



THE BEAR FACTS



VOL. 26 NO. 2

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2013

IN SHORT

Holiday food drive

To celebrate Thanksgiving, BCS students will again donate non-perishable food items to the Round Rock Serving Center. Food can be turned in from Nov. 4-26 to elementary classrooms or to Bible and study hall classrooms. StuCo will assist in coordinating the drive and collecting food.

Candy collection

The second-grade classes are holding a candy drive through the end of next week. They are collecting Halloween candy to donate to Mobile Loaves and Fishes, a nonprofit organization that brings meals to the homeless. Since the group does not budget for desserts, the candy will provide an extra treat. Donations may be brought to either second-grade classroom.

Rosedale carnival

National Honor Society took their annual Halloween trip to Rosedale, a school for children with mental handicaps, on Nov. 1. Rosedale and NHS members alike were dressed in costumes ranging from bumblebees and cats to cowboys and superheroes. Students enjoyed a carnival with booths for face painting, bingo, cupcake decorating, and wheelchair races.

Peer tutoring

NHS is offering free peer tutoring for all secondary students. Help is available during after-school study hall in C205 on Mondays and Thursdays, from 3:45-4:45.

Not to be outdone, NJHS is providing peer tutoring in the elementary extended care. Two students work an hour after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Volleyball reaches Final Four

By John Hollingsworth

Brentwood Christian's varsity volleyball team has a date in the state tournament against Brazos Christian tonight at 7 p.m. in Corsicana, about an hour south of Dallas. If they win, they will advance to the state title game tomorrow night, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m.

"We will have the state title," sophomore libero Keely Hardin said confidently. "We've worked so hard for this great opportunity."

Needing one more win to make the state tournament, the Lady Bears traveled to Bellville Faith Academy, a neutral site, to take on Bay Area Christian on Tuesday, Nov. 5. This was the same team that ended Brentwood's season in Bellville last year in the same round, same gym, and same bid for the state tournament.

But this time BCS prevailed in a hard-fought match (25-17, 26-24, 25-23).

Sophomore Brenna Decker led Brentwood with 32 assists and three aces in the match, while Hardin led with 30 digs. Sophomores Blair Westerlund and Kara Teal had 12 and 9 kills, respectively.

The Lady Bears went 10-0 in district play this year, never losing a set. Overall they are 38-3, having not even lost a set since Sep. 10.

BCS is ranked first in the state for TAPPS 3A schools and 14th out of all TAPPS schools.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, the team defeated Bracken Christian in three sets (25-14, 25-16, 25-9) to become area champs. Bracken's players were smaller in size, so BCS had the advantage from the get-go. Each time Decker got a good set to Westerlund, it almost always resulted in a point for the Bears.

Westerlund ended up with 16 kills, while her



photo: Mark Merkord

Lots to celebrate Brentwood Christian's volleyball team plays in Corsicana at the state tournament tonight at 7 p.m. BCS is 38-3 and has not lost a set since Sep. 10.

sister Avery, a senior, led the team with four aces and 17 digs. Teal also had 17 digs.

"Saturday was a lot of fun," Teal said. "I can't wait to see some more competition in the next three games."

Head coach Dusti Sheffield said she was impressed with the contingent of BCS fans.

"I was very pleasantly surprised when that many people showed up for a Saturday after-

noon game, 30 minutes before a Longhorn game," she said.

BCS opened the playoffs at home against The Woodlands Christian on Oct. 29 with a three-set victory (25-14, 25-14, 25-22). Brentwood came out with good communication and solid defense. The home crowd was full of

see **Volleyball**, page 6

Elementary students wrap up special week of books

By Hannah Odom

Miss Frizzle taps the chalkboard as a class of eccentrically dressed students looks up to her. The desks are full of all sorts of characters, from Katniss to the Cat in the Hat. Is Brentwood going crazy? Or is it just Book Week?

Every November, elementary students take part in Brentwood's annual Book Week, which allows students to express their love of books in many different ways. This year's celebration was Nov. 4-8.

Many local celebrities came to read to specific classes throughout the week. Some of the readers included children's authors such as Jane Peddicord, Janice and Tom Sheffelman, and Liz Scanlon. There were also two sports writers from the Austin American-Statesman who come every year, Kirk Bohls and Cedric Golden. Other celebrities that took part were actress and singer Janette Jones, and Steve Sunshine, morning DJ from Spirit 105.9.

"I love hearing from our talented celebrity readers. It is wonderful to see people from

outside the BCS community interact with our kids," elementary librarian and Book Week coordinator Tere Hager said.

Young authors entered their stories in the Young Authors Contest on Oct. 29. These stories were judged by a committee of parents and were read by elementary students throughout the week.

During the week students brought pillows and blankets and their favorite books to their

see **Book Week**, page 8

Big News from Little China: Grace Cammack

Don't just be casual observer; stand against bad TV, jokes

My nephew is seven years old. Over the summer he spent a week at my house while the other members of his house were either at camp or working long hours. Being seven, he enjoys playing on his Nintendo DS and watching TV, especially with me. I, being the good aunt that I aspire to be, sit by his side and watch whatever screen he has in front of him at that moment. One night we stayed up late watching Cartoon Network when all of a sudden I was pulled out of my observing trance with Luke shouting, "Grace! You need to change the channel! It's going to show inappropriate stuff!" and shoving the remote into my hand.

I changed the channel to something a bit more kid-friendly and he calmed down, but I was still surprised at his reaction of shock to what I was previously unaware of. He looked so stressed, so upset, and over what? Occasionally humorous cartoons aimed towards an older audience. Rightly so, but he's seven. Why is it that a seven-year-old knows when to change

the channel when a 17-year-old has to be told? Shouldn't I have known when the program would become inappropriate for little eyes? More importantly, shouldn't I care?

I'm not trying to say that I don't care what my nephew absorbs through the TV, because I do. I'm saying that we, as a people, as Christians, need to be more aware of the situation that surrounds us. We are not to ignore the world and its pressures, but we are also not to embrace it. We haven't embraced it, no, but we are also not ignoring it. My nephew responded with shock, where I responded with complacency.

I notice that high school students who claim to follow Christ have become numb to what we know is wrong. We understand that it's wrong, and we don't want to do wrong things, but we just watch. We still watch shows with less than kid-friendly material, not because we want to do "wrong," but because we have become used

to it. I wonder what that does to Christians, to become used to the world.

My nephew's definition of inappropriate drew a line at anything questionable, where, as I find more often among people my age, my defini-

tion is more open. We try things. We like to test the waters to see how far we can go without feeling guilty, which is pretty far. Instead of being repelled by wrongdoings, it intrigues us. We don't desire for it, but we like to observe. And

that's what we are: a group of observers. We don't partake, but we don't take action against it either. But isn't that what Christ calls us to do? Aren't we supposed to be images of Christ at all times? Would Jesus sit and watch a crude innuendo without batting an eye at his television screen? Hardly so.

"Shouldn't I have known when the program would become inappropriate for little eyes? More importantly, shouldn't I care?"



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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Being ForthReich: Jonathon Reich

Loneliness highlights need for community

"What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured." -Kurt Vonnegut

If you've ever been to secondary chapel, you know Mr. Colwell loves to stress community. In fact, if his whole lesson doesn't focus on it, he'll include some tidbit about it to remind us of its importance. But is there any valid reason for this? Is community really that important? I mean, sure, people can make us feel better sometimes, but aren't we fine on our own, too?

For a long time, this was a question I struggled with. People, to me, have always been confusing and complex, and dealing with them sometimes seems like more trouble than it's worth, even though I generally get along with people and enjoy being around them. When I feel like this, it's harder for me to connect with people, which makes me feel worse about myself and usually leads to fits of loneliness. Countless times I've wished I could simply get over this feeling, to "break out of my shell" and be able to talk to people well, but it's never been that easy. And, sadly, I don't think it ever will be.

A few weeks ago, I picked up a book about the science of loneliness, which I hoped would help me better understand the "what," "why,"

and "how" of it. While I actually haven't gotten around to finishing this, due to lack of time (Annie, Annie, Annie...), the small portion I've read has already helped me learn a lot.

For instance, how did loneliness originate? The authors say that when humans depended on social connections to survive on a day-to-day basis – from finding food, to making shelter, to dealing with predators – our brains evolved, forming connections that literally made us dependent on other people. These connections didn't simply fade away with modernization; needing to be socially connected is still at our core, as one of the most basic functions of the human brain.

Today this still affects us directly, not only in our mental health, but also our physical health. In fact, one study cited compared the detrimental effects of loneliness to high blood pressure, smoking, obesity, and lack of exercise.

In addition to this, studies done with fMRIs (functional magnetic resonance imaging) show that when we feel socially excluded, the same part of the brain reacts as when we are physically hurt. As the authors poignantly put it, "the pain of loneliness is a deeply disruptive hurt." In other words, loneliness at its core isn't something anyone can simply get over.

But what determines how susceptible we are

Of course, responding to a crude joke by smacking people with the word of God may not be the best way to respond, but I hardly think that decidedly not laughing is beyond our ability. We don't even have to say anything. Perhaps walk away or, if we feel particularly bold that day, change the subject. I am guilty of this as well. I am an observer, much like the rest of us. I have laughed with the crowd, but never produced any jokes of my own. I simply sit and listen without a single scrap of guilt because that's what my peers are doing. Subconsciously, we are all following each other. You laugh at jokes even though you don't understand them. Maybe even especially because you don't understand them. No one wants to be "that" kid. We are used to people shoving the world into our faces and because of that, we have little to say to it anymore.

Of course, there are things that are genuinely funny. There are appropriate things to laugh at. I like to think that Jesus had a sense of humor. But I also like to think that Jesus was awkward once in a while. I'm sure he told jokes people laughed at, but He also probably ended a few conversations. Though His sense of humor was perfect, the people around him were not.

to loneliness? It's an almost equal combination of nature and nurture, according to many studies. One in particular that focused on the responses of identical twins seemed to show that our genes contribute around 48 percent of this susceptibility, while 52 percent comes from the environment. These figures can certainly be disputed, but the idea remains the same: Your environment matters immensely.

When I read this, it gave me hope. Because this means that even if you are genetically biased toward being lonelier, the environment – or community – you're in can equal the scales and even tip them in your favor. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

However, getting to that light may not always be easy. It can take hard work to pull yourself out, and it's not something that goes away with time. For me, it's something that has been a constant struggle, though perhaps not a daily one.

It isn't impossible, especially if you build up a supportive community around you. People are confusing and complex, but that doesn't mean interacting with them isn't worth it.

Mr. Colwell knows what he's talking about – and I'm not just saying that because I'm his aide. We do need to form strong communities at Brentwood. Because more people than you might realize are seeking it.

Actors ready for One Act

By Jin Ha Jeong

After successfully finishing “Annie” on Nov. 2, Brentwood theater students are headed toward another big stage. Like last year, BCS will host the TAPPS One Act competition this weekend.

This year the theater class is presenting “Mr. Flannery’s Ocean.” BCS was honored with a grand champion award when they performed the same play two years ago at TC-SIT. Also in that performance, senior Bryce Morin won Best Actor, and former student Kailey Rodden won Best Actress.

Eight students make up the cast of Mr. Flannery’s Ocean. Besides Mr. Flannery (Morin), students include Stewart; juniors Tyler Clark and Haley Hutson; sophomores Hope Kronke and Jodie Singleton; and freshmen Camille Sunshine and Charlie Vazquez.

This year BCS joins three other district schools in the competition. Last year there were seven schools, and only one was able to advance. Brentwood finished second. But this year, two schools are able to make regionals.

BCS theater director Cindy Singleton said she and her students are confident in getting a great result with “Mr. Flannery.”

“I am absolutely expecting to go state,” Singleton said.

Morin, who is Mr. Flannery, has been ill and even in the hospital recently. Singleton said she is worried, but she and her cast will try their best. She prepared an understudy who will learn Morin’s part and replace Morin if he is still sick on the show day.

NHS inducts 32 at picturesque venue

By Kyle Jung

The NHS induction ceremony took place on Thursday, Oct. 17. Sixty-six high school students who were members of NHS attended the ceremony at Chateau on the Creek, a buffet-style restaurant with a beautiful view of the Texas Hill Country.

A week earlier, NJHS induction for middle school students was held at BCS in Worley-Barton Theater. Fifty-eight NJHS members in the seventh and eighth grades attended the induction with their parents.

For the NHS induction, the attendants dressed themselves up formally before they came to school, and they left BCS after chapel to attend the induction in Round Rock by buses and the cars driven by BCS parents.

After enjoying a performance by Encore and a lunch of Italian food, the students listened as girls’ basketball coach Devan Loftis gave a speech about leadership.

The ceremony continued with the introduction of returning NHS members and the traditional lighting of candles.

Senior Grace Cammack is Brentwood’s NHS president, and junior Christina Onabajo is the vice president. Other serving officers are secretary MJ Sung, treasurer David Powers, and historian Co Ho, all seniors.

“I hope to primarily lead by example,” Cammack said afterward. “We encourage people to try new and sometimes hard things. It’s easier for people to follow in footsteps that are already made.”

For this year’s NHS, there are 32 students who have newly joined, and most of the new members are sophomores who have just be-



photo: Kileen Graessle

Special day Sophomores Shelby Greer, Hope Kronke, Chandler Alberda, and Kai Harper enjoyed the setting at Chateau on the Creek, where the NHS gathered Oct. 17.

come eligible for NHS.

To qualify for NHS membership, students are required to display not only outstanding performance in their classes, but they also need to prove their leadership, character, and service. Students must also have no more than two “S minus” in order to obtain the citizenship.

One of the great merits for being a member of NHS is the opportunity to participate in various activities, which mostly involve service. Some of the main activities this year are visiting Rosedale School for the activities such as Fall Carnival, Christmas Sing-a-long, and

Easter Egg Hunt. There are also Peer Tutoring, Service Day in February, and helping with the BCS events such as Open House, Grandparents’ Day, Baccalaureate, and Graduation.

Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, the faculty sponsor of NJHS, said she will encourage the students to work hard.

“I expect that NJHS will work to develop the ideals of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship in our members,” she said.

Partnership Dinner to feature variety of artistic excellence

By Lauren Petrik

The band is warming up, and finishing touches are being placed on the tables. All that is missing are the people.

BCS will host its 23rd annual Partnership Dinner, A Night with The Arts, on Nov. 23 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel.

Entertaining during dinner will be Joe Castillo, who promotes visual arts by telling stories through sand, light, and music. He has performed in more than 20 countries and reached the finals of America’s Got Talent.

Noted jazz star Caleb Hawley, who has appeared on American Idol, will also hold the attention of guests at dinner. Local sculptor Don Brimberry will make pottery right in front of guests during the silent auction.

“We have an exciting lineup this year,” BCS

director of development Kevin Claypool said. “We hope to see everyone there!”

Topping off the evening is the live auction. Auctioneers Jason Rzepniewski and Bob Sheehan will auction off some of the items too big to be in the silent auction. Among these will be a Broncos helmet signed by Peyton Manning.

This year, a wealth of silent auction items has been offered up by generous sponsors. These include two tickets to the Wimberley Zipline Adventures, a hot air balloon ride for two, and four one-day passes to Disneyland.

Teachers have offered bidders their time, again agreeing to join students in a variety of activities. Band teacher Travis Pollard will be going out to lunch with some lucky student. Elementary

music teacher Sondra Strietelmeier will give lessons to an aspiring singer. PE teachers Paul Sladek and Katie Smith have offered the chance to be “assistant PE coaches” for the day.

Setting the scene for the featured entertainers

later in the evening, the BCS jazz combo will play jazz, rock, and swing style pieces.

The annual fundraiser typically nets the school more than \$100,000, which is crucial for keeping tuition low.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Bryce Morin

THE BEAR FACTS NOVEMBER 2013

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

Creative optimist loves people, blesses them

By Nicholas Bergeron

The audience at “The Sound of Music” was mistaken to laugh, but their faux pas was understandable. Because senior Bryce Morin is such an avid fan of the “Star Wars” franchise, his line about “storm troopers” – in the play, the Nazi assault division – was mistaken for a pun about the iconic armor-clad villains of the “Star Wars” films.

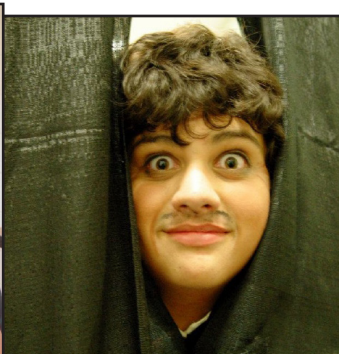
Bryce has forged a reputation for himself with his theatrical talent, responsibility in academics, amiable personality, and infectious wit. He has provided inspiration to the Brentwood community by staying very involved with the school despite a history of medical difficulties.

Bryce’s characteristic optimism and humor provide oft-needed encouragement to students and teachers alike, and can “cheer anybody up.”

“He’s always been the person who fought for the underdog,” art teacher Lori Morin says about her son. “(He’s) someone who loves people.”

Providing an example, classmate Jackson Hager remembers running around campus with him late at night, pretending to be “super hardcore spec-ops soldiers.”

“I went one way and he went the other,” Jack-



son recalls. “I soon slipped and smacked hard on the ground. I call out ‘Brrryyyccccc!’ and all I hear is laughing.”

“I’m a real ‘people person,’” Bryce says. “I like ‘em;

they make me happy.”

In the classroom, other students say Bryce sets “great atmosphere” and helps make classes worthwhile. However, Bryce has used not only his humor, but also creative thinking and pattern recognition to succeed.

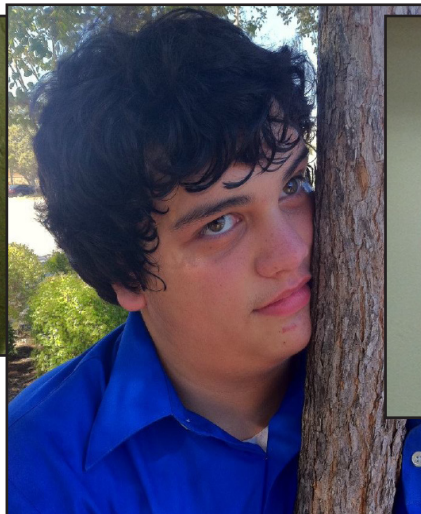
“He is the artistic temperament,” Bible and Humanities teacher Mel Witcher says.

However, and even uncharacteristically for the creative thinker, Bryce still “stops and listens,” noticing connections between concepts. He stops to analyze and draw links between ideas.

Senior Kent Howell recalls being his lab partner in science last year.

“We made mistakes, but it was enjoyable, and we could fix them,” he says.

Throughout his high school career, Bryce has participated in a myriad of extra-curricular activities: TCSIT, in which he won the award for Best Actor as a freshman and ju-



photos: submitted

nior, playing the titular role in “Mr. Flannery’s Ocean”; TAPPS, in which he’s gone to state; theater, in which he’s a thespian actor credited with 10 performances; Encore, Spiritual Life Committee, and Student Council.

Bryce expressed disappointment that an illness left him unable to participate in “Annie” – in which he would have played Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks, the wealthy capitalist who adopts Annie – when it ran Oct. 25-26 and Nov. 1-2.

Bryce first came to Brentwood when he was 18 months old; since then, he’s become very fond of both the school and church. In fact, during his mother’s difficult pregnancy carrying him, the congregation at Brentwood Oaks offered prayers on their behalves. Having spent a great deal of his life at Brentwood has allowed him to form very strong bonds with the community.

“I love the people here – both staff and stu-

dent,” Bryce says.

Outside of school, Bryce enjoys gaming and computers – he’s always willing to help the less computer-savvy with their technological problems.

With 18 years of memories, Bryce has a hard time choosing a favorite; he considers it a tie between class retreats, Student Council retreats, and One Act theater trips.

“Any time spent with my friends is time well spent and memory worth being categorized as a favorite,” Bryce says.

After high school, Bryce plans to major in performance or communications. He has sent out applications but not yet selected a university. There’s no doubt among the BCS community that wherever Bryce should go, and whatever he decides to do, he’ll continue to succeed and encourage others around him.

On Bryce’s future, Lori Morin admits she will “miss him and worry whether he’ll get up for class on time,” but she is certain he will succeed at whatever he chooses to do.

“There’s always Skype,” she reassures herself.

Witcher grins as he offers a prediction.

“Wherever Bryce goes, there’s going to be people laughing.”

The Bible verse Witcher believes best relates to Bryce’s attitude comes from Nehemiah 8:10: “This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Seventh grade makes mark at Camp Buckner

By Claire Nestor

Standing on top of a wooden pole 25 feet in the air, seventh-grader Kori Howell counts to three. Everyone thinks she is about to jump when she decides instead to sing “I’m a Little Tea Pot.”

These are the types of memories that were made during the seventh-grade retreat last month.

The adventure started at 7 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 7, when 56 of the 58 seventh graders headed out in three buses, two vans, and a car to Camp Buckner for their retreat.

Once they arrived at Buckner, the class

was divided into six groups and started out with getting-to-know-you games such as Two Truths and a Lie.

After lunch, they hiked to the high elements to begin the ropes courses. For many students, this was by far the best part of the retreat, especially the Leap of Faith.

“My favorite part was the ropes course because it was fun but challenging,” Micah Best said.

The Leap of Faith is a 25-foot wooden pole that students climb and stand on top before jumping off to grab a trapeze suspended above and in front of it. Of course, students are harnessed and hooked to ropes monitored by pro-

fessionals for all of the high elements.

This year’s class broke the record for catching the trapeze, with a total of 15 people grabbing it.

Trip sponsor and coordinator Travis Pollard was accompanied by president Marquita Moss, secondary principal Carol Johnson, and teachers Lori Morin, Paul Sladek, and Jonathan Weed.

The seven seniors who joined the seventh graders were Erin Atchley, Joanna Stewart, Marisa Wagner, Av-

see **Buckner**, page 8



photo: Travis Pollard

Happy place While most seventh graders found their retreat’s high elements a bit scary, Kori Howell was remarkably at ease high in the air.

THE BEAR FACTS NOVEMBER 2013

CLASSROOM FEATURE: Mrs. Davis's Fifth Grade

Fifth graders take trips, study states, make mischief

By Camille Sunshine

Fifth grade. The top dogs of elementary school. Lower elementary kids look up at them in awe. Respect has grown since younger years, and more freedoms have been given.

But the homework load and responsibility level has increased.

"It's kind of awesome, and kind of difficult, because we have to make an example for all the younger kids," fifth-grader Sky Barker says.

Binders are used for the first time. Relationships between girls and guys are changing, and cliques are beginning to form.

Many field trips highlight the fifth-grade year. The class has already had a workday at Village Christian Apartments, where students cleaned up and did crafts with residents. Other fall trips include the Dr. Pepper Museum and the Redbud Center.

In the winter, they go to VCA again, this time for a Christmas party. They spend the night on the U.S.S. Lexington, attend an Easter party at VCA, and see the Austin Young People's Concert in the spring.

A visitor to Cynthia Davis's fifth-grade classroom when the 8 a.m. bell rings sees children putting up their things, talking, and waiting for class to start. Davis then gets up and begins class with a devotional. Afterward, she teaches math in a school year that will feature fractions and decimals, along with beginner algebra and geometry.

Before long, another bell rings, and students get up, grabbing instruments and choir folders, sketch books and pencils, and head off to electives. Here they will sing with choir teacher Missy Weaver, learn an instrument with band director Travis Pollard, or paint a picture with art teacher Lori Morin.

Soon after this, they will go to their core classes. It's an exciting year in social studies, which includes memorizing the U.S. presidents and doing their 50 states projects. Science class teaches them about weather, matter, and electricity.

Lunch comes, where in addition to eating and socializing, an activity called "knee drinking" is performed. The students, especially the boys, will try to drink out of a bottle held in their knees only.

"If it falls, that's your fault," knee drinking champion Aaron Lilya says.

The class as a whole also goes to library skills with Tere Hager, computer with Summer Best, Spanish with Rachel Montesdeoca, and P.E. with Paul Sladek. The other fifth-grade teacher, Carrie Hunter, teaches them English.

An informal class vote reveals that the overall favorite subject among the students is reading. The students pull out their books quickly in an attempt to squeeze a few pages in before a lesson begins.

The kids are always quick to raise their hands in the air to answer a question. Whatever goes on, they love to respond with cheers or groans,



photo: Hannah Kwon

Clowning Cynthia Davis and her fifth-grade pupils enjoy a year packed with field trips and exciting lessons in science and social studies. The year represents a transition for the 10- and 11-year-olds, who are given increasing responsibilities.

whatever fits the situation.

"This class is full of fun; they are generally happy and strive to do what is right," says Da-

vis, who has been teaching fifth grade at Brentwood Christian for 14 years. "They are a pure joy!"

Seniors gain education, freedom on trip to UT library

By Elizabeth McKinney

While the underclassmen racked their brains, on the PSAT and PLAN tests Oct. 16, seniors departed for their annual trip to the University of Texas' Perry-Castañeda Library.

They were accompanied by faculty members Danielle McGhee, Ashley Dargai, Mel Witcher, and Jacob Rotich.

The seniors were introduced to the library's system of organization by library specialist Zhi Liu, and then informed of the PCL's labeling and searching system via the online catalogue. Once they were familiar with locating books within the PCL, they were sent out on a scavenger hunt with a list of books for which to search and find. Their search took them throughout the six levels of the library, letting them interact with current UT students and requiring them to use their new book-locating skills to check off each item on the list.

While some students found the exercise te-

dious or worthless, most reveled in the chance to compete against their classmates. They journeyed through many different sections of the library and raced to beat their friends; some even resorted to using the stairs because the elevators were taking too long.

Erika DuPond's favorite section of the PCL was the microfilm, which she said she had seen in old movies and had always wanted to see herself.

"I found some microfilm from the New York Times in 1935. It was amazing!" she exclaimed.

Afterward, the seniors were given an hour to relax before they went to lunch. They used this time to buy coffee from the library's coffee shop and to recline on the floor nearby while they chatted with friends. For lunch, they were driven to Hancock Center, an old shopping center north of the university, and turned loose to make their own decisions about where and what to eat – a welcomed and exciting dose of

freedom.

"It was nice to be treated like a senior and like we are responsible," Natalie Bergeron said.

They returned to Brentwood for seventh peri-

od and relaxed, having enjoyed their trip downtown and learned valuable information about locating books in college libraries – knowledge that will come in handy very soon.

Students take PSAT, PLAN tests

As happens every fall, Brentwood's juniors and sophomores took the PSAT on Oct. 16, while its freshmen took the PLAN. Both tests are given in order to prepare students for their upcoming SATs and ACTs, starting early so that they will be acclimated to the style and materials associated with the typically dreaded tests.

"For me, it's a huge deal having to do all the prep work," said Sandy Wiles, who is in charge of organizing and administering the tests. "It's also a big-stakes test for the students, especially the juniors, because of the National Merit Scholar aspect."

Wiles sent students a letter a few days before, telling them to get plenty of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.

The PSAT is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholar Corporation and enables students to receive scholarships for their lofty scores. In Brentwood's history, there have been 34 Commended Students and nine National Merit Scholars.

The PSAT consists of subjects such as Critical Reading, Writing (no essay), and Math.

"It was less challenging than I thought it would be, but there were still some confusing parts," junior Duc Minh Phan said.

Volleyball

continued from page 1

noisy BCS students who gave their team the extra energy that was needed to come out ready to play.

“Our student section was the best it’s ever been,” Avery Westerlund said. “Their support made a world of difference.”

Blair Westerlund led the team with 17 kills in the match, and freshman Nicole Dobos had 12. Teal led Brentwood with 28 digs.

Being state champions has been the team’s goal from day one. Sheffield said the team told her when she arrived that their goal was to win the state tournament. She responded positively.

“OK, I’ll help you do this,” Sheffield told them. “Let me see what we need to do (to get there).”

Sheffield said the team’s greatest improvements have been in communication and speed.

“The speed with which we’ve been trying to get them to play has improved dramatically,” Sheffield said, describing the way the girls transition from defense into offense. “Other teams are not prepared for what we’re doing.”

The coach saved special praise for the impact of Hardin at the libero position.

“She has a huge role and has been a huge part of our team’s success,” Sheffield said.

“We just need to play our brand of volleyball, our style, and not let the other team dictate the way we play. If we play like we are capable of, we should be tough to beat.”

Blair Westerlund led the team with 4.1 kills per game in district play; Teal contributed 3.7 kills per game. Decker averaged 9.9 assists in district, and Hardin led the Lady Bears with 4.8 digs and 26 aces in district.

Soccer squads eye return to playoffs; games on Tuesday

By Tony Lee

Both varsity soccer teams – girls and boys – open the season next week with matches against St. Dominic Savio on Nov. 12. The teams began after-school practice on Oct. 28.

Last year, the boys won district for the first time since 1997, finishing 8-2. They also won a playoff game against Ft. Worth Christian before losing to Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills.

“I was really proud of the way they played all season,” coach Cash Miller said.

There were six seniors who graduated and other players who will not return from last year’s team. However, there are 12 returning varsity players, including five players who were all-district last year: senior Skylar Treut-Shaffer; juniors Jae Hwang and Evan Herring; and sophomores Mason Miller and Joshua Sass.

The team also has six new freshman players, and Miller said he expects to see them playing a huge amount. There are 18 players on the varsity team, but a JV team will not be fielded this year.

“I expect the team to continue to develop on and off the field,” Miller said. “Our team goal is to win our district and advance to win the area playoff, district playoff, and then play in the state final four.”

Treut-Shaffer is the team captain, with juniors Herring, Reich, and Hwang as assistant

team captains. Treut-Shaffer said he also hopes to reach the state tournament.

“We lost the regional last year, but we should get past it this year,” Treut-Shaffer said.

Other players have high expectations for this season, too.

“We definitely want to be the state champion,” Hwang said.

The Lady Bears made the playoffs last year after finishing third in district. They lost in the opening round, 1-0 to Carrollton Christian.

They started their year with seven new players: three freshmen, three existing students who are playing soccer for the first time at the varsity level, and one sophomore transfer, Sarah Connor.

“Sarah Conner is a very experienced soccer player who will add a new level to our defense,” head coach Stephen Colwell said.

Four returning players were all-district last year: senior Jasmine Selman; junior Rachel Dixon; and sophomores Hailey Miller and Rebekah Legband. Two members of last year’s team, Mary Monacelli and Courtney Flores, graduated.

“Just like any coach, my goal for this year is to get as much out of my team as possible,” Colwell said. “My expectation is for each girl on the team to work their hardest for their teammates.”

The team is excited for the year, too, holding high expectations.



photo: Hannah Kwon

Getting ready Junior Brodie Brown prepares for the Nov. 12 season opener.

“I hope the team makes it to playoffs this year,” said senior Marisol Lawson, an midfielder trying to recover from an injury.

Selman, the goalie, has personal goals. “My goal for me this season is to block all the goals and not get injured, becoming more aggressive,” she said.

The team consists of 15 varsity players, and not a JV team. Dixon is the team captain.

“I feel responsible for the unity of our team and pushing each player to be the best they can be,” she said.

Herring, Birt lead the way for cross country at state meet

By MJ Sung

After hearing applause for their performance in “Annie” just a few hours earlier, some cross country runners earned applause from their hard, sweaty work at the state meet.

Brentwood Christian’s varsity girls’ cross country team finished fifth, and the varsity boys placed 10th, at the TAPPS 3A state meet in Waco on Oct. 26.

Freshman Haley Birt placed 13th out of 113 runners and finished the 3200m course in 13:25. She was followed by junior Haley Hutson, who came in 17th with a time of 13:41. The remaining BCS finishers were freshman Hope Hutson (14:09), sophomore Hailey Miller (14:49), sophomore Lauren Lewis (15:28), sophomore Madison French (15:53), and sophomore Rebekah Legband (16:22).

“The cross country meet was great and we all did really well even though we were tired from ‘Annie,’” Birt said. “The hardest part of

the race is the beginning, waiting for the race to start, but right before we start, we always say a prayer to help us calm down.”

Haley Hutson, who was Annie in the musical, improved on her time at last year’s state meet by more than a minute.

“The state meet went very well,” Hutson said. “I’m very proud of all the girls and I think we will have a very strong team to look forward to next year.”

Coach Katie Smith said she’s very pleased with her girls’ finish.

“It was a great day and we competed very well,” Smith said. “This is a young team who dealt with injuries all season, so my expectations are high for them for next year as well.”

Last year, the girls finished in third place in TAPPS 3A and the boys finished 13th.

This year’s boys’ team was led by junior Evan Herring, who placed 21st among 113 runners with a time of 18:38 on the 5K. The next BCS runner was freshman Brandon Patterson

(19:39), followed by five BCS runners: freshman Alex Matthew (21:18), freshman Will Moncure (22:19), sophomore Garrett Shake (23:13), freshman Michael Hickl (23:20), and freshman Austin Greene (24:53).

Herring cut more than a minute off of his time at last year’s state meet.

“Being in the play and on the team was tiring, but it was worth it,” Herring said. “I got my personal record time.”

Coach Jacob Rotich said the composition of the team is mainly freshmen; therefore, he said they are young and inexperienced, but are very “nice guys” with Christ-like character. He pointed out that the greatest strengths of this team is their cohesiveness and willingness to listen to coaches’ instructions, so he said the future is bright for this team.

“The boys did as I expected; they came in top 10 which is an improvement from last year’s 13th-place finish,” Rotich said. “Many of the boys posted their personal best time.”

The boys’ and girls’ varsity teams competed in the Georgetown River Run on Oct. 12. Birt finished the two-mile course in 14:18, and Hutson’s time was 14:42. The team placed 11th out of 20 schools.

For the boys, Herring was the top runner with a time of 19:46, finishing 60th overall. Patterson arrived after Herring with a time of 21:32. The boys’ team was 18th among 24 teams.

In the McNeil meet on Oct. 5, the girls competed in the JV division and the boys in 4A varsity division due to scheduling concerns. For the girls, Birt placed eighth overall with a time of 13:39, followed by Hutson. The team placed 15th out of 40 teams.

Herring was the top runner for the boys, running it in 19:42 and finishing 109th overall. Patterson placed second for the team, about two minutes behind Herring. The team finished 21st out of 27 teams. Rotich said this meet was the biggest, including more than 100 other schools in all divisions.

Basketball underway for confident varsity teams

By Josh Sass

The varsity boys opened their basketball season with a 48-40 win against Waldorf on Monday, Nov. 4. Junior Aaron Garcia was the leading scorer with 14 points.

The girls will play their first game at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 12 against St. Dominic Savio. Coach Devan Loftis called this his team's biggest rivalry game.

The girls took a 28-25 win in a scrimmage against San Marcos Baptist on Oct. 31. Senior Ariana Marks had 20 points. With many basketball players on the volleyball team in the playoffs, the Lady Bears are currently missing much of their team.

"When you are missing people and using inexperienced people and players out of position, it makes it more challenging to accomplish your plans," Loftis said.

Both varsity teams are looking to improve on last year – especially the girls, who made it to the finals of the TAPPS 3A state tournament last year, losing to Lubbock Christian. They

finished with a 32-6 record.

The girls have made playoff appearances nine years in a row and 11 out of the last 12 seasons. They also have reached the Final Four in 2006, 2008, and 2012.

The first district game for the girls will be Jan. 4 against TSD, and the guys will begin their district season on Jan. 7 against Giddings State School.

Coach Loftis said he expects to win district again this year and believes that the girls will have a great opportunity to advance to the state tournament.

"We want to build on last year's team and improve," Loftis said. "Despite changes we still plan to improve off last year."

The girls graduated six seniors but are returning three starters, all three of whom made either all-district or all-state. Marks was first-team all-state and junior Nicole Glenn was second-team all-state. Sophomore Keely Hardin was second-team all-district.

Glenn said expectations for this season are very high.

"We are very excited and hope to be back where we were last year or better," she said.

Coach Loftis said the girls have a very difficult pre-district season which includes mostly public schools.

Both teams will compete in the Brentwood Invitational on Nov. 21-23.

The varsity boys will have to replace Matthew Archer, the leading scorer on last year's team, along with three other seniors. They also lost Jacob Peyton, the starting point guard, who moved to Sweetwater.

Returning all-district players include junior Cody Hunt on first team and senior Mike Taylor on second. Other key players are seniors Kent Howell and Wesley Mory, and juniors Garcia and Charlie Sinclair. Garcia transferred to BCS this year from Cedar Ridge.

"We should do really well this year," Taylor said. "We have a couple new guys that are going to help us out a lot."

The boys started practicing before school two weeks before the first game, according to TAPPS rules, but are now practicing after

school.

This will be head coach Brian Thrift's second year with the varsity, while varsity assistant J.D. Robson will coach JV for the first time. Thrift said he expects Robson to bring "a ton of energy and enthusiasm to our practices."

Last year the boys finished second in district and lost to Keystone Christian in the bi-district playoffs, finishing the season at 17-15.

Thrift said he expects the guys to practice hard and continue to improve. The coaches said they are waiting for a team identity to emerge.

"Our district will be a tough battle for the championship," Coach Thrift said, "but we will be a contender for it."

Thrift said he expects the toughest competition to come from Round Rock Christian, Central Texas Christian School, and Texas School for the Deaf.

Thrift is a former basketball coach at Olivet Nazarene University, Abilene Christian University, and Rochester College in Michigan. He was an assistant basketball coach at ACU and an assistant athletic director at Rochester.

Flag football teams wrap up seasons making coaches proud

By Samantha Mack

Brentwood's Green and White middle school flag football teams joined forces to compete in the playoffs last week, and they finished in a tie for third place.

The team's final game was a 13-6 loss on Nov. 2 against Waldorf, who has won other championships in the past. It was a defensive struggle until the end, when the Bears went for it on fourth down and failed.

Eighth-grade quarterback Dillon Smith tied the score with a 60-yard touchdown run early in the second half. They missed the point-after, and on the kickoff Waldorf ran it back for a score to go up 13-6, which ended up being the final.

"It was a very good game, and my hat goes off to Waldorf, who played well," head coach David Trevino said. "Overall, I think everything worked out well, and going into next season I will have plenty of players returning with good experience to build on."

The Bears' first playoff game was a 33-8 victory against St. Theresa on Oct. 29. Smith ran for a touchdown and had two interceptions, running one back for another touchdown. Eighth-grader Hunter Burcham caught a touchdown pass, and seventh-grader Connor Troutman caught a touchdown and a point-after. Seventh-grader Isaac Drew had an interception and a point-after. Eighth-grader McCann Stephens had a touchdown catch, and eighth-grader Carvey Sailors threw a point-after score.

Highlights from earlier in the month include

the Green team's 18-14 victory over Redeemer on Oct. 8. Smith ran for a long touchdown, and then a few plays later he returned an interception for a score. He then got sick and was not able to continue the game. Stephens, who had not played quarterback since sixth grade, came in and threw a touchdown pass to Sailors that ended up being the difference in the game.

The Green team's last game before playoffs was an 18-6 win over St. Ignatius, which Trevino called "the most complete game of the season." BCS hardly missed any flags, Drew had two interceptions, and Smith ran the offense efficiently, throwing two touchdown passes and running for another.

The White team enjoyed a 26-12 victory over St. Austin on Oct. 8. Two weeks later, in a 19-6 loss to Waldorf, Singleton got four sacks, including three in a row. This had the Waldorf quarterback saying, "We have two people blocking him. Why is he still sacking me?"

The elementary 1A team finished the season with a 6-3 record. They lost to Hyde Park 8-7 in overtime in the first round of playoffs Oct. 24.

Previously, they won 18-0 against St. Theresa on Oct. 17. They then lost to St. Andrews 20-13, but won their next game against Hyde Park 13-7. Next they played Holy Family and won 13-0; the second half of this game was rained out, but since they completed the first half they received the win.

"Looking back on the 1A season, I am incredibly proud of what they did," said Trevino, who also coached this team. "They took everything

I told them to heart and gave all they had, and really I could ask nothing else from a team."

Elementary 3A's final game was a 13-6 playoff loss to Trinity on Oct. 24.

"I am proud of the hard work and effort put forth by each player," coach Brian Jackson said. "More importantly, they exhibited strong Christian character."

The Bears got down early 13-0, but in their opening drive of the second half, sixth-grader Zach Myers caught a 20-yard pass to set up classmate Sam Orick's six-yard TD run.

The Bears came close to scoring two other times but just "couldn't punch it in," their coach said.

On Oct. 21 the 3A team defeated Hyde Park 18-12. Orick started the scoring with a 30-yard touchdown pass to sixth-grader Jackson Baird. He then ran for an 18-yard touchdown. Hyde Park scored with three plays remaining in the game to tie it 12-12.

The Bears got the ball on their own 30-yard line with two plays left in the game. After an



photo: Darnell Mack

Elusive Seventh-grade quarterback Blaine Barker and his White team joined forces with the Green team in the playoffs.

incompletion, they were down to their last play. Sixth-grader Daniel Hickl lined up at quarterback with Orick and Myers as receivers. The Bears ran a reverse handoff to Orick, and he then threw a 50-yard touchdown pass to Myers for the win.

After a previous game against Trinity, the opponent's coach and all the players came and thanked the Bears for the compassion that they showed earlier in the year when one of their players suffered a serious injury.

"That made me more proud of our players than any championship we could have won," Jackson said.

Fall Festival features ducks, dunking, dizziness, dog

By Maria Harris and Deirdre Smith

It started off as a quiet, chilly, morning at Brentwood Christian School. Students would soon be gathering on the BCS campus to play the games run by students and parents, and to enjoy the company of good friends. No on-looker would have guessed that these grounds would soon hold the chaotic activity of the long anticipated Fall Festival.

New additions to this year's event, held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 19, were laser tag, hamster ball, gyroscope, Duck Dynasty shooter, and Ga-ga. Also, as a reminder to support the upcoming musical, junior Haley Hutson made an appearance in her Annie costume and took photos with kids for tickets.

"I liked seeing the joy on the little kids' faces," Hutson said, "and the curiosity of why the dog was there. It was cute to watch the kids look at the dog and cautiously inch toward her until we said it was okay to pet her."

The top three booths among elementary were the cake walk, organized by Mrs. B'Smith's third-grade class, which earned \$474; laser tag, run by Miss Hunter's fifth grade, which earned \$376; and the bake sale, done by Mrs. Ellis's third grade, which earned \$411. The total

amount of money earned by elementary booths was \$3,050.

The most popular booths for secondary were the seniors' animal walk, which earned \$749; the eighth graders' ring-a-drink booth at \$500; and the sophomore dunk tank, which made \$419. The high school booths brought in a total of \$3,798.

Fall Fest coordinator Wendi Baird arranged the catering of foods such as Chick-fil-A, Kona Ice, Kettle Corn, and Pok-E-Joe's. Dawn Esche coordinated ticket pre-sales, and Tiffany Hague coordinated booths.

PTF president Lynn Petrik said each teacher has received \$75 for classroom use from funds raised. She said additional money is put toward wish list items that benefit classrooms. In high school, some of the funds go toward individual students' senior trip fund.

Petrik expressed gratitude for the generosity of sponsors who provided things like vending, music, or the giant inflatables, which were donated and delivered by the Round Rock Express at no cost.

"Fall Festival would not have been such a great success without the generous contributions of our sponsors," Petrik said.



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Nauseating fun Eighth-grader Merideth Mallett gets plenty of laughs on the gyroscope ride, a new feature at this year's Fall Festival, which took place Oct. 19.



photo: Glenda Morrow

Happy ending This year's fall musical, "Annie," earned rave reviews from students, teachers, and parents alike. Performed in Worley Barton Theater on Oct. 25-26 and Nov. 1-2, the show benefited from the support of parent group Fine Arts Benefactors, whose assistance was described by director Cindy Singleton as "incredible."

Buckner retreat

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ery Westerlund, Patti White, Jackson Hager, and Mike Taylor.

Atchley said the seniors wanted to encourage the seventh graders and help them enjoy everything they did at the retreat. Other activities included free time for various sports, group games organized by Sladek, and a hay-ride.

When students went to their cabins for the night, they had a devotional led by the seniors. But when the seniors sneaked out of the cabins later to hang out with each other, the cabins full of unsupervised seventh graders got out of control.

"It was bad when the seniors left," Best said. "Everyone went crazy and yelled."

The girls had a sleepover experience when everyone got together on the bunk beds and had deep conversations. The boys, however, were the complete opposite. One side of the boys' cabin was extremely loud and filled with their yelling.

Overall, the retreat went very smoothly and as planned.

"There was never a dull moment," seventh-grader Madison Moseley said.

Book Week

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own class's "book-in." Most classes had one or two such events during the week.

Almost half of all elementary students chose to submit a book in the Young Authors Contest. Most of them also chose to illustrate their stories. Kindergartner Dylan Sloan wrote a story called "Squirmy the Wormy." In his story, a worm runs into a series of vegetables and asks them their names. When the vegetables do not respond, Wormy is very upset. Then Wormy realizes that vegetables can't talk. When it starts raining, Wormy sees that the rain is what keeps the plants alive, so he digs tunnels to help the plants get water.

Those who submitted a book were invited to a party on Thursday where there was a magician and lots of sweets.

To wrap up the week, the students dressed up like their favorite book character on Friday. There was also an assembly to award students who participated in the Young Authors Contest.