



# THE BEAR FACTS

see pg. 3 VOL. 27 NO. 4

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2015



see pg. 5

## IN SHORT

### Open House report

The fifth-annual BCS Admissions Open House on Feb. 8 featured beautiful weather and, according to admissions director Kimberly McLain, brought more than 50 families to tour the campus. Several applications were submitted within 24 hours, and guests had kind words for the 78 Brentwood students who assisted with the event.

### Musicians honored

Four BCS students made the TPSMEA All-State Choir, and two made the All-State Band. Those recognized in choir were all seniors: Tyler Clark, Haley Hutson, Youngwoo Kim, and Matthew Scarborough. Band members were junior Andrew Armstrong (trombone), and senior Kate Zipperer (flute).

### Math League rankings

Through four of the six Texas State Math League tests, BCS is in third place in the state. If Brentwood were to maintain its position, it would be the school's highest finish ever. Among individuals, junior Andrew Armstrong is tied for third in state, having missed only one question.

Including scores from the fifth test, students with perfect scores on any test this year are Armstrong (four times), Martha Hughes, Hyunjin Park, Joshua Sass, Matthew Scarborough, and Yunxi Wei (twice). The final test will be held Tuesday, March 10.

## Moss era draws to close

*Burcham hired to be next school president*

By Camille Sunshine

After serving at Brentwood Christian for more than 40 years, school president Marquita Moss will step down at the end of this year and will be replaced by Jay Burcham, former chairman of the school board.

Burcham, who was hired as Brentwood's chief operating officer before the semester began, said he looks forward to continuing the legacy of success that Brentwood has had for so long. He and his wife Sylvia have three children at Brentwood: senior Megan, freshman Hunter, and fourth-grader Abbie. Sylvia has taught first grade at BCS for more than 10 years over a 20-year period.

For the last five years, people have asked Moss when she will retire. She has seen friends and younger siblings retire, and she decided that

hitting age 70 meant it was time to step down.

"I don't feel 70, but one never knows what will happen when one is 70," she said with a chuckle. "I'm not thinking I'm going to keel over anytime soon."

Moss had a succession plan ready in case of emergency, with Burcham at the top of the list. She said she had considered him a top candidate for the job for a while, but she thought he would be unwilling to leave his successful business.

"I know he loves the school and is committed to the mission," she said.

For the first two years that Burcham is president, Moss will work as president emeritus, which will involve communicating with alumni, building relationships with donors, and other projects involving the big picture of the school.

After retiring fully, Moss said she may work as a consultant in Christian schools to build a Christian perspective or as a children's author. She said she is definitely looking forward to spending more time with her family.

Moss said she will not miss the stress of trying to fit into a budget or the pressure of wearing lots of hats. But she will miss seeing the students, their progress, the faculty, and being a part of the vision of Brentwood Christian.

"It's been such a wonderful opportunity," she said.

Moss said the Christ-centered mission of Brentwood has been at the core of her heart as



Jay Burcham

photo: Jonathon Reich

see **Mission-minded**, page 3



**Soaking the sun** Summer Best's fourth-grade students enjoy the early spring in the new amphitheater, completed last month outside of the Upper Elementary Building.

photo: Jonathon Reich

## Spring sports starting for high school

By Rebecca Tilley

With spring quickly approaching and the winter sports wrapping up, three more varsity sports are beginning: baseball, softball, and track.

### BASEBALL

The varsity baseball team opened their season with a 9-2 win on Saturday, Feb. 7, against Austin Royals. Pitching for the Bears were sophomore Garrison Ryberg, senior Zach Marsh, and junior John Hollingsworth. Freshman Dillon Smith and Hollingsworth each drove in two runs.

The boys ended their season last year with an 11-1 district record (14-4 overall), which was good enough to win the outright district championship for the first time in school history. They lost 7-1 to Brazos Christian in the playoffs.

Returning all-district players include senior Aaron Garcia, Hollingsworth, Marsh, and junior Jake Velasco, who was honorable mention all-state. Newcomers include three freshmen and five others, including senior Brodie Brown.

"We have a skilled team with plenty of talent," Zach Marsh said. "The goal is to win district of course, but we are just taking it one game at a time."

Since Jan. 20, the team has been practicing with coaches Rich Russo, Gary Marsh, and John McMeen while head coach Brian Thrift is coaching the basketball team.

Brentwood's district has changed this year, meaning there will be a few different opponents. Their next game is Feb. 17 at their home field against Veritas. District games begin after spring break.

Thrift said the goal for this year is to continue to improve and repeat as district champions, as well as make it deep into the playoffs.

### SOFTBALL

The softball season began with a scrimmage against Milano on Feb. 2. The team began practicing on Jan. 20, and Coach Sladek said he envisions "a team that plays and gets better every day."

see **Baseball**, page 7

*Being ForthReich:* Jonathon Reich

## Shame invisible despite prevalent role in society, editor says

In some ways, our culture is engrossed in the idea of acceptance. Not judging others despite their beliefs, looks, and in many cases actions, might be called a cornerstone of the society we live in. When we are put in a situation with new people, this mindset is an easy guide to how we are expected to interact with those around us.

I don't mean to challenge this idea. In fact, I think it is the mindset Christians should have. But perhaps one of the reasons the rest of our society operates in this way is because it's doing its best to prevent unnecessarily "shaming" others. The "fat acceptance" movement, whose purpose is to "change anti-fat bias in social attitudes," is a helpful illustration of this. As the American norm considers skinnier bodies to be more beautiful, obese individuals feel that society shames them for not meeting this norm. To combat this shame, they do things like organize rallies and conduct health research to help fat people feel more accepted.

This movement has been largely successful because it's tackled shame at its two main sources – social and internal. Dr. Thomas Scheff, a professor emeritus of sociology at the University of California, recognizes shame generally as a "threat to the social bond." This means that shame can originate from social pressure, but the person being shamed must internalize it as well.

While the effort to remove shame from those who are obese has been somewhat successful, can we say this openness about shame is shared?

Most experts would say no. Twentieth-century sociologist Norbert Elias proposed in his study of European history that despite shame's place as a dominant emotion in modern society, it has been generally underground, or considered taboo for conversation. In the words of psychologist Gershen Kaufman, "There is

shame about shame."

Even with shame's bad reputation, there is a part of it that's necessary. When we are learning what is socially acceptable, whether we're being potty-trained as toddlers or learning new cultures in our adult years, this sense of shame

helps us determine what is socially right from socially wrong. This means when you feel shame, it doesn't necessarily mean you've done something wrong or bad.

When you've had a bad hair day or are remembering your awful middle school styles,

those feelings of shame don't mean there's anything wrong with you, and it would only be silly to continue to beat yourself up over them. In the words of Friedrich Nietzsche, "They are not the worst things of which one is most ashamed."

Understanding that part of shame is necessary, how do we recognize the "necessary shame"

---

*When our shame is associated with our sense of value, it leads us down a path that's hard to recover from.*

---

**WORDS AND SHIELDS:** Emily Shields

## Love is in the air – but is it the right love?

Valentine's Day has pounced upon us all, bringing red rose bouquets, boxes of chocolate, and for many, that ever-present desire to have a sweetheart on Feb. 14.

Now I'm not here to slam the holiday and the significance that it might have to some people, but Valentine's Day seems to be a total waste of my time.

There are some valid reasons why Valentine's Day seems useless to some of us. It appears to be a holiday for people in relationships and no one else. Those who lack a sweetheart watch the happy couples with their flowers and candy and might feel somewhat insignificant and discouraged. Some have jokingly called Valentine's Day "Singles Awareness Day," or "SAD" for short.

But Valentine's Day does not have to be "SAD." A significant other does not define you or give you significance. There are other ways that everyone can feel fulfilled and loved on Feb. 14. A problem that we have as a culture is that we emphasize romantic love more than we should. Worst of all, we don't put enough emphasis on other forms of love – particularly God's love for us, which will endure way longer than love between high school or middle school sweethearts. So it's OK if you don't have a sweetheart; there are other people in life

who love you deeply.

C.S. Lewis, the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, also wrote about the types of love: family love, friendly love, and a love for God. Loving your family is important, especially when it comes to taking care of parents in their old age. The apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to Timothy that, basically, if we don't love our family enough to take care of them, we are no better than serial killers or thieves.

Love between friends is something powerful and a rare treasure. Jesus states in John 15: "I demand that you love each other as much as I love you. And here is how to measure it – the greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends." This shows how pleasing it is to God that we love our friends.

But the greatest of all is a love for God, which is the most enduring. Lewis points out in his book *The Four Loves* that within every love that there is, God is always a part of it, even if we can't see it. True love is not something of this world; rather, it is part of something greater than this world can fathom. So when it comes to love on Valentine's Day, I have no right to say I don't have someone I love who loves me. Because we all have friends, family, and a Creator who loves us, so what else do we really need at this point of our lives?

"Love" is perhaps the main theme of the

from the "bad shame"? The best, and perhaps the only, way to really recognize and dismantle this shame about shame is to begin talking about it. Our shame shouldn't be hidden – it needs to be recognized for healing to begin, whether it's over silly things or serious ones. According to Dr. Scheff, when our shame gets to the point where it's "associated with our personhood or sense of value," it only leads us down a path of self-loathing that is hard to recover from.

The negative effects of shame are often only perpetuated by our silence, the effects of which I wrote about at the beginning of the year. Like I've described, when people feel ashamed, it's typically due to a perceived social consequence. If people only see those, why would they want to talk about their "shameful" actions?

Remember, bad hair days aren't forever. Even when you make a mistake, it's not anything you can't come back from. Shame is painful, but it can also help us grow. And God doesn't care what you have to be ashamed of – He leaves that behind Him, being willing to forgive when we ask for it. And if God can overlook our shame, maybe we can too.

### 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	Mary Womack
Grace Rogge	Thomas Yates

#### Adviser

Jonathan Weed

The Bear Facts is available online at  
[www.brentwoodchristian.org](http://www.brentwoodchristian.org).



# Mission-minded Moss to step down after 40 years

continued from page 1

she has labored to maintain a Christian school that is affordable to average-income Christian families. In considering whether to retire, Moss said she had to decide what was best for the school's mission and heritage to continue.

Those with long-time connections to the school have recognized Moss's devotion to keeping the school centered on Christ.

"Mrs. Moss has kept Brentwood Christian School focused on its mission to lead students to love God," humanities teacher Mel Witcher said. "That's been her greatest strength."

Since coming to Brentwood in 1974, Moss has helped grow the school nearly from its birth. When she started, she was a member of the school board while teaching journalism at UT. In 1979, the first year there was a fifth grade, she became the emergency elementary principal, and became full principal in 1980. In 1984, she helped form the high school, and

hired Dr. Libby Weed as elementary principal. This left Moss to be a combination of secondary principal and executive director. Her title changed to president in 1997.

She has also helped lead schools all over the country through her work with the National Christian School Association.

Moss said her favorite memories are those of students who have graduated telling her how they had succeeded in life and learned to love God through the teaching and encouragement from Brentwood. She said in the beginning, many people felt that Brentwood could not succeed due to the fact that it met in a church and added a grade every year. When the third graduating class produced a National Merit Scholar, Moss felt like they were able to give proof of their success.

As Moss recognized, BCS is in the blood of the Burchams. Brentwood's new leader said his children are his hobby, as he travels to and from sports games and other events.

"He already has a deep love and appreciation for the school and values its mission," board member Cheryl Billante said. "Like Mrs. Moss, he has a heart for Christian education and understands the tremendous spiritual impact that Brentwood has on young lives every day."

Burcham has been on the school board for 10 years, the last three-and-a-half of those as the chairman. Before being hired by BCS, he started and developed two companies; the most recent one is called Provenio Company, a resource provider for school districts to use when dealing with students with extreme behavior problems.

Having worked with troubled kids, Burcham said he had seen darkness, but Brentwood is full of light, making it easy to leave his business.

"When you've been on the outside and you come inside, it is a very hopeful thing to be a part of," Burcham said. "Being up here where people pray and are happy is the best part of it."

Burcham said he feels that society is very much in need of Christ-centered education,

and that everyone at Brentwood is united in that mission.

"Brentwood is at the top," he said. "That's because people here do what they do to the glory of God. The results are just there."

Burcham said he regards growth both as a challenge and a top priority. Growth to Burcham, especially of the high school, needs to be "front and center." He said he hopes to develop the football program, more classrooms, and more athletic facilities and programs, among other things. Burcham's biggest fear is the economy, but he expressed his faith in God's providence.

"Mr. Burcham is going to be great," Witcher said. "He's a skilled administrator, organizer, (and) dreamer."

Burcham expressed how blessed he feels Brentwood is because of Moss's work, and he plans to carry on her legacy for a long time.

"Let's put it this way: I plan to be here for at least 20 years," Burcham said.

## Bee season produces new winner, repeat champ

### Battle wins geography bee in tiebreaker

By Kira Juraneck

Eighth-grader Adrian Battle won Brentwood Christian's National Geographic Bee in the CSA theater on Jan. 20 after a long championship tie-breaker against fifth-grader Emma Ayers. Students and teachers of fourth through eighth grades as well as some high school students attended the bee, while nine students competed for the win.

Classroom bees were held in the weeks prior to the bee for fourth through eighth graders to determine who would compete in the final round. There were 14 students in those grades who answered all seven of their questions correctly in the classroom round, so a written tie-breaker was used to cut the number to 10.

Jonathan Weed was the announcer for the school-level bee while Becky Stewart kept score.

It took only three rounds to reduce the number of competitors to two. Battle was the only student to get his first-round question correct. In the second round, each student received the same question and wrote their answers down.

In the third round, the four remaining students were given a map, and each received a different question about the

map. Battle and Ayers were the only students to answer their questions correctly, which advanced them to the championship round.

As always, the championship round consisted of three questions, but since Battle and Ayers each answered one correctly, they entered a tie-breaker. Neither student gave a correct answer until the sixth extra question: "New Zealand's native people arrived from other Pacific islands hundreds of years before Europeans. Name these Polynesian people." Battle answered "Maori" and won the bee.

Battle received a medal for winning and took an online test last week to see if he will qualify for the state-level competition on March 27.



**Can't bee beat** Eighth-grader Adrian Battle is awarded his medal after winning the geography bee on Jan. 20.

photo: Dorothy Walters

### Ankutse bests Young again as top speller

By Tony Lee

"Yes. Y-E-S," first-grader Zuriel Davis said as the Brentwood Spelling Bee started.

The annual bee, which was held in the auditorium on Jan. 15 from 9:30 to about 10:30, had 20 participants from first to eighth grade. For the second straight year, eighth-grader Emmanuel Ankutse won first place, and just like last year, he was followed by Cade Young, a seventh grader.

The first round ended with only one contestant, eighth-grader Jaelyn Wishard, disqualified after misspelling the word "block." After that, at least one or two contestants were disqualified every round. Five people were disqualified after round seven, leaving seven contestants.

From the start of round 13, it was a one-on-one battle between Ankutse and Young. In round 14, Young misspelled the word "nativistic" while Ankutse correctly spelled "hitherto." Ankutse was then given one word for the "championship round." He spelled out the last word as silence filled the room.

"Misfortune: M-I-S-F-O-R-T-U-N-E."

The audience cheered and Ankutse was awarded as the winner of the 2015 Spelling Bee. Seventh-graders Addison Alberda and Genevieve Graesse tied in third place, and second-grader Asia Anderson ended up with fourth place.

After the bee ended, the contestants posed for pictures, and some of them were awarded

for different specialties. All of the finalists received medals, and Ankutse was awarded a trophy.

Ankutse will represent Brentwood at the Zone 10 Regional Spelling Bee which includes schools from Travis and Hays counties. It will take place on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Trinity Episcopal School.

The Brentwood bee was coordinated by BCS parent Sharonda Cooper. The judges were teachers Brooke Hollingsworth, Evelyn Ellis, Tere Hager, and Chloe Campbell.



photo: Dorothy Walters

**Un-BEE-table** Eighth-grader Emmanuel Ankutse won the spelling bee for the second year in a row, on Jan. 15.

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:** *Matthew Scarborough*

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

# Thoughtful, kind musician not hard to read

By Nicholas Bergeron

Matthew Scarborough is unflinchingly honest, frugal, and methodical – even scheduling his own downtime. He doesn't complain and doesn't like spending money – walking three miles to school on occasion to save gas and wearing shoes from Wal-Mart until they fall apart.

He's good with kids, and babysits band director Travis Pollard's son Judah and helps out with the younger children in his church home group. He has a strong sense of right and wrong.

A feminist, minimalist, and social critic, Matthew applies his moral sense to the world around him.

"He cares about what's important in the universe," senior Hyunjin Park says.

Junior Samantha Woolverton, who became Matthew's "SpongeBob buddy" – the two swap quotes from the show – knows him as not only as "witty, sharp, and sarcastic," but as a dependable friend.

"(He's) easy to talk to, very helpful, (and) gives good advice. (He's a) good listener," Woolverton says.

Junior Kai Harper says Matthew is more than first meets the eye.

"When you see him in the hallway, he seems very nonchalant, but when you start talking to him he's very nice and funny."

Kai recalls an incident in fourth grade when Matthew, then a fifth-grade safety patrol officer, called for her to stop running. She responded with,

"I'm going to burn your house down!" Two years later, much to her embarrassment, Matthew remembered the incident and asked when she would do it.

His mother Celeste Scarborough remembers a story from a PSIA math competition Matthew entered in fourth grade. When confusion over filling out the Scantron answer sheet disqualified Matthew's would-be first-place score, Matthew told his mother he was glad that some other kid who otherwise wouldn't have gotten a ribbon got to have one.

In choir, Matthew is a veteran all-state bass; in band, he is a recipient of the John Philip Sousa award. For Encore he's arranged several pieces (on the side he composes original music) and held

down the low end since his freshman year. His audition was a surprise to many – except Kai, who had caught him unaware, singing in the car – since before his audition Matthew hadn't expressed a great interest in singing.

A multi-instrumentalist, Matthew could just as likely be found working the jazzy alto sax solo on *Act Your Age*, singing a sacred Latin hymn, or bringing it back to the good ol' days with Brentwood's Barbershop Quartet.

"His musical IQ is through the roof," asserts choir director John McMeen.

As any of his teachers and classmates will tell you, not all of Matthew's reading material is printed on a bass clef. Matthew has voraciously read "anything good" since he picked up the habit in middle school. Indeed, Matthew has been a devoted reader since before kindergarten, reading 70 novels his third-grade year and completing Tolstoy's daunting *War and Peace* as a junior – for fun.

"He's probably the best reader ever," Park says.

Matthew also likes to travel, heading to Egypt as a thirteen-year-old to visit the pyramids of Giza and the tomb of King Tutankhamen.

"(It was) incredible, once you got out of the smog," Matthew remembers.

Matthew looks forward to

the senior class's upcoming trip to Italy and seeing the Vatican and the Colosseum.

Matthew has been a Brentwood student since kindergarten. Though he had a run as a "relatively good" basketball player in middle school and made Encore as a mere freshman, Matthew feels he came into his own during his junior year. After a religious awakening sparked by Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, Matthew feels he's become a harder worker, has "come into his own," and has more sense of purpose in life.

"It's like I was a totally different person as an underclassman," Matthew says.

After high school, Matthew plans to attend UT-Austin with an English or Liberal Arts major. He'd like to be either an author or a teacher; both jobs appeal to him for the opportunity they allow to influence others. His mother comments that, despite the fact that his math and science test scores were even higher than his English scores, "We can always use good writers."

photo: Rachel Dixon

## Stewart leads sixth graders back to space for 30th annual NASA trip

By Thomas Yates

Three ... two ... one ... lift-off! The sixth graders went to Houston on Jan. 29 for their annual trip to experience a simulated NASA mission. They prepared for the trip for months by studying mission materials, such as astronaut task cards and checklists.

This was sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart's 30th year to take the sixth-grade classes on a journey into "space." This year the classes of Stewart, Amber Kidd, and Michelle Mohrmann embarked on their journey into space with 53 students and quite a few parents

in tow. The students entered a simulated NASA missions at one of two locations.

The group departed from Brentwood at a red-eyed 5:45 a.m. They then drove about 175 miles to their respective observatories. Mohrmann's class went to the George Observatory at Brazos Bend State Park while everyone else went to the Challenger Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

The classes had the mission of going either to Mars or to the Moon. During those missions, the teams had their own tasks to perform, such as communications, medical, navigation, life support, or geology. When disaster came, they

had to work together and apply their skills and knowledge to solve the problem.

"It was cool when you entered the spaceship," Elizabeth Oksanen said before describing the tube that spins around like a turntable and connects to the ship.

Oksanen was part of the medical team, and her job was to make sure the crew was in good health. She checked members for color blindness and other mission-altering problems.

During the next portion of the trip, everyone went to the awe-inspiring Space Center at Houston. They were able to see and touch artifacts related to space travel and do hands-on

activities. They also rode the dedicated tram to tour Johnson Space Center and see the real Saturn V rocket. Finally, they saw an IMAX movie on the history of the space shuttle program.

When it was all over, they ate fast food for dinner and left to go back home to Brentwood. They arrived at 9:45 p.m.

The tradition of this trip started Jan. 29, 1986, the day after the Challenger explosion. Stewart said she thinks the trip is great for the kids, and she loves to see them experience it.

"The trip will be in the curriculum as long as the Johnson Space Center and the Challenger Center are open to them," Stewart said.



# Clark, Hutson crowned to end eventful homecoming

By Lila Therrell

Tyler Clark and Haley Hutson were crowned homecoming king and queen between basketball games on Friday, Jan. 16, in the tightly packed Athletic Center. This marked the end of a very eventful week that the Student Council planned for BCS, including dress-up days, an enormous amount of colorful hallway decorations, and an all-school pep rally.

The week kicked off with students celebrating their country on 'Merica Monday, dressed in variations of red, white, and blue. Tuesday was 'Tis the Season Tuesday, and students wore tacky Christmas sweaters, colors, and costumes. Wednesday was National New Years, and students dressed up in a wide variety of outfits, including the standard glitter and glam.

On Thspooky Thursday students wore various Halloween costumes, and Friday was St. Patrick's Day, when students wore green or their BCS spirit shirts.

Friday was also the date of the pep rally, where the cheerleaders performed well-practiced cheers and dances to excite the crowd of students from kindergarten through seniors. The homecoming court was also introduced to the school: Freshmen Alex Pittner and Rebekah Conner were lord and lady; sophomores Charlie Vazquez and Alicia Dixon were duke and duchess; and juniors Andrew Armstrong and Laura Doyle were prince and princess. Senior nominees for king were Clark, Aaron Garcia, and Evan Herring; queen nominees were Hutson, Rachel Dixon, and Kate Zipperer.



Behind most of the planning for homecoming were StuCo and their sponsor Danielle McGhee. Their biggest task was the annual hall decorations in the C building. After working with the cheerleaders for more than five hours after school on Friday, Jan. 9, several StuCo members spent the night in the library before resuming their work in the morning and con-

tinuing all day Saturday. When students came through the doors on Monday, they saw massive amounts of colorful paper with artwork that correlated with the themes planned for each day.

"We had a blast pulling it off!" said Clark, who is the StuCo president. "So many things made the week great. Homecoming 2015 is going down in the record book."

**Royalty!** Haley Hutson, accompanied by her father Darrell, was crowned Homecoming Queen on Jan. 16 after Tyler Clark was crowned king. Clark, who is also president of StuCo, had a hand in a lot of the week's planning.

## Gus Gus, KiKi entertain elementary students

By Mary Womack

The Zoo Show, an annual tradition held for 17 years at Brentwood Christian, returned Jan. 12 in the chapel with many new furry friends. Michael Hicks, or the "Zoo Man," brings a few creatures every year from the Capital of Texas Zoo in Austin to help elementary students gain an appreciation for wild animals.

In three separate morning shows, Hicks brought six very different types of animals. The first was a 33-year-old Indonesian Cockatoo named Avery who could laugh, say "pretty bird," and whistle.

"The Zoo Show was exciting, especially when the bird laughed at the zookeeper," fourth-grader Sarah Walker said.

Next came a lesser-known guest, Gus Gus the Capybara, fuzzy-looking animal the size of a small dog. Many squeals of "he's so cute"

could be heard throughout the room.

Shortly after, hissing cockroaches were introduced, as was Sausage the lizard. After every animal, the Zoo Man would take questions, and after he introduced Sausage, one little boy at the third show wanted to know how fast Sausage could run. So Hicks told the boy to stand at the end of the chapel while he released the lizard, only to reveal that he could only slowly plod. The chapel was quickly filled with loud squeals and laughter as the anticipation ended.

Soon a famous animal was taken out of a cage: KiKi the Coatimundi, who was once on *Late Night with David Letterman* accompanied by Jack Hanna. This furry creature brought many "oohs" and "ahhs" from the younger grades.

"My favorite part is watching the reactions of the children to seeing the different animals," kindergarten teacher Geri Archer said.

For the finale of the show the Zoo Man gently took out Lemonade, an albino Burmese python that was a whopping nine feet long. This brought mixed reactions from the audience, but after being reassured, two first graders in the last show, Luke Weed and Claire Mills, were chosen to hold the python.

"I think the Zoo Show is memorable because we get to see animals we've never even heard of, and we can see them up close and learn things about them you can't find in books," fourth-grader Zoe Cooper said.

This year's visit was significant because Hicks will not be conducting the shows for the next few years as he received a million-dollar grant to expand and remodel the Capital of Texas Zoo, which belongs to him. But he assured that the tradition of the show visiting shall continue on at Brentwood without missing a year.



photo: Mary Womack

**Ew!** "Zoo Man" Michael Hicks prepares students to be sniffed by Sausage the lizard with his blue tongue.

# Boys finish district strong, await tiebreaker news

By Joshua Sass

Brentwood rolled into Central Texas Christian's campus on Feb. 5 with one mission: to make the playoffs. A loss would end their season, but a victory could put them in a three-way tie for second place. The Bears fell behind 10-2 but battled back to take a three-point lead into halftime.

The second half saw several lead changes until the Bears took over. Senior Cody Hunt made 12 of 13 free throws in the fourth quarter that helped secure the 54-43 win.

Head coach Brian Thrift said the real heroes of the game were junior Robert Lesko and sophomore Graham Marks. Lesko, playing with a broken nose which he suffered against the same team two days earlier, ripped down 15 rebounds, while Marks scored 15 points, making five three-pointers.

"Our team displayed a toughness that I hadn't seen all year," Thrift said. "Their backs were against the wall, and they played great under tough circumstances. I have never been more proud of a team with the effort that those boys showed."

Now 8-4 in district and tied for second with TSD and CTCS, the Bears are waiting for other game results that will determine the district tiebreaker and when they will play next.

The Bears have been plagued with injuries, having lost two students for the entire season: junior Jonny Clifford (concussion) and senior Jacob Orick (knee).

"Jacob was a big presence on the floor for us, not only for his leadership and experience, but for his ability to rebound," Thrift said.

Hunt leads the team with 16.2 points per game, while Lesko leads with 10.1 rebounds.

Following are game results since the previous Bear Facts (\* denotes district game):

**12/12: Marble Falls Faith 60-57 L\***

In their first game without Orick, the Bears were in control for a majority of the game, but had trouble with turnovers in the fourth quarter. Hunt led BCS with 19 points.

**12/15: Austin Royals 66-63 L**

In this back-and-forth contest that went into overtime, neither team had a lead of more than six points the entire game. Late costly turnovers would again doom the Bears. Hunt led scoring with 22.

**12/22: @ Waelder 50-48 L**

The Wildcats jumped out to a 16-point lead, but the determined Bears battled back to take a one-point lead late in the game only to be outdone by last-second heroics by the Wildcats.

**1/6: @ TSD 41-29 L\***

According to Thrift, the Bears were not up to the challenge of playing in such a tough environment. Turnovers again cost BCS a victory in this critical district matchup.

**1/13: @ RRCA 71-29 W\***

BCS came out on fire, building a 16-point first quarter lead, and they cruised to the easy win over the Crusaders. Thrift called it a "total team effort" and one that the seniors really wanted as they visited RRCA for the last time in their careers. Hunt led scoring with 18.

**1/16: S.J. Diego 75-38 W\***

In front of a capacity crowd for homecoming, the Bears were led by seniors Hunt and Aaron Garcia. Every player scored, led by Hunt with 20.

**1/23: @ Concordia 71-41 W\***

The Bears' press confounded the host team as BCS ran away with the game in the second half. Sophomore Jordan Johnson led with 22 points.

**1/27: @ M.F. Faith 61-58 L\***

Playing in Marble Falls, the Bears had control until late in the fourth quarter, when turnovers and bad shot selection cost them a six-point lead. Despite Hunt fouling out, the Bears still had a chance to pull off the win behind the leadership of Garcia and the play of Lesko, who had 16 rebounds to go with his game-high 22 points.

**1/29: TSD 48-30 W\***

In a must-win game for the Bears, they dominated TSD, led by Hunt with 21 points.

**2/3: CTCS 41-39 L\***

Brentwood held a steady lead for most of the game but never could pull away. Lesko suffered a broken nose and was taken from the game in the third quarter. The lead slipped away, and after a late charge, the Bears fell short.

**2/5: @ CTCS 54-43 W\***

(described earlier)

**2/6: RRCA 51-31 W\***

Brentwood dominated the game from the get go, allowing only nine points in the first half. The Bears had a completely balanced offensive



photo: Dorothy Walters

**Delivery** Senior Aaron Garcia makes a pass to sophomore Jordan Johnson at the homecoming game.

attack, with seven different players scoring. Before this rivalry game the Bears celebrated senior night as all the seniors were given a gift and spoken of by Coach Thrift. Johnson led with 13 points.

**2/10: @ San Juan Diego 62-35 W\***

With a full-court press, the Bears took an early lead to finish their district season.

## Soccer girls qualify for playoff game Saturday in Dallas

By Elijah Cunningham

The BCS girls' varsity soccer team qualified for playoffs this week after splitting a pair of games on Monday and Tuesday.

Going into the week, the Bears were fourth in district with a 3-5 record. A win at home against Pharr followed by a loss at Boerne Geneva left them in the same position. But they did qualify for a playoff game, which will be Saturday in Dallas against McKinney Christian.

In his first year coaching the team, Cash Miller said the season has gone as he expected.

"We are growing as we learn to understand the system of play, and each game we play brings a better understanding of how to run that system," he said.

The team has had some injuries over the season that hindered the girls, including two concussions, a fractured foot, and some ankle injuries. Still, their coach praised them for the way they have kept playing hard, even when

the outcome has not been what they wanted.

"I am proud of the girls for continuing to play with injury and going all in each and every game," Miller said.

Freshman Rebekah Connor leads the team with seven goals, while junior Rebekah Legband and freshman Nicole Petrik have scored three each.

Following are the team's district results:

**1/5: @ Veritas 8-0 L**

In their first district game, the girls were missing some of their players as they faced the defending champions. Freshman goalkeeper Alex Sass made 15 saves.

**1/13: @ Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills 7-1 L**

The girls didn't play well in the first half, but they slowed their opponent in the second half. Legband scored the Bears' only goal in the second half on a free kick.

**1/16: Boerne Geneva 2-0 W**

On homecoming night, BCS won their first home district game. The girls came out strong in

the first half with a quick goal by freshman Avery Miller. Rebekah Connor added a goal in the second half, and the Bears' defense stood firm.

**1/19: John Paul II 3-0 W**

The Bears scored two goals in the first half, one of which came on a corner kick by junior Sarah Connor, scored by freshman Nicole Petrik on the far post. Rebekah Connor scored the last goal, 15 seconds before the game ended.

**1/27: @ Pharr Oratory 4-3 W**

Sarah Connor scored the first goal, and BCS was up 2-0 by halftime. But Pharr scored on a penalty kick and then another two goals which put them ahead 3-2. The Bears tied the score before Rebekah Connor scored the winning goal with only two minutes left.

**1/30: Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills 4-0 L**

Kerrville started the game with two quick goals, but BCS held them there until halftime. The Bears had possession of the ball for most of the first half but weren't able to score. Kerrville then put the game away in the second half.

**2/5: @ John Paul II 8-1 L**

John Paul came out strong, and the Bears were unable to score in the first half. The girls played better in the second half, and Legband managed to score their only goal.

**2/6: Veritas 6-1 L**

Brentwood played well in the first half against their undefeated opponent. Junior Natalie Williams scored the Bears' only goal against Veritas this season with an assist from senior Rachel Dixon. It was only the third time Veritas was scored on all season.

**2/9: Pharr Oratory 5-0 W**

According to Miller, the Bears dominated the entire game. Petrik led BCS with two goals in their final home game.

"Today was the most complete game I have seen from the girls to date," Miller said.

**2/10: @ Boerne Geneva 2-1 L**

Boerne took the lead on a penalty kick and then went ahead 2-0 early in the second half. BCS had a late goal by Rebekah Connor.



# New district foe takes title; Lady Bears second

By Grace Rogge

With a 82-37 victory over Round Rock Christian on Senior Night last Friday, Feb. 6, the Lady Bears finished their season as second in district with a record of 10-2 (24-8 overall). As they head into playoffs, hosting a game on Saturday, Feb. 21, head coach Devan Loftis says he still feels confident that they will do well and finish in the Final Four.

"The girls are in pretty good shape," Loftis said.

However, he said he feels like playoffs will be more difficult this year and the girls will have to win big games earlier in order to make it to the state tournament.

After winning district four straight years, Brentwood's district picked up Marble Falls Faith Academy, the defending 2A TAPPS state champs who are also favorites to win 3A this year. Marble Falls is responsible for both of the district losses the Lady Bears have had this year. But the girls have grown stronger through the defeats.

"The team has made major improvements in the areas of increasing effort levels, rebounding, and teamwork," Loftis said.

He said rebounding and defense have been a challenge this year playing in a district with several teams that offer little resistance. Another challenge the team has faced is keeping their passion and intensity up during practices. But a strength is their ability to play together well.

"The team has great chemistry," senior Christina Onabajo said. "Three of the starting seniors have played together since fifth grade."

Senior Nicole Glenn broke the all-time Lady Bears record for points scored during a career on Jan. 23 right before halftime at Concordia. The record was 1,345 points, held by alumna Stacie Hall ('06). Glenn has shared the court with the two other athletes who are in the top four: Ariana Marks ('14) and Brittany Brunson ('12).

Glenn leads the team this year with 18 points

and seven rebounds per game.

Loftis said he has set high expectations for all the girls. Sophomore Addy Hardin has impressed the team with her ability to shoot three-pointers off the bench. He said senior Megan Burcham has also shown passion and played hard this season.

"Every game someone different steps up as a leading contributor," Loftis said.

Following are game results since the previous Bear Facts (\* denotes district game):

**12/12: Marble Falls Faith Acad. 38-33 L\***

Brentwood fell behind 12-0 before jumping out to a 22-18 lead at halftime. It was a hard-fought game defensively, while offensively BCS was not consistent. Sophomore Alicia Dixon scored 10 points, junior Keely Hardin scored eight, and Addy Hardin made two three-pointers.

**12/13: Concordia 73-10 W\***

Glenn led the team with 18 points, and senior Kenzie Merkord scored 11.

**12/29-31: @ Houston Tourn. W W L W**

The Lady Bears placed third overall during the tournament, and Glenn made the all-tournament team. The girls beat Beaumont Legacy 38-37 in their first game. Loftis said Beaumont has one of the best players in the nation, and they were pleased to hold her to only 18 points. Addy Hardin made a big three-pointer, and Onabajo made two clutch free throws in the fourth quarter.

In their second game the Lady Bears beat tournament hosts Incarnate Word 45-10, holding their opponents to two points for the first three quarters. In their third game against Lutheran North, BCS lost 55-31. Loftis said they were a very strong team with players a lot larger than Brentwood's girls. The last game of the tournament was played against Houston Episcopal, and the Bears came back from an early deficit to win 45-30.

**1/2: Vandegrift 42-26 L**

Playing a 5A public school, the girls had little energy during the first three quarters. But dur-

ing the fourth quarter the team worked together well and was encouraged by the alumni in the stands.

**1/6: TSD 50-22 W\***

Glenn and Dixon led the team with 13 points each. TSD played hard on offense, but the Lady Bears were able to defend it well.

**1/13: @ RRCA 59-22 W\***

In front of a hostile crowd, BCS took apart their biggest rivals, led by Glenn's 18 points.

**1/16: San Juan Diego 75-23 W\***

On homecoming night, Brentwood brought out a great crowd atmosphere to encourage the girls. Glenn led the team with 26 points, and sophomore Kaleigh Lawrence scored 12.

**1/23: @ Concordia 73-7 W\***

By halftime Glenn had beaten the all-time scoring record for the Lady Bears. She finished with 13, and Onabajo had 12.

**1/27: @Marble Falls 59-28 L\***

Although the Bears fought hard, many obstacles stood in their way. Playing in front of a large and noisy crowd all dressed in red, Brentwood got into early foul trouble and fell behind quickly. They also struggled to defend the Marble Falls freshman who stood at about 6-foot-5.

**1/29: TSD 64-26 W\***

Glenn led the team with 17 points and nine rebounds. Addy Hardin and Lawrence each scored 11.

**2/3: CTCS 63-29 W\***

Glenn scored 17 points to go with 13 rebounds and seven steals. Merkord made five three-pointers.

**2/5: @ CTCS 62-42 W\***

This game was rescheduled from two weeks prior because

of ice. The student section was lively and in abundance while Glenn scored 26 points and Hardin had 15.

**2/6: RRCA 87-32 W\***

Brentwood made 11 three-pointers, including five from Merkord, and Glenn scored 25 on Senior Night, when the team's four seniors were honored.

**2/10: @ San Juan Diego 74-12 W\***

Another easy win for the Bears closed the regular season as the girls turned their attention toward playoffs.



photo: Dorothy Walters

**In control** Junior Keely Hardin signals to her teammates as she brings the ball down in a recent game.

## Baseball, softball, track athletes getting in gear for seasons

continued from page 1

Currently they have only two players returning to their positions from the last year, including junior Sofia Torres as pitcher. However, once soccer and basketball seasons end, many other softball players will be able to join the team. Sladek said the team has a few very strong players coming back, and he is eager to see how they perform as leaders, teammates, and players in the next couple of weeks of practices and scrimmages.

"I want to see competitiveness always, win, lose, or tie," he said.

Last year's season ended with a 9-3 loss to Bryan St. Joseph in the playoffs. The Bears placed third in district with a 7-4-1 record (8-12-1 overall). Returning all-district players are sophomores Hillarie Carpenter and Nicole Dobos, as well as juniors Madison French and Torres.

Sladek said the girls have been working hard to make corrections and improve their skills, and in his view, it's the effort that goes into the

game that matters, not the wins or losses.

"We'd love to see everyone at our games at Balcones Little League, where we play," Sladek said.

### TRACK

The track team has already been doing a lot of work in preparation for their first meet on March 7 at St. Andrews. Coach Katie Smith said she hopes to see improvement both in competition and scores of the boys' team. She also said that she hopes to compete well in the district meet and to send some of the athletes

on to state.

For the girls' team, which is the defending district champion, Smith said her goal is to continue the tradition of finishing high in state and sending a lot of runners to compete.

The girls are led by senior Nicole Glenn, who placed in three individual events at state last year, and junior Martha Hughes, who currently holds the school record for the pole vault and is the defending state champion in that event.

THE BEAR FACTS FEBRUARY 2015

## 'Alice' charms for two nights

By Jenna Beggs

The seventh- and eighth-grade drama classes performed two one-act plays on Feb. 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. in the school theater.

Starting things off on Friday night was *Alice in Wonderland*, starring seventh-grader Adrie Gruis as Alice, along with 15 other cast members. *Skid Marks*, which had eight cast members, went first on Saturday night.

"I have done community theater before," Gruis said, "but I've never been the main role, and never had to learn this many lines."

*Alice in Wonderland* was originally written by Lewis Carroll in 1865, and it was made into

a Disney movie in 1951. It's the story of a girl who falls into a rabbit hole which brings her into a new world full of adventures and mysterious animals.

*Skid Marks* was written by Lindsay Price, who also wrote the play *School Daze*, which was the winning TCSIT play that BCS middle schoolers performed last year. This year's play is about various car-related issues.

Students received their scripts before the Christmas holidays, and they began practicing when they returned. Singleton said art teacher Lori Morin and elementary librarian Tere Hager helped a lot with meal planning and set design.

In the past there have only been two middle school drama classes, and they each performed different plays as a class. Since there are three middle school drama classes this year, Singleton decided to choose two plays, and anyone from the three classes could try out for parts in either of the plays or sign up to be in either of the crews.

Before the performance, Singleton expressed how impressed she is by this group of middle school students and how excited she was for the show.

"The cooperation and work they are all doing is great," Singleton said. "They are really maturing and taking ownership of the show."



photo: Madison Warner

**Good eggs** Alice (seventh-grader Adrie Gruis) and Humpty Dumpty (seventh-grader Sterling Selvera) entertain during the one-act play.

## 'Super' seniors celebrated

By Maria Harris

As Charlie Sinclair and Jacob Orick made their way to the front of the audience and took their places, Sinclair began reminiscing about their friendship. Sniffles were soon heard throughout the FLC, and tissue boxes were passed around. After Sinclair's heartfelt speech there was an applause and a hug shared between the two friends.

This year's annual Super Senior celebrations were held Saturday, Jan. 17, in the FLC and Saturday, Jan. 24, at Cameron Road Church of Christ. Starting at 2 p.m. and ending at about 6 p.m. the seniors, family members, class sponsors, and several other teachers gathered to bless the seniors one by one. Each senior was assigned a friend to talk about a good quality or trait their friend has for about two minutes. Parents were also asked to do the same for their child.

One of the highlights was when Brodie Brown's mom Cindy shared several memories of Brodie's childhood, including his rambunctious kindergarten years when she was contacted frequently by the school.

"Getting a call from the office saying Brodie cut someone with scissors; Brodie asked to go to the restroom and came out with no clothes

on; Brodie is putting his hands on other kids ...," she shared, bringing lots of laughter.

At both celebrations, each one honoring half of the class, there were three sessions to honor the seniors, separated by snack breaks. For both evenings the event ended with a barbecue-themed dinner consisting of brisket, potato salad, cole slaw, and a side salad. After the dinner was done, there was a devotion led by a senior before BCS president Marquita Moss delivered a message.

Many family members and teachers said they enjoyed having the experience of going to Super Senior.

"This year's Super Senior celebrations were such a blessing to all who were involved," said Cindy Singleton, who along with Michelle Mallet is class sponsor. "The senior blessings were heartfelt, moving, and memorable. (There were) lots of hugs, tears, and laughter — an overall great way to spend a couple of days together."

Students also thought Super Senior was enjoyable.

"I think it was a good opportunity to get to know each senior more personally," Gina Huh said. "It was also very encouraging to hear the blessings from parents to students."

## Return of talent show brings cheers, laughs, amusement

By Kaitlyn Baird

BCS students showcased their talents with a variety of acts ranging from musical performances to comedy skits during the newly revived talent show held on Jan. 15 in the CSA. Admission for the show was free, and parents, teachers, and students packed the theater to watch the event during a busy homecoming week.

The show featured several singing acts, and also included impersonations, comedy routines, dance performances, and instrumental acts. First place for high school was awarded to seniors Travis Teeter, Brodie Brown, Christian Montgomery, and Rachel Dixon. They left the crowd in hysterics with their performance of the Blue Man Group comedy. Their skit featured Teeter, Brown, and Montgomery dressed in blue from head to toe while trying to eat Twinkies with Dixon.

Second place for high school was awarded to sophomore Hannah Odom for her performance of the YouTube hit *The Evolution of Dance*. Sisters Haley and Hope Hutson were awarded third place for singing a duet that they created from two other songs.

First place for middle school went to a group of eighth graders led by Madison Bailey and Nyna Vasquez for their Cups performance. Second place was awarded to seventh-grader Adrie Gruis, who sang *New Soul* while playing her guitar. Sixth-grader Madison Bush was awarded third place for her jazz dance which included many acrobatic moves.

First-place winners for the show received a \$50 Visa gift card. Second-place winners were awarded \$25 Starbucks gift cards, and third-

place winners were given \$10 Chick-fil-A gift cards. The winners were determined by a panel of judges consisting of BCS teachers Lori Morin, Cindy Singleton, and Travis Pollard.

Secondary students who were interested in participating paid \$5 to audition the week before the show. Nine middle school acts and nine high school acts were selected to perform their talents.

Senior and president of StuCo Tyler Clark said he was excited for the show and was looking forward to "getting Brentwood together to have a really fun night."

News of the upcoming talent show spread far and wide. Brentwood gave a warm welcome back to former coach and teacher J.D. Robson, who emceed the show with Clark during his visit from England. Their humorous dialogue between performances entertained the crowd and kept the show moving at a steady pace.

Junior Chandler Alberda, a StuCo member who helped plan the show, recalled that BCS has had many talent shows in the past.

"It used to be a huge tradition, but it kind of got lost in the years. We are so excited to bring it back," Alberda said.

Performances at the talent show were not limited to the stage. Guests were also entertained during intermission in the lobby by a barbershop sextet composed of both teachers and students.

Most of the BCS homecoming court was also announced during the talent show. However, the crowd was left waiting in suspense to learn who would be named king and queen, which was announced the next night at the homecoming basketball game.



photo: Dorothy Walters

**They're blue** The Blue Man Group skit left the crowd laughing and won first place in the high school division at the Jan. 15 talent show. The group consisted of (left to right) seniors Christian Montgomery, Brodie Brown, Travis Teeter, and Rachel Dixon.