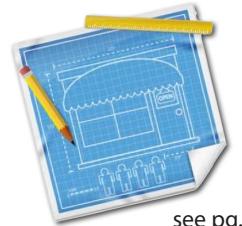




THE BEAR FACTS



see pg. 3 VOL. 27 NO. 3

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2014

see pg. 8

IN SHORT

Finals week schedule

Secondary students wrap up the second quarter of the year today and will have review days Monday and Tuesday. The schedule for finals is as follows:

Wednesday: English and Science

Thursday: History (HS), Bible (MS), and Math

Friday: History (MS), Bible (HS), Spanish, and Computer

Christmas break begins Saturday, Dec. 20, and runs through Wednesday, Jan. 7. Teachers report back to work on Jan. 5, while classes start Thursday, Jan. 8.

Commended scholar

Senior Matthew Scarborough was recognized in chapel last month for being Brentwood Christian's only commended scholar in this year's National Merit Scholarship program. His score placed him among the top 34,000 students in the nation out of the 1.5 million who took the test. With this award he qualifies for many scholarships given to students by private companies and businesses.

Alum releases book

BCS alumna Elizabeth McKinney ('14) signed copies of her newly released book, *Fallen Rose*, on Dec. 6 and 7 at the BCS book fair inside Barnes & Noble. This is the second book in her Sons and Daughters series. McKinney also visited with fifth graders and middle school book club members on campus Dec. 8.

Brentwood gets football

After long wait, students thrilled about Christmas gift

By Hannah Odom

Set, hike! The athletic center rocked with a carnival-like atmosphere, packed with all the students, teachers, administration, and board members. The jazz band was blasting, president Marquita Moss was beaming, and a beautiful green and black football helmet was shining.

After development director Kevin Claypool began the assembly on Monday, Dec. 8, by sharing a bit about Brentwood's athletics history, he handed the microphone to Moss, who said she has been "waiting 14 years to make this announcement."

She then unveiled the helmet, which was followed by a huge burst of screaming and leaping from students of all ages, but especially some of the junior boys.

"I'm flippin' hyped," said junior Jake Velasco, who jumped out of his seat when



We've got football! Middle school boys erupt in joyous celebration upon hearing the announcement that the BCS leadership had approved a tackle football program for the school.

the announcement was made.

Athletic director Brian Thrift followed Moss with his own remarks, and he introduced the implementation committee, which he chairs. Other members are Brian Jackson, Cash Miller, and Dr. Mark Billante; ex-officio members are Moss and Jay Burcham. Serving as committee resources are Claypool and Jeff Morris.

Each member has different assignments, including fundraising, equipment purchasing, safety and liability issues, and practical matters like facilities, transportation, and the search for coaches. Although there is great enthusiasm to start playing, committee members said it's too early to announce when anything will begin.

"We want to start sooner rather than later, but we won't do it until we can do it in a way that fulfills our mission," Jackson said.

Students were polled this week to see how many boys would be interested in playing. Moss said this number is one piece of the information that will help

see **Football**, page 5

Holiday cheer spreads at Brentwood

By Mary Womack

Christmas is in the air at Brentwood Christian, and the elementary hallways are swathed in depictions of the nativity. Even high school teachers have taken a break to put up small trees and lights, and occasionally the faint sound of Christmas carols can be heard. You can feel the excitement for jolly old Saint Nick and Christmas break impending as teachers struggle to hold students' attention.

With all this festivity many Christmas events have been going on at Brentwood including Santa Shop, preparations for the elementary Christmas program, Angel Tree, tacky sweater days, and the Rosedale Christmas trip.

On Dec. 3-5, room B120 was filled with eager young students waiting their turn to enter the magical atmosphere of Santa Shop. In this

annual fundraiser held by the junior class, elementary and preschool children were paired with a junior and picked presents to buy for family and friends. Once students had selected gifts, juniors wrapped them in the "Special Santa Shop" bags.

Sponsors Ashley Dargai and Brooke Hollingsworth helped coordinate and keep the event running. The funds go to the eleventh-grade class to pay for events such as Junior/Senior.

A tradition as old as Brentwood is the elementary Christmas program. This year the program will be held on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium, directed by music instructor Sondra Strietelmeier. The program is for kindergarten through third-grade students, who are encouraged to dress in their Sunday best or Christmas colors.

"This year the third graders are the king-

pins," Strietelmeier said. "They get to read a script and recite a poem."

Every year a special event is held to benefit families who struggle to afford Christmas gifts. This year Angel Tree, run by PTF, raised money from Nov. 17 to Dec. 5. Students in elementary and secondary brought money to buy presents for kids who have a parent in prison. After donating, students earned "angel wings." In addition, families volunteered to help take the gifts to the families.

"Through this wonderful program Brentwood has the opportunity to share Christ's love simply by showing these kids and their families someone cares," PTF president Cristal Lange said.

National Honor Society has their share of

see **BCS**, page 3

Being ForthReich: Jonathon Reich

THE BEAR FACTS DECEMBER 2014

Make work meaningful rather than mindlessly laboring

Let me just say that I am looking forward to the Christmas holidays more than I ever have before. Not because of my sudden secret love of Christmas songs or whatever seasonal drink is at Starbucks (probably something with peppermint, right?), but rather because for the first time, I truly appreciate the two-week break that comes with Christmas.

Being able to take time away from work and school simply to relax and enjoy the day is nice – especially during senior year, which has been the busiest year of school for me thus far. I've been involved in quite a bit, and I am ready to rest. In general, balancing school, college applications, and jobs is quite a task, let me tell you, and it takes work. As we've reached the halfway point of the school year, I've been asking myself: Is this effort worth it? Is the work I'm putting in, the work ethic I have, worthwhile in the long run?

Sure, my work is valued. It's no stretch to say that our culture values work. After all, the good ol' "American dream" is all about pick-

ing yourself up by your own bootstraps. Many interpret the achievements in the form of jobs, education, or other material acquisitions as signs of their true success, the focus of their values, and how they deem themselves independent. And the work needed to gain these starts in high school – where if we work hard, we'll have the opportunity to work hard in college, and afterwards, if we're lucky, we'll have worked enough to be able to work more, to hopefully support ourselves until we retire and die.

With this understanding of all the work expected of me, I've been wondering: If the work I'm doing now does not end up in a good scholarship or a successful career, would it have been worthwhile? Or would my work be meaningless?

To start my search for an answer, I looked to the roots of the American work ethic, which seem to lie in early American Puritanism. Per-

haps because of the amount of individual work needed to create their own lives after moving to America in the 17th century, American Puritans linked material wealth with God's favor. They believed that hard work, diligence, and frugality were the ways to please God, and emphasized these as a display of salvation. This

involves the doctrine of predestination: If God had already chosen who would go to Heaven, the Puritans believed that He must leave

some sign of which group they were in, which they would say manifests as wealth.

Even though most Christians today don't accept this Puritan ideology to a T, the idea that hard work will be rewarding in itself seems to have become twisted into an idea which is present and mostly unquestioned throughout society. Guy Debord, a 20th-century theorist, observed this as a phenomenon he called the "spectacle." He said that in modern society, individuals have become passive, and allowed

for "commodities" to dictate the direction of their lives. In the same way, we often let our job circumstances completely decide what we make of our lives, or how we spend our time, while we watch passively, simply because we feel like we need to continue working.

While this isn't to say that jobs aren't necessary in 21st-century America, there's no doubt that our work can drag us down. The difference we make with our work is when we make it meaningful – not passive, or work that we don't enjoy or put effort into. Sometimes passive work is necessary, but when we work meaningfully, instead of choosing not to put effort into anything, we can experience personal growth, and help others grow as well.

But even if we're doing meaningful work, we always, always, always need to make time for meaningful rest as well. I mean, even God needed a break after creation, right? Over this Christmas holiday, rest intentionally – and while you're gone, maybe look for areas in your life where you can make your work meaningful.

Is the work I'm putting in worthwhile in the long run?

Notes from the Underground: Nicholas Bergeron

Jazz music 'ain't got no wrong notes'

I'm thoroughly convinced that jazz is the most exciting genre of music to ever come out of America, so it pains me that if you were to say the word "jazz" to many people, what comes to mind is the sterile sound of Kenny G's relaxing saxophone, music for waiting patiently on hold or browsing through khakis at a department store. In reality, jazz is a vibrant world of music out there for everyone to delve into.

Jazz is as diverse, exciting, and wild as the culture it came out of. It can be fun and danceable, making heads nod and feet shuffle as easily as any of today's club bangers. It can be intricate and technical, matching established classical music blow for blow in the ring of depth. Jazz can be and has been everything: It's brash, reserved, melancholy, ecstatic, brooding, vulgar, spiritual. If you need a soundtrack for a crazy party with lots of people, for sitting alone in the wee hours thinking of the woman who left you, or for feeling the presence of God, I guarantee there's an appropriate jazz song waiting for you to listen to it.

I've promised you that there is a genre of jazz you'll like, so to help you find it, let's look at where jazz started. It's impossible to look at jazz without taking a look at the scenery it came out of. In the 19th century, New Orleans was the only city in which slaves were allowed to own drums. They took full advantage of this generous permission, combining rumbling syn-

copated (intentionally off-beat) rhythms with gospel music heard on Sunday morning and ragtime, blues, and Dixieland heard on Saturday night. The birth of jazz wasn't a definite point in history so much as it was a process, with various ideas lifted from many types of music all stewing together like a spicy New Orleans gumbo.

By the 1930s, danceable, swinging jazz played by big bands led by bandleaders such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington became a wildly popular American export. Jazz was a new kind of dance music, music not strictly bound by the composer; the musicians were free to express themselves spontaneously. This was a huge hit – all over the world, common music fans and critics alike took note of this strange, new, uniquely American genre of music.

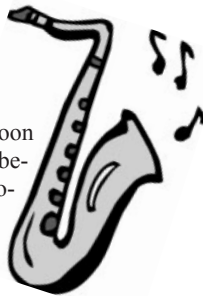
Jazz could have rested on its laurels, content to keep swinging as long people would listen, but that of course wouldn't be jazzy. In the '40s a new type of jazz called "bebop" emerged – a dissonant, flailing style played much too fast to dance to. The young bebopping jazzmen, such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk (who stated his attitude toward music: "The piano ain't got no wrong notes!") took as much from Stravinsky as from Scott Joplin. The old guard, who were the new guard not 15 years before, disapproved. Louis Armstrong thought bebop was "malicious," saying, "You get all the weird chords which don't

mean nothing ... but soon (people) get tired of it because ... you got no melody to remember and no beat to dance to." One critic said bop sounded like "a hardware store in an earthquake."

But the naysayers lost. Over the next 10 years bebop would not only flourish but succeed in exploding jazz into countless sub-genres, each as interesting as the next. Bossa nova ("new trend") combined jazz with Brazilian samba. During the '60s and '70s, jazz fusion mixed jazz with rock and soul. "Free jazz" players like Charles Mingus or John Coltrane abandoned tempo and chord structure entirely to forge a path of avant-garde experimentation. Since bebop, jazz has split off in every direction like some great delta.

So how do you find the jazz for you? If you want something swinging and danceable you may want to try Count Basie, Duke Ellington, or Glenn Miller. If the later, more cerebral jazz interests you, listen to Charlie Parker or Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. To really dig deeper, checking out a book like "The Penguin Guide to Jazz" can give you a deeply comprehensive look at the genre.

But the best way to get into it is to just start listening. If you give it a chance, jazz will change how you think about music.



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
Jonathon Reich

Photo Editor
Maria Harris

Reporters

Kaitlyn Baird	Joshua Sass
Jenna Beggs	Emily Shields
Nicholas Bergeron	Camille Sunshine
Elijah Cunningham	Lila Therrell
Kira Juranek	Rebecca Tilley
Tony Lee	Hannah Velasco
Hannah Odum	Mary Womack
Grace Rogge	Thomas Yates

Adviser
Jonathan Weed

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

THE BEAR FACTS DECEMBER 2014

BCS flavored with Christmas

continued from page 1

Christmas fun, too. On Dec. 12 juniors and seniors travel to Rosedale to sing songs and do many other fun things with the special-needs students.

“We will decorate cookies, paint faces, and do a Christmas craft,” NHS sponsor Kaleen Graessle said.

Another heralded tradition is the first grade’s trip to the Elgin Christmas Tree Farm. On Dec. 4 students traveled to Elgin and, despite the light rain all day, they found the perfect trees for their classrooms. Afterward students decorated gingerbread houses, thoroughly enjoying a Christmas-filled day.

“It’s usually the Charlie Brown Christmas

tree, but it’s much loved,” teacher Sylvia Burcham said before the trip. “Each class gets to pick their own tree and there will be tears shed because of disagreements, but we will persevere.”

The fourth graders also have a special Christmas tradition of dressing up and attending part of the Nutcracker ballet. This year the students will go to the ballet on Dec. 10 held at the Long Center downtown. Students then attend a fancy dinner in building A where they practice the manners they have been studying in class, and a precious few win the Silver Spoon Award, or recognition of the best manners at a table. The cafeteria will be catering this year with new and special foods.

Certainly the high school will not be left out of the Christmas fun. Each year StuCo coordinates special events like locker decorating, tacky sweater day on Dec. 18, and a Christmas Spirit Day on Dec. 19.

The BCS Holiday Fair was held at Barnes and Noble at the Arboretum on Dec. 6-7. On Sunday Encore sang some holiday music in the afternoon, and sophomores wrapped gifts. A percentage of purchases made that day benefited Brentwood libraries.

Of course, the biggest source of great excitement for students is likely the 19-day Christmas break.

“Christmas is my favorite holiday because there is no school and I get to spend time with my family,” sophomore Macy Kidwell said.



photo: Maria Harris

Shopping buddies Junior Shelby Greer and first-grader Arden Choi browse through the wares that were available at this year’s Santa Shop.

Choir impresses at Harding

By Thomas Yates

The high school choir’s trip to Arkansas last month got off to a slow start when the trailer carrying the luggage came unhitched before they even reached Lamar. But once that problem was fixed, the trip went smoothly.

Many participants were giddy about the biennial trip to sing at Harding University in Arkansas when they left campus on Nov. 7. Participants of the festival include schools from the South, as far as Tennessee and Florida.

“The festival likes to have Brentwood there, because we are a high-caliber choir,” said first-year choir director John McMeen, who has fond memories of singing in the festival when he was in high school.

The group of 55 students and 12 adults left BCS about 10 a.m. In Corsicana, they watched the Lady Bears play in the TAPPS state volleyball semifinals. After watching Brentwood win, the group drove to Texarkana, where they stayed at the homes of local church families.

In the morning, the choir traveled the final stretch to Searcy. After rehearsing for many hours that day on Harding’s campus, the tired students were taken in by more host families.

The next morning was the choir’s big day. After worship was a long and demanding practice, followed by pizza. After that the choirs practiced on the risers for hours. At the conclusion, the choirs were given a special performance

by the Harding University choir.

After dinner, BCS students watched the other choirs perform before it was their turn. Finally, everyone gathered for the finale, conducted by Harding music instructor Susan Shirel. She later complimented Brentwood, telling McMeen that they were the most mature sounding group. Then everyone left with their host families, awaiting the next day’s 10-hour drive home.

History teacher Jimmie Harper, who accompanied the group and graduated from Harding in 2014, had many good things to say about the trip. Harper was also part of the festival when he was in high school. He said Brentwood stood out, even though it wasn’t a competition.

“I wish that everyone else could witness the music that’s created when all the choruses sing together,” Harper said.



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Carrying the team Senior Jonathon Reich holds director John McMeen while warming up for the concert.

Annual food drive spiced up with class challenges

By Elijah Cunningham

This year’s Thanksgiving food drive brought something new: a system of challenges between high school classes in order to encourage students to bring more food. Altogether Brentwood Christian students brought in 5,596 items for the Round Rock Area Servicing Center.

Sissy Pierce’s freshman class won the overall competition for high school with 453 total items and an average of 15.26 per student. Her students will receive extended off-campus lunch.

Chloe Campbell’s seventh graders won for middle school with 601 total items – an average of 28.61 per student. Her class narrowly

defeated Amber Kidd’s sixth-grade class in middle school; their two classes were the best in the school. Campbell’s class will get to take a trip to Gattiland for winning.

Geri Archer’s class won for elementary with 145 total items and an average of 11.15 per student. Archer’s class will be doing a fun activity, planned by Archer, for winning.

StuCo president Tyler Clark announced in chapel on Nov. 13 that each high school Bible class would challenge their peers in the same grade. The losing class had to carry out the punishment assigned by the winning class.

The senior Bible class is divided by gender, and Mel Witcher’s boys’ challenge to Brooke Hollingsworth’s girls was for them to eat messy food, like chili and pudding, without

using their hands. The girls’ challenge to the guys was for them to serve the girls a gourmet breakfast.

The boys won, and they are looking forward to their chance to “serve” the girls.

Kaleen Graessle’s juniors challenged Travis Pollard’s juniors to wear chapel uniforms for a week. Furthermore, if they won by more than 250 cans, their peers would also have to do the ice bucket challenge on the soccer field.

Graessle’s class won by a small amount, and she said she expects Pollard’s class will eventually show good sportsmanship and carry out the agreement.

The sophomore classes of Amber Kidd and Kevin Claypool had trouble catching on to the spirit of both the challenge and the food drive

itself, as the classes together only brought a few cans.

Ben Peterson’s freshmen were challenged by Pierce’s freshmen to have the girls do each other’s make-up blindfolded and the boys shave their own legs. On the contrary, if Pierce’s class lost they would have to wear chapel uniforms for a week.

Peterson’s class lost, and he has encouraged the boys in the Bible class to shave their legs. But most of the boys resisted the challenge, and no effort is being made to force them to do it.

Secondary principal Carol Johnson said the challenges were all up to the students to complete, and no one would be forced to do anything.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Aaron Garcia

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

Funny athlete entertains in class, on court

By Tony Lee

Aaron Garcia is the type of guy who makes himself bacon and eggs as a snack before he goes to bed and feels good about it.

"I want to live my life to the fullest," he says. "So why not enjoy it and have a good time?"

Episodes revealing Aaron's humorous side happen continuously. One time during Physics, he started singing a song in Spanish and everyone busted out laughing. He consistently gets excited about small things and with a high-pitched voice cries, "Mamma mia!"

"We ride to school together almost every day," senior Zach Marsh says. "So we get to watch each other's sweet dance moves in the car."

Sometimes Aaron's classmates find him funny when he's just handling difficulties with a positive attitude, like when he accidentally ripped the buttons off of his shorts in the bathroom on the first day of school.

"I knew that Aaron was legit when I first met him because of how obnoxiously loud and funny he was," senior Jacob Orick says.

Aaron came to Brentwood for his junior year after spending two years at Cedar Ridge High School.

"I heard about Brentwood Christian School through the radio," he says. "I felt myself being called to it, and it has been a great experience for me."

There's a total of six people in the Garcia family. Aaron says he has two wonderful parents along with his two little brothers, Matthew and Ben, and his older sister Kheren. His mom is from Monterrey, Mexico, and his dad is from San Jose, Calif., but also has Mexican roots. Aaron lived in California until he was eight, then came to Round Rock when his dad's job required a move. Matthew, who is five, can be seen at Aaron's basketball games pretending to be a referee. Ben, who is 15, attends Cedar

Ridge, and Kheren, 20, is a junior at UT-Austin.

Aaron says he has a "really chill" family. He also says it's fun having a Mexican family because he really enjoys having Mexican food every day. He loves going to the beach and vacations together as a family, whether they are small ones or big ones.

Some of his childhood memories make him want to be a little kid again even to this day. He says his favorite time in kindergarten was when he got to go to school in his pajamas and watch *The Polar Express*, drinking hot chocolate and snuggling with his blanket.

"I also remember when one of my brothers accidentally used the toilets at Home Depot, which were on display," he recalls.

Aaron loves to play basketball, and in fact, he goes to a basketball trainer every week to help him on his skills along with classmate and BCS teammate Cody Hunt. Aaron has been part of the Brentwood varsity since enrolling at BCS last year, and he has been a starter both seasons.

"He's always ready to get better," basketball coach Brian Thrift says. "He is very coachable, and the younger guys see a senior doing that, so they think it's pretty important."

"Basketball is my passion," says Aaron, who earned first-team all-district last year. "I'm gonna do what it takes to help our team succeed."

Aaron also plays baseball for Brentwood, and last year was named second-team all-district. Before he came to BCS, he says he heard about the baseball team from junior Jake Velasco, who played on the same club team, telling him about the great coaching staff Brentwood has and how the team focuses on God whether they win or lose, giving Him all the glory.

Although Aaron is still uncertain about where to go for college, deciding between York College or Abilene Christian University, he is looking forward to being a sports doctor one

day. Having spent a lot of time at the doctor's office for his ankle and back injuries from basketball games, he says he would want to be a primary care sports medicine doctor, which is a non-surgical doctor responsible for preventing, diagnosing, and treating sports-related injuries.

"I love sports," he says. "So why not still be involved in sports and help people at the same time?"

Some people might not know that Aaron is part of the worship team at his church, Alfa y Omega. He attends two services on Saturday, and he really focuses on his relationship with God. He says his mom taught him how to play the drums, and he just picked it up. Now he loves to play them every Saturday at church.

"It's the way I connect with God through worship," he says.

Apart from all of his good qualities, what friends will likely remember most is his high-pitched voice shouting "Mamma mia!" as he heads off for some bacon and eggs.

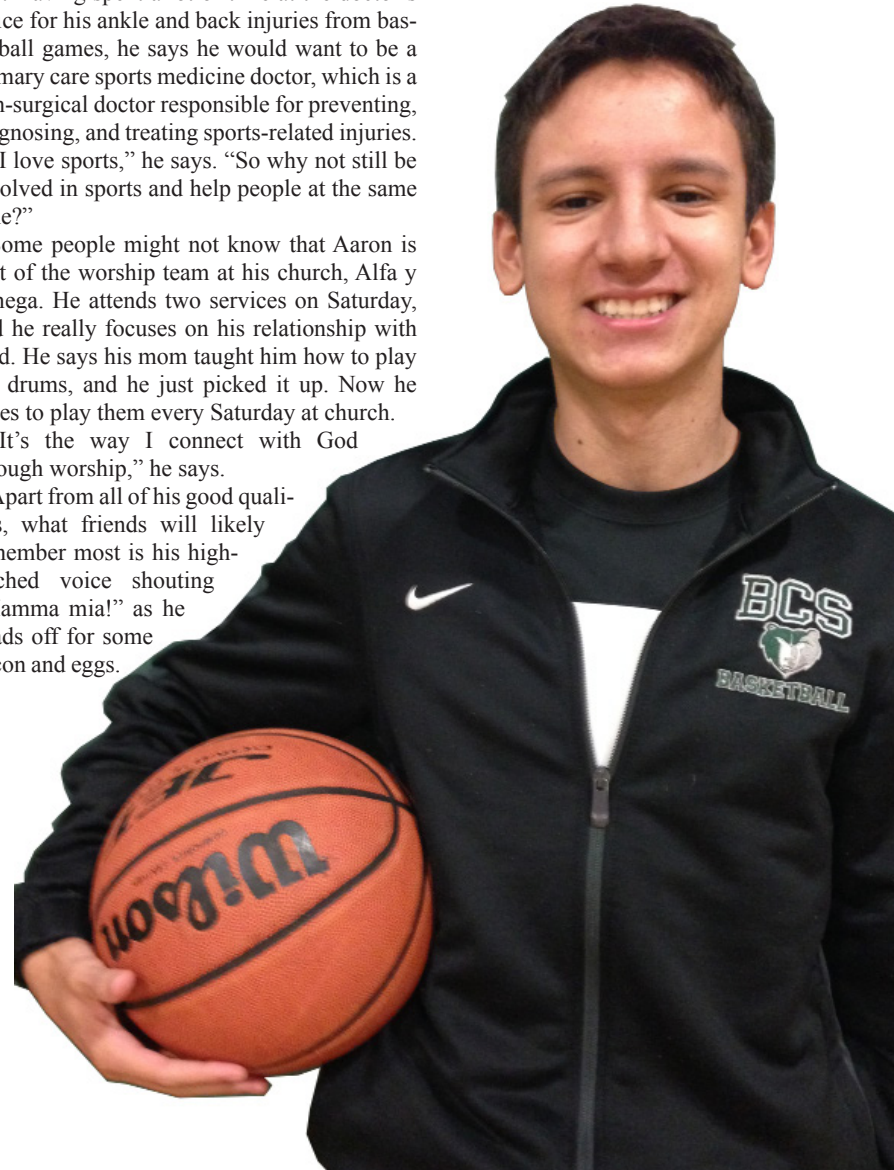


photo: Ismari Garcia

'Magnolias' steals place in BCS history with third in TAPPS state

By Kira Juranek

Brentwood Christian's one act play *Steel Magnolias* came home with third place in the state TAPPS competition in San Antonio on Nov. 14. This is the first time in school history for a one act play to win first place in district and attend state.

The students left school Thursday and then performed Friday at Antonian College Preparatory High School in San Antonio.

"What they did was very hard, and I am so

proud," director Cindy Singleton said.

Singleton said she was also very impressed with the feedback from the critic, who said that in all his years judging, Brentwood's version of *Steel Magnolias* was the best he had seen. She was also happy with the good things he had to say about all of the actresses.

The play consisted of all girls in the cast and crew. Many were given individual awards, which included senior Kaylie Angello, who earned Best Actress, and junior Hope Kronke, who made all-star cast. Sophomore Camille

Sunshine and junior Natalie Williams earned honorable mention all-star cast, and senior Abbie Baros made all-star crew.

"The cast and crew got a lot closer on the trip," Baros said. "We're like a family."

Angello said that when they performed *Steel Magnolias* for the school the Tuesday after state, it was like sharing all their great work with everyone at Brentwood. A party will also be held to get everyone back together one last time.

Even with all the accomplishments at state, they still faced difficulties along the way. Ac-

tresses compared the stage they performed at to the previous stage Brentwood used before the CSA was built. It was very small, so the crew didn't have much room to move around, and the light booth was hard to reach. They also had exactly 40 minutes to perform the play, which many of the girls have said is something they struggled with, but they ended up finishing in 36 minutes.

"The people who got first place deserved it, and we were proud of our third place," Angello said.

TEACHER FEATURE: Kay Taylor

Laughter-loving Patrol founder lives to show love

By Emily Shields

Your first impression of her when you meet her may be that she is stern, but first impressions are almost never accurate. Beneath the frenzy of her busy schedule and a myriad of hobbies lies a fun, loving, and easygoing person who likes to call out a hearty hello when she sees you in the hallway.

With Kay Taylor, there is never a dull moment.



Some students can recall a time when she hid in the closet and waited for her sixth-grade class as a practical joke, and managed to both eavesdrop on the class's plans and scare the majority of the students. She loves a good laugh.

"One of Mrs. Taylor's most prominent characteristics is her laugh," senior Tyler Clark says. "When the going gets tough and everyone and their dog is stressed out, Mrs. Taylor somehow can remove herself from the situation, see the good, and let out one of the most contagious laughs you will ever hear."

Other teachers have seen great humor in Taylor's personality, such as fellow sixth-grade teacher and long-time friend Becky Stewart.

"She has a great sense of humor and likes to play practical jokes," Stewart says.

Taylor, who has filled various roles at BCS for almost 10 years, has many hobbies. She runs a photography business on the side called K's Lighthouse Photography. She also sings alto in her church's singing group and likes to go hiking and camping. Of course, she loves spending time with her family, such as her great-nieces, too. And although Taylor is not your typical homebody, she is highly fond of baking a batch – or maybe a couple of batches – of delicious, made-from-scratch cinnamon rolls.

Kay Taylor is deeply involved in the BCS community. During school hours she teaches sixth- and eighth-grade English. After school, she is the campus director of PSIA along with elementary principal Mara Ashley, and she is also the Safety Patrol leader.

When the woman who once ran

a neighborhood club dubbed "Kay's Kids" in her previous home of Virginia came to Austin to visit Stewart years ago, she got a tour of the BCS campus. When Taylor moved back to Austin and was a substitute teacher, Stewart would keep Taylor posted about openings at Brentwood, which eventually led to a job.

"It is fun for us to both be teaching sixth graders now," Stewart says.

Taylor will reach a milestone when the year 2015 comes around, making it a decade since she first joined the Brentwood community in 2005. The reason she has remained is simple: She loves the school.

"I love Brentwood for so many reasons, including how it blessed our son, Allen (BCS '10), to attend here," Taylor says. "I also love the Christian community at BCS, not only with the staff and faculty, but with the student body as well."

Taylor started out as an English Second Language (ESL) teacher for mostly Korean students in room A128. Former elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed has credited Taylor with paving the way for Brentwood's continuing involvement in welcoming students from many lands.

Two years later, she was relocated to building B and took the newly-created position as Dr. Weed's assistant. During that time, Taylor was coordinating substitutes and cafeteria aides, overseeing operations in building B, assisting with PSIA, and starting the Safety Patrol.

"She always looks for a bright side to a situation, and she can usually find some humor in just about anything," Dr. Weed says. "Whenever she receives a compliment for something that she has done particularly well, she invariably thanks God for giving her the impulse, ideas, and stamina to see it through."

The Safety Patrol was an idea that had always been in Dr. Weed's mind, but no one ever

made it happen until Taylor took the initiative in 2008 following an incident that involved a student running into a parent and cracking the parent's phone. Together, the two women brought forth Safety Patrol and tried it out for a short period of time at the end of that school year. Soon after, the distinctive neon-orange vests and bright cones appeared all over campus. Even though she has done so much for this program, Taylor credits a higher power.

"I don't think that I brought Safety Patrol to BCS," she says. "I believe that the Lord did."

After the successful pilot program, they began their first official class of patrols. This included some of this year's senior class, such as Tyler Clark.

"So many of the Patrols are now StuCo officers, or NHS officers, Encore members, the jazz band, and the list of leadership that we have from Patrols still continues," Taylor says, reminiscing with fondness.

Recently Taylor completed her master's degree online through ACU. The degree is in education with a certificate in conflict resolution.

Amid all of her accomplishments and busy schedules, Taylor stays humble and has a lot of love for her students, which inspires them to do more and achieve more.

"Mrs. Taylor helped guide me through my first leadership position where I was held to a higher standard than some of my peers," Clark says. "She taught me the importance of safety and how different situations should be handled. Her dedication and belief in the Safety Patrol program and myself has helped steer me into the leadership positions I am in today."

Asked about her outlook on life itself, Kay Taylor had just one sweet and simple response.

"There is nothing more important than living my life with Christ in me and loving people around me."

Football

continued from page 1

the committee determine whether BCS should compete in six-man or 11-man football.

The desire for a tackle football program has long been shared by many coaches, teachers, and administrators, as well as the vast majority of students. But this is the first time that a consensus from all parties involved in the decision has been achieved.

"We all worked really hard on trying to recognize the real risks and the real benefits of football," Jackson said.

After showing "extreme diligence" in gathering information to weigh the pros and cons, Jackson said that "everyone agreed that the

benefits to the school outweigh the risks."

While the student body is very excited to begin this endeavor into the world of tackle football, the school's leadership is just as enthusiastic, but for bigger reasons than just the thrill of the game. Jackson said he believes – along with the rest of the school's board – that the sport will help BCS fulfill its mission of leading students to love God.

"I think our athletics program does an excellent job of helping us fulfill our mission," Jackson said, referring to the inspiration and positive examples coaches can provide. "But some kids want to play football; they don't want to play the other sports."

Jackson said a careful analysis of data revealed to the committee that a number of students were, in fact, leaving Brentwood not only

to play football elsewhere, but to lead cheers and to march in bands at football games. Jackson pointed out that the school is not able to impact these students when they leave.

"We're not implementing football to recruit outside students, but to keep our own," he said. "We became very concerned about the number of students that left BCS to go somewhere else."

Addressing potential concerns of parents, Jackson assured that the new football program will not cause tuition to rise. He also said Brentwood will not borrow money to pay for the sport either. He said the cost will be covered by fundraising and player fees.

As for potential coaches, Jackson said the committee is determined to find Christian men. Thrift will not coach, but will instead make sure that the program stays mission focused.

Adding a field is in the strategic campus plan, Claypool said, but is not foreseen in the near future as it would take "at least two and a half years to build if the school began the paperwork today."

Though the seniors are disappointed that they will not be able to participate – even letting out audible sighs in the assembly – most agreed that they are overall happy for the rest of the students.

"I feel like this is the door that needed to be opened to, like, a whole new world," senior Madalyn Garelick said.

Moss, who has long been in favor of adding the sport, said she is excited about the future. "I hope and pray that adding football will help us do an even better job at leading our students to love the Lord," she said.

Determined boys' team opens district with win

By Joshua Sass

The Bears started their district season strong with a 73-41 win over Concordia in their district opener Dec. 9.

Despite struggling in the first half with turnovers, cold shooting, and poor rebounding, Brentwood held a 28-19 halftime lead. But they started the second half strong and pulled away, as five players scored in double digits. Senior Cody Hunt led with 15 points, while junior Robert Lesko had 11 rebounds.

The Bears are 8-7 overall, but 1-0 in district as they push to repeat last year's 10-0 district record.

"We have the potential to win another district championship," senior Charlie Sinclair said. "But we still have to put some work in."

Hunt leads the team with 17.1 points per game, followed by sophomore Jordan Johnson with 7.8. Lesko leads the team in rebounds.

This year the Bears have come out with three goals: repeat as district champions, make the state tournament, and put forth 100 percent effort 100 percent of the time.

"It has taken a little longer to establish leadership (this year)," head coach Brian Thrift said, "but we now have some kids stepping up and taking ownership of the team."

Following are the team's most recent results:

11/14: Gateway 103-56 W

Players said a recent loss motivated the Bears to play hard. Hunt led scoring with 22, and sophomore Graham Marks had 21.

11/17: Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills 65-52 W

Trailing by three points at halftime, the Bears

used an efficient offensive attack along with a stifling defense to outscore OLH 45-29 in the second half. They were led by Hunt's 33 points.

11/20-22: BCS Invitational W L L

Brentwood opened the tournament with a 59-52 win over Austin Royals. Leading by 12 points at halftime, the Bears survived a cold-shooting third quarter to hang on. Hunt led the Bears with 28 points, while Lesko had 13 rebounds.

In the second game, the Bears committed 26 turnovers and lost 66-33 to Cypress Christian. Lesko had eight points and 10 rebounds.

Against Frisco Legacy Christian, the Bears were plagued by poor ball handling, coughing up 23 turnovers as BCS lost 57-40. Senior Aaron Garcia was the lone bright spot as he scored 15 points.

11/24-25: @Logos Prep Tourn. W L L

Playing in Sugar Land, the Bears jumped out to an early lead in the opener against Galveston O'Connell and never looked back. They cruised to a 62-31 victory through a dominant showing on both the offensive and defensive ends of the court. Hunt scored 18 points, and Garcia had 10.

In their second game, Brentwood lost to St. Thomas Episcopal 71-61, taking the defending state champions to the wire. They came up short in the end after leading by as many as 12 points. Hunt led with 26 points, followed by Johnson and Garcia with 16 points apiece.

In their final game, the Bears gave up a lead in the final minutes with some untimely turnovers to lose to Logos Prep, 56-53. Hunt had a season-high 36 points, while Lesko added seven points and 10 rebounds.

12/2: @Our Lady of the Hills 47-46 L

Despite going down 16 points early in the game with a sluggish start, the Bears fought back to within one. Hunt led with 18 points, and Marks had nine.

12/4-5: @Tyler All Saints Tourn. L W W

The Bears lost the opener 41-40 to Marshall Christian. Turnovers and poor shot selection in the final minutes led Brentwood to blow an eight-point lead late in the game on a sluggish shooting night. The Guardians shut down Hunt, allowing him 11 points. Johnson scored eight

points, while Marks and Lesko each scored six.

In the second game, the Bears beat Athens Christian 54-36. They had to rely on different scorers after Hunt was hampered by foul trouble early. But the Bears cruised to an easy win as Johnson and Marks stepped up with 16 points and nine points, respectively.

The Bears finished with what Thrift called their "best all-around game of the year" in beating Bishop T.K. Gorman 56-46. They were led in scoring by Hunt with 22 points and Johnson with 20.



photo: Alicia Dixon

On the move Senior Jacob Orick charges to the basket during the Bears' 65-52 win over Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills on Nov. 17. Senior Cody Hunt scored 33 points.

Cheerleaders host Little Bear Cheer Camp

By Rebecca Tilley

High school and middle school cheerleaders hosted the annual Little Bear cheer camp on Saturday, Nov. 15, in the BCS Athletic Center. The three-hour camp was attended by 42 elementary aged girls who were taught a cheer, a chant, a dance, and a stunt.

Ashley Dargai, the high school cheer coach, said the event is much more than a fundraiser for the squad.

"It raises school spirit all the way up from the kindergartners, allows the younger girls to connect with older, Godly role models, and gives the cheerleaders perspective for why they do what they do," Dargai said. "It's one of my favorite things that we do!"

Cheerleaders and campers spent the morning playing games such as "ships and sailors," dancing, and learning the

different aspects of cheerleading.

Campers rotated among four stations. At one they learned the dance to the song "Me and My Girls," which they would later perform for an audience of parents. They learned the words and motions to "Green and Black Attack" at the second station, and a stunt called a "high stand" at the third. At the final station, campers learned one of the chants that cheerleaders perform on the sidelines of the games.

After a long morning of fun learning, campers had the chance to show off their new skills to their parents who had previously been asked to leave so that the performance could be a surprise. Campers had been split into four groups based on the station at which they began. They reviewed and perfected the dance and practiced a stunt to hit as an ending pose. When the time came, parents filed back into the gym to see the product of their

daughters' hard work.

The day before the camp, the high school cheer squad stayed after school and made bows. Some were sold at the sign-in table, while five special bows were made and given to select campers at the end of the day as awards for their hard work. Bows were given to recognize the following: most spirit, most improvement, best attitude, best jumps, and best performer.

High school cheerleaders and the BCS mascot lined up afterward to allow parents to take a picture of their kids in a stunt with the cheerleaders and mascot.

"I love getting to know the younger girls," senior cheerleader Maddie Ashworth said. "These are the girls who may be on the high school team one day, so that's cool."



photo: Marie Easty

The Don Pianist Don Irwin speaks at his concert on Dec. 2. Brentwood church members Ron and Ali Knight say they hope to bring Irwin back every Dec. 2.

Soccer girls improving under new coaches

By Kaitlyn Baird

The BCS girls' varsity soccer team showed vast improvement in a 3-0 loss to St. Stephens on Dec. 9, according to their opponent's coach. Brentwood lost to the same team 7-0 a month earlier. They currently have a 2-4 record.

New coach Cash Miller said his goal for the season is for the team to improve "technically and tactically." Miller, who has been coaching soccer for 18 years, says he has always enjoyed building relationships with his players and watching them grow into Christ-loving adults.

"I expect the girls to work as hard as they can for one another every practice and every game," Miller said.

Assistant coach Sissy Pierce said she is looking forward to "the progress we're going to

make and the development of players and the team as a whole."

Juniors Hailey Miller and Rebekah Legband lead the team with two goals each.

Following are the results of the team's last four games:

11/18: San Marcos Baptist 1-0 W

The girls moved the ball around well, picking up their first win of the season. However, they only had one sub so it was tiring for many of the girls who had to play the entire game. The Lady Bears eventually scored early in the second half. Junior Rebekah Legband sent a corner kick to Miller, who headed the ball in.

11/20: Savio 2-1 L

The Lady Bears started off well, according to Pierce, and had more possession in the beginning of the game. Miller scored on a "very

nice play" after receiving a pass from freshman Nicole Petrik. Savio scored twice later in the game, due to what Pierce said was problems with formation and some miscommunication.

12/2: Hyde Park 5-0 L

The girls started off well again and played evenly, according to Pierce. They moved the ball around well and had a few good chances to score. Again, though, Brentwood only had one sub, so they "ran out of steam pretty quickly" near the end of the first half.

12/5: San Marcos Baptist 6-0 W

The Lady Bears played a great game against a team they previously beat, dominating possession. Senior Isabelle Graessle scored the first goal. Legband had two goals, and Petrik, senior Rachel Dixon, and freshman Rebekah Connor each scored once.

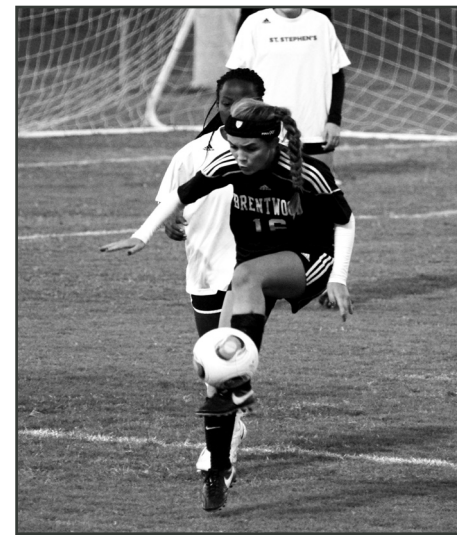


photo: Alicia Dixon

No problem Freshman Rebekah Connor settles the ball in a recent game.

Lady Bears have sights set on state as district begins

By Hannah Velasco

The Lady Bears won last weekend's Brookshire Classic Tournament in Tyler and are set to open their district season tonight at home against Faith Academy.

After a difficult pre-district schedule that included wins against St. Michaels and large public schools Lanier and Connally, Brentwood has a record of 11-4.

"We're playing well right now," head coach Devan Loftis said. "It's nice to be playing well

heading into district."

The girls felt very proud after a one-point win over Connally, a 5A public high school, which Loftis called "a signature win for the program." Brentwood has also played in three tournaments, beginning with the BCS Invitational, where they finished in second place. Next was the Eagles Classic Tournament in Ft. Worth over Thanksgiving break, where they faced high-level competition and finished sixth out of 16 teams. Then came the Tyler tournament, where Brentwood won all three of its games.

"We work really well together," senior Mackenzie Merkord said.

"Our team chemistry has really improved; players are settling into their roles and really giving more effort on the defensive end," Loftis said. "The kids are making good individual adjustments to help us succeed."

Senior Nicole Glenn leads the team scoring 17.8 points per game.

"The season's off to an exciting start," Glenn said. "We certainly have to work more as a team. But I feel we have all the players we need to be able to (be state champs)."

Following are the team's most recent results:

11/15: Lanier 86-19 W

In this blowout win against

a 4A public high school, BCS led 48-14 at halftime. Glenn was the top scorer with 21 points, followed by Merkord who hit five three-point shots to finish with 15.

11/18: St. Michaels 54-51 W

Keeping a close lead for most of the game, the girls held their three-point halftime lead to win the game. Glenn scored 19 points, followed by junior Keely Hardin with 14 and sophomore Alicia Dixon with 12.

11/20-22: BCS Invitational W W L

The Lady Bears started the tournament with a 71-24 win against Hyde Park, an old rival. Glenn scored her 1,000th career point during this game, becoming the fifth person to do so since Loftis began at Brentwood in 2000. Glenn was the top scorer with 21 points, followed by Hardin and sophomore Kayleigh Lawrence with 11.

In their second game, the Lady Bears defeated Frisco Legacy 55-24. The girls led at halftime 24-15 before winning the second half 31-9. The top scorer was Glenn with 22, then senior Christina Onabajo with 11.

The girls were defeated in the championship 54-44 by St. Michaels, whom they had just beaten days before. BCS players struggled with foul trouble during the game. The top scorers were Glenn with 13 points, and Lawrence and Dixon with seven.

Nov. 24-25: @Eagles Classic Tourn. W L W L

Brentwood started with a 37-13 win against Burton Adventist in which they led 13-0 after the first quarter. Glenn scored 11 points; Onabajo had 10.

The Lady Bears lost the second game 40-31 to Gainesville, a 4A public high school. The

girls had a slow start and were losing 29-9 at halftime before making the final score much closer. Glenn led with 17 points.

BCS then beat Denton Calvary 54-27, led by 17 points from Glenn.

Brentwood lost the final game 36-30 against Covenant, taking home sixth place. The girls were barely losing at halftime, 20-19, but had a rough fourth quarter and lost grip of the win. The top scorer was Hardin with eight points.

12/2: Pflugerville Connally 50-49 W

After going down 11-2 to an extremely fast opponent, the Lady Bears settled down to tie the score 28-28 at the half. BCS went up by five in the fourth quarter, but with 10 seconds left, Connally scored a layup tying the game. Glenn was fouled as she attacked the basket and made a free throw with no time left on the clock. She finished with 24 points, while Hardin had 14.

12/4-6: @Brookshire Classic Tourn. W W W

BCS opened with a 56-17 win against T.K. Gorman; the halftime score was 30-4. The top scorer was Glenn with 18 points, followed by Hardin and Lawrence with seven.

The Lady Bears then beat Cypress Christian 38-33. This was the team they beat in the state semifinals last year, so Cypress was good competition. Glenn led with 19, followed by Hardin and senior Megan Burcham with seven.

In the final game, Brentwood had another easy win, 41-16, against the host school Tyler All Saints. Glenn scored 14 and Dixon had eight, as the team clinched the top spot in that tournament for the second year in a row. Glenn, Hardin, and Burcham made the all-tournament team.



photo: Dorothy Walters

Think fast Senior Nicole Glenn looks to pass during Brentwood's 55-24 win over Frisco Legacy in the BCS Invitational on Nov. 21. Glenn had 22 points in the game.

Honduras trip has spots for more students willing to serve

By Jenna Beggs

Brentwood Christian's third annual Honduras mission trip, scheduled for June 7-14, still has spots open for students willing to serve, according to trip sponsor Michele Broadway.

So far five students have signed up for the trip, along with sponsors Broadway, Carol Johnson, Roger McCown, and Dr. Rachel Montesdeoca. Broadway said there are about

10 spots left for high school students.

"We would love to have you join us in serving the people of Honduras," she said. "After Christmas we will do lots of activities to prepare. Let us know quickly if you want to join."

The group is hoping to serve and teach as much as possible while in Catacamas, which is a small city in a rich agricultural valley. Last summer the Brentwood group stayed at a few places while they were there, but this time they

are planning to stay in one place.

Since the trip costs about \$1,800 per person, the team has been fundraising since the beginning of the school year. Some fundraisers the group is doing are babysitting and jeans days.

On jeans days, students pay \$1 to their first-period teacher and get a sticker permitting them to wear jeans and a BCS T-shirt instead of their regular school uniform for the day.

The Honduras team also babysat on Friday,

Dec. 5, in the FLC for kids from the Brentwood Oaks church.

Students who go always end up feeling a strong tie to the children they get to know.

"The main reason I want to go to Honduras is because of the kids," said sophomore Kristyn Chambers, who is a returning member to the Honduras team. "They don't have much, but they are always smiling. Their happiness is contagious."

BCS to build outdoor classroom

By Camille Sunshine

Many children get tired of sitting in the same desk looking at the same posters in the same room five days a week. Monotony is very exhausting. But now, a new environment for learning is coming to life at Brentwood Christian.

An outdoor amphitheater-style classroom will soon be built outside the B building near the flagpole. According to BCS director of development Kevin Claypool, it will be completed by the end of Christmas break and will be used as an outdoor classroom, an after-school gathering place, and a place for parents to pick up their children.

Elementary principal Mara Ashley said she is very excited about the new project.

"It brings together aesthetics and utility. The amphitheater will beautify the campus while providing a place for people to sit and meet. It will be a great addition to the campus," she said.

Claypool said an anonymous donor gave BCS a \$20,000 check, asking for it to be used on a project that would affect the whole school,

but one that was low on the priority list. The amphitheater idea had been on the list for a long time, but had been waylaid by other items. Claypool, who has been heading the project, said it has been a "dream" for them to have this new learning experience.

"I love it!" Claypool said. "It's going to look incredible."

Anyone who passes the B building has seen the orange fence tape and pink markings on the ground to mark the beginning of the process. Work on the project started over Thanksgiving break but was delayed by the rain. Workers will soon begin the process of removing dirt.

"We're trying to get a jumpstart on it to make sure it's completed (by the end of the holidays)," Claypool said. He doesn't foresee many problems, besides the fact that weather is very fickle this time of year.

The amphitheater will be made of solid limestone, and will have three levels and a podium. It is generally agreed that the new addition to campus will be a great improvement to the rocky and often muddy hill that has long been in front of the B building.

Dinner-goers meet TV star, enjoy buffet on baseball turf

By Grace Rogge

A crowd of more than 500 people gathered into the warm tent on the outfield of the Dell Diamond for Brentwood Christian's 24th annual Partnership Dinner on Nov. 15.

This year's dinner was more geared toward families, with its casual theme and location, than in previous years when it has typically been held at The Renaissance Hotel in the Arboretum.

The dress code for the evening was "camo chic" or "business casual." Outfits ranged from formal wear to jeans and even a camo prom dress. The camo went along with the preferred clothing of the evening's special guest, *Duck Dynasty* star John Godwin.

Food was catered by RS3, the Dell Diamond's on-site catering team, and was served buffet-style. Entrees included fried fish and brisket with sides such as fried okra and spicy rice. Gumbo was also available upon request. Each table was decorated with a colorful array of desserts such as cookies and brownies.

With the day approaching, weather was a growing concern. Temperatures were in the 40s and the ground was very wet. This caused port-a-floors to be installed in the tent.

"Weather was almost an issue," said development director Kevin Claypool, who was in charge of the event.

Godwin was well received, as he shared stories about his hit television show. He talked about how the producers plan the episodes, discussed his favorite episodes, and even told some crazy stories about co-star Si Robertson. Godwin was also asked about his faith and his church family.

"Remember where you come from and who you are,"

he said. "Have a strong foundation, strong family, and believe Jesus is real."

Godwin went on to say that his duck hunting led him to Jesus. Years ago he was invited to church by a hunting friend, and when he got there, he heard Phil Robertson preach. Later, Phil invited him to go duck hunting and eventually offered him a job at Duck Commander, which led to TV stardom for all of them.

The traditional live auction, held at the end, featured seven items. Up for bid was a two-day axis deer hunting trip, a side of Diamond Y Ranch beef, a seven-day cruise for two, a 12-gauge SuperNova signed by Godwin, a CZ-USA 12-gauge shotgun, and the favorite of most: an Anatolian/Pyrenees/Golden Retriever puppy. Auctioned off twice since the first buyer said he did not have enough room for it, the puppy brought in \$3,200 overall.

The silent auction this year included nearly 120 items donated from different companies, classes, teachers, and families. The larger items included a reserved parking spot at the school, rounds of golf, and a Kendra Scott jewelry party. The auction also included smaller items such as gift cards, and passes from places like the Texas State Aquarium and Sea World.



photo: Mary Ann Melton

Quack John Godwin of *Duck Dynasty* answers questions from BCS dad Brent Allen at Partnership Dinner.



Coming soon This is an animation of the amphitheater-style classroom, made of solid limestone, that will be built outside the B building during the Christmas holidays.