



## IN SHORT

### Graduation today

Commencement for the BCS Class of 2014 is Friday, May 23, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. Kindergarten graduation is at 9 a.m. the same day, while fifth and eighth graders receive their diplomas Thursday, May 29.

### Byal wins Spirit Award

Senior Curtis Byal received the Bear Spirit Award at the academic awards banquet May 16. President Marquita Moss noted Byal's "quiet, compassionate, and diligent service to classmates, children in Extended Care, and his Connect students in third grade."

Bryce Morin and Joanna Stewart were named Mr. and Miss BCHS. Citizenship award winners for each class were freshman Camille Sunshine, sophomore Martha Hughes, junior Tyler Clark, and senior Grace Cammack.

### PSIA state results

Brentwood's middle school placed fourth out of 107 schools at the PSIA state meet on April 26 in Ft. Worth.

Of 13 middle schoolers who advanced to state, seven placed: eighth-graders Paris Bowman, Mason McCully, Nicole Petrik, Alex Sass, and Madison Wells; seventh-grader Darrin Nguyen; and sixth-grader Emma Nguyen. The only elementary point-winner was first-grader Jocelyn Galvan.

### StuCo election results

**President:** Tyler Clark

**Vice president:** Judy Wei

**Secretary:** Alicia Dixon

**Treasurer:** Charlie Vazquez

**Historian:** Travis Teeter

**Senior class rep:** Rachel Dixon

**Junior class rep:** Emily Wagner

**So. class rep:** Lindsey Scarborough

**Freshman class rep:** Nicole Petrik

# BCS says goodbye to Dr. Weed

By Mary Womack

Mary Poppins said she would leave when the wind changed. At Brentwood Christian, the wind is changing.

Elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed, who is known at BCS for dressing up as Mary Poppins every year, was honored with a retirement party on Saturday, May 3, from 3-5 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

The party honored Weed for her 30 years as principal with slideshows, videos, and presentations by colleagues and friends. Throughout the event, a video played at the side which featured many of Weed's adult and student acquaintances talking about why they loved or appreciated Weed; a slideshow also played during the first hour, showing pictures of Weed at a variety of ages during her years at BCS.

Guests mingled, munched on fruit and pastries, and watched the slideshow before the program began. The emcee of the night was

longtime friend and Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeff Boyd. Encore started things with Weed's favorite hymn, "Be Thou My Vision." Several presentations were then made, including those by Brentwood Oaks church elder Rayford Walker, chairman of the board Jay Burcham, and Dr. Philip Patterson, president of the National Christian Schools Association, who traveled down from Oklahoma to speak about Weed's impact on Christian education.

BCS teacher and friend Becky Stewart joined former teacher and friend Linda Pimentel reading a poem they wrote that contrasts the different sides of Weed: the refined principal and the baseball-loving

see **Weed**, page 8



photo: Stephen Colwell

**Honored** Several speakers had kind words for Dr. Libby Weed at her retirement reception on May 3, including NCSA president Dr. Philip Patterson.

## Pierce wins 'Biggest Loser'

By Deirdre Smith

Science teacher Sierra Pierce won the third-annual "biggest loser" challenge for BCS employees. Pierce, who has lost 75 pounds since she started losing weight in mid-January, will be given a \$400 check from the school.

"I feel great," said Pierce, who is still working on her goal of losing 89 pounds. "I didn't realize how bad I was feeling or how exhausted I was before."

Pierce will receive her prize next week at a luncheon for all school employees. Funds for her award and for the winners of a separate goal-setting contest came from PTF and from faculty donations.

Pierce said her family helped inspire her to get healthier and have more energy.

"I just didn't feel good," she said. "I was not able to participate in life the way I wanted to. I wanted to be more active, to have more energy, and to be there for my family."

Pierce has encouraged other teachers to join her health program and hopes that they all can encourage one another in healthy pursuits.

"I am so excited that several other faculty and staff members have joined me on this journey to better health," she said. "I love get-

ting to coach them and share this blessing."

The benefits of getting healthier helped Pierce do better in her career as well as at home. She said she feels that she has become a better teacher and an energetic parent.

"I am able to play with my kids the way I always wanted to before but was too exhausted to," Pierce said. "I believe that being healthier has made me a better teacher, too."

The "biggest loser" challenge started two years ago as part of the larger fitness plan that began in 2009. That's when school president Marquita Moss put Tere Hager and Jonathan Weed in charge of getting the school certified by the Mayor's Fitness Council. Since then, several faculty members have assisted Weed in organizing the weekly fitness leagues that focus on healthy eating and regular exercise.

PE teacher Paul Sladek won the weight-loss challenge two years ago, and last year's prize was won by high school teacher Jessica Love.

Another fitness competition among some BCS employees is the goals contest. The one who accomplishes the most impressive goal wins \$100, while second place gets \$75, and third place gets \$50; all of this money also came from PTF and faculty donations. Winners will be announced at the luncheon.



photo: Olivia Dahl

**New heights** Sophomore Martha Hughes soars to a state pole vault record, 11-6¼, at the state meet on May 3. See story, p. 7.

Being ForthReich: Jonathon Reich

# New Worlds of thought await those willing to 'sail' openly

Before we get to the meat of the message today, I'll start by quickly introducing myself, as you might be seeing my name in the editorial column a bit more often next year. I try to be involved around the school in different areas, some of which include the soccer field, the stage – you might remember me as Rooster from “Annie” – and the classroom. I've been in Newspaper for three years, and next year will be my fourth.

Writing has always been something I've taken a lot of pleasure from, and I'm grateful for an opportunity to share my ideas with the school.

One of the things I find most enjoyable about writing is the chance it gives to explore different ideas. This process of research allows me to sail beyond the Atlantic and reach New Worlds of undiscovered thought, when previously, I didn't know anything but the standard trade routes my mind had wandered before.

But to continue this analogy to expeditions like that of Christopher Columbus, we have to

realize that another important part of the finding and understanding new thought is necessary – the approval of the European royalties. I don't mean this to sound like we need anyone's approval to begin exploring new ideas, because as individuals, we only truly need approval from ourselves.

However, another important aspect of the royalties was that they provided Columbus with the resources he needed to voyage to the New World.

While it might be a stretch, we similarly need proper mental resources to critically assess ideas. I could touch on what I consider to be some of these mental resources needed – which include rational thinking and discipline – but instead, I'd like to emphasize what I consider to be the most important resource: the

ability to be open minded.

There seems to be a tendency to group “open mindedness” with the post-modern idea of accepting all people's beliefs without question. Being open minded at most has similarities to this idea, but otherwise is misrepresented by this description.

*Being open minded means in no way that you have to compromise your beliefs, avoid disagreements, or even accept all beliefs.*

In reality, being open minded means something along the lines of not making judgments until you have all the facts, or having a willingness to listen and consider opposing ideas as they are and not as you want to see them. Being open minded means in no way that you have to compromise your beliefs, avoid disagreements, or even accept all beliefs.

Being open minded also gives you the opportunity to change your mind without fear

of being wrong. Open mindedness has taught me that the world is not something I will ever completely understand. Furthermore, attempting to understand it requires continual change and acceptance of the fact that my ideas are not completely accepted or completely correct, nor will they ever will be.

Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius in his “Meditations” said this: “If someone is able to show me that what I think or do is not right, I will happily change, for I seek the truth, by which no one was ever truly harmed. It is the person who continues in his self-deception and ignorance who is harmed.”

So, if you read this editorial column next year, this is what you can expect to find – attempts to explore different bodies of thought and understand more about the world along the way. The world is more than what we can comprehend, and I hope you're open to taking a journey with me to understand pieces of what we can learn from being open to the world around us.

Big News from Little China: Grace Cammack

# Graduates not as prepared as they should be

Consider the release of these words in print as my final exit. Beginning this evening my career as a high school student will end, and my journey to being a successful adult will begin. Let's take an objective look back at my years at Brentwood. Am I well prepared for the tiring years ahead? I would like to think so, but I have this itching thought that might not be the case.

While I am academically prepared, there are some real life applications that I don't understand and am unable to execute. For example, I have no idea how to fill out taxes. None. I don't know how to budget, other than to say “don't spend it all,” and I have no understanding of how to change a tire or bake any kind of dessert. I barely know how to apply for a job. Though I am ready to pull an all-nighter to finish a state-of-the-art research paper, I have no idea where to begin on buying a car or looking at houses.

These are just a few examples of commonplace tasks of which I ought to have a basic knowledge, if not be well versed in, by the time I am 30. It is no surprise to any student that high schools are placing dramatically more emphasis on the completion of a mathematics program than a home economics class. School systems in general have become more focused on intellectual knowledge rather than on real life applications young adults ought to walk away with. As students, we are told to focus more on our studies and less on the society around us. Yes, the reality of daily life is deemed important by the school system, but when forced to pick, the board will side with the studies rather than the student.

This can be seen when students fall behind and are reprimanded by not just by their teachers and administrators, but also sometimes by their parents for not “doing their best” and “having the right priorities.” In reality, there should be a balanced focus on studies and society, as both are important.

While both are arguably of the same importance depending on one's profession, the typical American is not going to use the second derivative of a function or determine the number of ohms in his/her daily life. The problem with schools shifting their focus from societal preparation to collection of book smarts is that we, as high school seniors, end up without an extensive knowledge of how the world really works. Though schools like Brentwood claim to be college preparatory, it seems like they are forgetting that part of being ready for college is not just making sure we can do the grunt work,

but also that we are prepared to carry ourselves like adults outside of a workplace.

So what do we do, as students, to make ourselves well-rounded? And not in the sense of being in all extracurricular activities, but what do we do to ensure that, once the days of essay writing are finished, we can still go out and do something of importance in the adult world? Well, we can ask our parents how to do things we haven't learned in school, but unless we're interested, it won't stick. Really, there's not much we can do about this problem without actually going out and getting a job, filling out a tax return, making a budget, or getting gas.

The main “solution” I see is action on the part of the school system to care just as much about preparing students for integration into society as about studies. Besides that incredibly vague statement, I'm not sure what else there is to do. But I know something should be done.

### Twelve life tips from your outgoing Bear Facts editor-in-chief

1. It's OK to be confused, wrong, misguided, etc. about something as long as you realize and correct it.
2. Learn to accept criticism from those qualified to give it, but dismiss it from those who don't know what they're talking about.
3. Don't stress excessively. It makes your work lower quality.
4. Have fun when it's time to have fun, then get to work.
5. Everything matters. Some things just matter more than other things.
6. Not everyone finds humility attractive, but arrogance is always a person repellent.
7. Own up to the fact that some things are probably your fault.
8. There's a difference between having fun and making stupid life choices. Learn this.
9. It's OK to be a “Debbie Downer” or a “Johnny Raincloud” sometimes.
10. Set some firm lines. Tolerance isn't always the best way to go.
11. Have respect for others if you expect it from them.
12. Pick your fights carefully. They take valuable time and energy.

## THE BEAR FACTS

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

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www.brentwoodchristian.org.



# Medical, business fields top targets for seniors

By Claire Nestor

Today 34 cherished seniors are receiving their diplomas. Most will now continue to the next step: college.

All but nine seniors have decided to stay in Texas for their freshman year. The University of Texas is the most common choice among the class, with five seniors attending there in the fall. Abilene Christian University follows with four students.

Nine seniors will be leaving the state, going across the country to both the east and west coasts. Chris Lee will be going the farthest away to attend the State University of New York. Kent Howell will also be far from home while he is at Azusa Pacific University near Los Angeles.

Fourteen seniors will be moving on to a Christian university. In addition to ACU and Azusa, these include Mary Hardin-Baylor,

Harding, Concordia, Lubbock Christian, Liberty, Baylor, and St. Edward's.

The most common majors include something either medical or business related.

Marisa Wagner has decided to go to culinary school at The Art Institute of San Antonio in hopes of opening her own upscale bakery in the future. She said she found her love for cooking after watching Disney's "Ratatouille."

"I never wanted to end up in a boring office job, sitting in a gray cubicle answering phones, or typing on a computer for the rest of my life," Wagner said. "I want something bright and exciting for my life."

Joanna Stewart will be spending her first year after high school in England. She will take a leadership course at the church she plans to attend there. Afterward, she will most likely come back to America and go to nursing school, and then midwifery school.

"I want to eventually combine my leadership

skills and my midwife career to serve for a time in a third-world country," Stewart said.

Ariana Marks is going to Henderson State in Arkansas on a basketball scholarship.

"I loved the atmosphere (there), and the coaches were really nice," she said. "I'm most excited about being a part of a team for another four years while improving my skills."

Mitch Rice will be attending ACU. He has gone to camps there for many years and fell in love with the campus. He said he is also drawn to the people and the business program there.

Class sponsor Lori Morin said this class has a very special place in her heart, and she has enjoyed watching them grow since kindergarten.

"I love their fun-loving personalities, wacky sense of humor, the friendships they have among themselves, and their willingness to be redirected," she said. "They love a good laugh, and they have brought me joy for many years, so watching them graduate is bittersweet."

# 'Go Texan Week' features crafts, costumes, fun

By Hannah Odom

The stars at night are big and bright deep in the heart of Brentwood.

The first-ever Go Texan Week gave BCS elementary classes an excuse to celebrate the great state of Texas on May 5-9.

Fourth-grade teacher Cindy Nestor and fifth-grade teacher Carrie Hunter came up with the idea for Go Texan Week at the beginning of the school year. The goal was to encourage students to get patriotic about the Lone Star State and "to make social studies fun," Nestor said. Highlights of the week included Dress Like a Texan Day on Thursday and Field Day, Texas Style on Friday.

Every social studies class in K-5 focused on Texas for the week. Kindergarten focused on state symbols, while animals, bluebonnets, and Davy Crockett were the focuses of the first graders. Second grade had lots of fun with their study of square dancing, while the third graders were staying busy learning the regions of Texas and the state's six flags. The fourth graders studied American Indians in Texas and Texas Independence Day. The fifth graders concentrated on the Dust Bowl and Texans in World War II.

The week wouldn't have been as fun without first-grade teacher Geri Archer, who taught art lessons. All of the classes did a Texas-themed craft with Archer early in the week.

Kindergartners created Texas flags that could be raised and lowered; the first-grade class made bluebonnets; and the second-graders made Andy Warhol pictures with "Don't Mess with Texas" trash cans. Third grade made Remington landscapes; the fourth-grade class made an Alamo painting; and fifth grade did Austin's skyline.

Thursday was the much anticipated Dress Like a Texan Day. On this day most of the students dressed up in apparel fit for a cowboy. Even the cafeteria had fun with it by making a barbecue chicken lunch.

The week ended with Field Day – a BCS tradition, but this year it was Texas style. PE teachers Katie Smith and Paul Sladek helped add this twist; events like lasso roping, line dancing, and the cow chip (Frisbee) toss were added. After all of the field events the students met at the athletic center for a hoedown. There, field day awards were handed out, and all of the students line danced to "God Bless Texas." The day ended in the theater with the IMAX movie "Texas: The Big Picture."

"We've heard a lot of positive comments about the week, and the students seemed to really enjoy it," Hunter said. "I hope that Go Texan Week becomes a new BCS tradition!"

## SENIORS SPREAD FAR AND WIDE ACROSS THE STATES AND THEN SOME

### Abilene Christian University

Jackson Hager - history  
Mitch Rice - marketing  
Reed Robinson - computer programming  
Mike Taylor - business management

### Art Institute of San Antonio

Marisa Wagner - baking and pastry/business

### Austin Community College

David Park - undecided

### Azusa Pacific University

Kent Howell - business management

### Baylor University

Patti White - speech pathology

### Concordia University (Nebraska)

Curtis Byal - business administration

(England): Joanna Stewart (see story)

### Georgia Tech University

Erika DuPond - industrial engineering

### Harding University

Natalie Bergeron - nursing  
Molly McCormick - graphic design

### Henderson State University

Ariana Marks - sports management

### Liberty University

Elizabeth McKinney - relig./global studies

### Lubbock Christian University

Derek Hall - youth and family ministry  
Bryce Morin - undecided

### St. Edward's University

Cynthia Smith - psychology

### State University of New York

Chris Lee - pre-pharmacy

### Texas State University

Maysie Bartos - psychology  
Wesley Mory - computer science  
Skylar Treut-Shaffer - business

### Texas Tech University

Jasmine Selman - mechanical engineering

### University of Houston

Marisol Lawson - kinesiology

### University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Erin Atchley - nursing

### University of Texas

Co Ho - math  
Hannah Kwon - undecided  
David Powers - advertising  
MJ Sung - economics  
Avery Westerlund - sports management

### University of Texas at Dallas

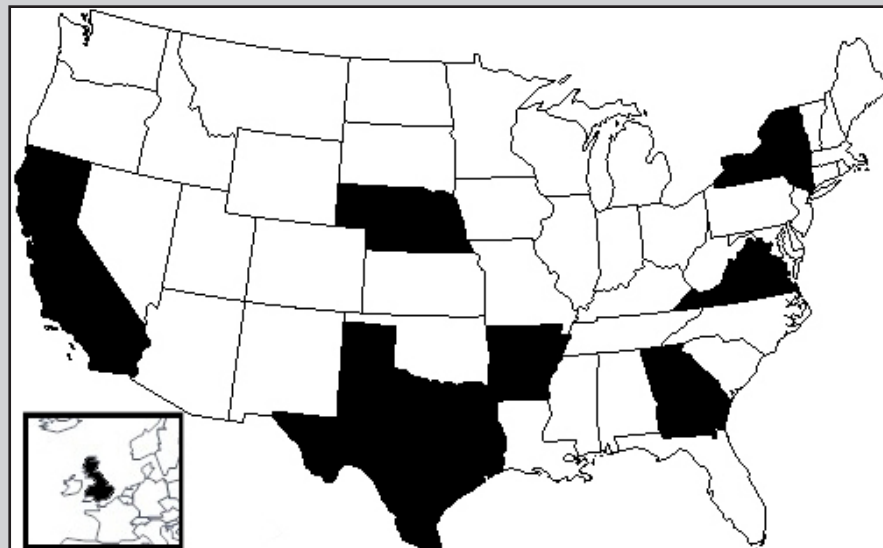
Mai Nguyen - business-accounting

### UT-San Antonio

Jin Ha Jeong - petroleum engineering  
Jamie Messinger - electrical engineering

### West Texas A&M University

Grace Cammack - theater education



**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:** *Grace Cammack*

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

# Determined theater junkie solves problems

By Elizabeth McKinney

If you're a member of the Class of 2014, you know you don't need to worry about forgetting over the weekend what homework is due on Monday, because every Friday, like clockwork, Grace Cammack will post a list of all the homework, projects, and tests coming up in the next week. Many grades have been saved due to her generous willingness to help out her fellow classmates ... and jokes are constantly made about calling her in college and begging for help in certain classes.

"I probably wouldn't have graduated without her hard work and really large brain," senior Cynthia Smith confesses. "But seriously, I wouldn't be going to college if it wasn't for Grace."

"Grace is the most hilarious, logical, weird person I know. And thank goodness she loves us enough to make study guides!" class valedictorian Avery Westerlund agrees.

Patti White also feels she owes Grace much for making those study guides.

"Nothing helped my 'senioritis' quite as much as Grace's Facebook study guides. Thank you, Grace, for getting us into college. You rock. Now I gotta make my own study guides. Boo," she laments.

However, Grace's ability to keep her friends afloat doesn't apply only to her own classmates. She has been heavily involved in the theater department since her first opportunity in seventh grade, and it has greatly impacted her life.

"(Theater) gives me a stronger sense of community than Brentwood itself does," she claims. "It's let me develop weird connections with people I wouldn't normally talk to."

Freshman Charlie Vazquez got to know Grace during "The Sound of Music" rehearsals in 2011.

"Some of Grace's qualities that I admire are

her ability to take control of every situation no matter how difficult, and her determination," he says.

Sophomore Emily Wagner seconds Vazquez's thoughts: "The main quality that I really admire about Grace is her determination; she's always so determined to make sure that everything goes well – she is a wonderful leader, and everyone knows that."

Besides being the "drama mama" of the theater department, Grace has acted in numerous duets, and won awards for several.

"There's something really ... I don't want to say magical, but like that, about turning yourself into someone else," she says. "Acting gives you the freedom to try out all the things you're too scared to do without any repercussions ... which, now that I think about it, can be really dangerous."

"I wouldn't even call myself a great actor, but the mediocre dabbling I've done has impacted me," Grace continues. "A little bit of every role stays with you, and it's kind of empowering."

Others who are at all acquainted with Grace know that she is hard-working and passionate about everything she does. Along with maintaining a high GPA, she teaches a second-grade Sunday School class at her church, dances with the Love of China School of Dance, is the president of Brentwood's chapter of National Honor Society, and is the editor of The Bear Facts.

Senior Mai Nguyen, who was her lab partner in Mrs. Mallett's Forensics class, claims that Grace was "the best lab partner ever; we literally complete each other."

Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, who is Grace's Bible teacher, admires her ability "to know what is important and to concentrate on that, as well as her ability to be at the same time resistant to peer pressure and well-liked by her peers."

Despite her involvement in so many starkly different activities, Grace's first love remains the theater. During rehearsals for "The Sound of Music," which was the first high school play in which she played a part, she became friends with freshmen, seniors, and others who were not normally in her circle of friends.

"We skipped the get-to-know-you stage, and now that we've been friends for a while, we can be weird together and aren't wasting time trying to figure out each other's favorite color," she recalls.

"When Encore would sing and perform their songs, we would be backstage dancing and singing to each other through the headsets," Emily says about spending time with Grace during Way Off Broadway.

But it's not all fun and games for Grace, who has been the stage manager for three plays. She occupies the stage manager's box and makes sure nothing goes wrong during practice and performances – and fixes it when it does.

Sophomore Chandler Alberda, who is a member of the crew on most plays, can at-

test.

"If I had to pick one word to describe her, I wouldn't be able to pick one. So I'll settle with two: life saver. (She) has this very sweet yet powerful nature to her. She is funny, smart, and always knows how to solve a problem every time anyone feels stressed or worried about anything."

Classmate and fellow stage manager Jackson Hager calls her work ethic "startling."

"She commands the room, and is in control all the time," he says. "It even made me feel bad about my laziness and strive to work harder."

Theater director Cindy Singleton, having worked with Grace on multiple plays, admires her "servant heart, keen intellect, creativity, and leadership skills."

Having attended Brentwood since second grade, she will be wrapping up her eleventh year at BCS today. Naturally, she plans to continue her involvement in the theater during college. She will attend West Texas A&M, which is located in a town called Canyon near Amarillo, and she will study to become a high school theater teacher and director. She chose the school because it was one of the few colleges that offered a theater education major.

"It's good for high school kids to have community," she says about her career choice, "and I want to be responsible for that. I've been to public school plays, which can be raunchy. I want to draw the line and let kids be kids, (especially) if they don't have a safe home environment – I want them to have a safe theater environment."

Her unforgettably loud enthusiasm, quick wit, occasionally scathing sarcasm, and genuine love for life will be greatly missed around Brentwood, but she will be taking her love for theater to new places and new faces, while continuing to use her unquestionable talents for a high purpose.



photo: submitted

## Grandparents again descend on Brentwood

By Camille Sunshine

Thirty-two years ago, Brentwood Christian School had its first Grandparents' Day, when students did a variety of acts by class, and grandparents stayed the whole day to watch their grandchildren in class. Grandparents' Day has changed a lot over the years.

This year's event, on April 25, offered a slight variation on last year's schedule. For grandparents with secondary students, the three 25-minute sessions

with their grandchildren began with two large group sessions. Guests witnessed sneak peeks of Way Off Broadway, learned about service at Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, and much more. In the third session, grandparents went to individual classrooms, where DNA was extracted from strawberries, art was admired, and math games were played.

The morning started off as always with a breakfast for the grandparents at 8 a.m., with teachers, faculty, and National Honor Society students greeting and helping out. President Marquita Moss recognized a few special

grandparents, such as those coming from the farthest, and also the oldest grandparent, A.J. Biegert, 91. The grandparents then went into the auditorium for an assembly, which featured songs by children from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

The lower elementary choirs were divided up by grade, and music teacher Sondra Strietelmeier led each group in singing a few songs with a theme. The kindergartners sang "outdoorsman" songs, followed by the first grade

see **Grandparents'**, page 7



photo: Dorothy Walters

**Lucky ones** Third-graders entertain grandparents under the direction of Sondra Strietelmeier.



THE BEAR FACTS MAY 2014

# Two teachers, bookkeeper, to enter life's next phase

By Nicholas Bergeron

The teachers and staff members leaving Brentwood Christian after this school year, though few in number, are deeply connected to the school's community. Students and faculty alike will miss and fondly remember Glenda Morrow, Linda Allen, and Pat Steelman, all of whom are retiring as teachers, mentors, role models, and friends.

Morrow, a BCS fourth-grade teacher for 15 years, leaves behind her at Brentwood hundreds of students, but takes with her years of memories. She fondly recalls field trips, kick-ball games, and students' touching poetry.

"I remember so, so many great kids who have since grown up to be great adults. I still have a beautiful poem that Bobby Scoggins ('08) wrote to me on the back of an index card the last 30 minutes of his last day of fourth grade," Morrow says. "I framed it."

After retiring, Morrow plans to take care of her parents and spend "lots and lots of Nana-time" with her grandchildren.

Since she came to Brentwood, all three of her boys have graduated from the school. The community – "family," in her words – provided support for her and her family during her grandson's illness and liver transplant several years ago.

The year after Morrow came to work at BCS, elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed asked her to direct the science vertical team, which spearheads planning the science curriculum for the entire school. With a lot of studying, as well as God-given passion and vision, she succeeded in heading the science team for the rest of her career.

Rather than merely teaching, Morrow sees her work as a kind of ministry and a way to connect important ideas in the secular world with those of the religious world.

"I met and heard about so many students who walked away from their faith in college because of highly influential professors they were not prepared to deal with. This generation is driven by science and technology," Morrow says. "It is my prayer that our graduates and even my little fourth graders are so grounded in the fact that science and faith are not enemies, but in fact, dance partners."

Summer Best, who has been the elementary computer teacher, will take Morrow's position in the fall. Kindergarten teacher Linda Allen will also retire from her 14-year-long work at Brentwood, after she and her husband decided to move to Abilene to be closer to their parents. While living in Oklahoma, Allen visited the Brentwood church with her sister-in-law and was alerted that the school had a position open for a teacher. Within the week, she interviewed for a job with Dr. Libby Weed two weeks before school started. Brentwood was "exactly what my family needed."

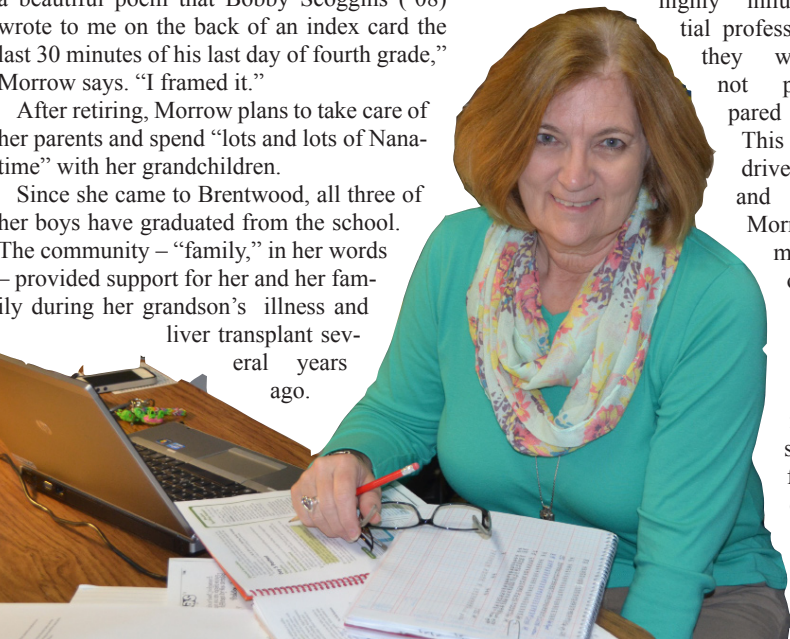
Allen, the parent of two BCS graduates, has loved getting to know students and watching them get excited about learning. She says they learn "everything they need to know in life here in kindergarten."

Allen remembers one instance when a student, now-senior Patti White, learned phonetics to put together words. When she could construct the word phonetically, she shouted, "CAT!" in a burst of the joy of learning. Students remember Allen as a personable teacher who also expected hard work and order from her class. Allen is remembered as caring about how students learned and "listening and actually (thinking) about what you said."

Her replacement is Denise Riley, wife of a graduate and mom of three BCS students.



photos: Hannah Kwon



# Students serve at four locations on Spiritual Emphasis Day

By Jin Ha Jeong

High school students and teachers went out to the communities to help their neighbors on Spiritual Emphasis Day, April 24. Each grade visited different places: Freshmen went to Round Rock Area Serving Center and Texas Baptist Children's Home, sophomores to the Village Christian Apartments, juniors to the Capital Area Food Bank, and seniors to the Mobile Loaves and Fishes organization.

The change in Spiritual Emphasis Day was brought by director of student life Stephen Colwell. After experiencing last year's day and seeing the lack of enthusiasm from students, Colwell said he really wanted to give students a tangible way to experience spiritual focus.

"I want it to be a day students look forward to," Colwell said. "Not just because it's fun, but

because it's a useful way to become better people, focused on what God has called us to be."

At the Serving Center, freshmen sorted clothes, categorized food, and picked up trash before going to Round Rock Donuts.

At Village Christian Apartments, sophomores had a short meeting with Linda Riedesel, a former BCS employee who is now working at VCA. Then they divided into several groups and served people. Most of them cleaned railings, picked up trash and leaves from lawns, and dusted ceiling fans. Others moved TVs, taught some people how to use the Internet, and had conversations with elderly residents.

At the food bank near downtown, juniors sorted frozen meats, cleaned the whole building, and moved heavy food boxes around. Afterward, they drove through In-N-Out Burger.

Seniors went to the Mobile Loaves and Fishes

organization and experienced a farmer's life. Some went to the land and used pickaxes and shovels to dig out furrows for pumpkins and squashes. They also put fertilizer on the farm land, fed chickens, cut down trees, and pulled weeds. At noon they ate lunch at a park.

High school students and teachers came back to the campus in the afternoon and enjoyed outdoor games. After the games, they rested with snacks and drinks. Colwell spoke to the students about how we can be helpful to our community and showed a photo slideshow from the day.



photo: Kaleen Graessle

**Girl power** Seniors Joanna Stewart, Cynthia Smith, and Avery Westerlund work the soil at Mobile Loaves and Fishes on a new kind of Spiritual Emphasis Day.



# Powell, Bears take first-ever district title; lose in playoffs

By John Hollingsworth

Brentwood's varsity baseball team's season ended on April 30 with a 7-1 loss on their own field to Brazos Christian School. BCS has lost to Brazos in the playoffs two years in a row.

The Bears ended their season with an 11-1 district record (14-4 overall), which was good enough to win the championship. It was the first time in school history to win the district title outright.

The Bears played well defensively for the most part but struggled to get runs across despite having plenty of opportunities. They only had three hits on the day, coming from junior Aaron Garcia, senior Skylar Treut-Shaffer, and sophomore John Hollingsworth.

Junior Ben Powell started the game on the mound, striking out nine batters through the first three innings and ending up with 11 strikeouts. But after getting hit on his pitching hand by a ball, he began to struggle.

Head coach Brian Thrift said he and his coaching staff were pleased with how the team did as a whole this year.

"Anytime you go 11-1 in district play, that is something to be proud of," Thrift said. "The guys played with a tremendous amount of confidence all year."

Junior Zach Marsh and Powell led the team

in pitching wins with four apiece, and Marsh led the team with a 0.58 ERA.

Powell's statistics were some of the most impressive in school history. In 12 appearances, he totaled 86 strikeouts with only 156 at bats against him, and his opponents' on-base percentage was a mere .133. He pitched 33 innings in district, striking out 61 batters and allowing no earned runs.

Sophomore Jake Velasco led the squad offensively with a .412 batting average, 27 runs, 21 hits, 4 home runs, and 16 stolen bases.

Powell was named district MVP and also made first-team all-state. Joining him on the all-district first team were Velasco (honorable mention all-state), Garcia, and Treut-Shaffer.

Making second-team all-district were junior Cody Hunt, Hollingsworth, and Marsh.

Next year's team will only lose Treut-Shaffer, and Thrift said he is excited for what the future holds.

"On paper, we should be one of the best teams in our new district," he said.

Marsh is also optimistic.

"We have the hardest working team in the district," he said. "I'm looking forward to getting back on the field with my team."

**4/17: @ San Juan Diego 12-0 W**

Treut-Shaffer threw a one-hitter with three strikeouts. Velasco led the way on offense go-



photo: Tina Treut

**Cloud of dust** Junior Cody Hunt slides back to first base safely in a late-season game. The Bears cruised through district but lost 7-1 to Brazos Christian in the playoffs.

ing 2-for-4 with a double and three runs.

**4/22: Concordia 17-0 W**

This win clinched Brentwood's first-ever district championship. The game was filled with some spectacular plays, including Treut-Shaffer's home run, which came on Senior night, and Garcia's catch in centerfield.

"Aaron's catch in center was one of the best catches I've ever seen at any level," Thrift said.

Hollingsworth got the win on the mound pitching three scoreless innings, and Marsh pitched the last two innings. Velasco was 3-for-3 with a triple and three stolen bases.

**4/25: St. Gerard 10-0 W**

Treut-Shaffer had a walk-off single in the bottom of the fifth to clinch the run-rule victory. Powell threw three hitless innings with six strikeouts, and Marsh finished.

## Softball season big on offense

By Joshua Sass

The Lady Bears' softball team lost in the first round of the playoffs 9-3 against Bryan St. Joseph on April 29. The only time the Lady Bears have made the second round of the playoffs was in 2007.

The girls fell behind 4-0 in the second inning and then scored three runs in the fourth and fifth innings to make the score 4-3. But the Eagles scored five runs in the sixth to pull away. Freshman Hillarie Carpenter led Brentwood with two RBIs and two hits.

"The game was very close when we pulled the game to within one and we almost managed to win," head coach Paul Sladek said. "But even though we lost, it was our best game of the year and it really showed that the team really cared about winning."

Brentwood finished third in district with a 7-4-1 record; overall they were 8-12-1.

"It was a roller coaster ride throughout the entire year," sophomore Hope Kronke said. "But going through the ups and downs really showed our team spirit."

Sladek said this year's team was one of the best hitting teams in his coaching career, but the team had not focused on defense. Sladek said he

plans on making defense the priority of the season next year. Pitching is also targeted for improvement, as next year's only returning pitcher will be current sophomore Sofia Torres.

Sladek's focus on the future goes beyond next year, though, as the middle school will have a softball team for the first time ever. This will increase the upcoming players' basic mechanics on both offense and defense, Sladek says, which will allow him to spend less time on the basics and more on teaching advanced ideas.

Making first-team all-district for the girls were Carpenter, Torres, and freshman Nicole Dobos. On the second team were sophomore Madison French and senior Cynthia Smith. Honorable mentions were senior Maysie Bartos and sophomore Samantha Woolverton.

Carpenter was the team leader with 24 runs and four home runs. Dobos led the team with 27 RBIs and 27 hits. French had the highest batting average at .559.

Brentwood will only lose two seniors, Bartos and Smith, but the team lost valuable players due to injury and ineligibility throughout the season.

"In the end, the character and heart is what I will remember and love about this group of ladies," Sladek said.

## Students honored at athletic banquet

**Bear of the Year:** Zach Marsh

**Lady Bear of the Year:** Keely Hardin

*Varsity Volleyball*

**Most Valuable Player:** Kara Teal

**Bear Spirit:** Keely Hardin

*Girls Cross Country*

**Most Valuable Runner:** Haley Birt

**Bear Spirit:** Haley Hutson

*Boys Cross Country*

**Most Valuable Runner:** Evan Herring

**Bear Spirit:** Brandon Patterson

*Varsity Girls Soccer*

**Most Valuable Player:** Haley Miller

**Bear Spirit:** Rebekah Legband

*Varsity Boys Soccer*

**Most Valuable Player:** Skylar Treut-Shaffer

**Bear Spirit:** Mason McCormick

*Varsity Girls Basketball*

**Most Valuable Player:** Ariana Marks

**Bear Spirit:** Keely Hardin

**Most Valuable Athletes:**

Skylar Treut-Shaffer and Nicole Glenn

*Varsity Boys Basketball*

**Most Valuable Teammate:** Wesley Mory

**Coaches Award:** Kent Howell

**Bear Spirit:** Mike Taylor

*Varsity Girls Softball*

**Bear Spirit:** Cynthia Smith

*Varsity Baseball*

**Most Valuable Player:** Ben Powell

**Bear Spirit:** Zachary Marsh

*Varsity Boys Golf*

**Most Valuable Player:** John Hollingsworth

**Bear Spirit:** Graham Marks

*Varsity Girls Track and Field*

**Most Valuable Runner:** Haley Birt

**Bear Spirit:** Martha Hughes

*Varsity Boys Track and Field*

**Most Valuable Runner:** Joshua Sass

**Bear Spirit:** Michael Rodriguez

**4/16: Central Texas Christian 13-7 L**

Brentwood jumped out to an early 5-2 lead in the first, but Central Texas tied it up at the end of the second. Then they scored five in the sixth to pull away. Woolverton led the team with two

RBIs. Smith and Torres both pitched.

**4/17: @ San Juan Diego 23-1 W**

Brentwood scored 14 quick runs in the first

see **Softball**, page 7

# Hughes sets pole vault record at TAPPS state meet

By MJ Sung

Sophomore Martha Hughes won the pole vault at the TAPPS 3A state meet on May 2-3 in Waco, setting a state and school record at 11 feet, 6¼ inches.

"It was such a fun and exciting experience! But I know that I couldn't have done it without the support of all my coaches, friends, family and teammates," Hughes said. "I can't wait for next year, higher jumps, and possibly more broken records!"

The varsity girls placed seventh overall. Houston Cypress Christian took first place for girls; Colleyville Covenant Christian for boys.

Lauren Marks ('06) held the previous school

pole vault record at 11-2, which set the TAPPS 4A record and earned her first place in the state meet in 2006.

Junior Nicole Glenn placed third in high jump (4-10) and fourth in pole vault (8-0). She was also fifth in triple jump (33-1¼).

Freshman Haley Birt finished fourth in the 400-meters with a time of 63.16, while Hughes placed sixth (64.89).

Brentwood's 4x400 relay team, composed of Hughes, Birt, and freshmen Abby White and Hope Hutson, placed fifth with a time of 4:23.91.

The boys' team had no state qualifiers.

Head coach Katie Smith said this year's team had very young athletes but did a great job.

"I am extremely satisfied with how they performed, especially under pressure and in new situations, and I have very high hopes for the next few years," Smith said. "We can always improve, by continuing to work hard in off-season and recruiting more athletes."

The boys' and girls' teams competed in the regional meet on April 25 in Bastrop. The girls placed third out of 16 schools with 90 points, which was 30 points short of first place. The six athletes who finished fourth or higher at the regional meet qualified for the state meet.

The 4x400 relay team won second place with a time of 4:24.23. Birt, Glenn, Hughes, and White qualified in the 4x100 by placing fourth.

Glenn placed second in both the pole vault

(8-0) and high jump (5-0). She also placed third in the triple jump (33-7).

Hughes won the pole vault at 11-3. She also placed fourth in the 400 with a time of 1:04.74.

Birt won the 400 with a time of 1:02.96.

Hutson placed third in 800 with a time of 2:33.43 and also placed sixth in both the 400 (1:07.17) and high jump (4-4).

Sophomore Kara Teal placed second in the shot put with a throw of 30 feet.

All of the boys placed sixth in their events: senior Kent Howell in long jump (19-7), sophomore Joshua Sass in discus (89-10), and freshman Jordan Johnson in high jump (5-0), setting a personal record.

## Hollingsworth ninth at state golf

By Samantha Mack

The BCS golf team placed sixth in their state meet on April 28-29 in Killeen at the Ft. Hood golf course. Their team score overall came up to 875 strokes; Bullard The Brook Hill won with a team score of 698.

Among individuals, sophomore John Hollingsworth earned ninth place. His score of 173 was only 16 strokes above first place. He shot 91 the first day and 82 on the second.

Coach John Vandygriff said the windy conditions, fast greens, and personal ailments were a "grueling test for the team."

Both Hollingsworth and junior Jacob Orick were suffering from the flu during the tournament,

but despite this, they "played their hearts out for the sake of the team," Vandygriff said.

Freshman Graham Marks tied for 24th place with 202 strokes.

Vandygriff said that if the boys will make a personal commitment to golf in the off-season, BCS can make the state's top four.



photo: Brooke Hollingsworth

**MVP** Sophomore John Hollingsworth, here with coaches John Vandygriff and Brant Troutman, led the golf team.

## Young track teams excel in district

The middle school boys placed second at their district meet on May 2-3 at St. Stephen's, while the girls finished sixth out of 22 teams.

Coach Trena Herring-Marler said BCS athletes set 62 personal records at the meet, earning 16 medals and 32 ribbons. She also said many of the athletes would place in district and regionals in the TAPPS high school meets, and four would have placed in state.

BCS students who took first place in their events were Hunter Burcham (shot put) and Jaclyn Wishard (100 hurdles). Coming in sec-

ond place were Burcham (discus), Maryn DeMaio (400 and 800), and the boys' 4x200 relay team.

Third-place finishers were Dillon Smith (100 and discus) and the boys' 4x400 relay team. Finishing in fourth place were Isaac Drew (100 hurdles), Alec Shelby (400 and triple jump), Smith (long jump), Wishard (long jump), boys' 4x100 relay, and girls' 4x400 relay.

Assisting Herring-Marler were Devan Loftis and BCS grad Mark Nesslage ('09).

## Grandparents' Day

continued from page 4

praising their native state, the second grade becoming bugs, and the third grade turning into leprechauns.

Choir teacher Missy Weaver led the fourth grade through high school students. The fourth and fifth grades sang some oldies together, while the middle-school and high-school choirs both sang classic worship songs.

Elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed introduced each elementary class, while secondary principal Carol Johnson introduced each secondary class. Moss presented the Grandparents of the Year award to Terry and Marty Johnson, grandparents of last year's graduate Travis, junior Tyler, and first-grader Tanner Clark. Moss said they were a huge part, both in making decisions and financially, in the campaign for the Center for Science and the Arts.

"The Johnsons have been very supportive and involved with BCS," Moss said.

After the music, the grandparents visited their grandchildren in their classrooms, where long-standing traditions continued: The kindergartners put on a rodeo, and the first graders watched a video of their year; the second graders square danced, the third graders flew homemade kites, the fourth graders put on a play called "Historical Hysteria" about American history, and the fifth grade interviewed their grandparents about their childhood.

## Softball

continued from page 6

inning and eight in the third to blow out San Juan. Torres led BCS with six RBIs and four hits. The game ended after three innings.

**4/23: @ Central Texas Christian 14-9 L**

The Lady Bears grabbed an early lead in the

## Music teacher brings joy to special day

By Camille Sunshine

Music teacher Sondra Strietelmeier has been teaching music to lower elementary for 17 years, and each year she spends five to six weeks preparing for Grandparents' Day.

While she admitted that, especially with the kindergartners, there is always the fear of "loose cannons," Strietelmeier said her favorite part of her job is seeing the kids' joy when they start to love the music.

"If we can bring joy, then I've done my job," she said.

Strietelmeier frequently gets help with the costumes for Grandparents' Day from parents, but all the rest she does herself. When coming up with hand signals and dance moves for the songs, she often uses American Sign Language or gets ideas from the kids.

In the past, each class learned three songs, whereas now, her time has been cut to five minutes per class. Sometimes the classes sing two songs; this year each class did a medley.

A few individuals stick out in Strietelmeier's memory. For example, she recalls when Tyler Clark was in second or third grade, and she chose him to act out a father in an African skit they did on Grandparents' Day.

"Somehow I detected that he could be the actor I needed," she said. "Look at him now. He is quite an accomplished singer/actor."

first inning 3-1, but Central Texas scored seven in the fifth to put the game out of reach.

**4/24: Texas School for the Deaf 16-3 L**

Brentwood fell behind 5-0 in the first two innings, and the girls never came closer than 6-2. TSD scored 10 runs in the fifth to end the game in a mercy rule.



# 'Red carpet' treatment greets students

By Maria Harris

"The Red Carpet" was the theme this year for Brentwood Christian's annual Jr./Sr. Formal, which took place on Friday, May 9, at The Golf Club Star Ranch in Hutto.

As everyone slowly found their way to the back of Star Ranch, friends stood around talking with one another, commenting on how good each other looked. Some also took pictures in the gazebo that was next to the building.

After a while, everyone was seated at the tables to which they were assigned. For dinner there was chicken breast and pasta with a choice of alfredo sauce or red sauce. Dessert was strawberry cake.

During the meal, junior president Madalyn Garelick presented a slideshow with pictures of the seniors through their lives. Tissues were handed out as needed. After the slideshow, seniors received a gift bag containing a DVD of the slideshow and a 2014 Jr./Sr. T-shirt.

After the slide show was over and the guests had composed themselves, the teachers began the receiving line that had been forgotten in the beginning. In the line were junior class sponsors Michelle Mallett, Cindy Singleton, Kevin Claypool, and Kaleen Graessle; also there were senior class sponsors Lori Morin and J.D. Robson, as well as secondary principal Carol Johnson, and elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed and her husband.

Junior Megan Burcham put together the wills and prophecies booklet for the juniors and seniors. This is a chance for the seniors to pass

things along to juniors and for juniors to predict what the seniors will do in their lives.

The after party started at 8 p.m., when all the class sponsors left and some parents came to be chaperones. The DJ started the tracks and most headed to the dance floor. Afterward, some students went to parties that friends hosted at their

homes.

Garelick said planning the event was difficult but rewarding.

"It was hard to get everybody's thoughts into Jr./Sr.," she said. "I tried to please everybody, and it seems like I did. I think it went really well."



photo: Jeff Garelick

**Beauties and beasts** Seniors Mitch Rice and Mike Taylor pose with their junior dates, Maddie Ashworth and Madalyn Garelick, at The Golf Club Star Ranch in Hutto.

# 'Broadway' reveals fine arts talent, gives seniors 'last hurrah'

By Tony Lee

Rich choral sound filled the theater, entertaining the audience. Outside, various works of art lined the walls.

The high school fine arts students of Brentwood Christian presented "Way Off Broadway" in the theater on April 25-26. Approximately 200 people each night got a chance to enjoy various kinds of fine arts, including the BCS jazz band and combo, Encore, humorous and dramatic duets, art exhibits, and the one-act play.

"Our goal for the show is to allow grandparents and guests the opportunity to see the broad range of abilities, gifts, and talents our students are developing," said Lori Morin, the head of the art department. "It is designed to maximize the number of students who can perform in a single night and to give an overview of what the fine arts department does at Brentwood Christian."

The art students had a chance to show their

pictures along the hallway and inside the art classroom. All art students displayed at least one piece of their own, and among them, approximately 75 pieces placed in the top six of their categories in TAPPS, district, state, or TCSIT competition. As a result, BCS art students won second in state for the first time.

At the same time, music and acting were being performed inside the Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater. Encore started off the concert with the song "Seasons of Love." Acting duets and dramatic interpretations followed, alternating with the jazz band and more songs by Encore.

After the intermission, senior Bryce Morin and junior Haley Hutson performed "Rabbit Hole." Then there was the award-winning one act play "Over the River and Through the Woods," and finally, for the senior tribute, Encore sang "In My Life." Seniors got a chance to come up to the stage to give thanks to people, and they received flowers to be celebrated.

Many students seemed to enjoy the concert.

"It was really cool that all of the different

aspects of the fine arts got the chance to put their work together," said junior Matthew Scarborough, who is in high school Encore and the jazz band. "That's what makes it unique."

Morin seemed quite satisfied, too.

"Every year is so different, and it is hard to anticipate what type of show we will have, but I feel like this year we had great performances and art displayed, and I was pleased with the turnout to the shows," she said.

Other recent fine arts events included the



photo: Chandler Alberda

**Last show** Encore sings "Lucky" with guest and BCS alumna Abbie Boyd ('10) at "Way Off Broadway" in the theater on April 26.

spring band concert on May 8, Sound Waves Festival and Schlitterbahn trip on May 10, and Jazz Under the Stars on May 17.

# Weed receives many gifts, love

continued from page 1

grandmother. For example, Stewart would read, "She loves theater, literature, and galleries"; Pimentel then read, "She loves baseball games, barbecue, and gardening."

"It was overwhelming, and a little bit uncomfortable to sit for an hour and be talked about, but it was all very beautiful," Weed said.

In recognition of Weed's tradition of dressing up as Mary Poppins every Character Day during November's Book Week, elementary music teacher Sondra Strietelmeier led a group of second-grade students in Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

During the party Weed was presented with several gifts, including a certificate to sit between Nolan Ryan and George W. Bush during a Houston Astros baseball game.

To draw the party to a close, BCS dad Mike Wilson and his barbershop quartet sang "Blue Skies" and "Irish Blessing."

Melinda Worley, a long-time friend of Weed, planned the event with the help of BCS board member and parent Cheryl Billante and BCS parent Nicole Alberda. Also involved in the planning were Stewart and Pimentel, and teachers Geri Archer, Carrie Hunter, and Summer Best. About 200 people attended.

Alberda was in charge of transforming the Family Life Center into a venue worthy of the party. Many in attendance were heard commenting about the loveliness of the décor.