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THE BEAR FACTS

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VOL. 26 NO. 3

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2013

IN SHORT

Science Fair

Brentwood's fourth annual Science Fair took place in the FLC this week. On Dec. 11, students in grades 1-5 showed a total of 143 projects; the next day, grades 6-12 presented 181 projects. Teachers Michelle Mohrmann and Glenda Morrow coordinated the fair, assisted by principal Mara Ashley and more than 30 parent volunteers. Winners will be announced before Christmas break, and the next optional level will be at the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival in February at the Palmer Events Center.

Two babies born

Bella Christina was born to administrative assistant Lauren Warner and her husband David on the night of Wednesday, Nov. 27. She weighed 8 lbs., 7 oz. and was 20½ inches long.

Two weeks earlier, Anna Beth Weed was born to secondary teacher Jonathan Weed and his wife Amber at 12:09 p.m. The Weeds' third child weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. and was 19½ inches long.

Everyone is doing well.

Food drive results

BCS students collected 3,820 items of food last month, and it was delivered to the Round Rock Serving Center. Cynthia Hutson's second grade collected more than 14 items per student, tops in the school. As a reward, the students will visit Village Christian Apartments and assist residents there.

Amber Kidd's sixth grade had the best average in middle school, and Travis Pollard's juniors won in high school. These classes were awarded a half day off of school to work at the Round Rock Serving Center next semester.

BCS Christmas traditions abound

By Deirdre Smith

Finally, it's that time of year when it's OK to wear red and green together, when every class seems to have a scented holiday candle, and rooms are decorated with Christmas lights and Christmas trees. You can even sing "Jingle Bells" without being judged. Yes, everyone, it's Christmas time, and at Brentwood Christian, this also means things like Santa Shop, Angel Tree, and the Christmas pageant.

The elementary halls are strewn with holiday arts and crafts depicting Christmas trees and stockings. If that isn't enough indication of the season, then the scent of gingerbread houses and pine trees should make it clear.

Walking into room B120 last week, a visitor would see a trail of younger students standing outside, anxiously waiting for their turn to go into the Santa shop and buy presents for their family and friends. The Santa shop is a fundraiser done each year during the month of December by the eleventh-grade class. Once a

child goes in, he is paired with a junior who leads the student around the room and helps him pick the gifts for everyone on his list.

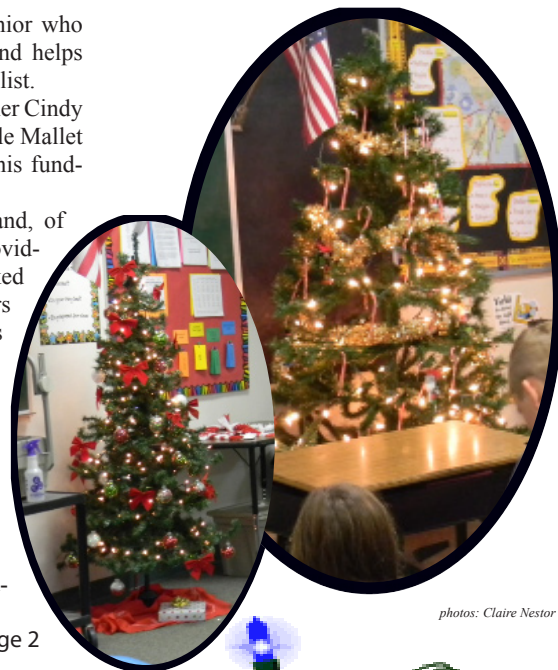
Art teacher Lori Morin, theater teacher Cindy Singleton, and science teacher Michelle Mallet were the leading forces for making this fundraiser successful.

The funds go to the junior class and, of course, Fund Resources Inc., who provided the products. However, when asked who provided the merchandise, juniors would say it was Santa Claus and his elves.

The Christmas pageant, which simultaneously teaches the kids and reminds the audience about the true meaning of Christmas, is on Dec. 19. After the performance, faculty will serve cookies and cocoa to the students and parents.

With sponsor Kaleen Graessle, Na-

see Christmas page 2



photos: Claire Nestor

Renowned pianist plays with students in theater

By MJ Sung

An accomplished pianist, Don Irwin, performed at Brentwood Christian's Barton Theater at 6 p.m. on Dec. 7, using the 100-year-old piano that used to be his own. The concert was presented by the fine arts department, and the

tickets were \$10 for general admission and \$25 for limited VIP seating, which included backstage passes.

Irwin played with the high school choir, junior vocal soloists Haley Hutson and Tyler Clark, a brass/flute trio, junior flute soloist Kate Zipperer, and saxophone soloist Travis Pollard.

"It was scary at first, but it turned out to be OK," Zipperer said. "It was very exciting to have an opportunity to play with a famous pianist."

After the intermission, Irwin played some Christmas music by himself.

The nine-foot concert grand piano was donated to BCS by Ron Knight and his wife Ali, Brentwood Oaks members who are acquaintances of Irwin. Development director Kevin Claypool, who planned the concert, said the Knights suggested the theater needed a piano. Claypool said Irwin had four pianos and sold one to the Knights, who then donated it.

Beginning in mid-September, Claypool planned the concert, which he said was to "show off" the grand piano. Costs for the performance were underwritten by the Knights.

Irwin is an internationally recognized Steinway pianist who has performed at schools in South Africa and Zimbabwe. He has also worked as a recording studio musician for artists such as Prince and Donna Summer, and has created orchestrations of his own.

Irwin came to Brentwood during school hours on Dec. 4 to rehearse with students.

Claypool said it is possible that Irwin could play again at the BCS theater next year.



photo: Kay Taylor

Beautiful music The high school choir sings with pianist Don Irwin under the direction of Missy Weaver during the concert at Barton Theater on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Big News from Little China: Grace Cammack

Christmas a chance to reconsider use of two extreme words

Christmas is fast approaching and we are entering the “most wonderful time of the year.” Peace and love all around, yes? But what is love? Is it commonplace label or a special title? I find it best to take a step back and analyze the opposite first.

I assume people have heard that “hate” is a strong word, and thus should not be used. I’ve always thought and operated on the meaning of “hate” to be “to wish death or condemnation to hell.” Seriously. I don’t know where I heard it or even if I am correct, but from a very young age this is the way I’ve viewed the word. That being said, I don’t think I’ve used “hate” a lot since I was very young. I have said that I don’t like things, or highly dislike things, but for me to say I hate something, or someone, is almost like cursing in my mind. It’s just the way I’ve been wired.

I’m not saying to never ever use the word “hate.” However, flashing back to my middle school years, the things people my age “hated”

the most were trivial. Things like doing homework, annoying parents, older brothers, or a broken pencil in the middle of a test. Hardly deserving of eternal separation from God. Pausing to think about our word choice could help society in the long run. It’s OK to express dislike, but think before you blurt out hatred for another human being. The majority of people see “hate” simply as a stronger and shorter word than “dislike.”

It is possible that my definition is contrived from myself. But even though I am technically incorrect in my meaning of “hate,” a strong dislike for anyone is not a statement to be made lightly.

Of course, there is the rebuttal that if “hate” is a strong word to be saved for few situations, then isn’t “love” an equally strong word that is not meant to be used lightly? In theory, I would say yes. But in practice I say no. For me to say that I “love” someone means that I see their eternal value. Not that I love them romantically or that they

make me happy. I want to use the word “love” to mean that I can see how they are important. Do I use the word love more than I use the word hate? Yes, I do. I believe we are called to love others first. When I see people, the first thing I want to look for is their meaning. How do they fit in the grand scheme of things? How are they important? Once I have found this, I find it easier for me to love them. However, if you

know me at all, the word “love” hardly ever escapes my lips when talking seriously. It just doesn’t fall out of my mouth as easily as other words do. But that doesn’t mean I don’t love in my head.

You may have noticed that my definitions of “love” and “hate” both revolve around people. I know. I think words like “love” and “hate” are reserved for people. Souls. Homework cannot go to hell, so what reason do I have to hate it? Likewise, homework has no eternal value, so what reason do I have to love it? When I stand before God

He is not going to ask me what my score was on my Bible blog post. Based on this criteria, the things we say we hate haven’t earned it, nor have the things we say we loved deserved it.

It makes so much sense in my head. I can like Nutella and love my family. If I were to love Nutella and like my family, what does that show about where I see value? If I value my family more than my food, then shouldn’t my verb choice make that clear?

My definition of “love” is the harder one for me to stick to. It sounds good in theory, but there seem to be so many things in life that deserve my love. It is almost that I am too positive to not love something. But, like I said before, things, objects, do not have eternal value so there is no way they can accept my love.

I don’t expect anyone to stop using the words love and hate, but it can’t hurt to watch what you say during any circumstance. The worst that can happen is that you sound less passionate than you actually are, but a quick remedy to that is to act. Actions speak louder than words, don’t they? So, this holiday season, don’t hate that you didn’t get the newest iPhone 7 Beta Ray whatever, but love your great aunt who may be spending her last Christmas on earth.

If I value my family more than my food, then shouldn't my verb choice make that clear?

THE BEAR FACTS

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

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

Editor-in-Chief
Grace Cammack

Photo Editor
Hannah Kwon

Reporters

- Nicholas Bergeron Hannah Odum
- Maria Harris Lauren Petrik
- Jin Ha Jeong Jonathon Reich
- Kyle Jung Joshua Sass
- Hannah Kwon Deirdre Smith
- Tony Lee M.J. Sung
- Samantha Mack Camille Sunshine
- Elizabeth McKinney Mary Womack
- Claire Nestor

Adviser

Jonathan Weed

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

Christmas traditions bring joy to BCS campus

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tional Honor Society goes to Rosedale to sing and play with the students there on Friday, Dec. 13. Band students will even play a few carols.

Angel Tree is a Christian organization that takes donations to help children whose parents are in prison. Each Christmas the elementary students donate money to this charity so that these kids can have new clothes and toys for Christmas.

The elementary students are encouraged not to just ask their parents for the money, but to do chores around the house to earn money. Once children have donated, their names are put on a Christmas tree outside the classroom with a pair of angel wings to recognize their hard work.

First graders went on their annual field trip to Elgin Christmas Tree Farm on Dec. 6 to cut down trees and bring them back to decorate the classrooms. They also decorated gingerbread houses into “candy-covered wonders,” according to elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed.

Encore performed on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8, at Barnes & Noble in the Arboretum. They performed some of the classic Christmas carols to create a cheery atmosphere and provide entertainment for those shopping.

Dr. Weed is doing her annual reading of her favorite Christmas books to kindergarten through sixth-grade classes. She reads “Mr.

Willowby’s Christmas Tree” by Robert Barry and “The Night Before Christmas” by Clement C. Moore to kindergarten, and for first grade she reads “How Santa Got His Job” by Stephen Krensky and the “Tale of Three Trees” by Angela Hunt.

“Ramona and the Three Wise Persons” by Beverly Cleary is read to second grade, “Christmas on the Prairie” by Laura Ingalls Wilder

to third grade, and “The Year of the Perfect Christmas” by Gloria Houston to fourth grade. Fifth grade’s story is “The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey” by Susan Wojciechowski, while the sixth grade will hear “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry.

“This is a tradition I will really miss after my retirement,” Dr. Weed said. “It brings me joy every year.”



photos: Ashley Dargai, Melissa Vandygriff

Acts of love Left: Seniors show how much money was raised during the ‘Star Wars for Bryce’ fundraiser on Nov. 7. Right: Recent BCS graduate Morgan Vandygriff and first-grader Lucy Loftis pose before and after donating hair to Locks of Love.

THE BEAR FACTS DECEMBER 2013

Partnership guests enjoy elegant dinner; bidding includes surprise

By Lauren Petrik

An assortment of artistic entertainers and a wide variety of auction items made the school's 23rd annual Partnership Dinner on Nov. 23 a special night.

The evening began with guests arriving at the Renaissance Austin Hotel to the sound of the BCS jazz combo. Those who browsed the silent auction area observed Austin potter Don Brimberry at his wheel, working at his craft.

Silent auction items included excursions with members of faculty and staff. These ranged from simple things, like a picnic with kindergarten teacher Linda Allen, to more elaborate journeys, such as a tour of Austin with administrators Stephen Colwell and Kevin Claypool.

Next, guests were invited to dine in the ballroom. Centerpieces on the tables included pottery available for sale. Contributing to the ambiance were mood lighting and white sheer curtains that swept the wall gracefully.

For the first part of the dinner, Caleb Hawley entertained guests with his voice and guitar. Then a video showcasing a day in the life of a BCS student was shown. President Marquita Moss gave a speech on the future of the school.

Artist Joe Castillo also entertained with his sand and art performance. Using his fingers to draw pictures in sand, Castillo added color, light, and music to enhance it in a captivating way. The closing act of the night consisted of



photo: Stephen Colwell

Nice gig Sophomore Nick Pittner was asked to fill in for musician Caleb Hawley's drummer.

Hawley playing a song to which Castillo had composed a sand/art story.

After dinner, a twist on the live auction was presented. The varsity basketball teams had "decorated" the yards of Libby Weed and Marquita Moss that afternoon. People bid on the opportunity to take the "decorations" down, or leave them up. Money went toward the library.

The live auction was led by auctioneers Jason Rzepnewski and Bob Sheehan. The two sing-chanted the bidding on a diamond and pearl ring, a small puppy, a Denver Broncos helmet signed by Peyton Manning, and two airline tickets to anywhere in the US.

Lower elementary's KC Kids spreads kindness, compassion

By Samantha Mack

The lower elementary version of Rachel's Challenge, called KC Kids, is back for another year at BCS, and in addition to making another paper chain, they will be doing service projects.

KC Kids began at Brentwood in the spring of 2012. This year the group is being led by Tim Boyer and his wife B, who are the parents of a BCS kindergartener.

Rachel's Challenge is an organization that was formed after the death of 17-year-old Rachel Scott, who was killed in the tragedy at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. The organization was created by Rachel's parents in order to maintain their daughter's ideas and beliefs, one of which was about starting a chain reaction of kindness.

KC Kids is a concept presented by the Rachel's Challenge website, designed for kindergarteners up to fifth graders, and is a group related to the FOR organization, or Friends of Rachel. Both were created to inspire others to better the world through simple acts of kindness and compassion. Those two traits are represented by the letters "K" and "C" in KC Kids.

The children who joined this group had one meeting on Dec. 2, and will continue to meet every other Monday to talk about ways they can spread kindness and compassion in each

of their lives. They each received journals so that they can write down and draw all the acts of kindness they have seen through the month, and record the needs they see in the school or community. In their next meeting they will share what they saw.

"Hopefully we can spread kindness and compassion to everyone in need," Mrs. Boyer said.

In addition to the service projects, which are based on the children's ideas to help their local community, they have decided to do a large paper chain. This is done by having the students write down, on a slip of construction paper, a good deed they saw someone do. Then they make the strip into a link and gradually add on to the chain. At the end of the year they will bring out the completed chain not only to see how long it is, but also to celebrate all the kindness and compassion that was accomplished at the school.

This was done two years ago by KC Kids. Last year, when the leaders were Tracy Grooms and Amy Herring, the group helped out at some of the fine arts performances that Brentwood put on, holding doors, greeting the visitors, and helping clean up afterward.

"We as a group hope to continue to make Rachel's ideals and dreams a reality by touching the lives of millions of people, through a chain reaction of kindness and compassion," Mrs. Boyer said.

Juniors eat s'mores, play hide and seek, unite at campout

By Tony Lee

The junior class of Brentwood Christian had a campout on Friday, Nov. 15, near the soccer field to build class unity.

"I thought we could do something that could bring all the eleventh graders together both spiritually and socially," secondary principal Carol Johnson said.

The campout, starting at 10 p.m., began with a campfire near the soccer field with 34 students participating. Adult sponsors who got to play fun games with them included Stephen Colwell, J.D. Robson, Michelle Mallett, Danielle McGhee, and Johnson.

With the help of class president Madalyn Garelick, Johnson planned the event because she said there are retreats for several other classes, but not for tenth or eleventh grades.

"I just wanted the kids to be able to talk about where they are at right now, what their goals are, and what their plans for the junior year

are," Johnson said.

During the campfire, many students enjoyed s'mores. Cody Hunt, Kate Zipperer, and Colwell shared devotionals.

Colwell gave words about how great God is, that he knows the names of every star in the sky, even the ones we can't see. He said God is awesome in every way.

Hunt spoke about his nephew passing away, and encouraged his classmates to live their lives to the fullest.

"I could tell he really believed in what he was saying," Chris Wishard said.

Zipperer talked about what it felt like giving a devotional in front of many students.

"I was pretty nervous about it at first, but it went well," she said. "It gave people a chance to know me a little better since I'm new."

The juniors then got to play many games such as hide and seek, zombie, glow-in-the-dark tag, basketball, and much more. They played all over the campus, including the soc-

cer field, FLC, and playground.

"My favorite one was zombie," Charlie Sinclair said. "There was so much tension going on!"

The juniors had different kinds of games that they liked the most.

"My favorite part about the campout was the glow stick part," Rachel Dixon said. "We turned the lights out and it was really fun!"

Even after the games, most of the boys played basketball until 5 a.m., but the girls went to sleep at the FLC building.

At 7 a.m., parents started to come, and some



photo: Carol Johnson

Kumbaya Juniors enjoy a campfire during their Nov. 15 campout.

of them brought donuts and sausage balls with them. All the students soon left, ending the campout.

"I absolutely loved the campout," Garelick said. "It was great to not have a set schedule but instead just hang out as a group."

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Joanna Stewart

THE BEAR FACTS DECEMBER 2013

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2014.

Quirky thespian shares chuckles, compassion

By Elizabeth McKinney

After Joanna Stewart's brilliant performance as Ms. Hannigan in "Annie," many would find it hard to believe that she once suffered from severe stage fright and forgetting her lines.

One of the memories I recall most fondly from her early days as an actress involves Chloe Campbell's seventh-grade drama class, where she and I performed as sisters debating what to do with our mother's ashes.

We made it through barely three pages of the script before forgetting all of our lines, and even Mrs. Campbell's prompting could not help us recover. At the time, we were mortified and certain we would never be able to show our faces on stage again. Now, all it takes to remind JoJo of how far she has come is to say, "sour grapes," one of the lines that we did remember.

"Sour grapes" was humiliating," she recalls with a laugh. "I wanted to crawl under a couch and die. Even sweet Mrs. Campbell couldn't think of anything nice to say."

Having acted in multiple productions, Joanna has risen above and beyond to become one of Brentwood's most treasured actresses – and one of its most memorable personalities.

About her best friend, Marisa Wagner says, "She's hilarious and very flamboyant. JoJo brightens the whole room with her jokes and all the quirky little things she says."

Junior and fellow Encore member Tyler Clark describes her as "a boisterous diva, who's also kind of a grandma at heart."

Joanna arrived at Brentwood in second grade, and she and her older sisters quickly became an integral part of the school's Fine Arts department. The Stewart house is "always full of music and theatrics," so it was natural that her family participate in the many artistic activities around campus. Joanna recalls playing Barbies with her sister Victoria (BCS '11) as a child, saying that even at a young age they were incorporating "elaborate storylines and love scandals" into their play. She grew up part of an acting family; even her father performed in numerous Shakespeare plays throughout her early years. And when her sister became one of Brentwood's actresses, JoJo knew she would have to eventually decide if she would follow

in her footsteps.

Her greatest obstacle, however, was stage fright.

"It was body-crippling," she says. "Butterflies in my stomach, throw-up-everywhere stage fright."

But the reason she plucked up the courage to try her hand at acting came from a single person – theater teacher Cindy Singleton.

"I was so nervous about auditioning for 'Mr. Flannery's Ocean,'" Joanna remembers.

Beyond her ability to transform into other people, Joanna is beloved for her ability to laugh loudly, love unconditionally, and live with an unusual compassion and depth. She becomes fast friends with nearly everyone she meets, including the new students who are sometimes left out the first few weeks of school.

Remembering her own arrival to Brentwood as a freshman, senior Natalie Bergeron says about Joanna, "She's always the new kids' first friend."

JoJo says spending time with her friends is her favorite thing to do outside of school, and she can usually be

caped and were just walking around campus, trying not to get caught. Joanna was seriously freaking out; she hates breaking the rules!"

"I'm definitely a rule-follower," Joanna agrees amiably. "When we got caught, I cried."

Spending eleven years with someone is more than enough time to know them very well, and while Joanna hopes she will forge strong new friendships in college, she will deeply miss the friends she has grown up with at Brentwood.

"I'll be devastated to leave," she laments. "I'll never be able to form friendships like this again. With these people, I can just look across the room and give someone a look, and they know exactly what I mean."

She plans to attend Harding University in Searcy, Ark., and study to become a nurse, with an ultimate goal of becoming a midwife.

"It's something I'm deeply passionate about," JoJo reflects. "I probably like childbirth a little too much, but I think it's one of the most fascinating things on earth, and I want to be a part of that."

She dreams about one day going to a third-world country and being a midwife for the poorer women there, where she can share God with them as she helps them bring their children into the world.

Punctuated by laughter, Joanna recalls one of her favorite memories about her time here in Austin.

"We were in junior high, and it was Tacky Christmas Sweater Day. The senior girls took us outside to get pictures, but it was just after my knee surgery; I was

so much on drugs," she remembers. "And when they posted the picture all over school, everybody else was cute, and my leg was propped up, I was covered in this giant blanket, and my face was completely blank. I seriously looked like I had mental problems!"

JoJo is sure to make wonderful memories wherever she goes, taking with her the fond remembrances of friends and time spent at Brentwood. Her quirky personality, self-described "black Santa chuckle," inspiring dramatic performances, and warm hugs will surely be missed in the halls of BCS, but she will continue to motivate, encourage, love, and laugh wherever God takes her next.



photos: submitted

"But she was willing to believe in me, and so that was my first play. ... My sister told me the only way to conquer your fear is to face it, and that was true about my stage fright."

Not only did she get the part, she went so far as to win Best Actress in the TAPPS One Act competition for her performance as Mrs. Pringle in "Mr. Flannery's Ocean," which was a "pleasant shock" to her.

"I was totally surprised," JoJo confesses. "(Mrs. Pringle) was the complete opposite of Mrs. Hannigan, who was the most fun character to play ever. I was way more sassy on set when I was Mrs. Hannigan."

Singleton says Joanna has "blossomed" throughout her years at Brentwood, and her theater work is reminiscent of what famous Russian actor Constantine Stanislavski said: "Plan your role consciously at first, then play it truthfully."

found amongst a herd of them, whether older, younger, new, or well acclimated to BCS.

"If I could have an entire day to do whatever I wanted," she says, "I would just spend it with my friends. I could just sit in a room and talk to them about nothing, and that would be a great day."

A new kid herself in second grade, Joanna quickly bonded with Marisa Wagner, who tells of a blue Styrofoam heart she and JoJo made their first year together, which they cut in half and each kept.

"I still have it on my mirror!" she exclaims with a smile, and Joanna also still has her half.

Also partners in crime, Marisa recalls a time when she and Stewart were stuck in an after-school study hall with nothing to do: "We es-

TEACHER FEATURE: Brooke Hollingsworth

Math + Bible, logic + creativity = Dr. Hollingsworth

By Nicholas Bergeron

It would seem ironic to anybody who has taken one of her classes that, as a high school student, secondary math and Bible teacher Brooke Hollingsworth said that she would never be a teacher. Students would tell you that, since coming to Brentwood, Hollingsworth has made her classes both fun and educational. And they're not the only ones enjoying them.

Hollingsworth remembers a humorous in-

stance from her first year teaching seventh-grade boys Bible, when some of the students brought in one boy hog-tied to a tree branch – all in good fun.

"I probably should have given some detentions that day," Hollingsworth admits.

The creative element of teaching is a joy for Hollingsworth, who shows students interesting methods of cutting mathematical Gordian knots and helping them "learn to think." Her quadratic formula song is sung to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel" and helps Algebra II students remember the tricky chain of variables. Any BCS Pre-Calculus student should be able to sing it on command.

Apart from her creativity, students compliment their teacher for her clarity and conciseness in instruction.

Hollingsworth was born in Lexington, Kentucky. She went to elementary school in

Bremerton, Wash., and went to middle school and high school in Cleveland, Tenn. Growing up, she knew she had an interest and affinity for mathematics; its logical nature and objectivity attracted her to it. It's a field in which "when you're right, you're right" very much applies. Many of her colleagues are also grateful for her assistance in the area of technology.

Hollingsworth is married to Brent Hollingsworth, whom she met at Hyde Park Church of Christ while in graduate school, and is the mother of two children: Lanae, who graduated last year, and John, who is a BCS sophomore.

With a Ph.D in mathematics from UT-Arlington, a BS in mathematics from Harding, and a MATS from Austin Graduate School of Theology, Hollingsworth is plentifully qualified for her position at Brentwood. The school offered her a part-time position teaching Algebra II, but, because of her Bible credentials, she filled the full-time position she has today. Brentwood, according to Hollingsworth, is a unique place at which it's possible to teach both math and Bible. She currently teaches Algebra II, Math 7, and Bible for senior girls.

"(She) thinks globally rather than just locally, and the confluence of her skills and experience benefits people here at BCS and around the world," calculus teacher Kaleen Graessle says.

Hollingsworth uses her free time to work with Come Before Winter, an organization dedicated to "renewing, equipping, honoring, and uniting women in ministry around the world." Since 2001, Come Before Winter has held Bible studies and renewals – four- to five-

day meetings of worship, study, and prayer for the purpose of hearing the voice of God – for women in six continents. Hollingsworth is a primary writer for their curriculum on Exodus. Her work with Come Before Winter has taken her to Fiji, Bosnia, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Honduras. She will go to Lima, Peru, over spring break.

"I get to work with and meet women God is using all over the world," Hollingsworth says.

Last spring, Hollingsworth was Brentwood's first female chapel speaker. One of her students convinced the school administration to allow this, and recommended Hollingsworth personally. She considers the experience a great honor.

"It was an honor to be teaching as God has called me to," Hollingsworth says.

Since she came to Brentwood, Hollingsworth says she has seen the school change for the better – more school spirit, a greatly improved middle school department, and better sports teams.

Outside of work, Hollingsworth likes exercising, and does yoga with Graessle. She also enjoys coffee, watching her own children and other BCS students play sports, and reading, especially theology. When time allows, Hollingsworth follows the Longhorns and Spurs.

"It took me a few years to realize that (teaching) was what I liked doing," Hollingsworth says.

However, at this point in her career, there can be no doubt.



photo: Grace Cammack

Solve for X Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth is known for her patience helping students, such as junior Carson Chambers, with math.

Clark, Stewart win 'Best' awards; cast misses Morin in one act

By Jin Ha Jeong

After winning second place in the TAPPS One Act district competition at their own campus on Nov. 3, the Brentwood theater class advanced to the regional competition. BCS finished second place at this performance in Kerrville and failed to advance to state competition.

Finishing the musical "Annie" with great success, Brentwood theater members immediately started their one act play "Mr. Flannery's Ocean." In less than two weeks, the eight cast members completely finished learning their scripts. Compared to the other schools, BCS lacked in preparation time and was missing one actor, but all the actors achieved awards.

Junior Tyler Clark earned the Best Actor award at district, while junior Haley Hutson, sophomore Jodie Singleton, and freshman

Charlie Vazquez got All Star Cast. Freshman Camille Sunshine, sophomore Hope Kronke, and seniors Natalie Bergeron and Joanna Stewart earned honorable mention.

In the regional competition, Brentwood did not place in the top four. Stewart won Best Actress, and Clark earned honorable mention.

"I am very proud of this group of students and the work they did together," theater director Cindy Singleton said. "They fought through incredible barriers to do the very best they could at both levels of competition. I am proud to be their director."

Vazquez was an understudy, or replacing cast, for senior Bryce Morin, who wasn't able to participate due to illness. According to Singleton, Vazquez did amazing work in the role of Mr. Flannery, which requires a lot of experience and skill. Though he had a week and a half, he mem-



photo: Grace Cammack

Combat Freshman Charlie Vazquez, junior Haley Hutson, and senior Joanna Stewart performed "Mr. Flannery's Ocean" at district well enough to advance to regionals.

orized his lines and played out the script.

Still, the students missed Morin, who won Best Actor as Mr. Flannery doing the same play in his sophomore year. Stewart said everyone found it difficult to do what was "basically

Bryce's play" without him.

"Doing it with out him just felt wrong," she said. "It was hard to keep our morale up knowing that an important part of our theatre family was so sick."

Varsity girls take on tough foes, win tournament title

By Camille Sunshine

After taking the first-place trophy at the All Saints Tournament in Tyler last weekend, the Lady Bears are 8-3.

This weekend they are competing in a tournament in Houston, with another one to come in College Station later this month. District will begin with a game against Round Rock Christian Academy on Dec. 16.

Head coach Devan Loftis said this team is very good at shooting, but is still working on rebounding and defense. Although the team lost six seniors last year, the chemistry is improving.

The Lady Bears were scheduled to play Thorndale and Thrall on Nov. 8-9, but the games were cancelled due to the TAPPS state volleyball tournament that many of the basketball players were competing in.

"I think we've started off really well, and we're just trying to get back to where we were last year," said senior Ariana Marks, referring to last year's trip to the state tournament.

Marks, who leads the team with 22 points per game, signed her letter of intent to play at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark., next year during a ceremony in the Athletic Center on fall signing day, Nov. 13. The event, attended by her family, past coaches, and high school P.E. students, was the first of its kind in school history.

"It's neat for a kid who's put in so much hard work to have such a great opportunity to play at the next level," Loftis said.

Following are the team's most recent results:

11/12: Savio 69-67 W

After a very close game, junior Nicole Glenn broke the tie with a buzzer-beater layup.

"(It was) perhaps the most exciting finish in my 14 years coaching this team," Loftis said.

Marks was the top scorer with 24 points, followed by Glenn with 23 and sophomore Keely

Hardin with 12. Glenn broke a school record, making 15 out of 22 attempts from the free throw line.

11/16: @ Vandegrift 44-38 L

The Bears ran out of steam in the fourth quarter after leading for the majority of the game against this 4A UIL team. Loftis said he wanted to give the team more challenging competition on their pre-district schedule. Marks led the scoring with 22 points.

11/19: St. Michael's 44-26 W

BCS caught up in the second half after having multiple starters sitting out due to foul trouble in the second quarter. Marks scored 14 points, Glenn 11, and Hardin and junior Christina Onabajo eight. Glenn and Onabajo each had seven rebounds.

11/21-23: BCS Invit. W W L

BCS beat Hyde Park 68-23 with excellent shooting in their first game of the tournament. Marks made five three-pointers and 26 points, and Hardin had six three-pointers and 20 points.

In their second game, the Lady Bears defeated Regents 60-40. At half time, they were down three, but they came back in the second half. Marks led the team with 20 points, followed by Glenn with 17.

After a strong first quarter, BCS lost to Savio 54-49 in the championship game. The game was tied at 37 after three quarters. Marks led the team with 26 points.

11/26: @ McNeil 67-33 L

Loftis scheduled this game as another challenge for the Lady Bears, but it turned out to be too much. As BCS doesn't typically play 5A UIL teams, this game was meant to push the girls farther. They remained within 20 points until late in the game, when McNeil pulled far ahead. Both Loftis and the players were very frustrated by their performance.

12/5-7: @ All Saints Tournament W W W

The Lady Bears took first place at this tour-



photo: Mark Merkord

Jump ball Junior Megan Burcham fights for the ball against St. Dominic Savio during the championship game of the BCS Invitational, which Brentwood lost 54-49.

namment in Tyler. They began by dominating Ovilla 53-11 with great shooting and strong defense. Marks had 22 points, and Glenn had 20.

BCS then beat host school All Saints 63-17. Marks scored 28 points.

Brentwood won their final game 47-24 against Gorman. The girls continued their defensive focus to produce a lot of easy points on

offense. Marks scored 25; she joined Glenn on the all-tournament team.

12/10: Taylor 44-38 W

After a very close first half against a speedy opponent, the Lady Bears began to assert their will in the second half. Marks had 21 points, and junior Kenzie Merkord had 8.

Soccer season has encouraging start for boys focused on state

By Joshua Sass

The varsity soccer boys are playing in the Ft. Worth Christian Tournament this weekend, contending with stiff competition in preparation for district play that begins Jan. 13.

The team is attempting to repeat as district champs after winning the district and area championship for the first time ever last year.

In spite of their ultimate success, last year's team was winless in pre-district play, losing nine games by a total of 32 goals. This year, playing against 4A and 5A private schools with strong soccer programs, Brentwood has a 1-3 record and is holding its own.

According to head coach Cash Miller, this weekend's tournament also gives the Bears invaluable experience that will help the team at the end of the season, when the boys hope to be in the state's Final Four.

"This season I expect the Bears to be tough to beat in district," Miller said. "With all the returning talent from last season, we don't have a lot of areas in our game that don't already have a lot of playing experience."

The goal, Miller stresses, is "D.A.R.C." – district, area, regional, championship. The team will break the season into four separate achievable goals as they aim for a state championship.

"I am happy with how the varsity boys team

has played so far," Miller said. "We are a little inconsistent, but that is to be expected this early and with the additions of the new players. I know it will come together soon and we will be ready for district play."

Following are game results so far:

11/12: @ Savio 3-0 L

The team kicked off its season with a close game against an opponent many players expected to be strong. Brentwood had lots of shots on goal but could not convert, and while the defense played well, some minor mistakes allowed the goals on the defensive end.

11/14: Hyde Park 4-2 W

In this game, Miller earned the first pre-

district win of his career, in his third season at Brentwood. The defense played well, while the offense was led by sophomore Joshua Sass, who scored two goals. Juniors Jae Hwang and Brodie Brown also had one goal each.

12/4: St. Stephens 5-2 L

At halftime the boys were down 2-0, but with a keeper error and a goal by Sass the score was 3-2 with a little more than 15 minutes remaining. But St. Stephens scored two quick goals against the struggling Brentwood defense.

12/10: St. Andrews 2-1 L

After a scoreless first half, the Bears fell behind 2-0 before junior Christian Montgomery scored a goal.

Veteran boys team winning on defense

By Hannah Odom

The varsity boys are off to a 7-4 start for the season and are in Houston this weekend for a tournament at Cypress Christian.

“Our biggest strength is that we play hard,” coach Brian Thrift said.

Thrift said that the boys’ biggest struggle is with their defense. The results of the games rely heavily on how they play defensively, he said, so their defensive performance is crucial.

Following are the team’s most recent results:

11/12: @ St. Dominic Savio 40-21 L

Against this TAPPS 4A team, Brentwood’s defense remained strong, but they struggled on offense against Savio’s man-to-man defense.

11/15: Austin Royals 60-34 W

Coaches were impressed with their team’s effort and improvement. Hunt scored 18 points, followed by Howell with 17. Brentwood scored many points off of transitions and fast breaks.

11/19: @ San Marcos Baptist 53-37 L

Brentwood was outplayed from the beginning, falling behind 11-0. They were able to outscore San Marcos by nine points in the second half.

11/21-23: BCS tourn. W W L

The Bears beat Austin Royals JV 59-36, start-

ing the game strong with 25 points in the first period. Hunt led the team with 19 points; Howell added 11.

Brentwood beat Regents in the semifinals 46-29. The Bears had 20 points in the first quarter. Hunt and Taylor combined for 23 points.

The boys lost the championship against Tyler All Saints 74-49, as Brentwood was not able to handle their opponent’s press. The all-tournament team included the Bears’ seniors: Howell, Mory, and Taylor.

12/3: Brenham Chr. 80-44 W

The Bears scored 46 points in the first half, outmatching Brenham at every position. Hunt scored 22 points followed by Taylor with 15.

12/5-7: @All Saints Tourn. W L W

Brentwood beat Ovilla 50-46 after trailing at halftime. Hunt led with 17 points followed by Taylor with 13.

Next came a rematch with All Saints, which the Bears lost 76-40. Again, they struggled with the press and had a lot of turnovers.

The boys then beat St. Thomas 56-53. Hunt scored 23 points, followed by Mory with 16.



photo: Stephen Colwell

Up strong Senior Mike Taylor takes a shot during a win against Regents on Nov. 22.

“We played hard, we played together, and we played smart,” Thrift said.

12/10: Summit Christian 62-11 W

Brentwood scored 40 points in the first half. Sophomore Robert Lesko scored 14.

Soccer girls aim for quick growth

By Mary Womack

Although the varsity girls soccer team is 0-2, the girls are staying positive as they prepare for the beginning of the district season.

“I have the faith that we can have a fantastic and winning season,” sophomore Hailey Miller said.

They have lost their only two games, against Hyde Park and St. Stephens, but have had other games cancelled due to weather. This includes their initial opener, scheduled for Nov. 12.

This weekend they play in a tournament at Ft. Worth Christian.

Brentwood lost the Hyde Park game 7-0 on Nov. 15. They did not play another game until Dec. 5, when they lost 5-0.

The girls practice five times a week, including three after school.

“If we are able to do the small things well, I believe we will have a successful season,” coach Steven Colwell said. “We have a number of girls who are stepping up and becoming strong leaders. That’s important for a team with a lot of younger players.”

Volleyball concludes epic year with five on all-state team

By Claire Nestor

Hundreds of students from kindergarten through high school lined up near the Athletic Center cheering, waving, and high fiving the varsity volleyball team, making the sendoff to last month’s state tournament in Corsicana nearly as exciting as the games themselves. That evening the Brentwood fans cheered proudly from the stands and from their homes, since the games were televised on Time Warner Cable.

The following night, Nov. 2, the varsity volleyball team placed second in state, losing 3-2 to Amarillo San Jacinto in the championship game (21-25, 19-25, 25-18, 25-18, 17-19).

In Friday’s semifinal, Brentwood defeated Brazos Christian in three games (25-16, 25-15, 25-19). Coach Dusti Sheffield said everyone did their job with no nerves or fears and had fun. Brazos Christian had good hitters, but Brentwood’s blocking kept them ahead in the game.

Sophomore Blair Westerlund led the team with three aces and 15 kills in the semifinal. Fellow sophomore Keely Hardin had 17 digs, and classmate Brenna Decker led with 34 assists.

In the final game of the semifinal, freshman Alicia Dixon injured her ankle, keeping her from playing in the championship. Dixon had been a starter from mid-season on, creating a

challenge in her absence.

In the championship game, freshman Natasha Heins took Dixon’s spot. Sheffield said she was proud when Heins stepped up and handled the pressure of starting in the championship game phenomenally and “served dynamite for us.”

But the Bears found that their final opponent was able to block or dig many hits that would normally have been kills, and they lost the first two games. Before the third game Sheffield made adjustments of positions, and the team decided they weren’t going to lose in three games. Sophomore Kara Teal stepped up the level of play in the third game, and the others followed her. Soon the Lady Bears had tied the match 2-2.

In the fifth game Brentwood started with a lead, but San Jacinto Christian caught up and tied the score. There were three times when each team only needed one more point to win, and the lead changed back and forth. Finally, San Jacinto scored two points and ended the fifth game 19-17.

Teal had 30 kills in the match, and Westerlund had 20. Hardin had 39 digs, and Decker finished with 54 assists.

Most players were crushed by the loss.

“I just fell on my knees and cried,” Hardin said. “I couldn’t hear all the cheering or anything. ... You feel helpless and devastated.”

Avery Westerlund, the team’s only senior,

was able to be strong for the team.

“Even though we lost, I still feel like we won because of how amazingly we rallied back,” she said.

Hardin and the others were grateful.

“She was so strong for all of us,” Hardin said. “She told us she is going to come watch us win next year because she believes in us and how good we are.”

Sheffield said Hardin was “instrumental” in leading the team to the state tournament.

“She always motivates and is positive. She always gives 110 percent. She is a leader in the back row,” Sheffield said.

Hardin made the all-tournament team along with Blair Westerlund, Avery Westerlund, and Teal.

Sheffield mentioned many other leaders on the team, crediting Decker for running the offense, and Teal and Blair Westerlund for leading in aces, kills, and digs. She also said Avery Westerlund was an “incredible communicator”



photo: Stephen Colwell

Local heroes The entire school came out to cheer for the volleyball team as they departed for Corsicana on Nov. 8.

between the referees, court, and bench.

Eight Lady Bears made the all-district team, and five were all-state: Decker, Hardin, Teal, and both Westerlunds. Avery Westerlund also made the academic all-state team.

With all but one player returning next year, the team believes they will go back to the state championship.

“We will be back next year,” Hardin said. “We are one team with big hearts, big dreams, and a love for the game and for one another.”



photo: Pam Rowell

Signing day It was a memorable experience for everyone at BCS when senior Ariana Marks signed her letter of intent on Nov. 13. Joined by her teammates here, Marks will play basketball next year at Henderson State, which is in Arkadelphia, Ark. HSU is an NCAA Division II school that competes in the Great American Conference.

Choirs perform winter concert

By Maria Harris

Less than two weeks after the closing of "Annie," Encore and the middle and high school choirs gave the first winter choir concert on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. in Barton Theater. Even though director Missy Weaver joked that she always needs more time to prepare for concerts, she was happy to see it all come together.

"When the class meets every other day, it's always challenging," she said. "I have to keep a very careful watch on the calendar and know how much time we have to prepare for the concert and still put on a musical."

For some, like junior Tyler Clark, it was not difficult to work on both the musical and the concert.

"It worked out where I didn't have to look over the songs that much before the concert because I had learned them mostly in class," he said.

Weaver said that singing "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" at the end of concerts is a tradition that many choirs do.

"I did this when I was in chorus in college. I love this tradition," she said. "I hope it will be a memory that all BCS students will keep with them."

Junior Gina Huh, who is a member of Encore, also said that it was her favorite part.

"It gives me this warm feeling and I love it," she said.

On Dec. 3 the fourth through sixth grade had a Christmas concert. The fourth grade played their recorders, fourth and fifth graders sang, and the sixth-grade beginning band played.

New roof should keep buckets away

By Jonathon Reich

"I love the pit-pit-patter of the raindrops" ... from the ceiling?

After every rainfall, buckets of water fill many of Brentwood Christian's classrooms and hallways. This is because years of wear and tear have left the roofs on Buildings A and C in need of renovations. Now, the roof has been getting the care it needs.

Replacements and repairs started the week of Nov. 11, and were originally expected to take about eight weeks to complete. However, due to unexpected additional problems arising, such as prolific hail damage, church minister Roger McCown, who is heading the project, said it may end up taking longer.

Building A, which is the roof currently being remade, needed the remodeling due to its age, design, and weather damage. Having been made when the building was constructed in 1981, the weather seal was weakened. Small repairs had been made to it over the years, but only around the utility units.

Last year, two hail storms damaged the roof. However, the lack of rain made it hard to tell how extensive the damage was. Because this fall has had heavier rains, the truth of the damage leaked pretty quickly. With rain consistently pit-pit-pattering from the ceiling into buckets around the school, McCown and other Brentwood leaders decided fixing the roof was not something that could wait.

"It came at an awkward time," McCown said. "But we really didn't have a choice."

McCown and maintenance supervisor Kent Singleton are the main coordinators on campus behind this effort, while they have gotten help from Ray Herrold, the church's deacon for facilities. It was Herrold who contacted the company Direct Roofing, whose workers are toiling over the project almost daily.

About four to six workers from Direct Roofing manage the renovations per day. Because of the size of the roof, which requires replacing specific sections of roof at a time, instead of tearing the whole roof off at once, these small workforces are more efficient for getting work done.

Although Direct Roofing's work force has done well remaking the roof, there have been a few prominent mistakes that were out of their control. For instance, during the heavy rains that lasted from Nov. 22-25, temporary weather seals that workers put on the portion they were working on broke, leading to leaks that ravaged the kindergarten hallway. These leaks became severe enough that on Nov. 26, every kindergarten class had to temporarily relocate. In addition to this, the water let in from these leaks soaked through the sheetrock foundation, meaning it must now be replaced as well.

"Our elementary teachers have been very patient with the noise from above," McCown said.

McCown said this project will cost about

\$330,000 to fund, while Brentwood's current insurance company has agreed to cover any costs not known or agreed upon prior to the contract. In 25 pages of this "very detailed" contract, it also states that any additional damage caused on site will be paid by Direct Roofing, and guarantees 25 years of workmanship and labor.

"I think we're in good hands," McCown said. "We just have to endure."



photo: Hannah Kwon

Bearing down Sophomore Lauren Lewis gets into the mascot tryout on Nov. 13. She and senior Co Ho both earned a position as Brentwood's Bear, and cheerleader sponsor Ashley Dargai said they will split time in the role. Dargai said the main goal of the tryout was to find a mascot that is committed and meets the same standards as the cheerleaders.