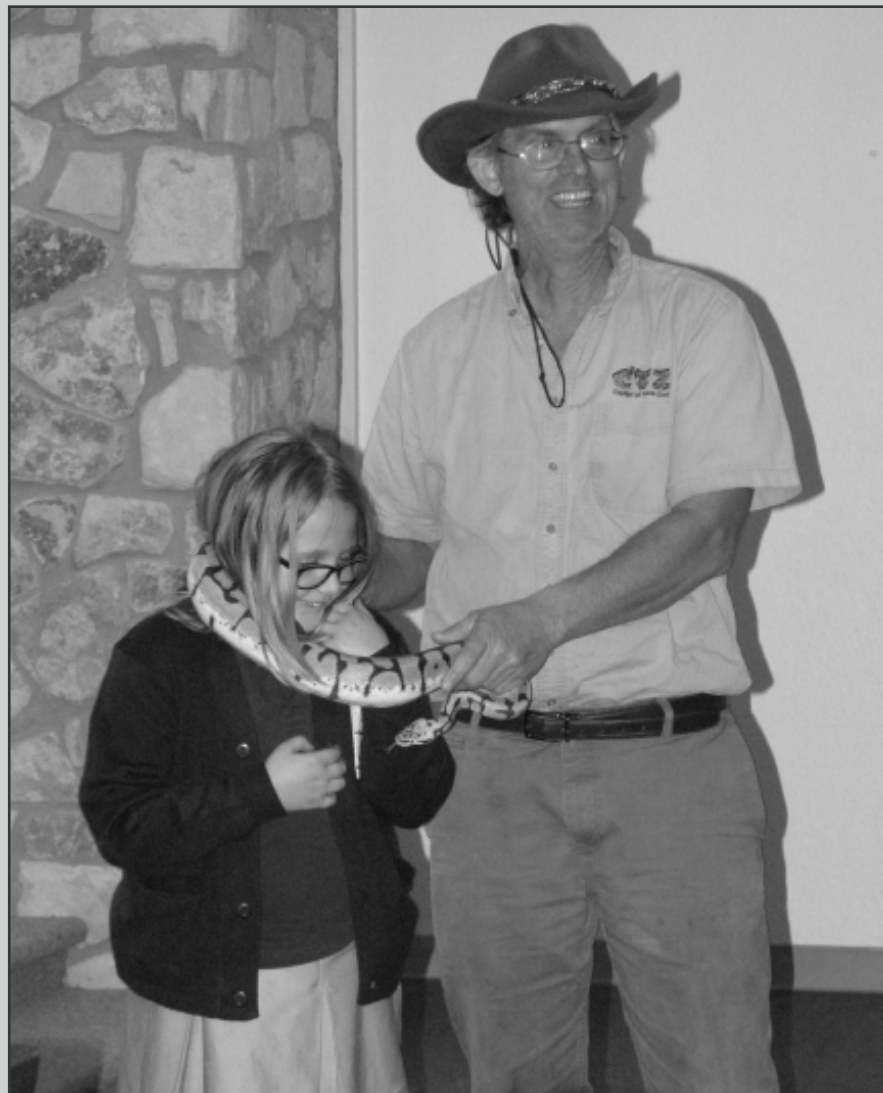


photo: Sharon Howard

Frightening “Zoo Man” Michael Hicks introduced a few animals from the Capital of Texas Zoo to BCS elementary students in three shows on Jan. 11. One of them was this ball python, who got familiar with first-grader Kali Whitmire.

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 FEBRUARY 2016

Costumes, royalty, sports, spirit mark homecoming

By Mary Womack

At the end of a festive week of Hollywood stars and starlets wandering the “red carpet” along the BCS hallways, the campus was abuzz with talk of the Homecoming Court. This question was answered to a certain extent during the talent show on Thursday night, when most of the court was revealed.

Finally, on Friday night, Jan. 8, a plethora of fans squeezed into the athletic center and dili-

gently awaited the announcement of the court. After the drumroll ceased, seniors Jake Velasco and Chandler Alberda were crowned King and Queen.

For middle and high school, the week preceding the coronation was filled with decorated halls, dress up days, and a talent show. The theme of the week was Hollywood Homecoming, and students were asked to dress up as their favorite musical artists on Jan. 5, or Top 20 Tuesday. The following day was dubbed

Who’s Who Wednesday, and students were encouraged to dress as their favorite celebrity, politician, or media star. On The Movies Thursday there were plenty of Hogwarts and *High School Musical* characters.

The talent show (see story, pg. 8) took place that night, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m. in the theater. The king and queen nominees were announced at the show, along with the rest of the court.

First came Lord Micah Best and Lady Jane Hughes, then Duke Diego Escobedo and Duchess Bekah Connor. Next Prince Daniel Ayala and Princess Camille Sunshine were applauded. Lastly the king and queen nominees were announced: Andrew Armstrong, John Hollingsworth, and Jake Velasco; Chandler Alberda, Laura Doyle, and Martha Hughes.

On the last day of the week, BCS Spirit Day, students of all ages were asked to wear as much green as possible to show support for the teams playing that night. In the afternoon, the whole school gathered in the athletic center for a pep rally and was greeted with posters, balloons, and streamers hanging from the walls and ceiling. After a school-wide cheer, the cheerleaders performed a short dance routine to a mashup of popular songs.

After their routine, the cheerleaders had various groups come up with spontaneous routines or dances to the song *Cheerleader*. Contestants could be seen dancing in can-can lines, snapping, and Russian dancing. Lots of laughs were shared at the off-tempo moves, awkward clapping, and “stunts.”

“I’m so proud of the cheerleaders. Preparing for homecoming is always a lot of work, but everyone put forth a ton of effort,” cheer captain Claire Nestor, a junior, said. “Because of that, we were able to pull off a pep rally people got to enjoy.”

High school kicked things off in the athletic center with wins by the JV girls’ and boys’ teams. Varsity also won both of their games against mutual opponent Central Texas Christian School.

The homecoming court was then announced to noisy applause before the varsity boys’ game. After secondary principal Carol Johnson announced the name of each member of the court, she read a short bio filled with interesting facts about the students. The coronation commenced after the king and queen were called to stage.

Alberda said she will always cherish the honor of being chosen as queen.

“As they called my name it was like in the movies when the room is so loud but to me it was absolutely silent,” she said. “It was an overwhelming feeling of loving the school that loved me back.”

The weekend prior to this festivity was filled with long, hard hours of decorating hallways for StuCo members and cheerleaders, along with StuCo sponsor Clarissa Vazquez. Alberda said StuCo spent around 30 hours adorning the halls, and even spent the night sleeping in the library to add creative elements such as a Star Wars section, “red-carpet,” and L.A. Airport.



photo: Darnell Mack

Royals Seniors Jake Velasco and Chandler Alberda were crowned Homecoming King and Queen between victories by the varsity basketball teams on Jan. 8.

Teachers’ lip sync battle starts new semester on fun note

By Michelle Emmel

Secondary faculty and students started off the second semester on Jan. 25 with joy because of the lip sync battle that took place in the morning in the theater.

Shortly after school started, students could be seen standing on their feet and supporting the faculty while singing some of their favorite songs such as *I Can’t Feel My Face* by the Weeknd, *Trouble* by Taylor Swift, and *Beat It* by Michael Jackson. There were even some Spanish melodies and a SpongeBob song.

Teacher Jimmie Harper said it was really fun to perform and that he is excited for it next year. Teachers said they enjoyed practicing and collaborating with their pre-set teams this year.

“It’s fun to be silly,” teacher Kaleen Graessle said. “I thoroughly enjoyed watching everyone else’s act.”

Organized by Student Council president Chandler Alberda, the event was run similar to the way it went last year, but with some

changes. It featured eight faculty members, divided into male and female teams. The females were Michelle Alexander, Ashley Dargai, Graessle, and Brooke Hollingsworth; males were Harper, Evan Johnson, Vini Montesdeoca, and Jeff Morris. There were two rounds and a finale for each team.

The winners, determined by student vote, were the females.

This year students got the chance to text a number to vote for who they favored. The results were projected on the wall as the texts came in.

The lip sync battle was followed by a time dedicated to prayer groups, and then an abbreviated class schedule began at 9:50.

“It was really exciting to see the teachers come out of their shells and be silly outside of the classroom setting,” junior Addy Hardin said.

Many students said this should be continued as an annual event.

“It was one of the highlights of my year,” sophomore Hunter Burcham said.



photo: Madison Warner

Swole Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth performs a rap song while seniors Jake Dillard, Robert Lesko, Jake Velasco, and Diego Battle flex for each other. The energy and volume of Hollingsworth’s girls team proved too much for the boys to overcome.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Nicholas Bergeron

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

Musically gifted bookworm provokes thoughts, laughs

By Camille Sunshine

A book in his hands and jazz in his head, senior Nicholas Bergeron is well loved for his wisdom and humor in all aspects of life.

“He’s an amazing, cat-loving, witty, and sassy BFF,” classmate Andrew Armstrong says.

Nicholas’s favorite hobby is reading, and he says his favorite book is Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*, which he has read three times. When he was in middle school, he read science fiction, often one novel each day. Since then, he has transitioned to history and philosophy, with very little fiction.

“I’ve always been reading something, basically since I learned how to read,” Nicholas says. “I like books that are surprising, books that make me think about things I am not smart enough to think about on my own or don’t want to think about because they’re uncomfortable.”

Teachers also admire Nick’s thirst for knowledge. US history teacher Jimmie Harper has fond memories of discussing the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy with Nicholas, who is his aide.

“When I think of Nicholas Bergeron, I think of reading,” Harper says. “There seems to be some part of his mind that he is constantly seeking to exercise with the consumption of literature. He’s like a literary heavy-lifting Olympian consuming knowledge.”

Harper also appreciates Nick’s sense of humor, which regularly produces memorable one-liners. Harper says that last year, when he went to visit his family in Searcy, Ark., on a three-day weekend, he was sitting in church when his sister told him one of his students was there. Harper looked up and saw Nicholas. When he went and said hello to his student, Nicholas replied, “Did I forget an assignment?”

Music is also a passion of Nicholas. His father, Ron, is a piano tuner, so Nick grew up around music. He took piano lessons in first grade and has been teaching himself jazz ever since. He also hopes to teach himself the music of Bach.

“I like that it (music) sort of expresses things where words don’t suffice,” he says. “It is neither happy nor sad, something beyond anything we can verbalize.”

Nicholas has worked on the Bear Facts staff all four years of high school and became its editor this year. His editorials range from humorous advice columns to urban legends to problems with celebrities.

“I’m not sure I’ve seen a better writer in my 15 years with the Bear Facts,” BCS adviser Jonathan Weed says. “He’s just a really gifted communicator, both in speech and in writing. I think when he first came here, some of his peers probably weren’t sure what to think about this new guy who spoke with such big

words. But they’ve all found, like I have, that he’s a lot of fun to have a conversation with.”

Nicholas was honored last fall as a Commended Scholar (part of the National Merit program) and is very involved in NHS. He also joined choir as a tenor his sophomore year and made Encore his junior year as a baritone.

“Nicholas is a person who always asks the right questions,” senior and fellow Encore member Laura Doyle says. “His analogies of things are thought-provoking, and he has a wonderful singing voice.”

Armstrong says one of his favorite things about Nick is when the two of them sing choir songs at random times wherever they go, including at fire drills. When a group of high school students was asked what they like about Nicholas, students noted his humility, his natural ability to be a leader, and his ease with words, saying “no one can say it like Nicholas Bergeron.”

“Nicholas is a really interesting guy,” fellow senior Hannah Hutton says. “Hearing what he has to say, in and out of class, is always thought provoking and entertaining.”

Those who know Nicholas best also admire his sense of humor. One year, when he asked what he wanted for Christmas, all he asked for was canned fruit.

“I can keep it in my car, then forget about my lunch like I often do, then go to my car and have something to eat,” Nicholas says.

Nicholas was born in Memphis, Tenn., but grew up in Phoenix, Ariz. He moved to Austin in 2009 when his father became a piano

tuner and wanted to live in a more musical city. After attending public school for a year, he came to BCS in high school searching for a higher level of academics.

“When I first met Nicholas in sophomore year, he reminded me of an absent-minded professor,” English teacher Ashley Dargai says. “As I got to know him, I became more and more convinced he could teach my class better than me. He’s a man of few words, but when he does have something to say, it is incredibly insightful.”

The Bergeron family attends Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ. Natalie is a BCS alumna (Class of 2014) and is a sophomore at Harding University. Nicholas also has a nine-year-old Maltipoo named Harvey, whose picture is the background of his phone. After high school, Nicholas plans to get a degree in physics from Vanderbilt University.

Nick’s mother, Faith, is one-half Filipino and grew up in the Philippines. Nicholas has visited the Philippines three times and held an internship working IT there last summer.

“It was fun to use skills I’d picked up almost as a hobby in the real world,” Nicholas says. “It was a neat experience to be away from home working on something that actually needs to be done, like an adult.”

So if you ever need some help interpreting a complicated book, a good one-liner to cheer you up, or just someone to listen to jazz music with, go to Nicholas Bergeron. He’s always ready to help.

Spelling bee

continued from page 1

As she finished, the bell dinged, and she was dismissed from the round. A parent then filed a complaint in her defense, and a discussion ensued among the judges..

The conclusion came: The girl would be allowed to stay in the round. Graessle then misspelled her next word, and Galvan went on to win with the word “miracle.”

“It was quite an ending. You could feel the tension in the room,” bee coordinator Sharonda Cooper said. “Although we were rejoicing with Jocelyn, it was clear that many were confused by the appeal process.

“I, for one, have never been present during an appeal in a spelling bee before, and I think that our judges and spellers were also a bit taken aback by it all.”

It was later determined that misunderstandings of words were not grounds for an appeal, and thus officially Galvan should not have proceeded to the next round. When Cooper asked the officials from the Bee, they agreed to let both girls proceed to the next level of competition.

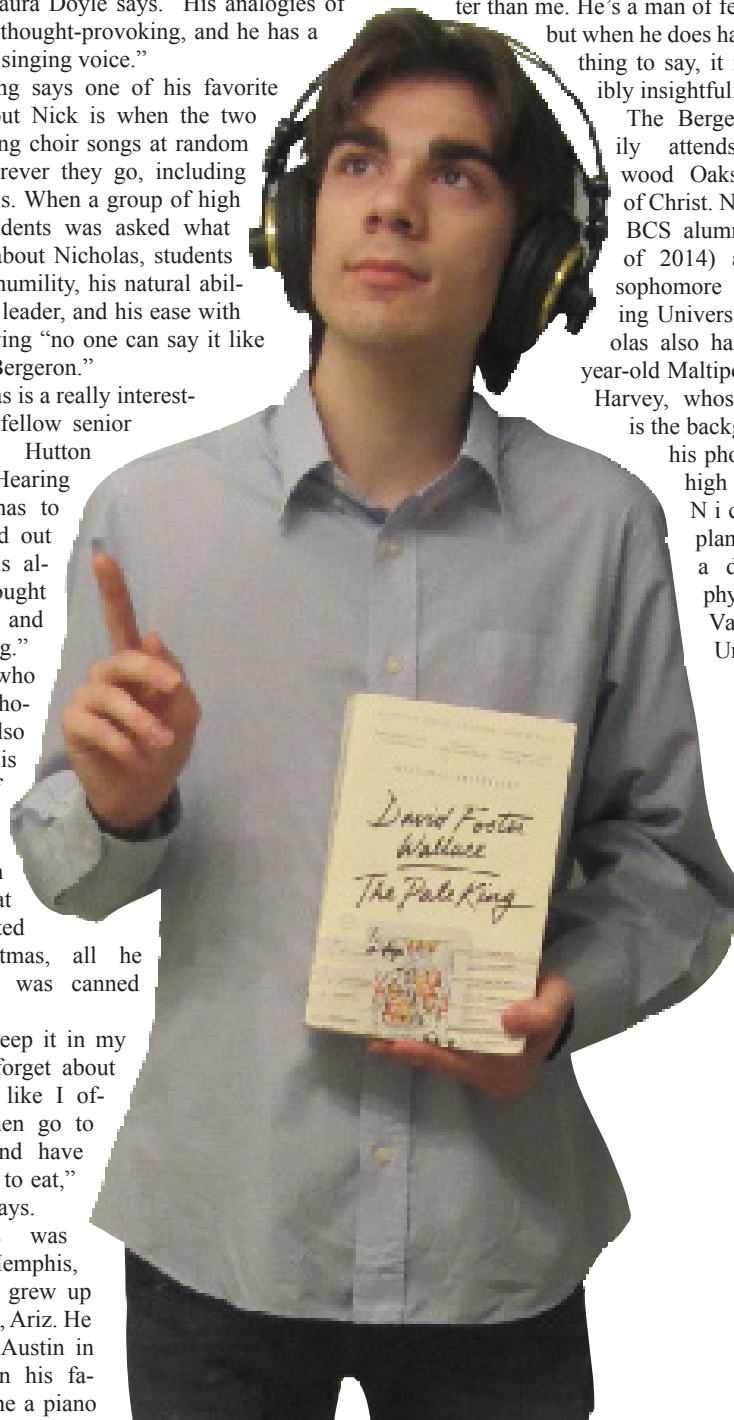
Although the judges made a call that wasn’t completely in line with the Scripps Spelling Bee’s official rules, it should be noted that the decision was made during an unusual situation.

“I felt like we made a fair call in the moment,” bee judge Chloe Campbell said.

The 21 finalists who competed in the school bee were the top performers in their classroom bees.

Both winners will represent Brentwood at the Zone 10 Regional Bee on Feb. 27 at Trinity Episcopal School.

The judges who presided over the school bee were teachers Evelyn Ellis, Tere Hager, and Campbell, while Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth served as the pronouncer.



Beloved English teacher challenges, inspires

By Kaitlyn Baird

Whether she's performing *Ice Ice Baby* in the teacher lip-sync battle or reading her favorite Shakespearean plays in class, English teacher Ashley Dargai is an inspiration to many at BCS.

Dargai is in her third year of teaching English to Brentwood sophomores and seniors. With her fun and creative approach to teaching, many students look forward to her class each day.

"She's very excited and passionate about what she does," senior Laura Doyle says.

English teacher Dr. Paul Robison describes Dargai as enthusiastic with a great love for her students.

"She's very gifted in the way she presents Language Arts," Dr. Robison says.

He says her teaching methods inspire and encourage him as a fellow teacher.

For example, Dargai has her students write book reports as "secret agents" writing government briefs on captured intelligence. Her students have also used literary criticism to analyze popular song lyrics and understand the "epistemology of One Direction's *What Makes You Beautiful*."

Math teacher Kaleen Graessle was assigned to be Dargai's faculty mentor when she first arrived at BCS, but Graessle ended up learning a few things from Dargai as well. Graessle says Dargai lives intentionally and does not let the culture around her and the busyness of life get in the way of how she "consistently seeks to live with God's plan."

Graessle also says because of her efforts, Dargai's students see writing in a more positive way. She describes Dargai as a creative teacher who encourages her students to write and makes it a fun process.

Senior Jami Lee agrees.

"She's always happy," Lee says, "and she makes you want to learn."

Dargai's inspiration for becoming a teacher can be credited to her college adviser. She originally wanted to be anything but a teacher. However, her adviser suggested trying an education class, so she did, and she realized in the first week that she wanted to be a teacher.

Dargai's childhood involved spending lots of time with her two younger brothers. Living in Ft. Worth, they played games, built forts, and even pretended to go grocery shopping. She also remembers a time when they planned out a whole circus to perform for their parents.

"My brothers were my best friends, and they still are," Dargai says.

In high school, Dargai was a cheerleader and volleyball player. Shortly after graduation, she and her high school sweetheart broke up

because they were planning to go to different colleges. Dargai was going to attend the University of North Texas, and she felt it would be too difficult to maintain a long-distance relationship. Later she would transfer to Harding, where she received a B.A. in English.

While in college, Dargai met her future husband J.D. Little did she know, she would end up having a long-distance relationship after all.

On a mission trip to Hungary, she stepped off the plane and saw a "tall, handsome man" standing with the local minister. They spent the whole week flirting back and forth despite the strict "No dating the locals" rule.

Their relationship continued even after she returned to America. Thanks to modern technology, they were able to Skype with each other until she could see him again. At one point during their relationship, he moved to the U.S. to study at Harding University, so she transferred there to join him. She later returned to Hungary a second time, and he took her to a Hungarian castle and proposed to her. But Dargai says they still had a long distance relationship "pretty much until the day we got married."

Dargai's adventure at BCS began with a phone call. She and her husband took a trip to Austin for their one-year anniversary, and both loved it. Dargai later started looking on the BCS website and saw an opening for a position teaching English. She applied for the job and called the next day, leaving a voicemail on principal Carol Johnson's answering machine.

Later that night, Johnson called back, without hearing Dar-

gai's message, and asked if she was interested in the job.

"We did the interview that night over the phone," Dargai says.

Since arriving at BCS, Dargai has had many fun experiences. She remembers the time a prank was played on her during her first year. Former teacher J.D. Robson sneaked across the hallway with his class to tape Dargai's door shut. She and her class ended up getting one of the boys to barge through the door and break through the tape.

In her free time, Dargai enjoys playing with her dog Lucy. She also looks forward to road trips, cooking, trying new things, "and, of course, reading and writing."

Graessle definitely agrees that Dargai enjoys to read and write. She says Dargai often goes over to her house and the two of them ex-

change books and talk about them.

Math teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth also credits Dargai with influencing her choice of reading material.

"She got me to read a poem," Hollingsworth says, laughing. "Maybe more than one."

Hollingsworth also says Dargai has impacted her life by encouraging her to live well, and she thinks their "best stories are yet to come" when they travel to Europe as senior class sponsors.

When she's in the classroom, Dargai loves all the different activities she gets to do with her students.

"I always look forward to Shakespeare," Dargai says. In a different life, she says she would've been a Shakespearean actor.

Then again, if life had turned out differently she might have been a circus performer with her brothers. But it's safe to say BCS is glad she chose to be an English teacher.



Moss

continued from page 1

dents on retreats, mission trips, and youth rallies. He wrote and directed several plays and musicals for the youth group and the church, and drove a bus to pick up kids from East Austin to participate.

In 1987, while working as a real estate broker, Moss began to teach two morning classes at BCS pro bono before heading to his other job. In the late '80s, he closed his brokerage and began teaching full time at BCS until he retired in 2007. Moss was also part of the creation of a humanities class at BCS.

"I appreciated Mr. Moss's wry sense of humor which he injected into both his conversations and his lessons in the classroom," sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart said. "He and I shared an interest in the study of the classical civilizations and also of scientific advancements."

Last July, Moss was diagnosed with lung cancer, although he had never smoked. On Jan. 4, his family was called in and Moss was put in hospice care. The next day, BCS faculty and staff met around the flagpole to pray for the Moss family. That evening, surrounded by family, Moss passed away.

"What was most obvious about Gary Moss was the loving care he demonstrated for his wife, daughters, and mother," Stewart said.

Saturday, Jan. 9 was the funeral at Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, and Moss was laid to rest at the Douglass cemetery on Sunday.

Varsity girls second in district, ready for playoffs

By Joshua Sass

The varsity girls are ready for another run to state, after making the state tournament three of the past four years, missing only last year.

The Lady Bears have dominated in district thus far, having only struggled against Marble Falls. Brentwood is 8-2 in district play, with both their losses to Marble Falls and solid grip on second place.

Players and head coach Devan Loftis said that while district runner-up is not what they wanted to accomplish, it actually makes the road to state easier for the Lady Bears.

"We are going to be able to continue the journey to state that we have taken in past years," senior Cailin McDaniel said. "As a team we're really excited about that."

Senior Keely Hardin and junior Alicia Dixon lead the team with 10.8 and 10.7 points per game, respectively. Dixon leads in rebounding with 8.3 per game, followed by junior Kayleigh Lawrence with 4.9 per game. Hardin leads with 2.8 assists and 2.2 steals per game.

Following are game results since the holidays:

1/5: TSD 46-23 W

Brentwood coasted to their first district win of 2016 in dominant fashion. BCS worked their will on offense, and TSD found it difficult to score against the Lady Bears' top five. Dixon led with 12 points and seven rebounds.

1/8: CTCS 62-35 W

The Lady Bears blew out another opponent on homecoming night in a district matchup. Again, Brentwood played freshmen for many minutes

after establishing a dominant lead. Strong three-point shooting and their opponent's passive offense led to the easy win. Hardin scored 30 points and made eight three-pointers to break the school single-game record.

1/12: @RRCA 49-29 W

Playing in a hostile environment in a difficult rivalry game, the girls were aided by their loyal fan base, which was constantly chanting "Scoreboard!" to remind the opposition how far they were behind. Despite struggling from behind the arc, Brentwood waltzed to victory in a fast-paced contest. Junior Addy Hardin led scoring with 12, and Dixon led rebounding with seven.

1/14: @Marble Falls 40-27 L

With a 4-0 district record, the Lady Bears came up against another tough crowd versus their top competition in district play. The Lady Bears kept it close to the end, but Marble Falls' strong free throw shooting and a lack of offensive production kept the game out of reach. Addy Hardin led scoring with 12, and Dixon pulled down 13 rebounds.

1/15: San Juan Diego 69-20 W

The Lady Bears easily defeated the weakest opponent in their district, dominating on both ends of the court. Dixon led with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

1/19: St. Stephens 55-45 L

Brentwood struggled during the first quarter against this non-district opponent, but a resurgence in the second quarter brought BCS to within three. The game remained close through the third, but St. Stephens pulled away in the fourth.



photo: Darnell Mack

Breaking ankles Senior Keely Hardin puts a move on a Central Texas Christian defender during the Lady Bears' 62-35 homecoming win. Hardin scored 30 points in the game, including a school-record eight three-pointers.

1/22: @Concordia 62-31 W

Concordia struggled in all aspects of the game against a strong performance from the Lady Bears. Coach Loftis rested starters early.

1/26: Marble Falls 45-40 L

The Lady Bears played from behind for a majority of the game, but the score was always close. With less than four minutes to play, a series of five fouls were called against BCS. Loftis described them as "questionable at best,

some of which I had never seen before." The girls stayed calm as they attempted to create a comeback, but their opponent sank free throw after free throw. Dixon scored 17 points.

1/28: @TSD W

After a slow start, the girls settled down and the shots began falling.

2/2: @CTCS W

With outside shots well defended, the Lady Bears found ways to score down low.

Boys sit atop district standings with two games left

continued from page 1

successful." After falling way behind in the first quarter, Brentwood settled down and quickly came back to take the lead.

"The crowd that night was incredible, and the Claw Crew showed out in helping give our kids energy," Thrift said.

Johnson leads the team in scoring with 15 points per game, followed by junior Graham Marks, with 12.

Junior Michael Hickl leads with nine rebounds per game, including a total of 32 in two games against Faith Academy.

Following are the team's results since the holidays:

1/5: TSD 50-42 W

BCS outscored TSD most of the game and took their record to 2-0 in district. With strong three-point shooting, the Bears eventually pulled away. Marks had 26 points, including

eight three-pointers.

1/8: CTCS 67-48 W

Brentwood overcame a 15-2 deficit in the first quarter. Playing in front of a large and very vocal homecoming crowd, the Bears took a 26-20 lead at halftime. Johnson helped Brentwood pull away in the third quarter when he hit several of his eight three-pointers. He had a game high 31 points.

"I kept my eyes on the rim, and the shots kept falling," Johnson said.

Senior Robert Lesko sat out several minutes with foul trouble. But freshmen Micah Best, Sam Dixon, and Connor Troutman came in and helped Brentwood retain the lead.

1/12: @RRCA 64-38 W

The Bears went 4-0 in district by dominating their rival Round Rock Christian. They held the lead basically the entire game by weakening the Crusader team, which had six of their players ineligible. Johnson led the team with

19 points. Hickl led with 16 rebounds.

1/14: @Faith Acad. Marble Falls 55-51 L

Brentwood could not stop the three ball as the Flames overcame an early first quarter deficit. The game then became tight for most of the way before Faith Academy slowly pulled away at the end of the game. This put the Bears at a 4-1 record in district.

Johnson scored 31 points, and Hickl had 17 rebounds.

1/15: @San Juan Diego 58-25 W

The Bears jumped to a 5-1 record in district by dominating San Juan Diego in all four quarters. The boys jumped to an early lead and just kept building on it. The big lead allowed some of the bench players to play in the fourth quarter. Marks scored 16 points, and Lesko had 10 points and eight rebounds.

1/19: Khabele 78-12 W

Brentwood defeated Khabele from the start. They were up 30-0 in the first quarter.

1/22: @Round Rock Concordia 70-44 W

The Bears crushed the Cardinals at their home court. They maintained their lead the whole game by going on several small runs. Johnson scored 21 points, and Lesko had 17 points and 9 rebounds.

1/26: Faith Acad. Marble Falls 53-41 W

This huge win over the Flames gave Brentwood an 8-1 record in district. BCS maintained the lead for most of the game. Hickl led the team with 15 rebounds, and Johnson scored 21.

1/28: @TSD 39-32 L

In this important district game, the Bears fell short by shooting very poorly and getting out-rebounded 30-19.

2/2: @CTCS 46-34 W

BCS got off to a better start in this rematch of the homecoming game. Foul trouble slowed the Bears, but rebounding by Hickl and big shots from Marks led to victory.

Baseball players aiming high; softball optimistic too

By Diego Escobedo

This year's varsity baseball team is confident and expecting to make it to the state tournament. They opened their season this week with a 10-1 win on Tuesday at home against Austin Royals.

The softball team started their season yesterday with a home game against Gateway Prep, and their next game will be Feb. 13 at home against St. Andrews.

The baseball team will play the Royals again on Monday, Feb. 8, also at home.

The team is confident, and many have said they expect to make it to the state tournament.

"I am confident that this is going to be a great season," senior John Hollingsworth said. "I expect us to make a deep playoff run."

Brentwood ended the regular season last year with a 9-1 district record (17-2 overall), winning district the for second year in a row. The season came to an end in the TAPPS 3A state semifinal game with a 2-0 loss against Sugarland Logos Prep.

Returning all-district players include leading hitter Jake Velasco and Hollingsworth, both seniors, and leading pitcher Garrison Ryberg, a junior. Newcomers include four freshmen and four others.

"There's a lot of young talent and great leadership," Velasco said. "I'm looking forward to a state championship."

The baseball team started after-school practices with head coach Brian Thrift and new assistant coach Brett Gerritse on Jan. 19. Before that, the team spent time throwing

during athletics period and then in the weight room after school with coach Ryan Christian.

Thrift said he does not discuss championships. Instead, the team's goals are to improve every day at each position, and to commit to working hard and doing their best.

"All of that stuff (championships) will take care of itself," he said.

The softball team will be playing their first several games without several key players, since some of the girls are still playing basketball and soccer. But the team will have all of its players when the district schedule begins against Central Texas Christian at home on March 7.

Brentwood had only one player graduate from last year's team. They have five all-district players returning, including first-team

pitcher Sofia Torres, a senior. Other all-district players are seniors Madi French, Hope Kronke, Hailey Miller, and Samantha Woolverton.

Junior Nicole Dobos will also be playing for the first time since her freshman year. New freshmen this year include Samantha Fowler, Kori Howell, and Nyna Vazquez.

Sladek said hitting and pitching should be a strength this year. He will focus on defense and baserunning.

"I expect to really compete for a playoff spot, and if the team chemistry comes together, we've got a chance at the district title, which will be very tough," Sladek said.

Karyn Morris will be the pitching coach this year, and assistant coaches will include Ryan Christian and Meagan Drew.

Girls' soccer team shows firepower, fights fatigue

By Joshua Sass

Offensive explosiveness has now become the norm. The girls' soccer team has scored 59 goals, compared to the 17 goals they had scored by this stage of the season last year.

The Lady Bears are 3-5 in district play and 6-6 over the course of the season. They are in fourth place in district with three games left.

Brentwood has switched formations from the 4-2-3-1, which head coach Cash Miller has typically taught and is used by the boys' team, to a more attack-based 3-5-3 in an attempt to raise their offensive strength and control the midfield more effectively. So far, it seems to have worked.

Unfortunately, the Lady Bears have struggled with having enough players to compete in games, which forces them to have players work much harder than what is normally needed. This has led to some extra fatigue on the field.

"I may be as proud of them as any team I have ever coached, because they work hard for one another under challenging circumstances, don't make excuses, and honestly are dangerous to play against," Coach Miller said. "I'm very proud of them."

Players agree they are focused and resolved.

"Even playing with injuries and illness, the girls have really stepped up," senior Hailey Miller said. "All of us are determined to succeed and make it to playoffs."

Miller leads with 16 goals, followed by freshman Madison Mosely with 10.

Following are game results since the Christmas holidays:

1/4: Veritas 9-2 L

Brentwood struggled in their district debut against the four-time defending state champions. Missing seniors Natalie Williams and

Rebekah Legband, the Lady Bears struggled to play defense against a strong offensive performance from Veritas. Despite the nine goals given up, Coach Miller said that Brentwood played well, and Sass had a season high 19 saves. There were bright spots on offense also, with Miller and Moseley each scoring one goal. Freshman Lauren Rzepniewski had two assists.

1/12: Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills 5-3 L

The Lady Bears were once again down a player in their second district matchup, and three girls were slowed by sickness. Despite this, the Lady Bears hung around for a majority of the game, including a 1-1 score at halftime. But eventually the girls were unable to match Kerrville's production.

1/15: @Boerne Geneva W

Brentwood showed determination in an evenly matched district competition that ended at 2-2. The referees made an error, though, as the game was not supposed to end in a tie. The game was completed on Feb. 2 before the teams played each other for their second matchup, and the Bears won on penalty kicks.

1/18: @Schertz John Paul 9-0 W

The Lady Bears dominated a weaker opponent in all aspects of the game. They executed their will offensively, and John Paul was unable to move the ball effectively against the Brentwood defense.

Miller had five goals. Rzepniewski and sophomore Nicole Petrik each had two assists. Senior Bella Spills scored her first goal ever.

1/26: Pharr 6-1 W

Brentwood offensively walked all over the weak Pharr defense, but the game quickly turned into a "chippy" one, with emotions running high on both sides after a Pharr player was called for a foul which resulted in a yellow card. Miller later was called for a number of

fouls and eventually was given a yellow card as well. The game was never close though, and Brentwood easily took the win.

Miller and Moseley each had two goals, and Legband had three assists.

1/29: @Kerrville 2-1 L

The Lady Bears lost in overtime against the

second place team in district despite an "outstanding" defensive performance, according to Coach Miller. Sass blocked two penalty kicks in an attempt to keep Brentwood in the game, but a deflection into the goal ended Brentwood's chances to win in extra time.

2/2: Boerne Geneva 8-2 L



photo: Jennifer Hitt

Watch this Senior Hailey Miller moves past a defender in a recent district game. Miller, who just signed to play soccer at Lyon College, leads the team with 16 goals.

THE BEAR FACTS FEBRUARY 2016

BCS junior returns from year abroad shooting documentary film

By Michelle Emmel

No way. Yes, Wei! She is back!

Junior Yunxi Wei returned to BCS in January after a year in China helping produce a TV show.

For the past year, Wei has been working as the script clerk for a documentary about a famous paraglider. The show is starring Ma Qiang, the 2014 Paragliding Accuracy World Cup champion. He also won second place in the FAI World Air Games during December in Dubai.

Wei got to manipulate the unmanned aerial vehicle which was used to film a lot of scenes, and she also handled the gyroscope shock absorber which kept the camera steady.

"The experience was very fun and exciting. I learned a lot from it," Wei said.

Wei is a fan of Ma Qiang, who is from the same hometown, Shenyang, as she is.

"He is fun and energetic and always enjoys talking about his flying adventures," Wei said.

Wei said the film, which is currently in the

post-production phase, will come out around August of this year.

Wei said she almost got the opportunity to paraglide but couldn't due to bad weather. One day, though, she said she will definitely try it.

Wei traveled by planes or high speed trains between cities such as Shenyang, where most of the film was shot; Linzhou, which includes a great vertical cliff where the paragliding scenes were shot; Benxi; and Beijing.

Wei said that she enjoyed the freedom of not being in school but was bored whenever she wasn't working on the film. To keep her English comprehension high, she chose to read books. She also got to spend time with her family when she took a break from the film.

Students and teachers gladly welcomed back the well loved student after missing her for the past year. The day Wei arrived in Austin, teacher Kaleen Graessle visited her at school registrar Nancy Tindel's house.

"I said, 'I thought you'd never come back,' and she said, 'I keep my promises,'" Graessle

said. "I love her and we are so happy that she is back. She is very brave and took advantage of that unique opportunity."

Wei left as a member of the Class of 2016 and is now a member of the Class of 2017. Although picking up where she left off was said to be the hardest part about coming back, Wei quickly returned into the usual hang of things. She is currently participating in choir and the competitive math team.

"I'm so happy to see all my friends again!" Wei said. "(I miss) the sweet and nice people who had influenced my life: my teachers and classmates."



photo: submitted

Producing BCS junior Yunxi Wei worked in China for the past year on a documentary about a famous paraglider.

Bears sing, act for talent show

By Ben Helyer

The less-than-annual Brentwood Christian talent show on Jan. 7 in the theater featured performances from 14 total students, resulting in nine total talents showcased, with comedy from sophomore hosts Alex Pittner and Austin Biegert between each act. The homecoming court was also announced for high school, after which the talent show winners were announced for middle school and high school.

Eighth-grader Adrie Gruis and ninth-grader Paul Stanglin won for the middle school division, and seniors Andrew Armstrong and Laura Doyle for the high school division. Stanglin and Gruis performed the song *Lucky*, while Armstrong and Doyle sang – partially accompanied by the senior class, who ran up onto the stage in the latter part of their performance – *Everyday*, a tune from *High School Musical*.

Other singers included sixth-grader Atticus Wiginton, sophomore MaeAnne Herring, juniors Hope Hutson and Charlie Vasquez, and seniors Margelid Baez and Sarah Arbuckle. Some even backed up their performance by playing various instruments.

Solo performer Maddie Bush, a seventh grader, and the sister duet of senior Chandler and eighth-grader Addison Alberda, splended the audience by dancing to music. Sophomore Louie Heilweil blew the minds of four volunteers with his magic.

Judging the event were drama teacher Michelle Alexander, band director Travis Pollard, and fourth-grade teacher Abbie Boyd.

Alexander said she was surprised by the diversity of talents and magnitude of enjoyment that she received at the show.

"(The show) was so fun," she said. "I realized that we have a lot of talent here at Brentwood."



photo: Dorothy Walters

Magic man Sophomore Louie Heilweil wowed the crowd with some magic at the talent show on Jan. 7.

Classes prep *Snow White, Wonka*

By Camille Sunshine

Brentwood Christian's middle school theater department will be performing *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Snow...Sort of...White* at 7 p.m. on Feb. 26-27.

Charlie will be taken to the PSIA one-act competition the weekend before, and *Snow* will compete at TCSIT in April.

Auditions were held before Christmas break for students in director Chloe Campbell's three drama classes, as well as for a few other selected middle schoolers. Students worked on their scripts over Christmas, and practice began at the beginning of January.

Snow...Sort of...White, by Ken Bradbury, is a one-act parody of the classic Snow White sto-

ry. The Narrator, played by eighth-grader Savannah Jowers, struggles to deal with the rest of her insane and distracted cast mates, until she hits a breaking point.

TCSIT rules require the play to be performed in under 20 minutes by fewer than 15 people, so *Snow...Sort of...White* had to be shortened, and a few minor characters were removed.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, originally a novel by Roald Dahl, was adapted into play form by Richard George. Five kids find golden tickets that enable them to take a tour of the mysterious Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. Eighth-grader Isaac Copeland will play Willy Wonka.

The PSIA rules allow a set, unlike TCSIT, and have a time limit of 40 minutes.

Mohrmann wins geography bee

By Mary Womack

With the correct answer to a question referencing Harry Potter, eighth-grader Aaron Mohrmann won the annual Brentwood Christian Geography Bee.

Funny thing is, he has never read Harry Potter books.

The Geography Bee kicked off in the theater at 8:10 a.m. on Jan. 26 to an audience ranging from fourth to eighth grade, with Mohrmann defeating fellow eighth grader Luke Banister in the championship round.

Becky Stewart once again served as bee supervisor and scorekeeper, while Jonathan

Weed served as the moderator.

Mohrmann took a one-point lead in the championship round before both contestants were given this question: "In the popular *Harry Potter* books series..., Harry catches the train to Hogwarts at the Kings Cross station in what major European city?" With the answer "London," Mohrmann won the Bee.

He received a medal and took an online quiz a few days later to see if he qualifies for the state-level bee in March.

Older brother Joseph Mohrmann, a BCS junior, also won the bee in eighth grade, as well as in sixth grade when Brentwood had two separate bees.