



THE BEAR FACTS



VOL. 26 NO. 5

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MARCH 2014

IN SHORT

Jog-a-fun rescheduled

For the first time in 10 years, school officials were forced to postpone the annual spring fundraiser due to bad weather. Unlike past weather delays, the one on March 4 featured icy conditions that even delayed the opening of school for two hours.

Jog-a-fun will be Wednesday, March 26, and organizers urge parents to volunteer through SignUpGenius.

Math news

In February, 35 BCS students participated in the American Mathematics Competitions, AMC 10 and AMC 12. Three students scored high enough on these tests to advance to the next level. Sophomore Andrew Armstrong scored a 145.5, and sophomore Yunxi Wei scored a 127.5 on the AMC 10. Junior Hyunjin Park scored a 103.5 on the AMC 12. On March 26, all three will participate in the American Invitational Mathematics Examination, a three-hour, 15-question exam.

In other math news, Armstrong won first place in Algebra at the highly competitive Rice Math Tournament in Houston last month.

Regional Science Fest

Eighteen BCS students entered their science projects in the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival at the Palmer Events Center on Feb. 20 and 22. Sophomore Elise Lilya was the only high school student, while middle school students included Keerthana Duvvuri, Corrie Hager, Derek Lilya, Nikhil Manda, Alley McIntosh, and Emily Witcher. Elementary projects belonged to Ella Baker, Makana Sloan, Meyer Sunshine and Keller Jackson, Lilly Ruiz, Emma Ayers, Gia Kidwell, Mason Hejl, Molly Allen and Emily Walker, and Julia Glenn.

Lady Bears fall just short again

By Camille Sunshine

For the second year in a row, the Lady Bears lost in the state championship game of TAPPS 3A in Mansfield. They won their semifinal game the night before, on Feb. 28, 50-40 over Cypress Christian, but then they lost to Midland Classical 52-40.

The Lady Bears started out the championship game with great shooting and pulled ahead by nearly 10 points before Midland began closing the gap with full-court pressure that caused a lot of Bear turnovers.

Midland had a 25-22 lead at halftime, but in the third quarter Brentwood kept the Knights from scoring for five minutes and tied the score at 25. But Midland's shots began falling, and the tired Bears could not quite keep up.

Coach Devan Loftis praised his team for their high level of play to start both halves.

"We just struggled to maintain the effort, and their guards played very well and hit big shots when they needed them," Loftis said.

Senior Ariana Marks scored 18; junior Nicole Glenn had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Soccer team almost reaches Final Four

The varsity boys lost 6-2 to The Brook Hill Tuesday in Belton. See story, pg. 8.

Marks, Glenn, and sophomore Keely Hardin made the all-tournament team.

On the day before the semifinals, the cheerleaders held a pep rally in which all teams currently in season were recognized. The next morning, the entire school came out to send the Lady Bears off. Much like a year ago, and like the volleyball team's send-off in November, the parking lot by the Athletic Center was lined with children of all ages. While the younger ones cheered at the top of their lungs, the players gave high fives and drove off in buses with their names painted on the windows.

That night's semifinal game followed a pattern opposite of the championship game. Playing at Ft. Worth Nolan Catholic High, the Lady Bears fell behind 9-2 and were down for the entire first half. But by halftime they had closed the score to 23-19, and in the third quarter the offense came alive, taking BCS to a 50-40 win, led by 22 points from Marks.

This was the Lady Bears' fifth trip to the Final Four, all under Coach Loftis. In 2006, 2008, and 2012, BCS lost in the semifinals.

BCS was undefeated in district, making this



photo: Mark Merkord

Hard to guard Senior Ariana Marks' record-breaking season included 18 points in the state final on March 1.

their fourth district championship in a row.

"I'm really proud of their effort, not just in performing so well all season, but in the high character they display," said Loftis, adding that many players, coaches, and fans from opposing teams pull for the Lady Bears to do well.

"It's a testimony to how they do things right

see **Lady Bears**, page 6

BCS dominates academics, fine arts events

By Joshua Sass

Brentwood Christian dominated all aspects of last month's TAPPS district and region contests, including first place in art and academics, and best-ever performances in band and choir. With so many students advancing to state in each of the four contests, all of the directors are confident Brentwood can place high in state.

On Feb. 11, the academics team earned its fourth district championship in six years of competing. Art students then took first place for their fourth consecutive time on Feb. 13.

Two weeks later, Brentwood's band advanced the most students to state in school history. Choir, too, did better than ever, advancing every one of the students who competed.

Thirty-two BCS students competed in the district academic meet at Cameron Road Church of Christ, and the competitors earned 28 medals in 13 events to win the championship with 169 points. Their closest competition was Round Rock Christian, 47 points behind.

Out of the 32 students who competed, 13 – in 21 events – will advance to the state meet April 7-8 in Waco because they finished in the top four. Out of the five years Brentwood has competed at state, they have won three championships and finished no worse than second.

BCS won state last year, and academic director Michelle Mallett is ready to do it again.

"I believe we have the potential to place in every event at state," Mallett said.

Other schools were impressed with Brent-

wood's math scores at the district meet, and math teacher Kaleen Graessle was asked what makes BCS so successful. She said that through lots of determination, practice, and talent, the math team achieved what they did.

Among the talented math students is junior Hyunjin Park, who received a plaque for earning the most individual points in the meet.

The art team's district victory, at Round Rock Christian, was by a 15-point margin, 198-183, with their closest competitor being RRCA. Last year the art team finished third by a six-point deficit to first place and half a point to second. This year the team is advancing 27 pieces for the 12 students that placed well enough to com-

see **Brentwood**, page 3

Big News from Little China: Grace Cammack

Embrace not your 'true self'; aim for who you want to be

When finding yourself in a new place, the chances of you being forced into some "Get to Know You" type of game are incredibly high. Whether at summer camp or a Bible study, someone older and exponentially more cheerful than you are will ask everyone to sit in some shape and tell you to say your name and...

"age, school, and favorite color."

"one interesting fact about yourself."

"what you want to be when you grow up."

"one word to describe yourself."

I find myself to be more of a walking contradiction than most. There are times where I refuse to step before I get to the bottom of a matter and other times where I want nothing more than to dance across the surface of a topic without diving in. I don't embrace the female stereotype, but there are times I play with it and poke it with a stick. I am brutally harsh to loved and unloved ones, but I'll smother a child under the age of 10 out of pure excitement at their existence. The fact that this is what I have to

show for myself I find not only odd but somewhat comforting, which is another contradiction. Knowing I cannot explain myself logically at all helps me rest easy at night. Shouldn't I be at odds with the "two sides" of myself? But I'm not, and I'm OK with that. Still, that doesn't make those games any easier. Explaining why a one-word answer is incomplete makes me sound pretentious, and leaving an incomplete one-word answer makes me sound cliché or shallow. It's a lose-lose situation, really.

The fact is that I, as a fully functioning member of society, am complex. Everyone is. Some of us never really enjoyed those "Get to Know you" exercises instructing us to sum ourselves up in one word, a task most find difficult. This might be because none of us really understand or embrace who we really are. We embrace who we want to be, and eventually that does become who we are, but we are unaware of this transition. We are always told not to conform to the world's standard set for us and be "true to ourselves." But is it bad not to embrace our "true selves" if we cannot find them? Is it bad

to decide to and work towards being who we want to be, even if that is not who we "actually" are? I don't think so. It's not impossible or terrible to decide to be someone else. If you want to become a better person, go for it. Be who you want to be, but don't feel tied to who you've been in the past.

To subject young people to the horror of attempting to "find themselves" at such a young age can be in fact detrimental to their development. From kindergarten we are asked "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Those who didn't realize their life's passion at a young age were struck with fear of being eternally lost and confused. The follow-up question for those in that position – "What do you like to do?" – was even less helpful at narrowing down the field in which we would venture more than a decade later. As a kindergartner, and even as a high school senior, I have had many interests, all of which I could pursue as a profession. But being instructed to be able to identify myself with one sole job was, and still is, impossible.

Being told to find ourselves too early often

results in picking any identity and conforming to that standard. While this in itself is not bad, few times are we told that we can change who we are. But we can. You can become a completely different person than you were yesterday, if that's who you want to be. Part of the joy of life is discovering where you "fit" ... who you are ... what makes your heart sing. So go ahead and try out different things. See if you're a flirt, a clown, a genius, an athlete, or any combination of any societal norm. Don't settle for something that isn't "you" simply because it's been "you" for so long.

Change yourself within reason. For example, I wouldn't try to be a flirt because I'm a terrible flirt. I don't meet the qualifications or have the vocabulary to be one, so that's not one I'd change to. But I can be an artist. I can be a slob. I can be unnecessarily organized. I can be sarcastically apathetic and a shoulder to cry on. I can be all these things because they are still "me." Societal norms don't shape who you have to be. They can be mixed and matched in whichever way seems best for you.

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Big Picture: Jin Ha Jeong

Ahn story a sober reminder of envy's power

If you watched the Sochi Winter Olympics, you might have seen a Korean speed skater on a Russian team and wondered why. Well, there is an outrageous and ridiculous story behind this – a story that shows the ugliness of envy and the power of unchecked ambition for medals.

Viktor Ahn, also known as Ahn Hyun-Soo, is one of the most talented speed skaters in the world. Through seven world championships and four Olympics, he has earned a total of 36 gold, 14 silver, and seven bronze medals. Looking at his achievements, it sounds like Viktor must have been a hero in Korea and the Korean Skating Union (KSU), but in reality, he is not.

The reason is complicated, but it is connected to the two factions of KSU: one that supports the Korean National Sports University, and the other that generally opposes it. Those two factions have been fighting for many years with their own representative athletes. While they were fighting during the 2006 Turin Olympics, Viktor repelled both groups and grasped three gold medals. Eventually Viktor became a common target for this strife since he did not give his support to either group. The anti-KNSU especially hated Viktor because he is a graduate from KNSU, and at Turin, they tried to have him disqualified in the finals of two events. From that point, the fight became nasty.

Jeon Myung-Gyu, who has been the vice president of KSU, feuded with Viktor's father over Viktor's disqualification, and Jeon pushed Mr. Ahn and threatened him with obscenities.

Jeon continued acting out his negative feelings toward Viktor's family. For example, he gave Viktor's practice budget to other athletes. Some coaches and skaters were worse. For instance, a skater named Seo Ho-Jin beat up Viktor when he refused to yield a gold medal he won in Turin.

Even under these circumstances, Viktor managed to gain more achievements during 2007 before he was injured. During his recovery, Viktor looked for an exit from this terrible situation. After much thought, he decided to emigrate to Russia, where he was treated very well. Until he left Korea, no one knew what exactly happened in KSU. People were shocked at his departure. I was surprised too when I heard that he was leaving my country.

After investigations, the Korean public was outraged at the factional strife which drove one of finest athletes out of his home country. I was mad at KSU's ill-treatment of Viktor. They persecuted a talented athlete who was passionate for his country simply because they were envious.

Envy is one of the worst parts of human beings. People gossip, belittle, and hate one who does better than they do. KSU could have earned so much from encouraging and helping



Viktor rather than bullying him. They could have earned fame, more athletes inspired by Viktor, more medals, and more support from the public. They gave up that chance. KSU now is in big trouble. South Korean President Park Geun-hye officially ordered men to launch an investigation of KSU and severely punish the people involved with KSU's abuse of Viktor.

As a Christian, I think it is crucial to recognize someone's talent and encourage him. Show love, even when you feel inferior to another. I know it is hard to do this, but take a moment to calm yourself down and think. Why do you need to be so angry? Why do you need to belittle someone to make you feel better? Trash-talking and conspiracy bring you nothing good in the end. The thing you did wrong to others will come back to you.

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Seniors head for Venice, Rome; eighth grade goes to D.C.

By Elizabeth McKinney

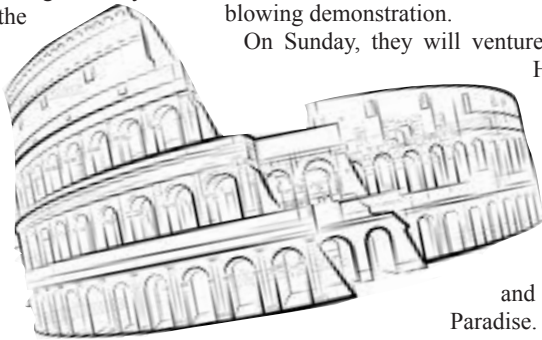
As you read this article, the Class of 2014 is likely in Milan, Italy, or already headed to Venice on day two of their 10-day trip. Later today they will reach their hotel, collapse on their beds, and try to rest before taking a guided tour of the city on Saturday.

Jackson Hager originally cast his vote for the London-Paris trip.

“(But) I’ve done a lot of reading of Roman/church/Italian history in general and man, oh man, am I glad we decided to go to Italy!” he said enthusiastically as the trip drew near.

Earlier this week, class sponsor J.D. Robson expressed his anticipation for the trip through Italy.

“It’s such a beautiful place that is full of history,” he said. “Also, (I’m thrilled) to hang out with students in such a cool environment.”



A group of 25 students, parents, and sponsors departed from Austin on Thursday, March 6, whereupon they flew to Chicago, from there to the London Heathrow airport, and then landed in Milan around 1 p.m. on Friday.

Patti White initially expressed some apprehension about flying across the ocean.

“I’m scared out of my mind for the flight. I love traveling, but that doesn’t mean I love the way I get to my destination,” she said.

Friday and Saturday, they will ride the Grand Canal in gondolas and visit the Doge’s Palace and St. Mark’s Square, as well as see a glass-blowing demonstration.

On Sunday, they will venture to Florence.

Here they will find spectacular sights such as the Piazza della Signora, the Ponte Vecchio, and the Gates of Paradise.

Monday permits the class to

roam wherever they wish, with freedom to visit shops, buy wonderful Italian food, bond with friends, and take far too many selfies.

“I made a bucket list of things I want to do on our free days,” Molly McCormick said.

Following Florence is Assisi, where the class will get to see St. Francis’ Basilica, and the same day they will journey to Rome, where they will get to tour Vatican City – one of the most highly anticipated stops on the trip – which includes the Sistine Chapel. They will also visit the Colosseum and the Pantheon, followed by yet another day of glorious freedom to rove the city and have a day in the life of the average Italian.

After eight amazing and unforgettable days in Italy, the Class of 2014 will pack their bags, say their goodbyes, and fly back to the U.S., taking a direct flight from London to Austin. They will arrive home with only a day or two to spare before having to face the early mornings of school again, but ask any senior going on the trip if it is worth it, and

they will tell you yes.

And while the seniors venture across the ocean, the eighth graders will be taking a trip a little closer to home. Their annual trip to Washington, D.C., will consist of 31 students, two sponsors, and nine parents. They will leave on March 9 and return four days later.

On Sunday, they will venture to the National Archives, witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and visit the September 11 Pentagon Memorial. The next day, the eighth graders will go to the Holocaust Museum, one of the most important and somber stops on their trip, and later the Jefferson, FDR, and MLK memorials.

Other interesting tours include the U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Air and Space Museum, Iwo Jima Memorial, and finally the Museums of American and Natural History.

On March 12 they will head home, full of new appreciation for their nation, with memories to last a lifetime.

Brentwood cruises past competition at TAPPS meets

continued from page 1

pete at TAPPS state on April 7-8 in Waco.

“I would expect a placing at state,” art director Lori Morin said. “But we are competing against some very big schools with two to three full-time art teachers, and they have art every day which makes it hard for us.”

After choir students’ success at the TAPPS region vocal contest, on Feb. 26 at Cameron Road, 20 groups or individuals will participate in the TAPPS state meet March 28 at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The choir has won the state title eight times in the 11 years they have competed and is looking to win its fourth consecutive state championship.

“I push them to learn a lot of difficult music, and very quickly,” choir director Missy Weaver said. “They always meet my standard, and I appreciate their hard work and commitment to excellence.”

Brentwood hosted the TAPPS region band contest on Feb. 24-25. BCS students had 16 groups or individuals – more than ever before – advance to the state meet on March 29 at UMHB. Last year the band placed fourth in state against 15 other schools with 263 points, and director Travis Pollard said they have the potential to do really well again.

“We have the largest and I believe the best private school band in Austin, and we’re continuing to grow,” Pollard said. “I’m very proud of these great kids.”

The following students/groups advance to TAPPS state competitions:

Academics

Science: **Hyunjin Park** (1st), Karen Yang (2nd), Natalie Bergeron (3rd)

Calculator: **Andrew Armstrong** (1st), Hyunjin Park (2nd), Joshua Sass (3rd)

Advanced Math: **Andrew Armstrong** (1st), Hyunjin Park (2nd)

Number Sense: **Andrew Armstrong** (1st), Joshua Sass (2nd), Hyunjin Park (3rd)

Math: **Joshua Sass** (1st), Yunxi Wei (2nd)

Ready Writing: **Nicholas Bergeron** (1st)

Literary Criticism: Nicholas Bergeron (3rd)

Current Events: Nicholas Bergeron (4th)

Spanish: Erika DuPond (3rd)

Solo acting: **Tyler Clark** (1st)

Poetry Interp: Natalie Williams (4th)

Duet Acting: Joanna Stewart and Kaylie Angello (4th)

Art

Color Photography: **Molly McCormick** (1st), McCormick (3rd), Natalie Bergeron (4th)

Black/white Photography: Logan Hitt (2nd)

Creative Photography: **Jasmine Selman** (1st), Jasmine Selman (3rd)

Sculpture: **Molly McCormick** (1st), Mike Taylor (2nd), Morgan Gage (3rd)

Pottery: **Hope Kronke** (1st)

Relief/2D Art: Erika DuPond (4th)

Computer-rendered Art: Nicole Glenn (2nd), Kent Howell (3rd)

Color Drawing: Jin Ha Jeong (3rd)

On-site Drawing: Molly McCormick (2nd), Nicole Glenn (3rd)

Printing: **Nicole Glenn** (1st), Tori Troutman (2nd), Duc Minh Phan (3rd), Molly McCormick (4th)

Fashion Design: Jasmine Selman (2nd), Molly McCormick (4th)

Painting: Nicole Glenn (4th)

Senior Portfolio: Molly McCormick (2nd), Jin Ha Jeong (4th)

Band

Concert band

Jazz band

Three flute trios

Flute/choir

Two saxophone quartets

Percussion ensemble

Brass quintet

Trombone trio

Clarinet/sax octet

Soloists: sophomores Andrew Armstrong and Jodie Singleton; juniors Hyunjin Park and Kate Zipperer

Choir

Mixed large ensemble

Treble large ensemble

Men’s large ensemble

Junior/senior girls’ sacred ensemble

Seniors sacred ensemble

Encore

Freshman/sophomore girls small ensemble

Encore small ensemble

Soloists: seniors Hannah Kwon and Molly McCormick; juniors Kaylie Angello, Mikayla Brinthaup, Gina Huh, and Christina Onabajo; sophomores Andrew Armstrong, Morgan Gage, Cailin McDaniel, and Natalie Williams; freshmen Lauren Petrik and Charlie Vazquez

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Erin Atchley

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

Cheerleader spreads joy long after games end

By Claire Nestor

Erin Atchley is sitting in class surrounded by her fellow seniors who are stressed and exhausted. Erin looks up and has a huge grin on her face and starts giggling, making everyone else relax and share a laugh.

"Sometimes school can be so hard and boring, and everyone gets bogged down under such a heavy load, so being able to cheer people up and share smiles with them is something I love being able to do!" Erin says.

Since Erin came to Brentwood in fifth grade, she has been very involved. Throughout the past three years, she has been a part of NHS, the high school choir, and the varsity cheer squad. She has served as cheer captain the past two years.

"She's a true servant leader and sets an example by continuing to grow as a student, cheerleader, and person," says cheer coach Ashley Dargai, who is also Erin's English teacher.

Erin says she loves supporting the sports teams and giving them the recognition they deserve. She enjoys the fact that everyone knows who she is because of cheer, including elementary students, who often run up to her and give her a heartfelt hug. When she cheers, she has the opportunity to make people just as excited as she is. Since this will be Erin's last year at Brentwood, she says she will greatly miss the relationships she has formed through cheer and being able to be a part of the squad.

"It's going to be so hard to sit in the stands and watch the cheerleaders instead of being out there, but regardless, I will be cheering

my heart out with them from the stands," Erin says.

Some of Erin's favorite high school memories are all of the homecomings she has participated in.

"It's a lot of work, especially as a cheerleader, but it's a lot of fun," Erin says.

Outside of school Erin is a dedicated dancer whose primary focus is ballet. Having danced since she was two years old, Erin has been on the Energy Dance Company team for six years. She takes ballet classes for fun, but also teaches classes at Lonestar Dance Center for Performing Arts.

"I love the joy the little kids have. It's always contagious!" Erin says.

Multiple nights a week she can be found at her dance studio. Erin also babysits and travels a lot with her family.

"Dance and working with children are definitely my biggest passions," Erin says.

But Erin is known for more than just being a cheerleader and dancer with a cheerful personality.

"Erin is a very mature, caring, selfless, beautiful girl," junior Madalyn Garelick says with a smile.

"I wish I could be as graceful as her."

Erin's friends say she is always there when they need advice, cheering up, or a laugh. They like confiding in Erin and sharing memorable moments with her.

"I am going to remember all of our moments we have where we just break down laughing for no reason," Garelick says.

Others will remember Erin for her Starbucks addiction and her cat Sugar.

"A quality of

hers I wish I had is her cat Sugar. Erin has the best cat ever," junior Maddie Ashworth says in all seriousness.

Teacher Chloe Campbell is going to miss Erin's babysitting. The English teacher can remember one time when Erin babysat her son Samuel. Erin took him to the park, put her sunglasses on him, and had a photo shoot. Campbell says Erin has a way with children because she is sweet, kind, and nurturing. She also wishes she had Erin's confidence.

"She takes pride in her accomplishments, but in a humble way," Campbell says.

Erin says she is going to miss the community aspect of Brentwood. She likes how there are smaller classes and how she knows everyone, including the elementary students.

In the fall, she plans to attend the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. UMHB is located in Belton, where Erin plans to look for a dance studio to continue teaching at. She plans on auditioning for the Sader Belles dance team at UMHB, and join many other campus organizations. Erin says she wants to be very involved, and to major in nursing and become a psychiatric nurse.

Erin's joyful personality and humble leadership in class and on the cheer squad will be greatly missed at Brentwood, but Erin is excited to move into the next chapter of her life and bring smiles to new faces.



photo: submitted



photo: Stephen Colwell

Free time Travis Pollard tries his hand at gaga ball with other teachers at last month's faculty retreat in the peaceful and relaxing Camp Tejas.

Faculty retreat not just boring stuff

By Mary Womack

Sitting around listening to speakers is what students might think the annual faculty retreat is all about. While that is part of it, you may not have known that BCS teachers love playing spoons and gaga ball.

The 2014 Faculty Retreat was held on Feb. 17-18 in Camp Tejas near Giddings. The retreat is intended to challenge and encourage teachers through various sessions, and to strengthen friendships with games, team building activities, and free time together in a peaceful setting outside the classroom.

The first day began with a short devotion, then a session led by

board member Jay Burcham, his topic being loosely based on Francis Chan's book "Crazy Love." Lunch was then served, with an hour free time afterward. President Marquita Moss and elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed led the afternoon sessions, which included putting the faculty in groups to describe the ideal BCS teacher and student.

Moss first focused on the real vs. ideal BCS teachers and students, and Weed then led a session on the many gods we serve.

"This was one of my favorite topics. It really gave a great perspective," English teacher Paul Robison said.

Moss then led a second session on the core beliefs and graduates of BCS.

Everyone then had snacks and more free time, which included gaga ball for some. That night featured the infamous game of spoons,

known for its competitiveness, and math teacher Kaleen Graessle won for the second straight year. While Graessle is known for her sweet voice and understanding nature in class, she does have another side.

"She's an animal playing that game!" Dr. Weed said.

On Tuesday morning the faculty got up, arose from their comfortable facilities, and then had a short devotion after breakfast. Among the final events was the annual "Why I Teach" session, in which a few teachers are asked to talk about why they continue to teach at BCS. This year featured third-grade teacher Carolyn B'Smith, math and Bible teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, and IT director Jacob Rotich.

The retreat ended earlier than usual so teachers could attend the two varsity basketball playoff games that evening.

Janitor reflects on BCS, teaching, faith, growing up

By Jonathon Reich

You may be able to look back and remember a few times when you've accidentally tracked mud in the school. Or maybe you've tried to make that half-court shot into the recycling bin with some old homework – and ended up missing. If this describes you, did you do your best to wipe your feet before coming in, or pick up the paper and throw it away properly?

If so, you've made things a little easier on members of the school's cleaning crew like Juan Paiz. But if not, Paiz is not one to hold grudges.

Paiz says having a job as a janitor has taught him different things about people. For instance, he says people think that most janitors didn't graduate from high school. Or they act like he did in school, never really paying attention to the people cleaning.

"It's not necessarily true that anyone sees me in this perspective, and students haven't treated me this way," he says. "(But) I know I thought this way before."

Paiz points out that people take jobs for a variety of reasons. He says his reason for becoming a janitor had more to do with his schedule, but it was also a supplement to his work as a substitute teacher. However, he tries not to view his work at BCS as a job, since he does other work during the day, but as a way to keep him from being a "couch potato" at night.

"I see it as enjoyable, like a workout," he says.

Typically, he begins his work in the Youth Center before coming to Building C with his co-employee Armando Zarate at about 3 p.m. Paiz does the vacuuming and cleaning restrooms, while Zarate does the rest of the cleaning. When they finish, they move to the Athletic Center, where they clean the entire building. He heads home about 10:30 p.m., sometimes as late as 11:30.

In the summer, his job includes maintenance and painting, instead of cleaning the mess of a

school day.

Paiz first came in contact with Brentwood in the early '80s, through different programs Brentwood Oaks hosted, such as the Hispanic Evangelism Program. In HEP, Church of Christ congregations such as Westover Hills, Round Rock, and Brentwood came together to work in East Austin neighborhoods to worship and have Bible studies. During the three years Paiz was involved in this program, he had the opportunity to engage in different activities that allowed them to use the Family Life Center and park area behind it, which later became the soccer field and Athletic Center.

Years later, a friend of his mentioned a job opening involving cleaning work at Brentwood. He quickly applied, in order to supplement his substitute teaching income, and 10 years later, he's still an important part of Brentwood's cleaning service.

"Time really goes by pretty fast," Paiz says. "A lot of the students who were little when I started are going to graduate."

In particular, Paiz says he remembers Bryce Morin, the Singleton children, Mike Taylor, and Jackson Hager from when he began working. While he recognizes many other faces, he doesn't always remember their names.

Teachers he remembers include Lori Morin and Jonathan Weed, and he is familiar with the rest of the Weed family. He took a "Gospel of John" course taught by Weed's father at the Institute for Christian Studies, which is now Austin Graduate School of Theology, and is friendly with elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed as well. These and other relationships with long-time teachers are one of the reasons Paiz says he enjoys working at Brentwood as much as he does.

"It's like a family," he says.

Paiz grew up in West Texas in the 1960s. When he was young, his father moved to Manor for work, where Juan started elementary and spent most of his childhood. He grew up in the

country watching TV shows like "Bonanza" and "Andy Griffith."

"Things were simpler and you felt more comfortable because you knew who your neighbor was, and you didn't have to be as careful as today," Paiz says.

He says Hispanic students were not segregated from white students in schools, but African-American students still were forced to attend separate schools until the dawn of the Civil Rights Act, which came into effect during his childhood. However, Hispanic students had other struggles, such as not being allowed to speak Spanish unless it was during a Spanish class. Paiz says he and other Hispanic students took this as something that simply wasn't allowed to be done.

Because racism did not impact him personally, Paiz says he has not been affected in his adulthood, yet he saw the effects of it in other parts of life.

"It didn't affect me in the way that I feel any animosity towards certain persons," he says. "It was just part of growing up for me."

His family moved to South Texas in 1969, living in Hebronville until 1976. During this time, he was involved in sports and became a Christian at age 13. In this small town, he says everyone knew everyone, and both Anglos and Hispanics spoke English and Spanish. When the Paiz family moved back to Manor, Juan attended Manor High, where he graduated.

After high school, he attended Austin Com-



photo: Jonathon Reich

Exercising Juan Paiz sees his job as a workout, and BCS as a family. He is also a teacher and former UT student.

munity College, where he earned an associate's degree of arts in government. Juan also earned 119 hours at the University of Texas toward a liberal arts degree, in hopes of going to law school. But soon he was married and did not have the opportunity to go to law school.

Today, Juan still lives in the Manor area. He and his wife Nancy will be celebrating their 26-

see **Juan**, page 8

In spite of weather, volunteers make open house successful

By Maria Harris

Fifty-three families filled out inquiry cards at Brentwood Christian's fourth annual admissions open house on a cold Feb. 2. Even though it was Super Bowl Sunday with a high temperature in the 30's and some drizzle, Brentwood entertained about the same number of people as they did at the event for the past two years.

Director of admissions Kimberly McLain said the biggest difference from the past years was that there was a steady flow of people the whole time, rather than a bigger group of peo-

ple all at one time and not enough students to show the families around toward the end. All the visiting families arrived in the Center for Science and Arts between 2 and 4 p.m.

To advertise for this event, the school placed an ad on the homepage of the Brentwood website, McLain said. BCS also ran a commercial on Spirit 105.9-FM for two weeks, put road flags near the entrance to the school, and sent postcards to six different zip codes near the school. Current school families were asked to invite people they knew who might be interested in Brentwood.

"By far," McLain said, "referrals from our current families are the best sources of new students for our school."

Nearly 100 students volunteered to help with the open house. This was a combination of middle and high school students who led tours, some wearing the uniforms that Brentwood offers, ranging from basketball, to cheerleading, to the everyday school uniforms.

Some classrooms contained special groups of students – such as members of Honor Societies, Student Council, and Safety Patrol – who answered questions about what they do and

gave tours. Also helping were parents, board members, and administration.

"The families were very engaged and interested," McLain said. "I believe this was because of the students who showed the families around the school."

Throughout the afternoon Jazz Band and Encore alternated giving 20-minute shows.

McLain said that 46 percent of last year's visitors turned into students, and she is hopeful to keep receiving a good amount of applicants this year all the way through summer. So far she said BCS has received 12 applicants.

Lady Bears

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and have a higher purpose in mind.”

Marks, the team's only senior, has had a remarkable two years at BCS. Arriving as a junior, she has set several records, including the three-point record for a season and career, and the single-season scoring record.

Marks, who will play basketball at Henderson State in the fall, was also the district MVP. Joining her on the first team were the four remaining starters: Glenn, Hardin, junior Christina Onabajo, and freshman Alicia Dixon. Juniors Megan Burcham and Mackenzie Merkord made the second team.

The girls' road to the Final Four included a 32-point performance by Marks in an easy victory over Concordia on Senior Night, Feb. 11. In their first playoff game a week later, Brentwood defeated St. Joseph by 38 points.

Next came a rematch with TSD at home, and it started off with a stressful first half. TSD actually took the lead in the third quarter before the Lady Bears came together as a team and pulled away, winning 69-42. Marks had 30 points, followed by Glenn with 19.

Their third-round game was a 59-42 victory over Beaumont Legacy, played at Rosehill Christian in Tomball on Feb. 25. Marks made six of nine three-point shots and finished with 29 points.

Soccer girls win playoff game; lose in Waco

By Samantha Mack

The Lady Bears soccer team made it to the second round of playoffs and ended their season in Waco with a 6-0 loss to Houston St. Thomas on March 1.

St. Thomas scored twice in the first half, but both goals were scored because of the Bears' mistakes. Head coach Stephen Colwell said he believed BCS would have a good chance at a comeback, but St. Thomas went on to find a weakness in Brentwood's defense. They exploited it quickly in the second half, scoring four times in six minutes.

"I was amazed at the effort my girls showed after falling behind by six goals," Colwell said. "They fought harder in the final 30 minutes of the game than I had ever seen them fight."

The game was played in the Waco ISD sports complex, a large stadium used for both football and soccer. The stadium can seat up to 11,500 people, but there was only a handful of fans.

"I think it was one of the most passionate games we have ever played," senior Erika DuPond said. "At the end I think we were all happy to make it through a season together."

After finishing third in district with a record of 3-3-2, and 5-8-2 in the entire season, the Lady Bears were rewarded with the chance to host a playoff game on Feb. 27. Playing Galveston

O'Connell, Brentwood controlled the ball for most of the game and won 2-0 on two goals scored by sophomore Hailey Miller. The first goal was scored with 18 seconds left in the first half, and the second came with nine minutes remaining in the game.

The girls' soccer program is only four years old, and in three of those years the Bears made it to playoffs. They've won two playoff games, and Colwell says he's extremely proud.

"We didn't come away with a win, and our season ended before we wanted it to, but I think we can all see the huge steps we took forward as a team and as individual players," he said.

Following are the final district results:

2/3: @ John Paul II Catholic 3-0 L

With breakdowns in their formation, BCS was down by two goals in the first six minutes.

2/6: @ Our Lady of the Hills 2-1 W

This was the victory that put Brentwood in



photo: Kevin Miller

Much love Hailey Miller (10) honors goalkeeper Jasmine Selman on senior night after their game on Feb. 18.

the playoffs. The team played with out Miller, the leading goal scorer, but senior Molly McCormick quickly took over and scored the team's two goals in the first half.

2/13: New Braunfels Christian 3-1 W

The defense played well and the goals were scored by McCormick, Miller, and freshman Lauren Petrik, all in the first half.

2/18: Veritas 8-1 L

BCS was down 5-0 at the half mark. In the second half, Miller scored the only goal against Veritas in district play this year.

Boys take district by storm; nearly pull upset in area playoffs

By Nicholas Bergeron

A remarkable season for the varsity boys' basketball team ended with a heroic loss in the

second round of playoffs on Feb. 22.

The Bears took the district championship in a crack of thunder, winning not only their first district title since 1999 but a perfect one at that, ending district 12-0.

However, Brentwood's winning streak was brought to a halt by Cypress Christian in area playoffs. BCS fans came in droves to watch their team, roaring their support. The team fed off the crowd's energy and nearly pulled off the upset.

After falling behind early, BCS fought back to take a narrow half-time lead against their much taller opponents. The game was marked by tight defense, and the teams were separated by a mere point with a minute remaining. Senior Mike Taylor's three-point attempt at the buzzer would have

tied the score but barely missed. Junior Cody Hunt led the Bears with 13 points, while Taylor scored 11.

Losing to such a tough opponent – Cypress beat BCS 59-45 in December – with such a close score was an achievement on the part of the boys, but to them it was painful.

"We could have won that game, if a couple more of our shots had fallen," Taylor said. "It's sad that it's over, but we had a good season."

Players worked hard in practice over the summer and throughout the year, stayed eligible, and jelled more than in previous seasons to make this year the "one for the books" that it was.

The success of this season didn't come as a surprise for head coach Brian Thrift.

"We had really good team chemistry; we had guys who brought in really good senior leadership," he said. "The summer work paid off."

Players remarked that the relationships among teammates were strong.

"Everyone was on the same page," senior Wesley Mory said.

Next year, Thrift said he plans to work on the team's ball handling and performance in the weight room. Three of the Bears' best players will graduate; however, as the current sub-senior roster grows in experience and fresh blood

is brought in from middle school and JV, the team has reason to stay hopeful.

Hunt was named the district MVP. Joining him on the all-district first team are Taylor and senior Kent Howell. Making the second team are Mory and junior Aaron Garcia.

Following are the results of the team's final district games and bi-district playoff:

2/10: San Juan Diego 83-36 W

San Juan Diego, beaten 57-12 by the Bears earlier this season, proved less than difficult for the Bears.

2/11: Concordia 69-64 W

BCS controlled the game for three quarters and managed to defend against Concordia's nearly successful fourth-quarter offensive push. Howell pulled off a memorable slam-dunk. Taylor led with 21 points, followed by Howell with 17, Hunt with 15, and Mory with 12.

2/18: Saint Joseph Catholic 44-33 W

This victory gave the Bears their first bi-district championship since 1999 with a perfect 12-0 record. While many misses marred their playing, the Bears still pulled off a victory, charging in the fourth quarter and scoring 19 points, eight of which were Howell's, to St. Joseph's nine. Hunt led with 18 points, and Howell followed with 14.



photo: Mark Merkord

Forcing his will Senior Wesley Mory grabs a rebound in the Bears' 44-33 playoff victory over St. Joseph on Feb. 18.

Baseball team bursts into season with tourney title

By Hannah Odom

The Bears started the baseball season sweeping their opponents in the Hill Country Tournament last week and taking the first-place trophy.

Expectations were already high after the team finished second in district with a 9-3 record last year, and every player is back.

So far this season they have a 4-0 record, including a 7-2 victory in their district opener in Temple against Central Texas Christian Tuesday.

The Bears play at St. Gerard Catholic School tonight at 6 p.m.

Head coach Brian Thrift said he has the same expectations that he has every year, which is to compete for the district championship. He also said he expects this year to be a "little deeper in terms of the bench," meaning back-up players are more experienced than they have been in the past. Thrift said the added experience means he can spend less practice time working on the fundamentals of the game.

"The kids come to practice to get better. They come to work and to improve every day," Thrift said.

The players are not lacking in confidence.

"We're expecting to go undefeated," senior Skylar Treut-Shaffer said. "I expect us to cut down on the mental mistakes we made last year."

Treut-Shaffer was named MVP of last year's

district and made second-team all-state. Joining him on the all-district first team were current juniors Ben Powell and Zach Marsh, and current sophomore Jake Velasco. Sophomore John Hollingsworth and junior Cody Hunt made the second team.

Thrift agrees that he has a lot of talent returning. He also said he has high expectations for the team's new players, like junior Aaron Garcia, freshmen Garrison Ryberg and Michael Hickl. Unfortunately, Hickl is out with injury for several weeks.

Thrift named several players who will pitch this year: Treut-Shaffer, Marsh, Garcia, Ryberg, Powell, Hollingsworth, and Hickl.

Assistant coach Rich Russo is back this year to help with player development and defense. In fact, Russo ran after-school practices from Jan. 13 through late February, while Thrift was still coaching basketball. Baseball players who were not in basketball or soccer did strength and conditioning during P.E.

"We as a coaching staff are very happy and delighted about the prospect of a good season," Russo said. "So far, the kids have been responding well."

Following are game results so far:

2/22: CenTex 7-4 L

Brentwood used this scrimmage as more of a practice than an actual game, taking the opportunity to use several pitchers. Velasco hit a home run in the bottom of the ninth inning. Hickl broke two of his fingers when hit by a

pitch and will be out for 4-8 weeks.

"I'm sad I'm missing the season," Hickl said.

2/27-3/1: @ Hill Country Tourn. W W W

The Bears started the tournament by winning 10-1 against Round Rock Christian Academy in a Thursday morning game. They played very strong defensively according to Thrift. Powell pitched the first three innings and then handed it over to Ryberg. Those two combined for a no-hitter until the fifth inning. Hunt had a three-RBI hit.

Brentwood beat Hill Country 5-1 that evening. Powell and Marsh were outstanding on the pitching mound, according to Thrift. Treut-Shaffer had a big night batting with three RBIs.

In Saturday's championship game, Brentwood again faced CenTex, which is a home school composed of many players who play select baseball. Hollingsworth pitched a complete game with seven strikeouts, as the Bears took a 6-4 win.

For his performance in the final game, which also

included two hits on offense, Hollingsworth was named the tournament MVP. Also on the all-tournament team were Powell, Treut Shaffer, and Velasco.

3/4: @ Central TX Christian 7-2 W

Marsh pitched a complete game to lead the Bears to a win in their first district game. The team started out without a lot of intensity, making mental errors, but their bats came alive in the middle innings.

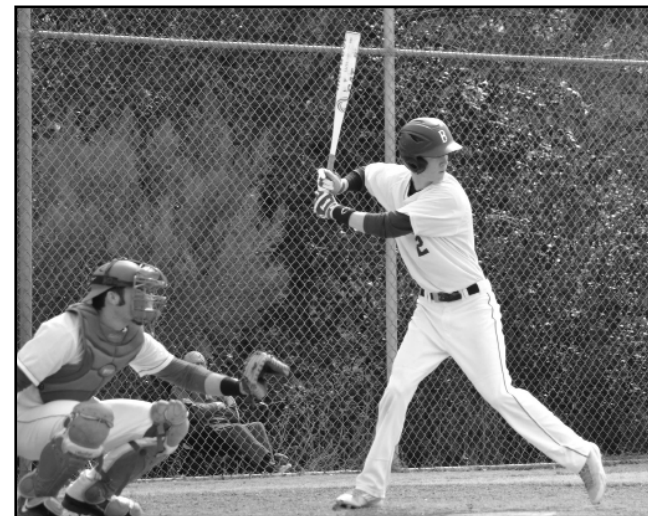


photo: Dorothy Walters

Focused Sophomore Jake Velasco is one of many players returning from last year's squad that finished 9-3 in district. Expectations are high for a district title this year.

Softball team tested, ready for district

By Deirdre Smith

Despite a rough start against difficult competition, the varsity softball girls came back to win two games last Saturday, March 1, taking third place at their own tournament.

The Bears' first district game, scheduled for March 3, was postponed due to potential icy weather. Their Friday game has also been postponed, meaning their district season will not begin until March 18, when they will play San Antonio Keystone at Balcones.

Early losses to Hyde Park and Waco Reicher by a combined score of 27-0 did not bother head coach Paul Sladek, who pointed out that several of the opposing players have already been offered softball scholarships for college.

"We showed a lot of fight and determination," Sladek said, adding that he's not concerned about the lack of runs. "We have a lot of girls who can hit. We're going to score."

Last year's softball team lost 8-3 to Katy Faith West in the first round of playoffs. They finished second in district to San Antonio Keystone. This

year the girls and their coach are enthusiastic.

"Expectations this year start and end with a district title," Sladek said. "It won't be easy, but I'm confident in our ability to have a chance."

Facing the challenge of losing two players from last year, seniors Lanae Hollingsworth and Julia Le, the team welcomed some new members: freshmen Hillarie Carpenter and Nicole Dobos. Dobos is currently leading the team in hitting, while Carpenter has not yet played since she was finishing basketball.

Sophomore Sofia Torres and senior Cynthia Smith will do most of the pitching this year.

Following are game results so far:

2/4: @ Gateway Prep 17-13 W

This game was officially a scrimmage, but the teams battled hard, and the score went back and forth several times. Junior Yara Qussad had a three-run home run, and BCS had 16 hits.

2/13: Hyde Park 8-0 L

The Bears had only three hits and made costly errors that gave up runs.

2/20: Waco Reicher 19-0 L

Sladek was very complimentary of Brent-

wood's talented opponents, who scored five runs in the first inning, three more in the second, and 11 in the fourth.

2/27: Bartlett 11-3 L

Both teams had five hits, but BCS walked six Bartlett batters and lost the first game in their own tournament. Torres had two hits.

2/27: Gateway Prep 15-11 L

BCS took a 9-2 lead in the second inning, but Gateway came up with 13 runs in the bottom of that inning. The Bears had six hits, while their opponent had 14.

3/1: SM Baptist 13-1 W

Brentwood came out on Saturday and got their first official win of the season. Every girl on the team had either a hit or a run. Sophomore Morgan Gage had two hits and two RBIs, and Dobos had two hits and three RBIs. Torres pitched two innings and did not allow any hits.

3/1: St. Andrews 8-7 W

After falling behind 6-0, BCS scored four in the second inning and four more in the third. Senior Maysie Bartos was two-for-two with a double and two RBIs.

Varsity track opens with meet today

Track season opens today, March 7, with a meet at McNeil High School.

The varsity girls finished second in the TAPPS 3A state meet last year, but most of their top performers graduated.

"We have a young team compared to the past couple of years, but (we have) a lot of potential, and we hope to repeat as district champions and take many athletes to the state meet," head coach Katie Smith said.

Smith, who has coached the girls' team for several years, is now in charge of the boys' team as well. She said the athletes have been practicing for several weeks.

"I expect to have one of our largest girls' teams in the last few years, and our boys' team has some talented new and returning athletes."

Soccer team comes within win of state

By Tony Lee

After winning district for the second year in a row, finishing with a 9-1 record, the BCS boys' varsity soccer team lost in the second round of playoffs to The Brook Hill, from Bullard.

Heading to Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton for the playoff game on Tuesday, March 4, the team knew a win would advance them to the Final Four in Houston. But The Brook Hill, which had not lost a game this year, beat the Bears 6-2.

Senior Skylar Treut-Shaffer scored on a penalty kick to tie the score 1-1, but The Brook Hill had a 3-1 lead at halftime. They led 6-1 before sophomore Josh Sass scored the final goal.

Coach Cash Miller said he is very proud of the boys and their hard work all season.

"Even though our season didn't end the way we would have liked, in the end it is just a soccer game," he said. "I hope the lessons we learned carry over to other areas of their life and that they continue to exhibit Christ-like character and grow spiritually."

In district, they scored 52 goals and gave up 10. Sass led the team with 22 district goals.

In the first round of playoffs, the Bears hosted Carrolton Christian on Feb. 28, and they completely dominated the game, winning 6-1. Sass had three goals; junior Jae Hwang, sophomore Mason McCormick, and freshman Alex Matthews also scored. It was 3-0 at halftime.

Miller said the team developed as better players both on and off the field during the season.

As the playoffs came closer, players each thought of improvements to be made.

"We have to make better transitions from offense to defense and vice versa," Sass said.

Following are the results of the last five district games:

2/10: @ Brazos Christian 2-1 L

In their only district loss, players said the wet field made things difficult. The score was 1-1 at halftime, and Brazos scored once again in the second half. Brentwood took fewer than 10 shots, compared to their average of 30 shots.

"Their first goal was scored because Mason slipped in the mud," Treut-Shaffer said. "Everyone was slow getting to the balls."

2/13: @ Bryan St. Joseph 7-1 W

The Bears did a great job passing and dominated the game. The Eagles' only goal was a

controversial call because one of their players knocked the ball out of goalkeeper Mason Miller's hands. BCS remained second in district with a 7-1 record.

2/20: Holy Trinity Catholic 9-2 W

The Bears dominated the entire game with their passing, speed, and skill. Several players scored, including two freshmen, Will Moncure and Brandon Patterson. Brentwood gave up two late goals when several players had switched positions. After the game, the team tried to rest to prepare for the next day's game with the number-one team in district.

2/21: Brazos Christian 5-1 W

Hoping to avenge their only district loss,



photo: Stephen Colwell

Out front Sophomore Josh Sass, moving past Brazos defenders in a 5-1 win on Feb. 21, led BCS with 22 goals in district games.

Brentwood was very strong on offense during the first half and pressed Brazos, but also giving them chance to attack back. Hwang and Sass scored, and Treut-Shaffer also scored on a penalty kick, making it 4-0 at halftime.

Super seniors celebrate each other

By MJ Sung

Nearly half of Brentwood Christian's 37 seniors were honored by friends and family who recalled fond memories in this year's first Super Senior celebration at the Brentwood chapel on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Super Senior has been held annually for the past 26 years dating back to the first graduating class of 1988. This year's Super Senior was split into two sessions, and the next celebration will be held on April 12.

Class sponsors Lori Morin and J.D. Robson organized the celebration, but Morin and her son Bryce couldn't make it to the event due to

his illness.

At 2 p.m., parents and seniors arrived and mingled about 15 minutes. Then senior Jackson Hager opened things with a prayer, and senior Joanna Stewart led three songs.

Three groups of five seniors were blessed by their friends and parents, each group lasting about 30 minutes. Reed Robinson read Bryce's speech for Jamie Messinger. Mai Nguyen showed a five-minute video that included pictures from her childhood and a blessing from her father in Vietnam.

Everyone had a good laugh when Skylar Treut-Shaffer said he remembered himself and Kent Howell getting chased by the girls in kindergarten. He then said Howell had changed through the years and he no longer runs away.

Dinner, served in the FLC, was turkey, mashed potatoes, and beans. For dessert they had some brownies, cookies, and two big cakes.

President Marquita Moss read verses from Psalms and Deuteronomy and encouraged seniors. Teacher Mel Witcher closed with a prayer as the seniors formed a circle.

"It was a unique experience. I learned a lot about my friends that I hadn't heard, and it made me realize how much they mean to me," Natalie Bergeron said. "Getting blessed reminded me how my friends deeply care for me and that I should stay in touch with them after graduation."

Juan Paiz

continued from page 5

year anniversary in May. Their two children are John Mark, a 23-year-old college student who attends UT-San Antonio, and Damaris, who is 14 and attends Manor Middle School.

Paiz says one of most important factors in his life is Christianity.

"I know it's the truth," he says. "I feel that it is my duty and my obligation to do the best I can to serve Him. That's the way I try to live."

This faith has led Paiz to a lifestyle where he is able to lead people to Christ daily. During the day, he works as a minister for the Hispanic ministry at Central Church of Christ in Pflugerville, where he has worked since the conception of the ministry two years ago. He says this ministry involves a lot of "door-knocking and evangelizing," including small Bible studies in members' homes.

However, Paiz says the time needed to be engaged in this ministry meant he had to give up another passion in his life — substitute teaching, which he did full-time up until last year. His favorite grades to teach are the lower grades, where he feels like he makes more of an impression on the students. He especially likes to be involved with Hispanic students who don't know any English. Paiz says three

bilingual students from Del Valle ISD particularly impacted him. When he first met them, they didn't understand any English, but after three months, he saw substantial progress.

"Their parents were so thankful that they had started to learn," Paiz says. "That's what being a teacher is about. When you're a teacher and your students are beginning to learn, you know you're doing your job well."

In his free time, Paiz enjoys woodworking, which he does under the name "Trojan Horse Scroll Sawing." His inspiration for woodcarving began after working as a drafter for a company that made windsocks. When the company went under, he took his newly learned skill and applied it to woodcarving. He invites anyone interested in his work to view his Trojan Horse page on Facebook.

Outside of woodworking, Paiz enjoys watching all sports except soccer. He applies his passion for sports in his woodworking, making many designs revolving around sports logos for different teams, including his favorites like the Dodgers and Lakers.

Paiz says he lives feeling pleased and blessed. He expresses gratitude for all that he's done with his family, such as seeing his children grow up, and thanksgiving for other people he's met.

"In general I feel blessed," he says. "I thank God every day for the blessings, and every day that I'm given I try to live it to the fullest."



photo: Grace Cammack

Here's to you Jamie Messinger honors pal Reed Robinson at the Feb. 15 event.