



THE BEAR FACTS



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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2014

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IN SHORT

Dinner tomorrow

The annual Partnership Dinner is set for tomorrow, Nov. 15, with the silent auction beginning at 6 p.m. The event will take place in a large party tent on the Dell Diamond out-field, and will feature a conversation with Duck Dynasty star John Godwin. Dinner will be a Louisiana-themed course of fish and shrimp, and as always, there will be a live auction.

Food drive

One week remains in the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, which will provide food to hungry families through the Round Rock Area Serving Center. The drive concludes with the annual all-school Thanksgiving chapel service on Nov. 20. Students of all ages are asked to donate at least five non-perishable items. Secondary students are competing among classes for an extended off-campus lunch.

Science Fair

Brentwood's fifth-annual School Science Fair is scheduled for Dec. 10 (secondary) and 11 (elementary), and coordinator Michelle Mohrmann is still looking for help filling a variety of roles. Not only does she need judges on both days, but she also needs help with set-up, clean-up, photography, and other tasks, all of which earn parents VIP credit. Those interested should contact Mohrmann.

Baby born

Natalie Rotich was born on Oct. 7 at 9:30 p.m. to Hellen and Jacob Rotich. She weighed 7 lbs., 4 oz., and was 19.5 inches long. Big brother Jonathan is a BCS K4 student.

Volleyball girls come close again

BCS reaches state final for second straight year; loses 3-1 to Arlington Grace

By Hannah Velasco

For the second year in a row, the volleyball team finished second in state.

Brentwood Christian lost the TAPPS 3A state championship match to Arlington Grace Prep 3-1 (26-24, 21-25, 25-11, 25-17) on Nov. 8 in Corsicana.

A year after being one point away from winning the state championship, the Lady Bears made it back to the final with new coach Veronica Lee but had trouble against a very athletic team. Lee said she told her team after the game that their opponent was simply in better shape than they were.

"We have to take off-season training seriously, to be able to push through and win a championship match in the fall," she said. "We must train harder and more disciplined than our opponent, on the court and in the weight room."

Lee also said Arlington was better defensively than BCS was, and that the Bears had too many errors.

"We would have had to play near perfectly to beat Grace Prep," she said.

The girls agreed that Arlington Grace had

good hitters, a quality libero, and lots of speed. While the loss was very disappointing, some players said it was easier knowing that they lost to a team that outplayed them.

"Last year was more devastating," junior Tori Troutman said.

This is the fifth time a BCS team has reached the state final in two years. Besides the two volleyball trips, girls' basketball has been the runner-up the past two seasons, and boys' soccer reached the final in October.

In Friday's semifinal, Brentwood defeated Boerne Geneva High School in three games (25-14, 25-19, 27-25). BCS students from many different classes watched a live streaming of the 12:30 p.m. game, which was projected onto the wall of the FLC. That morning, several BCS high school students left on a "Fan Van" to Corsicana to support the team.

The day before, most BCS classes continued the tradition of meeting in the parking lot to cheer on the team as their bus left campus.

Brentwood finished the season with a 31-16 record overall, and a 12-0 record in district.

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photo: Mark Merkord

Take that! Junior Kara Teal prepares for a kill during the state championship game.

Soccer boys finish second in state

By Joshua Sass

A thrilling season for the varsity boys' soccer team came to an end in Waco on Saturday, Oct. 18, as the Bears fell to Longview Christian 6-4 in the TAPPS 3A state championship game.

It was the third time in 12 months that a BCS team lost a state championship game. Brentwood reached the girls' basketball finals in March and the volleyball finals last November.

The team finished the season with a 14-2 record and won their third straight district championship under the leadership of head coach Cash Miller.

"This was the finest soccer season in BCS history," Miller said. "This team worked harder than any team before and has the best chemistry of any men's team I have ever coached."

The Bears started the game in typical fashion, scoring quickly and jumping out to an early 1-0 lead with a goal by junior Joshua Sass.

But what would come to define the game would be the quick answer by the other team, and the game was soon tied 1-1. Sass scored again, but the Sentinels answered once again. Then Longview took its first lead of the game at 3-2, and this time Brentwood answered with a goal from senior Jae Hwang. The score was tied 3-3 at halftime.

The game, played on the turf in Waco ISD Stadium, quickly became a test of who had the most endurance as temperatures climbed. The turf only made the field hotter, which would eventually lead to the Bears' downfall.

As the second half began, Brentwood quickly gave up a goal which

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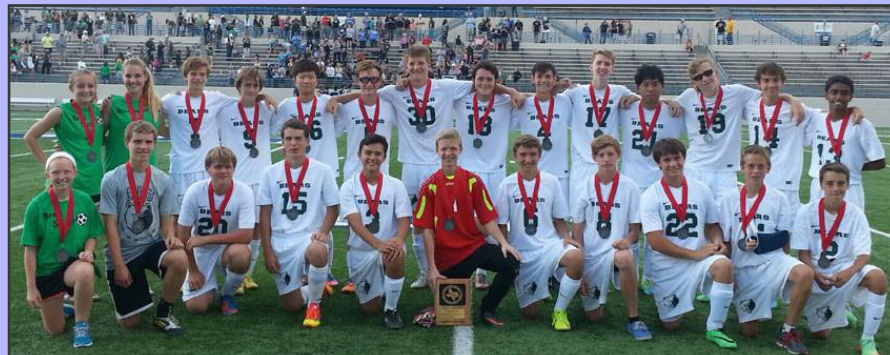


photo: Laura Miller

Runners-up The boys' soccer team poses with their medals and plaque after the state final in Waco on Oct. 18. The team finished the season with a record of 14-2.

Being ForthReich: Jonathon Reich

Lockdown brings effects of fear to light; what are we to do?

Classes across BCS were interrupted with an announcement of a lockdown on Oct. 24, in response to a police search north of Parmer, in the 14100 block of Thermal Drive. The search began after two people were hospitalized following reports of shots in that area.

Fortunately, the lockdown was simply a precautionary measure. It was ended after a few hours, and the entire time there was no danger of anyone being harmed on campus. However, at the time, information about the nature of the lockdown did not spread quickly. Until Mrs. Moss sent an email about the situation, we were – both figuratively and literally – left in the dark.

I can attest that during this time I was afraid. When I first heard footsteps slowly clicking down the hall, followed by what seemed like slamming doors, and eventually the drone of helicopters, I worried about the safety of myself and everyone else.

Fear is powerful. Psychologists such as John

B. Watson, who performed the infamous “Little Albert” experiment in the early 20th century, generally agree that fear is an innate emotion. That shouldn’t come as a surprise – fear helps us instinctively sense and respond to danger. Gavin de Becker, author of the bestseller *The Gift of Fear*, explains that fear’s place as an instinct is due to its necessity for survival in ancient peoples. Most Christians, of course, view it as a gift designed by our Creator.

Despite fear’s positive role in nature, the role of fear in our society is complicated, to say the least. When the media tells us the latest victim of the Ebola epidemic, or the Islamic State, we become afraid because there is nothing we can do to stop them; and surely, if these terrors could happen to someone, there is a chance that we could meet the same fate. Disease, terrorism, and war are certainly issues that are out of our hands, and we react in the most natural way – to fear them.

Even though we don’t face these types of

danger regularly, different levels of fear still play a large part in our daily interactions. We’re nervous about upcoming tests, anxious of what the future holds, and scared out of our wits when we see a spider crawling across our books.

“We all know there are plenty of reasons to fear from time to time. The question is, what are those times?” de Becker asks. “Far too many people are walking around in a constant state of vigilance, their intuition misinformed about what really poses danger.”

If we want to determine what causes us to fear a situation, we need to look at the context of many of our fears. Often, uncertainty accompanies fear, but what I believe to be a larger part of fear’s causation is a feeling of a lack of control. This is what makes us afraid when we look at Ebola and the Islamic State – those are truly issues that are out of our hands.

So how can we handle fear in these situations that we can’t control? Sometimes, learning

about the situation that we fear can give us more feeling of control, helping to alleviate unnecessary fears. When I learned that the lockdown was simply a precautionary measure, my fears immediately dissipated. Knowing that Ebola has only infected four people in America should relieve some troubled minds – this means the possibility of infection is slim to none.

But understanding isn’t always enough. When we get to the bottom of it, no matter what the situation, God calls us to put our fears and worries behind us, and trust in him. While we have many reasons to fear, we should continue to trust in God to bring us through the other side. In Luke 12:4-7, Jesus explains God’s care for even the sparrows, and how his love for us covers more than that. Paul says in Colossians that believers’ lives are “hidden with Christ in God.”

Surrounded by a culture that propagates fear, it’s sometimes easy to forget this message. But trusting in God is truly the only thing that can protect us against the fears of the world.

Notes from the Underground: Nicholas Bergeron

Looking critically at culture exposes celebrities

Gwyneth Paltrow, star of *Iron Man* and *Shakespeare in Love*, with the help of her slew of dietitians, wrote a cookbook, *It’s All Good*. Paltrow claimed the book’s organic, natural recipes “healed (her) totally” of vitamin D deficiency, anemia, fatigue, and stress. From a dietary standpoint, her advice may be sound; from a budgeting standpoint, it’s terrible. Eating manuka honey, duck eggs, and crimini mushrooms will run your family about \$300 per day.

If you have the stomach to dig deeper, you’ll find that our favorite international icons can sink from irritating and clueless to downright repulsive. Sean Connery, whose suave portrayal of James Bond immortalized him in the world of film, once said that he didn’t see a problem with slapping women. And Mel Gibson, lead actor in my beloved *Mad Max* and, worryingly enough, director of *The Passion of the Christ*, has been recorded shouting misogynistic and anti-Semitic rants so often that his taped “body of work” runs longer than those of some rock bands.

Clearly, public figures can say some really ill-advised things – maybe no more than the rest of us, but the cameras and microphones are always trained on them, which brings us to my main question: Why do we keep listening? Why should anybody care which candidate Oprah Winfrey supports? She’s not a political analyst; she’s a talk show host – yet her support of the 2008 Obama campaign was estimated to have brought in over a million votes. Dr. Dre isn’t an engineer, but his endorsement of Beats headphones has made the brand a household name, and made him richer than even Jay-Z, despite

not having released a studio album in six years.

Our famous favorites are often ill-equipped to advise us, but we’re all ears anyway. Why? To find out, let’s look at what a celebrity actually is. Where better to look for an answer than psychoanalysis? So let’s take a quick look at Freud’s idea of identification. Identification with an object (an object being the mental representation of a person, rather than a physical person or thing) involves incorporating aspects of that object into oneself. The object of identification signifies something other than itself. Freud takes this in a little different direction than I’m taking it, but the idea works well to help us understand celebrities. A celebrity could be defined simply as one person (or object) with whom many people in a society identify. This often goes hand in hand with fame, but it’s the identification that gives celebrities their influence, not just their fame.

In the same way Moses stood for the power of God to the Israelites, or the popes stand in for Christ to Catholic Christians, celebrities in our culture are significant not only for their works, but for some greater quality. John Wayne signifies pure, ideal masculinity; Bob Dylan, willingly or not, not only brings to mind but shapes and is our cultural concept of 1960s anti-authoritarianism and youthful independence. So of course we’ll listen to celebrities. They’re a part of us.

But what is to be done? Since famous people are a part of our culture and our minds, are we helpless to resist them? Is the celebrity some new creation of a mass media-addled, give-it-

to-me-now age? Is all hope lost?

First of all, the celebrity is not new. Ancient Greek heroes and athletes were lauded and sung of in ways that would today seem hilariously over-the-top, and gossip columns, covering mostly poets and artists, were written in English newspapers as early as the 19th century. Humans have been identifying with other humans throughout all history. The writer John Storey has this to say: “We live in an expanding culture, yet we spend much of our energy regretting the fact, rather than seeking to understand its nature and conditions.”

Our culture is up to its eyelids in media, advertising, and pop culture. It’s useless to pretend that we can change that. Even if you manage the impossible task of isolating yourself from media influences, what would be the point? That would be like insisting on reading scrolls in spite of Gutenberg’s printing press.

Accepting and understanding the culture around us is the first step to taking a more critical look at its influence on us. The influence is there; there’s no use denying that. To lessen that influence, to try to silence these voices in our heads, we should step back and ask ourselves who’s talking, what they’re experts on, and what they’re not experts on. We should think long and hard on who we ought to be listening to on what topic. We can’t opt out entirely of our cultural experience, but we can try to see celebrities for who they are: people, not ideas, not ideals. Just people.

And we’ll all hope we’re not doomed to buy recipe books from Gwyneth Paltrow.

THE BEAR FACTS

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One act girls win district, advance to state

By Hannah Odom

Brentwood Christian placed first in district with their performance of *Steel Magnolias* for this year's TAPPS one act competition on Nov. 7. The students are competing at the state level today at Antonian High School in San Antonio. Several students departed from campus on a "fan van" this morning at 7 a.m. to support



photo: Shelly Kronke

Six southern sisters The cast of *Steel Magnolias* smiles on the set after their first-place performance Nov. 7.

their classmates at state.

"After all the stress, when we found out we won, we freaked out and ran on stage and it turned into a huge girl hug," actress Camille Sunshine said.

In the district competition, held at Brentwood's own theater, BCS performed second among six schools. They are scheduled to perform second among eight schools in the Nov. 14 state competition.

The play will also be performed publicly for the school on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. followed by a reception with desserts that are included in the \$12 ticket price. This is a FAB fundraiser and not a season ticket event, and advance purchase is required.

Steel Magnolias is set in Truvy's Beauty Parlor in a small southern town. The play focuses on a group of close-knit southern friends. When crisis strikes in the lives of one of the women, their

friendship is put to the test.

"The play is a real life story, and the actresses are really invested," theater teacher Cindy Singleton said.

The play consists of 13 crew members and six actresses: senior Kaylie Angello; juniors Laura Doyle, Hope Kronke, and Natalie Williams; and sophomores Hope Hutson and Sunshine. All of the actresses were named all-star cast or honorable mention for their performances in the district meet. Senior Abbie Baros was named all-star crew.

Practice started on Sep. 3 and the cast and crew have been perfecting the details of the play since then.

All of the actors had their lines memorized three weeks into practice, which is "crazy good," according to Singleton.

"I am beyond proud of them," Singleton said.

The cast, crew, and Singleton had the difficult task of working with both *Steel Magnolias* and *The Admirable Crichton* simultaneously.

"Doing both was very stressful and exhausting," Sunshine said, "but I wouldn't go back for the world."



photo: Maria Harris

BCS alumnus joins faculty temporarily

By Elijah Cunningham

Ben Peterson, a 2007 BCS graduate, joined the Brentwood Christian faculty last month after the departure of Stephen Colwell, as one of the eighth- and ninth-grade Bible teachers. Working only until Christmas break, Peterson will also be planning chapel for the next semester.

Peterson originally came to Brentwood to look for a job as a regular substitute, but he heard about the long-term substitute position from secondary principal Carol Johnson only two weeks before he started on Oct. 6. Peterson had previously taught Bible in church, but not in a classroom setting.

Peterson said he hopes to deepen students' relationships with God and help them to relate more to the Bible. He said he is glad to give back to the school that gave him opportunities to develop relationships and communication abilities.

"I'll be learning as much from the students as they will from me," he said.

After graduating from Brentwood, Peterson went to Oklahoma Christian, and during his senior year went to Egypt on a study-abroad program. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in history pre-law and vocational ministry, Peterson then went to Israel and worked for the same program he went to Egypt on.

After that, he came to Austin to work before starting his master's degree in public policy at Pepperdine University in California. During this past summer he lived in Oman, in the Middle East, where he had an internship while studying Arabic. He will resume his work at Pepperdine next year.

Peterson said his interest in foreign relations was kindled at Brentwood, and he is pursuing a job in the field. Eventually, he said he might work in a research organization called a "think tank," but he also has interest in working as a diplomat and possibly getting a Ph.D. in political science.

NHS inducted over steak, chicken, pasta

By Mary Womack

Forty students were inducted into Brentwood Christian's National Honor Society on Thursday, Oct. 16, at Abel's Steak House.

Two days earlier, National Junior Honor Society inductions were held in the school's theater. Thirty-nine members were inducted with parents, teachers, and classmates in the audience.

Inductees to both societies came to school in dress clothes; NHS students departed after fifth period, returning during eighth.

High school principal Carol Johnson began the NHS ceremony, held in a room in Abel's North Steak House, with an opening prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Encore then performed, followed by some introductory remarks by teacher and sponsor Kaleen Graessle. Retired elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed was then introduced by NHS president Christina Onabajo. Weed spoke about the character embodied in NHS.

After Weed's speech, Graessle introduced the NHS officers and said a brief word about their interests and accomplishments. Officers include president Christina Onabajo, vice president Martha Hughes, secretary Jonathon Reich, treasurer Gina Huh, and historian Karen Yang.

Students enjoyed steak, chicken, and pasta

before current NHS members were introduced. Afterward was the traditional candle lighting ceremony, led by school president Marquita Moss, in which NHS officers quoted passages about qualities represented by each candle.

NHS inductees were then called up one at a time to sign the guestbook and receive their membership certificate and pin. After all the inductees were at the front, they read and agreed to the NHS pledge. This includes promises to uphold the high purposes of the National Honor Society and to be true both to the principles it stands for and to their school.

To qualify for NHS membership, students must maintain an average grade of 92 or above, have no more than two "S minuses," and exemplify the characteristics that NHS represents. This means students must demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

With all this responsibility come many great opportunities, mostly consisting of some kind of service. These include the Rosedale tradi-



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Autographs NHS vice president Martha Hughes, a junior, watches as sophomore Samantha Mack signs the guestbook before receiving her certificate and pin.

tions already in place like the Fall Carnival, Christmas sing-along, Easter egg hunt, and Field Day. There is a chance that a new activity with Rosedale students could happen during this school year.

"The possibility of Rosedale students coming to chapel really excites me," Huh said.

Graessle said that this year the Rosedale trips will be restricted by grade, in order to make sure each student has an opportunity to go.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Haley Hutson*

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

'Sunshine' graces BCS with friendship, faith

By Camille Sunshine

With a gentle spirit, a fun personality, a deep faith in Christ, and a smile to light up a room, Haley Hutson makes everyone she meets want to be her friend.

"There are many notable qualities about Haley Hutson," fellow senior and thespian Tyler Clark says. "She is sincere, bold, genuine, joyous, and friendly; however, what I most admire about her is her faith. Her love for God guides her life."

When she was told that her classmates had selected her for a profile story in the Bear Facts, tears came to her eyes. She did not suspect that she would be featured, and she was touched. This is an example of the humility she conveys through her actions and her words. She is also constantly ready to lend a hand to a friend in need.

"She's always a friend you can turn to," says senior Anh Nguyen. "She'll always be there, even when she's super busy, which is always."

Everyone who comes across Haley even once seems to have a story about her sweetness and her bubbly personality. She is the epitome of the servant leader.

"Haley is like a literal drop of sunshine," friend and fellow senior Deirdre Smith says. "I remember walking into school one day in an absolutely foul mood, and seeing Haley just made me happy. I don't know if it was something she said or the huge grin she always uses to greet me, but she got me to smile back."

English teacher Ashley Dargai told about a time when the class was doing a skit in which Haley added energy to the atmosphere by playing her part with gusto.

"She's probably the most expressive person I know," Dargai says.

Since coming to Brentwood in preschool, Haley has excelled in nearly everything she has tried. She was the top runner on the cross country team this year, the president of Spiritual Life Outreach, a member of NHS, a soprano in

Encore, and was the leading lady in this year's fall play, which is just one among the countless plays and acting pieces she has performed.

"I love accents. I want to sing in French. It's so much fun since you get to use that nasty nasal stuff, but it's awesome," says Haley, who promptly begins to demonstrate by singing in French Creole.

Her mother, Brentwood teacher Cynthia Hutson, remembers when Haley was first in a play. She was four years old, and people were shocked by how expressive she was, since she was normally very reserved and quiet.

"She was the loudest one on stage, and we just couldn't believe it," Mrs. Hutson said. "Ever since then, she's just stuck out."

After high school, Haley plans to do something in the biomedical field, either making medicine or treating people.

"I just want to thank Mrs. Mallett for caring so much about the knowledge we get in

class," says Haley, who took Michelle Mallett's AP Biology class last year. Many of the senior class now want to go into the medical field, and Haley says it is all due to Mallett. "I wouldn't have the same deep love for science in our everyday lives and have such desire to use that knowledge to help others if I hadn't taken her class."

She also wants to do theater on the side.

"I can talk like Gollum, sing like Snow White, and cackle like the Wicked Witch of the West," she says with a laugh. "I don't know, what can become a teacher or something."

Haley can get a

laugh out of almost anyone, either by a fun imitation or a well-timed joke.

"I make awful cheesy jokes. They're not even funny. But everyone seems to think I'm cute afterward, so I'll keep being cheesy."

Haley believes her mission is to love people with the love that God has shown her, and to see people with God's eyes, not by their actions.

"I admire the kind of faith she has," says sister Hope Hutson, who is a sophomore. "She loves

everyone, even those who are hard to love."

Haley says she has been inspired by many people, specifically former choir teacher Missy Weaver and theater teacher Cindy Singleton, who taught her to have "faith and confidence in me." She credits BCS alumna Danielle Riedesel ('13) with helping her to make her Christian faith truly her own.

Haley went on a mission trip to Honduras in the summer with her church, and she says the experience really influenced her faith. She found it "eye-opening," and was very affected by their joy and devotion to God and each other.

"I saw how much God can work in your life if you only choose to let him take control. We don't need to worry about our future when we know that God has it in his hands," she says.

Haley was very touched by a little girl who has a disability that could be fixed in America, but will probably kill her in Honduras.

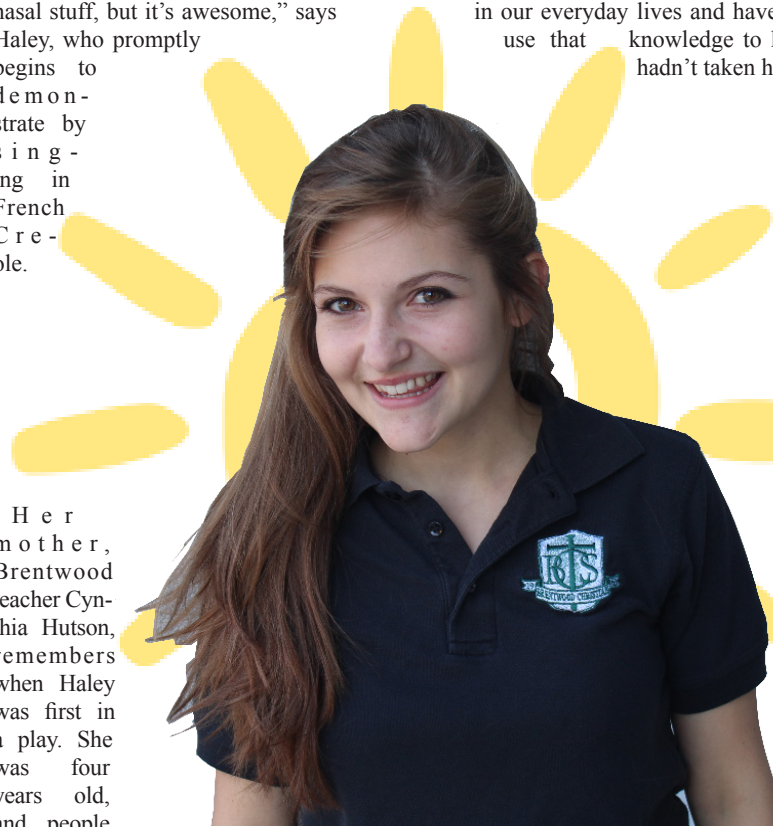
"The Honduras trip changed the way I look at human life," she says. "It made me realize what a treasure every person in my life is. We don't realize what a blessing we have here. It makes me take the time to look every person in the eye and in some way let them know that they're here on purpose and I'm so glad they are a part of my life."

Some of her friends remember a time a few weeks ago when Haley looked at her phone, shrieked, jumped up and down, and ran out the door. She continued squealing and jumping up and down until finally they asked what it was. She had made All-State Mixed Choir for the first time, and she ran inside, still squealing, to tell choir teacher John McMeen.

"She is such a joy to be around and exudes Christ's love in everything she does," says McMeen, who remembers the first time he met her when she participated in his job interview on campus last summer.

"(She was) making me feel so welcome and calm during that nervous time," McMeen says.

It's exactly what we've come to expect from Haley, and what we'll miss when she's gone.



Elementary concludes week of books with visits from storied characters

By Rebecca Tilley

Although the school did not freeze over on Friday, Nov. 7, there were many sightings of the magical Ice Queen Elsa and her younger sister Anna as the elementary students all participated in Brentwood's annual Character Day. The celebration capped off Book Week, in which students celebrated and appreciated the benefits of books in many different ways.

Young writers entered their stories in the Young Authors' contest, which is open to all K-5th graders. The contest was judged by parents

and coordinated by the PTF, and some teachers had the young authors read their books to their classes. About 130 students participated in the contest. Many of those authors also illustrated their own stories as well.

"I hope kids can see themselves not only as readers of books, but writers too," elementary librarian and Book Week coordinator Tere Hager said.

All the young authors were invited to attend a party on Thursday which featured a magic show coordinated by the PTF. The party also offered refreshments such as juice boxes and cookies.

On Friday, all students attended an assembly to award those who participated in the Young Authors' Contest. An "Overall Excellence" award was given to one student in each class. These were kindergartner Jordan Grable, first-grader Arden Choi, second-grader Natalie Fogle, third-grader Laynie Ruiz, fourth-grader Kaitlyn Weilemann, and fifth-grader Sarah Orick.

Local celebrities came to read to the students in their classes during the week. Some of the readers included author and illustrator team Tom and Janice Shefelman, children's author Karen Wrigley, and local author Monique

Berggren, who brought her dog Maysie.

Sports writers Kirk Bohls and Cedric Golden, as well as sportscaster Roger Wallace and sports radio host and blogger Sean Adams also read in elementary classrooms. Other special guest readers were actress Janette Jones and radio personality Steve Sunshine.

Teachers also had special activities like "book-ins" during the week. To close the week, students dressed up as their favorite book characters for Character Day. Many ninjas, detectives, army men, Bible characters, and princesses graced the BCS campus on this exciting day.

CLASSROOM FEATURE: Mrs. B'Smith's Third Grade

Charismatic third graders play, create, learn lots

By Emily Shields

Think back to the blessed year of school when you learn to cross your T's and not to write your O's with a loop in the top right-hand corner, all in cursive; when you have only just begun playing on the playground the older kids go to and you get those pebbles in your shoes; when you get to be in the upper elementary with all the big kids and you cannot wait to be like them, so that the younger students look up to you with admiration and possibly anticipation for what is to come.

But you will have to be patient. For now, at least.

Carolyn B'Smith's third-grade class is a busy ball of energy and fun. If you asked any of B'Smith's young students what their favorite part of third grade is, most would give an answer that has something to do with recess and P.E.

"My favorite thing about third grade is recess, because everybody gathers here to play a whole game together," Izaak Mora said, pausing from his game of "Cops & Robbers."

They have a myriad of games that they play at recess with the other third-grade class, taught by Evelyn Ellis. Some students from both classes join to play "Cops & Robbers" as one large group. Others play a game where they can hone their acting abilities and survival skills by making homes out of sticks and pretending that they are "roughing it." Others pretend that they have a "Daily Recess News" show, using sticks as makeshift microphones and teleprompters while interviewing classmates and commenting on others playing gaga ball or racing.

Most students go with whatever their friends are playing, but that does not stop them from having favorite games. Andrew Davis is one of those flexible students who plays whatever

game his friends do, but he does have a favorite: "Capture the Flag."

The Class of 2024 is also a scholarly bunch when it comes to handwriting and spelling skills. Students in B'Smith's class who get 100s on their spelling tests – and this is quite a few – can exempt that Friday's test. They have also started to learn cursive, which reminds them of their summer reading book, *Muggie Maggie* by Beverly Cleary, which is about a third grader who is learning cursive.

B'Smith teaches her students how to write cursive by using real-life scenarios for certain pencil strokes, such as diving into a pool for making a curve downward, to help the students with their writing form. B'Smith uses a variation of teaching cursive that she says helps the development of the right part of the brain, the creative part, and has taught that way since she started teaching here 18 years ago.

"The developing of that right part of the brain is very important," B'Smith said. "It will help the students throughout their lives."

There has also been a lot of artistic ability displayed by the third graders of B'Smith's class. Their very familiar pumpkin patch poems and colorful pumpkins adorning the hallway confirm the arrival of fall in cheerful hues of orange and red. The third grade also learns about many aspects of technology, including finding online sources for researching, so that they can be ready for a research project on an animal later in the year. Many third graders really enjoy learning about using computers for research, especially Abby Munoz.

"I like Computer a lot," Munoz said. "But I really like the researching that we're doing for a project on animals."

There are some major projects that the third graders will be doing as well throughout the school year. One of their biggest is a diorama of one of the three types of communities: rural,

suburban, and urban. Another major activity they will do this year is a project for the school-wide science fair, which the students must join for the first time. Another project is making kites for Grandparent's Day at Brentwood, working on the design before they test the kites on the soccer field with their grandparents.

The charisma of B'Smith's third graders is compelling, and their personality as a class is infectious. They are a diligent, kind, loving, and close-knit class. They love to have fun but strive to do the right thing – well, most of the time. They love to put a smile on your face, and

they are very friendly. B'Smith said she loves this class and how they "help each other out" and are a prime example of unity.

"They are a very sweet and loving group of kids," B'Smith gushed about her third graders. "I see them working well together and getting along together as a class. There's a sense of togetherness in the classroom."

Even though it is only their first year in the upper elementary, B'Smith's students are sure to leave a bright, happy imprint on the hallowed halls of the B building. And possibly, the whole of Brentwood.



photo: Maria Harris

Success Carolyn B'Smith helps Elijah Catron with his work, while Izaak Mora (front) and Chase Allen work nearby. Third grade is an important year for composition, as it is the year students are taught to write in cursive and develop skills in research.

Seventh graders bond with classmates, seniors, on retreat

By Thomas Yates

Dozens of happy campers left BCS for Camp Buckner at dawn on Oct. 6 to exchange a few hours of school for an opportunity to hang out with classmates.

At 6:45 a.m., 60 seventh graders arrived at campus to board the various buses and vans and travel to the retreat spot near Burnet.

Monday morning's activities featured team-building exercises. Later were the traditional "high ropes," where students confronted their fears and maneuvered along adrenaline-pumping courses. They then had recreational time,

dinner, group games, and s'mores.

The retreat was organized and planned by Travis Pollard, who was accompanied by five other BCS teachers and administrators. Pollard said the purpose of the retreat was to build unity within the classes, conquer fears, and strengthen relationships. He said he received positive feedback from students who enjoyed the retreat, and from their parents too.

"I think highlight of the trip was the interactions between our senior counselors and the seventh-grade students. Our seniors really created a memorable experience and helped build and strengthen relationships," Pollard said.

These seniors included Kaylie Angello, Abbie Baros, Mikayla Brinthaup, Tyler Clark, Isabelle Graessle, Cody Hunt, and Jacob Orick.

At Monday night's campfire, Orick and Hunt urged the seventh graders to unify and to talk to people they usually don't.

Before bed, all the students had talks with their senior counselors in their gender-respective cabins. Some of the boys said their talk was "sad and depressing," but they had a good chance to bond. They talked about hardships and deaths that happened in their lives. Many students hugged and cried. For the girls, it wasn't quite so emotional.

"The 'long devo' that we gave I feel was very helpful and I hope that the seventh graders remember what we said and actually take it to heart," Graessle said.

School president Marquita Moss said that the retreat was initiated about 25 years ago to deal with relationships and middle school drama. She said the need is even greater today.

"Preventing middle school students from culturally acceptable meanness and helping them to cooperate with each other, to be compassionate and kind in the face of each other's weaknesses, and live out Christ-like behavior are our goals," Moss said.

Basketball underway for varsities

By Kaitlyn Baird

The varsity boys' basketball team played their first home game on Nov. 6, falling to St. Michaels 42-37 in a hard-fought game that they played without injured senior Cody Hunt. Sophomore Graham Marks led the Bears with 14 points, while junior Robert Lesko had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Two days earlier, the Bears opened their season with a 63-38 victory at New Braunfels Christian. Hunt and sophomore Jordan Johnson led BCS with 15 points each.

The varsity girls tipped off their season on Nov. 6 with a 62-60 loss at Waco Reicher. Senior Nicole Glenn scored 21 points to lead the Bears, who were without the girls in the volleyball playoffs.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, both varsities played St. Dominic Savio. The girls took a 52-42 victory on the road, led by Glenn's 20 points. The boys lost at home, 65-40.

Both varsity coaches have big expectations this year. The girls, coached by Devan Loftis, advanced to the state championship last season for the second time in a row but lost 52-40 against Midland Classical. Loftis said he plans to have a team that "improves from the beginning to the end."

Ariana Marks was the big scorer for varsity last year with an average of 20 points per game. She was the only player to graduate, and now plays basketball at Henderson State in Arkansas.

"The responsibility will be spread out, and we won't rely on just one person," Loftis said.

Returning all-district players include seniors Christina Onabajo and Glenn, along with junior Keely Hardin and sophomore Alicia Dixon.

The girls were undefeated in district last season with a 10-0 record. But this year, Marble Falls Faith Academy, who was the Class 2A state champ last season, is now in Brentwood's district. The girls' first district game will be on Dec. 12 against Faith Academy.

Onabajo said she is eager to "finish what we started last year and the year before," which means winning the state championship.

"Coach deserves it," she said. "He puts a lot of time into this."

The varsity boys finished off their season last year with a 22-7 record, including a 12-0 record in district. They lost 59-45 in the second round of playoffs against Cyprus Christian.

Third-year coach Brian Thrift said he is hoping to "repeat as district champions and to go deeper into playoffs than we did last year."

The JV boys will be coached by Wayne Marks, who is the father of both Ariana and Graham. Marks played basketball in college at UT-El Paso under legendary coach Don Haskins.

According to Thrift, the varsity boys lost "a great group of seniors," which includes Kent Howell, Wes Mory, and Mike Taylor. Returning all-district players include seniors Aaron Garcia and Hunt. Thrift said that Hunt, Garcia, and seniors Jacob Orick and Charlie Sinclair



photo: David Reich

Buckets Sophomore Jordan Johnson makes a layup against St. Michaels.

will be counted on to lead the boys this season.

"What I am looking most forward to for this season is playing the game I love with the brothers that I love and reaching our goals we set for this season," said Garcia, who wants to repeat as district champs.

The district will be slightly different from last year. Marble Falls Faith Academy has joined the district, while Giddings State School has departed. The boys' first district game will be against Concordia Lutheran on Dec. 9.

Volleyball ends in second

continued from page 1

This is the second year in a row that they did not lose a single set in district.

The Lady Bears started the playoffs on Halloween night, Oct. 31, with an easy 3-0 win against San Antonio Keystone at Legacy Preparatory Christian in Magnolia, near Houston. The next day, they had another easy 3-0 win over John Paul II.

After coming so close to winning state last year, this year's team, under their new coach, took on a new challenging approach to the season. The team agreed that it was good to schedule difficult opponents and very competitive tournaments, since their district competition is relatively easy.

The girls also agreed that

Coach Lee is a great coach and is also pretty strict.

"She's very passionate about volleyball," junior Keely Hardin said.

Brentwood lost junior Blair Westerlund before district started due to a shoulder injury. Westerlund said she will begin to play again in December and is doing physical therapy now to recover faster.

"I want to play," she said before the season ended. "I'm missing it a lot."

In the two weeks between the end of district and the beginning of playoffs, the team only had two scrimmages. They lost to St. Stephens and beat Hyde Park.

Junior Jami Lee led the team with 385 kills, 547 assists, and 90 serving aces. Junior Kara Teal led with 106 blocks, and Hardin was first with 306 digs. Junior Brenna Decker led with a 95.5 serving percentage and also had 533 assists.

"I enjoyed coaching this group of young women," Coach Lee said. "Each young lady, on varsity and junior varsity, is forever in my heart."

Herring, Hutson lead Brentwood runners at state

By Kira Juranek

The BCS girls' cross country team placed third overall while the boys placed eighth at the state meet in Waco on Oct. 25.

Senior Evan Herring finished third among individuals with a time of 17:48 in the 5K course, setting a school record for the fastest time in a state meet. Following him was freshman David Tiner (19:27) and Alex Matthew (21:16).

Herring had to work hard to accomplish his personal goal of finishing in the top five. Finding himself in eighth place with a little more than 100 yards to go, he was able to pass five runners before reaching the finish line.

Leading the girls with a time of 13:32 in the two-mile course was senior Haley Huston, who was 10th overall. Freshman MaeAnne Herring followed closely, finishing 12th with a time of 13:38. Sophomore Hope Huston was 30th (14:38).

Girls' coach Katie Smith said she was satisfied with her team's performance.

"It always hurts as a competitor to come so close and lose out on second and first, but I know we did our best on this day and so I am very proud," she said.

Smith said she is sad about losing senior Haley Huston next year, but excited about the future.

"We have everyone else coming back, and if we can stay healthy I have no doubt we could win a state championship," Smith said.

Even though the boys' results didn't come out the way coach Jacob Rotich wanted them to, he said he is optimistic about next year. The majority of his team were soccer players, and these players were allowed to attend soccer practices instead of cross country practices. Rotich said this lack of preparation led to poor performances.

Rotich said he wants to push his returning runners to practice more in the summer. He also plans to find more runners who don't play soccer, to avoid the schedule conflict.

Due to a rainout on March 11, Brentwood's cross country teams had not run in a meet prior to the state meet since Oct. 5 at McNeil High School. They competed against two other private schools and several public schools.

Evan Herring came in second overall with a time of 17:41. A few more spots down came Tiner (19:20), and Alex Matthew (20:34).

The girls were led by MaeAnne Herring with a time 13:44. She was followed by freshman Rebekah Connor (14:39) and sophomore Macy Kidwell (14:55).



photo: Mark Merkord

Bump! Junior Keely Hardin watches as her sister Addy, a sophomore, hits the ball at the state final on Nov. 8.

THE BEAR FACTS NOVEMBER 2014

Football wins two A IPL titles

BCS football players won two separate league championships – the school's first since returning to A IPL competition five years ago – within an hour of each other on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Before the eighth-grade team's 33-7 victory over St. Francis, the fifth-grade 1A Bears defeated Trinity Episcopal 21-0 at St. Andrews. In a game that coach David Trevino called "beautiful to watch," Brentwood pulled away from the start and never looked back.

Keller Jackson opened the scoring with a touchdown

pass to Cason Best. Shortly after the ensuing kickoff, Ethan Rivera sacked the Trinity quarterback for a safety, giving BCS a 9-0 lead. Conner Almanza had the Bears' next score, taking an interception all the way to the end zone, making it 15-0 at halftime.

Jackson ran in another score in the second half, and after that the boys relied on their stifling defense. With the shutout, the Bears finished the playoffs with a combined score of 77-13, having never trailed in a game.

In order to coach the eighth-grade in their championship game, Trevino had to leave the 1A game early, arriving at the St. Francis field shortly before kickoff. St. Francis opened the game with a quick touchdown, and after that Brentwood turned the ball over. But the Bears then stopped their opponent on fourth down and drove the field for a tying touchdown.

The Bears then employed an up-tempo offense, with quarterback Connor Troutman calling audibles and frustrating the defense. Brentwood pulled away for the easy victory.



photo: Lilly Trevino

Champs The eighth-grade football team poses with their trophy after the championship game on Oct. 25.

"Our offense looked very polished," Trevino said. "They made me proud."

Troutman finished the game 15 for 17 with three touchdowns through the air and two more on the ground. Riley Walker, Chase Blackman, and Micah Best each caught touchdowns; Troutman and Blackman each made interceptions. Cornerback Zach Mack was thrown at 12 times in the playoffs and did not allow a single completion.

For the season, the Bears outscored their opponents 313-66. Troutman threw 27 TDs, including 15 to Walker. Trevino also pointed out that every player on the team scored at least one point during the season.

"I've coached these boys for four years, and it is bittersweet to see them play so well and know this is the last season for these young men," Trevino said.

"I love working with all these boys, (and) win or lose, my real goal is to teach them about pushing yourself by doing your best and giving glory to God in all you do."

Girls' soccer kicks off 'building year'

By Tony Lee

The BCS varsity girls' soccer team kicked off its season this week with two new coaches. Although their first game was a 7-0 loss to St. Stephens on Nov. 11, new head coach Cash Miller is optimistic about his team's potential.

The Lady Bears ended their season last year in Waco with a 6-0 loss to Houston St. Thomas, making it to the second round of playoffs. They finished third in district with a record of 3-3-2 and were 5-8-2 for the entire season.

The varsity team, consisting of 14 members, started after-school practice on Oct. 20. Miller, who coached the boys to a second-place finish after playing a state game in October, has

replaced Stephen Colwell, who moved with his family to Nebraska last month. Miller said the team consists of many different types of players, including a few who have played club ball, and some who have never played soccer before.

"Our goal this year is to focus on ball control and movement," Miller said. "Improving technically would build up our team's formation."

Miller said that he is looking forward to a great year along with assistant coach Sissy Pierce. A 2003 BCS graduate who was hired in the summer to teach history, Pierce is also very experienced as both a soccer player and a coach, having the experience of coaching players from the age of two through college

'Finest soccer season' concludes

continued from page 1

could not be answered by the Bears' offense. By this time the Bears' midfielders were struggling to run up and down the field, and the team's offense sputtered to a stop.

Longview was soon up 6-3, and it became clear to the dozens of parents, teachers, and friends who had made the 90-mile trip north that the Bears would fall just short of winning the school's first-ever state championship in sports. Sass scored a final goal within the last two minutes to make the final score 6-4.

Sass led the Bears with three goals, while he, Hwang, and McCormick each had one assist.

"Losing a championship game is always difficult, but I also know the best team does not always win," Miller said. "We gave everything we had to give, and although I have seen us play better in games, I have never been more proud of a team than I was after that game."

But to proceed to the state final the Bears had to win a semifinal match that was maybe even more exciting.

In a midweek game at STAR Soccer Complex in San Antonio, Brentwood started off fast with two quick goals in their usual style. But after being kept from the goal by stalwart defensive play, the Bears allowed a goal on a mistake to go into halftime at 2-1.

Brentwood players expressed frustration throughout the game and afterward that McAllen had been awarded many free kicks with what many players viewed to be "flopping," or pretending to be injured or fouled to gain a free kick. McAllen scored twice from free kicks, and with another goal they soon had the lead at 3-2 entering the final 20 minutes of the game.

As time was ticking down to the final 30 seconds, Sass chipped the ball from the top of the 18-yard box to senior Evan Herring, who shot with his left foot and scored the tying goal as regulation ended. Immediately after the ensuing kickoff, the whistle blew, and the Bears swarmed the field to congratulate Herring as he had kept their season alive.

As extra time began, sophomore Brandon Patterson, who had been given a yellow card earlier, was given a second yellow and a red card on another controversial foul, which met with an uproar from the BCS crowd and players.

But less than a minute later, McCormick took a free kick from beyond midfield, and in the

scuffle in front of the goal, the ball, untouched, rolled into the back of the net.

The Bears had 12 all-district honorees and seven all-state.

All-state honors are as follows: first-team offense, Sass; first-team midfield, Hwang; first-team midfield, McCormick; first-team keeper, junior Mason Miller; second-team offense, senior Brodie Brown; second-team defense, Herring; and honorable mention defense, senior Jonathon Reich.

The all-district honors are as follows: first team offense, Sass and Brown; first-team midfield, Hwang and McCormick; first-team defense, Herring and Reich; first-team keeper, Miller; second-team offense, senior Christian Montgomery; second-team midfield, Patterson; second-team defense, senior Charlie Sinclair; honorable mention defense, junior Garrett Shake; and honorable mention offense, sophomore Will Moncure.

For the season, Sass led the team with 41 goals. Hwang and Sass led with 12 assists each, while Mason Miller made 112 saves.

"I am looking forward to tryouts and next year's team," Coach Miller said. "I know we graduate seven seniors, but I also know we have a lot of talent behind them. Next year's season will be just as exciting as this one was."

The Bears will begin to prepare for next year after Coach Miller finishes his first year coaching Brentwood's girls' team. Their season begins this month.

Following are the results of Brentwood's final games before state:

10/13: Kingsville Presbyterian 5-3 W

At STAR Soccer Complex in San Antonio, the Bears went up 2-0, but due to some defensive lapses Kingsville came back to make it 3-2 midway through the second half. Sass scored two more goals to put the game out of reach.

10/7: Edinburg Harvest 6-0 W

Hosting the area championship, Brentwood dominated their opponent by controlling the ball for a majority of the game and not allowing their opponents to play offense.

Sass had three goals; Hwang scored twice.

10/3: Waldorf Christian 5-2 W

Brentwood finished district with an easy win against the third-place team. Playing a familiar opponent, the Bears once again dominated the game on the offensive side. Hwang led the scoring with three goals.

students. She also played for Harding University for two years and taught several teams, including a club team for the past two years at Faulkner University.

With all this experience of coaching, she wanted to assist the girls' soccer team to better develop them as a team and to help Coach Miller. She says that this year's main focus is to develop defensively and to work on formation.

"Soccer is a '360 game' – you can go backwards, use the goalie, and the defenders," Pierce said. "You have to work on the small things to get bigger."

Each of the players had different ideas about the team.

"It's gonna be a building year for us," senior Rachel Dixon said. "But we have a lot of young talent and plenty of hard work."

Students spread service around on Spiritual Emphasis Day

By Jenna Beggs

All BCS high school students and 19 teachers left campus to serve at various places in the Austin area on Spiritual Emphasis Day, Oct. 20.

Each grade went to a different location: Freshmen went to Head Start and Early Head Start, sophomores to Village Christian Apartments or Texas Baptist Children's Home, juniors to The Capital Area Food Bank, and seniors to Community First: Mobile Loaves and Fishes or Round Rock Area Serving Center. After students returned from the service projects there was a time of worship and activities.

According to math and Bible teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, who was in charge of organizing the day, the goal of the day was to "grow closer to God and each other by making beautiful things."

At the two locations of Head Start, in Taylor and Bartlett, the freshman class divided by Bible class and took on numerous housekeeping tasks such as cleaning windows and rooms,

raking, and interacting with the children.

The sophomores at VCA helped the elderly residents with various tasks such as tech help, painting, mattress flipping, cleaning ceiling fans, and changing light bulbs. An elderly Korean couple were excited to meet Korean student Ruth Kim, who helped them with cell phones, and in return, received Korean food and lots of love.

Sophomores who went to Texas Baptist Children's Home assisted in gardening and cleaned out an old storage unit, along with sorting clothes.

At The Capital Area Food Bank the junior class split into groups. The majority sorted and inspected food from the food drive to make sure it wasn't dented or expired. The rest of the class brought boxes in and sang songs from High School Musical.

The seniors divided into two groups for the day. One group sorted food and clothing at the Round Rock Serving Center, while the other went to Mobile Loaves and Fishes and cleaned the grounds and picked up trash to prepare for

planting flowers.

"I think that Spiritual Emphasis Day was a good experience for everyone," said teacher Adam Brown, who accompanied the freshmen. "The students had no trouble getting outside their comfort zones and selflessly serving others. I was impressed by them."

Some changes since last April's Spiritual Emphasis Day included adding a praise team during singing in the theater and some different afternoon activities such as silent reflection, art, and some new games.

During the art activity the students drew their version of "beautiful things" with colorful pastels, demonstrating making beautiful things out of dust, which tied in with the theme of the day.

"The afternoon activities were fun and enlightening," freshman Bellini Ha said. "It was a good time to hang out with friends."

Overall, Hollingsworth said she thought the day went well and the goal was fulfilled.

"I appreciated the students' participation and enjoyment of the day," she said.



photo: Michele Broadway

Serving with a smile High school English teacher Ashley Dargai packed food with the junior class at the Capital Area Food Bank on Spiritual Emphasis Day.

Fall Festival features pies, pumpkins, petting zoo

By Grace Rogge

Children of all ages dunked their teachers, pried their peers, and jumped in bounce houses at Brentwood Christian's annual Fall Fest held

on Oct. 18 from 11-3 p.m.

New additions to this year's Fall Fest included a petting zoo, a 45-minute magic show, and a pumpkin patch where children could pick out and decorate pumpkins. Among the new

booths, old favorites such as the dunk tank, animal walk, and hamster balls returned.

"I enjoyed getting to spend time with my friends and volunteering to help my class make money," freshman Madison Wells said.

One of the returning booths for the senior class offered the chance to throw water balloons and "soak a senior." Before the first customer, seniors Nicole Glenn and Cody Hunt said they were going to try to avoid getting hit. Then the first person to throw turned out to be school president Marquita Moss, who soaked them both.

Food included catering from Chick-fil-A and Little Caesars pizza.

Before the Fest, some teachers expressed concern about the turnout due to the varsity soccer team's participation in the state championship which was held in Waco on the same day. However, the turnout was not greatly affected.

Though ticket sales were down from last year, PTF treasurer Ann Hughes said the event brought in nearly \$1,000 more. Overall the ticket and donation income was \$13,351. The elementary made \$4,337, and \$3,206 was disbursed among the secondary classes.

The booth that made the most money this year was the freshman Ring-a-Drink booth, which made \$691.

Next year, Fall Fest coordinator Tiffany Hague said she hopes to enlarge Fall Fest even more and hopefully bring in pony rides.

'Trunk or Treat' brings safe fun

By Lila Therrell

On Halloween night stood rows of cars and tables filled with sweets and treats. The whole lot was filled with the screams and giggles of excited children, each one smiling brightly in their colorful costumes.

Children flooded the BCS main parking lot for hot dogs, lemonade, desserts, prizes, games, and lots of candy at the annual Trunk or Treat party on Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. Even a few high school students joined the elementary and middle school students walking along the cheerful pathways playing games and winning prizes in bright colorful costumes and makeup.

In the annual event sponsored by Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, children walked from trunk to trunk of brightly decorated cars and trucks. Some had pumpkins hanging from the rims and others had fog spewing from inside.

Jeff Boyd, a parent of three BCS grads who was just days away from being re-elected to the state supreme court, was happy to judge the cars while dressed in a judge's wig and robe.

Jackie Boyd, Jeff's wife and the children's minister at Brentwood Oaks, put the whole thing together and was able to make the necessary arrangements to have the best Trunk or Treat she could accomplish.

"The Trunk or Treat provides a fun and safe trick or treating opportunity," she said.



photo: Madison Warner

Please miss! Choir director John McMeen pleads with students to reconsider dunking him at the Fall Festival on Oct. 18. This year's event featured new booths and old favorites, and brought fun in the sun to students of all ages and their families.