



THE BEAR FACTS



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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2014

IN SHORT

New babies

Jonny Thunder was born to Joy and Stephen Colwell on Thursday, Aug. 28. He weighed 8 lbs., 9 oz., and was 20 inches long. The Colwell family will move to Nebraska this month (see story, this page).

Natalie Rotich, daughter of Hellen and Jacob, was due to be born Monday, Sep. 29, but as The Bear Facts print deadline came, she remained where she was.

Magazine sales

Brentwood Christian's magazine sales kicked off with one big bang on Friday, Sep. 26. Students were gathered in the Athletic Center for separate middle school and high school assemblies, where they were split into groups of about five and then began calling as many friends and family members as they could for the next hour and a half.

Using phone lists they had been asked to create two days earlier, students received small prizes for every \$250 of pledges they accumulated. For the next 10 days, students have been encouraged to collect from pledges and make new sales. Part of the money students raise helps pay for their trips to Washington, D.C., and Europe.

'Dynasty' Dinner

Everyone is invited to this year's BCS Partnership Dinner, which will be held Nov. 15 on the playing field of the Dell Diamond. John Godwin of *Duck Dynasty* will host the event. Dinner will be a Louisiana-themed course of fish and shrimp. There will be live and silent auctions and fireworks to finish the night.

'Most complete' soccer team on road to state

By Joshua Sass

With a record of 10-1 and their third-consecutive district championship becoming a reality, the varsity boys' soccer team now shifts its focus to the state tournament, held Oct. 18 in Houston.

The Bears have demolished their opponents in district play by a combined 92-5 and are playing their final game against the third-place team, Waldorf, today for the district championship. This would also earn them a bye for the first round of playoffs.

"This is my most complete team to date

at Brentwood," coach Cash Miller said. "The team made the commitment to work hard over the summer and in practices, and our success on the field is because of this commitment to the program."

The team, made up of 11 upperclassmen, is highly experienced, and players say they intend to make this the first year Brentwood has ever won an athletic state championship.

"I hope that this year we can send this group of seniors out not only on top of district but also as the top team in the state," Miller said.

The Bears finished 10-2 last year after falling short in the regional finals 6-1 against Brook

Hill. But after moving from winter to fall soccer, Brentwood has faced a completely different group of opponents this year. Also, there is only one division of fall soccer, which includes 1A, 2A, and 3A schools. Brentwood, being a 3A school, is much larger than most of the schools it is competing against.

After losing one senior last year, Skylar Treut-Shaffer, the team has added seven incoming underclassmen and two upperclassmen to the squad. Sophomore Brandon Patterson is filling the gap left by Treut-Shaffer

see **Soccer**, page 7

Problem solved: BCS has new neighbor

After 16 years, empty Eubank house sells; property no longer eyesore

By Camille Sunshine

The house in Gracy Farms closest to the Brentwood Christian campus used to be an eyesore for everyone who lived in the neighborhood or attended Brentwood. Boarded up windows, rampant weeds, rodents, you name it. The house was a magnet for crime that brought down an otherwise beautiful neighborhood. And the owner, who lived over 2,000 miles away, refused to sell it.

But now things have changed. After being vacant for 16 years, 11841 Eubank Dr. was bought by retired businessman Ray Bazan, who is in the second phase of a 90-day plan to completely renovate the place.

The house was previously owned by Joan

Vom Eigen, who left in 1998 to take care of her ailing mother in Jay, Maine, saying she would return. Her neighbor, Arturo Riojas, mowed her lawn for her at the beginning, but eventually stopped when she didn't come back. It was briefly rented out, but the tenant stopped paying rent and was evicted. Multiple people offered to buy the house from her to fix it up, but she mysteriously refused every time. Her house quickly became a wreck, and she was paying very high fines because the house broke several city ordinances.

After pressure from the neighborhood, including letters and phone calls from many in the BCS community, the city increased her fines to a total of about \$60,000, which convinced Vom Eigen she would have to either demolish the house or sell it. There were two court hearings – one in May and one in June – before the sale was finally approved in July.

"I have a vision for what this house can be," said Bazan, who made an offer on the house 10 years ago, but didn't get a response. "It has a lot of potential."

In August, Bazan began preparations to fix the house up. When he first went inside, he discovered that the place was completely wrecked. Vom Eigen never removed her belongings, and much of the

house had been trashed by various intruders. There was a bee's nest the size of a volleyball in the kitchen, and rodent carcasses throughout the house.

A fire had been lit in one sink, and little bones were scattered nearby, making Bazan think someone had performed a Satanic ritual there. The stench was horrific, and Bazan began throwing out everything Vom Eigen left behind – completely filling a 30-cubic-yard dumpster.

Bazan said he not only wants to fix the house; he also wants to remodel it in many ways. At this point, halfway through his 90-day plan, he said the expenses will be well within his \$65,000 budget. Those who use the school's back entrance have noticed the changes he has made so far. Bazan has had the house painted and the roof redone; he has also built a fence,

see **Eubank house**, page 5



photo: Maria Harris

Transformation With a little work done and a lot still to do, Ray Bazan stands by his home at 11841 Eubank.

Colwell leaving

By Thomas Yates

No more will the bright smile of Stephen Colwell grace the Brentwood Christian community. After three years as the girls' soccer coach, two years as director of student life and marketing, and a year as a Bible teacher, Colwell is moving to York, Nebraska, with his wife, daughter, and infant son. His last day will be Oct. 6.

see **Colwell**, page 2

Being ForthReich: Jonathon Reich

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2014

Editor's challenge: consider serious consequences of silence

I have something to say. For most of my life, I've chosen to be silent about my beliefs, my perspective on a situation, or simply how I feel. I've put these things off to the side in the name of self-control, of fear, of treating others kindly or not wanting to hurt or burden them.

Looking back, I see the good intentions of that resolve, but the wrong direction in which it took me. I believed that silence was something I could use as a tool, something I could use to help myself become more aware of the world around me. But in the last year I've come to the conclusion that the silence I chose was something harmful not only to myself, but to the society around me as well.

Silence is destructive. By choosing to be silent, I only drew myself inward and made it harder for myself to engage with others. Last year, I wrote an editorial about my experience with loneliness, and now can't help but wonder how much my choice to be silent contributed to this. Even if you don't struggle with silence

like this, there are other profound ways in which silence affects more than just the silent ones.

What I consider the greatest way silence affects our society is the perpetuation of ignorance. From this, other effects of silence – discrimination, hate, loneliness, violence, and even genocide and war – can arise.

Sometimes, we stay silent because we hope to discourage these things in a non-aggressive way, because we're afraid that by actively opposing them we will perpetuate them instead. In reality, however, our silence may actually provide support to these issues. The lack of opposition is sometimes the loudest validation one could receive.

Other times, we're silent because we're afraid. Coach Robson spoke to the secondary in chapel a few weeks ago about the power of fear, and how it can lead to tendencies to hide ourselves because of it. When we let fear of hurt, offense, seeming ignorant, or anything else lead us into silence, we are letting fear control our better judgment.

Whatever the reason, our silence speaks volumes. As Martin Luther King Jr. said: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

When we choose not to be silent, many things can begin to happen. Experiences, emotions, friendships can be shared. Perspectives can be brought to light and, in some cases, changed. We can learn more about our world and the worlds of others simply by choosing to be open with our words and thoughts.

However, there is something to be said for being silent to prevent speaking out of ignorance. German philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein was not wrong when he said "whereof one cannot speak, one should remain silent."

I believe Wittgenstein's appeal is similar to mine in that we both seek to destroy ignorance. But does he mean that we should stay silent when we are unsure? Absolutely not – my interest in destroying silence is to destroy ignorance, in the same way that he wants to get rid of it. When we hold back from speaking in fear of being wrong, we perpetuate ignorance. Yet

we should break silence by asking questions, and carefully speaking our opinions, as long as we admit when there's something we don't know, instead of parading something we're unsure of as truth.

A social worker named Ran Gavrielle, when speaking recently about the harmful nature of the porn industry, concluded by stating: "I ask for us to speak about these issues more (because) I strongly feel like our history of silence never did us any good. ... Silence only perpetuates more silence, while talking normally gives birth to more talking, more sharing, more awareness, more identification, more change. It's a small change in our small humble life, but real change."

My silence was destructive when I actively chose not to speak of issues I knew of, or ask about those I didn't. But my silence didn't only appear as me choosing not to speak. At times, my silence essentially told people what they wanted to hear instead of what they needed to hear.

May we all strive to recognize the spaces in which we are silent and fill these, to begin to bring such a humble change in our society.

In reality, our silence can cause discrimination, hate, loneliness, violence, and even war.

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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The Bear Facts is available online at www.brentwoodchristian.org.

Colwell transformed chapel

continued from page 1

Colwell plans on starting his master's degree in leadership at his alma mater, York College, in January. He intends to begin a full-time leadership and student development career. Colwell's new employment will be as community relations manager for Mahoney House in York.

But there are several more reasons for the move. First, he said he wants to raise his family in a small town. He also has a lot of family in York and appreciates the cold weather there. One more thing he likes is the seven-hour drive to the Rocky Mountains.

Colwell has been very involved in Brentwood life. He published the school newsletter "Insights," designed advertisements, and kept the school website and social media updated. He also prepared weekly videos and led the Spiritual Life Committee.

Last year, he began teaching Bible to the freshman boys.

Secondary principal Carol Johnson said she appreciates all the work Colwell did in another of his duties: planning chapel services. She said chapel is so much better, and more student-friendly now.

"He really changed the atmosphere," Johnson said, referring to the increase in participation. "It's more than just a 'sit and get.'"

Secondary office assistant Lauren Warner said it has been great to work with Colwell and that everyone in the offices will miss him. In an email to faculty, school president Marquita Moss said she is happy the Colwells are making a "good move for their family."

"We all appreciate the good work he has done, especially his leadership of chapel, which has turned the experience into a great positive for most students," she said.

Many students found him easy to talk with. "What I enjoyed most about him was his open-mindedness and honesty when I needed advice, and his sense of humor," senior Ellen Bellis said. "He was a role model at Brentwood."

Not surprisingly, it is the interaction with students that Colwell will miss the most.

"The thing I love most about being at Brentwood was getting to build relationships with students," he said.

Colwell started Brentwood's varsity girls' soccer program four years ago, coaching them to the second round of playoffs.

"My time at BCS has been really formative," he said. "God has used the people of Brentwood and many of my experiences to shape me. I now know how passionate I am about student development, and I'm taking this opportunity to get the education I need to do it well."



photo: Travis Teeter

Cutting loose Aaron Garcia enjoys himself at the Back-to-School Bash while fellow senior Cody Hunt admires at a safe distance. Middle school and high school students had separate parties in the FLC area on Aug. 15, featuring things like water balloon volleyball and cowboy karaoke. Student Council members worked hard to make the event great, and they have many more plans for spicing up the school year.

Theater students to perform 'Crichton' again after 17 years

By Camille Sunshine

A butler, more commonly known as senior Tyler Clark, organizes his horde of servants for dinner, pantomimes chopping wood, and dumps a bucket of water onto sophomore Charlie Vazquez's head all in this year's fall play, *The Admirable Crichton*.

Considered by director Cindy Singleton as a cross between *Gilligan's Island* and *Downton Abbey*, *The Admirable Crichton* is a bittersweet satire filled with class conflict, romance, comedy, and tragedy, and tells the story of the Loam household. Lord Loam hosts a dinner once a month where he and his daughters serve their servants. Crichton, the butler, believes that a person's biggest fault is stepping out of his or her place. But when Lord Loam, his three daughters, his nephew, a clergyman, Crichton, and a maid are shipwrecked, the struggle to survive shakes the foundation of the class system which holds them all so tightly.

"I love the story," director Cindy Singleton said. "(It's) a new adventure we're on, exploring this together."

Brentwood Christian School will be performing *The Admirable Crichton* by J.M. Barrie on the last two weekends of October. Clark and senior Haley Hutson will play Crichton and Lady Mary, with seniors Brodie Brown and Deirdre Smith, juniors Andrew Armstrong, Margelid Baez, and Lauren Lew-

is, sophomores Vazquez and Camille Sunshine, and freshman Austin Biegert playing the larger roles in a total cast of about 20 people.

"I'm so excited about the people who are in it," said Singleton, who was very enthusiastic that so many people will get to be on stage. "I see lights turning on."

Students auditioned in May and were given their scripts to work on for the summer. The first practice was held on Aug. 18, and practices have been two or three times a week.

"This show will make you laugh and cry in every way possible," Baez said.

One difficulty for students and director alike comes from the fact that Brentwood will be putting on an additional play at about the same time: the one-act version of *Steel Magnolias* that will be presented for the TAPPS competition in November.

"It's overwhelming," senior stage manager Abbie Baros said about all the work that goes into a play. "But at the same time I'm going to miss it a lot."

The play is also unfamiliar to most people, and Singleton said she hopes the anonymity will not adversely affect attendance, but is excited to perform a classic.

"It reaffirms to me that you can do a lot of kinds of plays. They don't have to be the same or familiar," Singleton said.

The play will be held in the CSA at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24, 25, and Nov. 1, and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 1.

The Admirable Crichton was written in 1902

and ran on Broadway for the first time in 1903. It was made into three films: a silent film in 1919 called *Male and Female* made by Cecil B. DeMille, *We're Not Dressing* in 1934 starring Bing Crosby, and *Paradise Lagoon* in 1957 starring Kenneth More. Barrie, the author, also wrote *Peter Pan*.

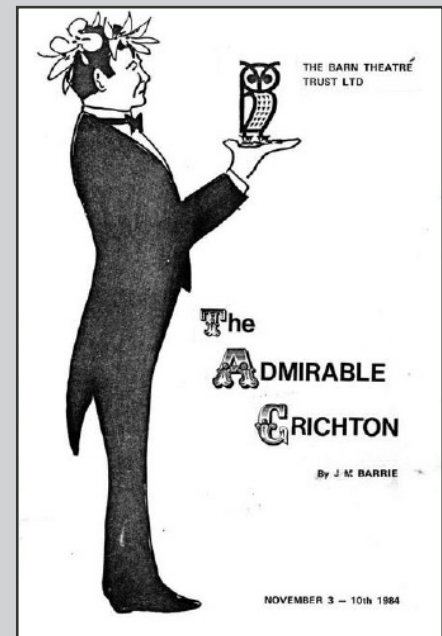
Brentwood previously performed this play in 1997, also under the direction of Singleton. They will be borrowing some of the same set pieces as last time from BCS grandparent Cynthia Miller. The set will be somewhat of a challenge since about 50 percent of the play takes place on an island.

The last production starred former English teacher Linda Pimentel as Lady Brocklehurst, this year played by Smith. Pimentel's son Christian, a senior at the time, played Crichton, and Singleton convinced Mrs. Pimentel to perform in the play with her son.

"I love the play and it was a great experience, but we were in the FLC and now we have a theater," Singleton said.

Brentwood's 1997 version of the play was one of the few in school history to use a thrust stage, which extends into the audience.

Professional makeup artist John Hollan, senior Kaylie Angello's uncle, came on Sep. 27 to teach the cast and crew of both *The Admirable Crichton* and *Steel Magnolias* how to do hair and makeup both generally and for the specific time period of their play. Each actor received a personal makeup kit for their skin



Classic This 1980s poster for *The Admirable Crichton* is from a British theatre.

tone to have until they graduate.

On Sep. 6, several parents involved with Fine Arts Benefactors worked all day on the set, costumes, and inventory. They planned things specifically for *The Admirable Crichton*, in addition to the general reorganization of the costume closets and prop basement.

Changes include morning P.E., 'mixed' Bible, rushing to class

By Emily Shields

New faces flood the halls. Bells ring to signal the beginning of classes a little sooner than usual. Some students are even in P.E. uniforms before school has begun. Change has happened within the school's schedule and it has some students flustered.

As the new school year began, veteran students were quick to notice changes both to schedules – including Bible and P.E. – and even to the morning announcements. But the daily grind of simply getting to class on time was more intense than usual, especially for the freshmen and the new secondary students. Due to the four-minute passing periods which caught many students off guard, tardiness has increased in the first few weeks of school.

Some students were frustrated by the change. "There's not any time to go to the bathroom at all," junior Natalie Williams said. "Sometimes I literally run or speed-walk to make it on time. Every so often I'm simply too tired to care and I take the tardy."

The reason for the change came when eighth

period had to be extended by five minutes. Fine arts teachers resisted having the time taken from fifth period, so in the end, a minute was shaved off of morning passing periods.

"(Four-minute passing periods) can work for everyone," principal Carol Johnson said. "We can all be a little more efficient with our time."

Some teachers have taken a more lenient approach to tardies, whereas other teachers have not let tardies slide by. English teacher Ashley Dargai looks at the change as a challenge that could help students be more focused.

"I think it's helpful to look at limitations, such as four-minute passing periods, as opportunities," she said.

Bible classes are now co-ed for all of the high school except for seniors. High school Bible teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth said there are two reasons for this. First, the numbers of boys and girls were only proportional in the senior class. The girls' classes were too big, and dividing the girls into two classes has not worked well in the past.

But the other deciding factor was more directed toward what the students would reap

from being in a mixed class.

"I think it gives the students a chance to see perspectives of both the boys and girls," Dr. Hollingsworth said, "and that makes for good discussion in classes."

Another change in the high school schedule is that some students have P.E. first period instead of being mixed with Athletics during eighth period. Johnson said that last year there were many people wasting time during their P.E. classes due to the fact that both the Athletics and P.E. classes simply grew too big for one period.

There are a few students who actually enjoy first-period P.E. and are really good sports about it, such as freshman and new student Carollanne Perimon.

"I think first-period P.E. is cool," she said. "It definitely wakes me up in the morning."

But there are some drawbacks to the change, such as coming to classes sweaty and being tardy due to getting out of P.E. late. Yet some say they don't mind.

"It's really not as bad as people think," sophomore Mary Ruiz said. "The only drawback is that it is really humid in the morning, but other

than that, it's actually pretty fun."

A more pleasant change in Brentwood's morning announcements has students buzzing. There is a theme for three out of five days in the school week, which are "Music Monday," "Witness Wednesday," and the "prayer partners" on Friday. The change was suggested by senior Tyler Clark, president of StuCo, and by Dr. Hollingsworth, according to Johnson.

"Some people told me the devos were boring," Johnson explained. "But Dr. Hollingsworth gave me the ideas."

Another visible change is the number of new students who joined the Brentwood family this year. Johnson estimates that there are 40 new students in the secondary, with most of the additions coming in the high school. Some new students have really liked the transition from their former schools to Brentwood, such as freshman Donni Lee.

"Brentwood is awesome, because all of the teachers and students are nice," Lee said. "Brentwood is like a big community. I also like the food in the cafeteria, but I have hopes that the uniforms will get prettier."

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Tyler Clark

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

Friendly thespian brings light through laughter

By Jonathon Reich

He is known across campus for his many faces, his friendly and fun nature, and his high-pitched laugh. It's easy to describe him as an extrovert, but many have added goofy, eccentric, and approachable to this mix. When anyone thinks back on times they've spent with him, it's hard to choose just one funny story or adventure to share. But most importantly, senior Tyler Clark enjoys life and those living, and many notice him consistently striving to make those around him feel welcome.

"Even just being around him makes me laugh. He's very personable," says choir director John McMeen. "I can tell he loves life and loves being Tyler."

Classmate Mikayla Brin-thaupt has similar sentiments.

"He's really caring and shows his love to everyone," Mikayla says. "He's someone you can always trust."

Tyler admits that he does love to make others feel welcome, a trait he says he got from his mom, Jennifer, whom he dubbed "the epitome of hospitality." This, along with his desire to develop bonds with a wide variety of people, is a large part of what motivates him on a daily basis, and influences his involvement in many tasks.

"I don't know!" Tyler immediately exclaims after being asked how many activities he's currently committed to. After some thought, however, he is able to remember that he is president of StuCo; a bass in Encore; a Boy Scout striv-

ing for Eagle; an active member of his youth group at Brentwood Oaks; and the lead role of the fall production, *The Admirable Crichton*.

"He has so many leadership responsibilities but manages things really well," McMeen says.

Tyler's eccentricity plays well with his love of the stage, where he has made too many faces to count over the years. Since seventh grade, he has been a part of at least 11 plays, not including individual acts he has done for events such

return of the talent show, and many other "unnamable surprises" – to raise school spirit and get more students involved in school activities.

Tyler says part of his motivation for his work in StuCo comes from his desire to give back to BCS part of what it has given him. Having attended Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ since he was born, and BCS since Children's Ark, Tyler has certainly grown during his time at Brentwood. He says that the people here have

is putting in the work to finish his Eagle award. Tyler described his time in scouting as an enlightening one, which has brought about leadership, dedication, and experience about what "accepting others with different beliefs" looks like in his life.

Despite being stretched in many directions, Tyler still makes time for church. He says his youth group at BOCC plays a role in shaping his character, but he is the first to admit that he is still in search of answers.

"(Living by Christ's example) is a choice I have to make daily," Tyler says. "It's a work in progress."

Fortunately, Tyler has had many strong Christian examples throughout his life to help guide him along the way. Tyler says his family has played a large role in guiding him spiritually.

Tyler's family ties have also led him to strongly consider Oklahoma Christian University, which is the alma mater of both his parents; the school his older brother, Travis (BCS Class of '13) currently attends; and where his grandfather pre-

viously served as the school's president. However, Tyler says he has also applied to Texas A&M and York University. As of now, he says he would like earn a degree in education, eventually taking on the role of a school administrator.

Wherever he goes, Tyler says he hopes to pursue a future where he can continue to positively affect peoples' lives. Those who know Tyler – with his bright smile and cordial nature – believe this is something he can easily accomplish.



as TCSIT and TAPPS, although he admits he may have left out one or two roles. To top it off, Tyler is a co-host of *The Bear Necessities*, a student-created news show written and produced by fellow senior Deirdre Smith.

"My dream job would be a sitcom actor, but, you know," Tyler shrugs.

As president of StuCo, Tyler is taking his call to make this "Brentwood's best year ever" to heart. He is hoping to schedule many events throughout the year – including food fights, the

care for him since he was born, and he hopes to give the same to the people around him.

"My friends and teachers (at BCS) are part of my family, and I want to treat them like that," Tyler says. "The main distinction between them and my real family is that I only have one year left with my BCS family."

Another area where Tyler's time is running low is with his work in Boy Scouts. Tyler has been a Boy Scout since sixth grade – and now, with his 18th birthday quickly approaching, he

BCS says goodbye to long-time choir teacher, two others during summer

By Nicholas Bergeron

Since the end of May, three BCS teachers – Sierra Pierce, J.D. Robson, and Missy Weaver – turned in their resignation.

Weaver, who directed choir and Encore, now teaches at Four Points Middle School in Leander. She said she "couldn't have asked for a better experience," teaching at Brentwood, where she worked for 16 years, since just after graduating from college.

"It was time (to leave)," Weaver said.

Weaver fondly remembers "incredible" students. She recalls one funny incident at a state competition, during her first year, when the

girls' choir ran through the pouring rain to the wrong building. They had to sing for the judges with smeared makeup.

While Weaver goes away with fond memories, she left quite a bit at BCS as well; her career brought the school its first choral state championship, followed by eight more during her tenure.

"Missy Weaver took our choral music program to new heights," retired principal Dr. Libby Weed said. "The fact that BCS is recognized statewide in TAPPS circles as a vocal music powerhouse is due to her talent, her teaching ability, and her gift for training and directing singers."

A history teacher and assistant basketball coach for two years at Brentwood, Robson went to Leeds Beckett University in Leeds, England, to pursue his master's degree and play basketball.

Robson, who returned to campus to deliver his going-away chapel talk in September, brought energy and passion to the school, not only in his classroom and on the court, but also in spirituality. He was a relatable example to his students and players.

"The thing I will miss most about him is his energy and passion for the kids at BCS," head basketball coach Brian Thrift said. "He really showed the kids that being Christian is a 'cool'

thing and that it's something that will enhance your life, not inhibit it."

Science and math teacher Sierra Pierce taught for only one year before leaving the school in order to spend more time with her small boys, Oliver and Elliot.

Pierce, who won last year's BCS Biggest Loser competition, now works as a health coach with the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education (COPE). Pierce describes her position at COPE as a kind of ministry in itself; she helps others gain freedom from weight problems.

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2014

Five new teachers settle in; others play musical chairs

By Nicholas Bergeron and Kaitlyn Baird

Brentwood Christian welcomes four new secondary teachers, two new elementary teachers, and four new staff members to the school this year.

Paula Bennett comes to BCS to teach math, Bible, and science. She has a bachelor of science in education from Lubbock Christian.

Before coming to Brentwood, Bennett taught in Del Valle for 14 years. Prior to that, she taught in Turkey and Germany. While she was in Turkey, Operation Desert Storm began, and the Bennetts had to evacuate the country on a military aircraft escorted by fighter jets capable of intercepting Iraqi Scud missiles.

In 1999, Bennett and her husband moved to Texas, and her husband started Road Runner, a popular internet service provider.

Jimmie Harper teaches U.S. History, Government, and World History. He minored in biblical studies and holds a bachelor of social science from Harding University. Harper has worked as a youth intern at different churches and in the college ministry at Harding.

One of Harper's professors suggested he apply for the position teaching history that J.D. Robson left last May, and two weeks before school started, he took the job.

Harper, who ends each class telling students to "make it a great day," wishes to see a Christ-like community form at BCS.

"I would hope to see a student body that unconditionally loves each other," Harper said.

John McMeen replaces Missy Weaver as Brentwood's choir director and teaches music to grades four through 12. He holds a bachelor of music in vocal music education from Lipscomb University in Nashville as well as a master of music in choral conducting from the University of Mississippi.

McMeen applied for the position after Spanish teacher Adam Brown, who knew him growing up, suggested it to him.

McMeen, whose own musical taste ranges from opera to Coldplay, said he hopes his work as a choir director can direct students in more than singing, but also in spiritual growth.

Leslie "Sissy" Pierce teaches history, Bible, and PE; she will also be head coach for the varsity girls' soccer team. She has a B.S. in kinesiology from Harding University, a master of higher education in athletic administration from the University of Oklahoma, and a K-12 teaching certification in physical education and in recreation and health.

Pierce graduated from Brentwood in 2003 and remembers having Becky Stewart and Michelle Mohrmann as her teachers and Devan Loftis as her basketball coach.

Most recently, Pierce was assistant soccer coach for Faulkner University, traveling

around in a "very competitive" league.

A completely new face in elementary is Amanda Stanglin, who settled down in Texas in 2012 when her husband Keith accepted a teaching position in Austin.

Stanglin said she has been teaching for nearly all her life. Last year she had a job in Pflugerville working with non-verbal autistic children. She graduated from Harding with a degree in general studies, and also attended Oklahoma Christian and The University of Memphis.

Stanglin, who enjoys singing, painting, and gardening, considers it a "tremendous blessing" that her three kids are at BCS with her.

Kaylee Loftis, the new K4 teacher, is hardly new to Brentwood. She is the mother of three BCS students and wife of athletic director Devan Loftis.

Loftis came to BCS in 2000 after graduating from Harding with a degree in child development. She taught kindergarten until 2005, and

later began coaching elementary volleyball and basketball. For the last three years she has been teaching part-time in preschool at BCS.

Several teachers and staff members have changed positions, creating a chain reaction of reassignments.

Former elementary computer teacher Summer Best now teaches fourth grade, replacing Glenda Morrow, who retired.

"I did not realize how much I was I was craving deeper relationships with my students," said Best, a 1997 BCS grad. "I have fallen in love with these kids as though they were my own."

Former secondary computer teacher Dorothy Walters replaces Best, teaching K-8 computer while keeping yearbook duties.

While the school searches for a permanent hire, Michele Weilemann serves as a long-term substitute for Computer I, Computer II, and Personal Finance.

Last year, Weilemann worked in the develop-

ment office as assistant to the vice president for development. That position has been filled by Sarah Wilson, who was born in Australia and grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Denise Riley is the new accounts receivable bookkeeper for BCS since the retirement of Pat Steelman in the summer. The mom of three BCS students and the wife of a Brentwood graduate, Riley enjoys spending her time cooking, sewing, and remodeling.

Taking the place of retired kindergarten teacher Linda Allen is Geri Archer, whose move from first grade left the spot taken by Stanglin.

A Brentwood Oaks churchgoer for almost 30 years, Archer has worked at several other schools but said she is happiest at BCS.

Two additions to the office staff this year are Celeste Scarborough and Odra Lopez, who monitor the cameras and call buttons.



photo: Maria Harris

Newbies Teachers Jimmie Harper, Amanda Stanglin, Sissy Pierce, Paula Bennett, and John McMeen are new to BCS.

Eubank house sells; owner brings it back to life

continued from page 1

bought a new air conditioning and heating system, begun remodeling the kitchen, and built a 12x16 workshop in the backyard.

Soon he will finish remodeling the kitchen and closets and move the front door up 10 feet – both for aesthetics and for additional space. He will also add a 50-foot patio and new flooring, in addition to doing some plumbing repairs and ridding the house of termites.

"I think you're really going to like this old place," Bazan said with a smile. "It's going to be totally different."

Bazan is confident the whole project should be done by Dec. 1 at the latest. The biggest

challenge he has faced so far is the onslaught of paperwork from the city permit office, which he refers to as "unreal" and "unreasonable."

Brentwood's new neighbor previously lived in Rockport with his wife, who will be joining him as soon as the house is finished. He has a nine-year-old grandson, Mathew Vasquez, who he hopes will eventually attend Brentwood.

"I hope to prepare him for college," said Bazan, who places a major emphasis on education.

Bazan said one of the major reasons he chose the house, besides the close proximity to Brentwood, was that his friend, Riojas, lives in the house next door; Bazan is staying at Riojas's house until his work is closer to being completed. He also really likes the area the house is in.

"It's a very sought-after area, convenient for everything," he said.

Roger McCown, senior minister at Brentwood Oaks, was one of the many members of the Brentwood community who tried to fix the situation. He sent several letters to Vom Eigen, first asking to care for her house in her absence, then offering to buy it when he received no response. About six years ago, McCown helped get the city involved, which resulted in the high fines that eventually got the house sold.

"We are all greatly relieved that this home will finally be occupied by a man who, from all indications, will be a friend to Brentwood Oaks and all we do," McCown said.

Volleyball team tested, ready to shoot for title

By Jenna Beggs

The Lady Bears varsity volleyball team started the season with high expectations, and after playing 38 games, they still have the same focus: becoming state champs. With a month left before playoffs, the girls are right on pace with a 7-0 district record.

"We train every day with the vision of reaching our goal at the end of the season – the state championship," new head coach Veronica Lee said.

The first month of the season featured the most challenging schedule a BCS volleyball team has ever faced, with numerous tournaments featuring many 5A and 6A public school teams.

"The thought was to have the team better prepared for playoffs, by playing teams that play at a higher level," Lee said. "This way, once we see a higher level team in playoffs, our team won't be surprised or caught off guard."

As a result, the girls have an overall record of 21-15, which includes four tournaments against high-level competition. According to Lee, the best team they have played so far was John Cooper (the Woodlands), who beat Brentwood in their own tournament championship game.

Lee said she will not know how well her strategy of playing top opponents has worked until later, but so far her players sound grateful.

"There is a benefit to playing high level teams," said junior Kara Teal, who sees growth

in these games. "I'm actually happy about the losses."

Junior Brenna Decker agreed that the team is stronger and better this season. She also said that the difficult schedule is paying off.

"I can see a big improvement in defense from the first tournament to the last one," she said.

Of course, BCS is not losing all of their matches against large public school teams. In fact, for the first game of the season, they traveled up Lamar to face Pflugerville Connally and beat them 3-0. Newcomer Jami Lee, the coach's daughter who played for Rouse High School last year as a sophomore, said she believes Brentwood's talent is comparable to local 5A or 6A public schools.

Last year the Bears fell one point short of the state championship after finishing the season with a 27-3 record, and this year they are focused to win it. They have lost only one graduate, Avery Westerlund, and have gained several new talented players.

Coach Lee said the team's strengths include the number of upperclassmen in the starting rotation who know what it feels like to be in the state championship. Among their weaknesses, she says, are injuries, lack of strength in certain positions, and depth in all positions.

The girls have suffered from losing Teal for several games and junior Blair Westerlund for even more. Westerlund, who has a shoulder injury, said she is not sure if she'll be able to play any more this season, but there is still hope she will come back for playoffs. Both of those girls

supply tremendous power to the team.

But sophomores Alicia Dixon and Claire Polasek filled in and are doing great, according to Coach Lee. She said the team has handled difficulties very well and has been amazing at making this season successful thus far.

"Jami and (junior) Keely (Hardin) have been true leaders through it all and have carried their team in some matches," Lee said.

Brentwood has defeated all six teams in the district: Round Rock Christian, Concordia Academy, Faith Academy, Texas School for the Deaf, Central Texas Christian, and San Juan Diego.

Lee leads the team with 298 kills, followed by Teal with 211. Teal has 3.7 kills per set, followed by Westerlund with 3.5.

Lee and Decker lead the team in assists with 4.6 and 4.4 per set, respectively. Keely Hardin, the team's libero, leads with 3.4 digs per set.

Lee is also the team leader in service aces (66) and blocks (45); Teal has 42 blocks.

Veronica Lee, a 1998 NCAA collegiate volleyball champion, scored the winning point to close an undefeated season at Long Beach State. Athletic director Brian Thrift contacted her about becoming the head coach after she was the middle school volleyball coordinator last year. Lee said the opportunity to coach her daughter, Jami, in a varsity level sport at a private Christian school was appealing to her.

Lee's assistant coach is Lauren Bohling, who is in her third season with the Lady Bears.

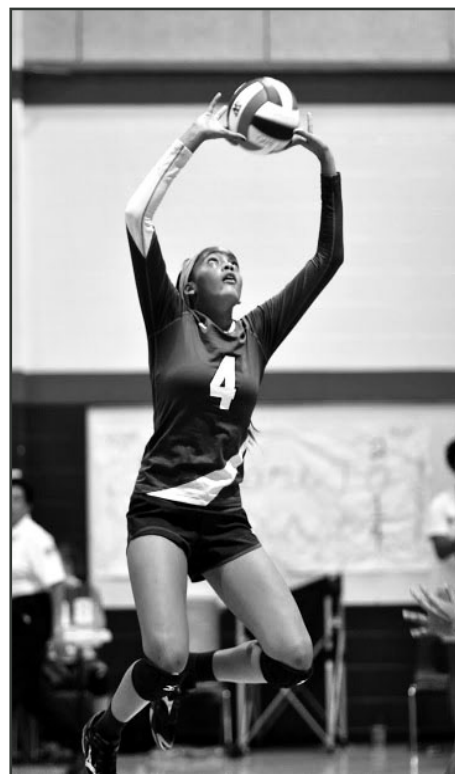


photo: submitted

Textbook form Junior Jami Lee sets up her teammate in a recent game. The Lady Bears have battled through a difficult pre-district schedule and are now coasting through district undefeated.

Cross country teams face top competition, prepare for state

By Rebecca Tilley

After three meets for the BCS cross country teams, coaches Jacob Rotich and Katie Smith said they are happy with students' efforts and are expecting the team to continue performing well as they prepare for the state meet on Oct. 25 in Waco.

Rotich, who coaches the boys, said he thinks the team is much better than last year, and his goal is to place in the top six at state, which would be four spots better than last year.

Smith, the girls' coach, said her team "would like to better our fifth-place performance from last year and get back into the top four in the state."

The first meet for the teams was at Belton on Aug. 28. Competing in the 1A-4A division against mostly public schools, the girls finished third and the boys finished 10th. Senior Evan Herring led the way for the boys with a time of 17:49 on the 5K course, the third-fast-

est time in school history. He came in eighth at the meet.

The next two finishers for the boys were sophomores Will Moncure and Alex Matthew, each finishing in 22:04.

Freshman MaeAnne Herring led the girls with a time of 13:44 on the two-mile course, earning 16th place. Haley Hutson, the only senior on the girls' team, placed 17th with a time of 13:52. Freshman Rebekah Connor was Brentwood's next-best finisher at 14:17.

The next weekend, both teams ran in the AISD Cross Country Invitational at Decker Lake. Evan Herring finished in 18:11, securing him the second-place spot in the JV division. Other top finishers were sophomores Brandon Patterson (20:28) and Matthew (20:42).

Brentwood's girls were led by junior Kayla Layne and Hutson, who both finished in 14:48.

On Sep. 20, the boys ran in the Pflugerville Invitational, while the girls ran at St. Andrews. The boys placed seventh, and the girls, who

had their best performance of the season, placed second.

Herring led the boys once again with a time of 18:11, good for ninth place. Following him was freshman David Tiner with a time of 19:39.

The girls' individual results were not available.

The girls' captain, Haley Hutson, is the only senior on the team and, according to Smith, is "a great leader for our team, both on and off the course."

One difficulty the boys' team has had to make accommodations for this year is the conflict with soccer. For several years, BCS played winter soccer, but this year the boys have returned to fall competition.

Rotich said only two runners were lost to the conflict, but the others who participate in both sports have less practice time for cross country.



photo: Judy Lewis

Steady pace Senior Haley Hutson and junior Kayla Lane are two of the top runners for the BCS girls.

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2014

Flag football teams on a roll

By Hannah Odom

With a month until playoffs, Brentwood's five football teams –all coached by BCS dad David Trevino – have a combined record of 12-4.

The middle school green team, composed of eighth graders, has a 4-0 record, having outscored opponents in those games 142-21.

The green team beat St. Francis (white) 48-0 on Sep. 5, followed by a 40-0 win against Paragon with four touchdowns by eighth-grader Micah Best.

They grabbed a big win on Sep. 16 against St. Francis (black), a team that Trevino said was very good and well coached. The boys jumped ahead with a 7-0 lead, and then St. Francis tied the score before halftime. Two touchdown passes from Connor Troutman to Riley Walker helped to bump the final score up to 20-7.

The green team also won 34-14 against St. Ignatius on Sep. 25.

“They are representing Brentwood well with good attitudes, and even when the game is one

sided they are being respectful in victory,” Trevino said. “I am very proud of them.”

The white team, made up of seventh graders, won their first game against Redeemer 7-0 on Sep. 18. They then faced St Francis (black) on Sep. 23 and lost 14-0. The boys also lost 13-6 against St. Theresa on Sep. 25.

Fifth and sixth graders are divided into three teams: 1A green, 1A white, and 3A green.

On Sep. 5 the 3A green team beat Hill Country 22-7 and followed that with a 13-7 win against Trinity that included a great touchdown catch by sixth-grader Aaron Lilya. On Sep. 23 the Bears beat Holy Family 21-0.

The 1A green team won 33-0 against Hyde Park on Sep 5, and won 26-0 against Trinity on Sep. 9. They lost 21-12 against St. Andrews on Sep. 15 after falling behind early 12-0. The boys then beat Hyde Park again, 25-0 on Sep. 23, before losing 7-0 against St. Theresa on Sep. 25.

The 1A white team beat Round Rock Christian 33-0 on Sep. 19.

Trevino, father of two BCS students, is as-



photo: submitted

Where's the ball? Middle school green team defenders Riley Walker (left), Chase Blackman (middle), and Micah Best appear to have their opponent well covered.

sisted by new teacher Jimmie Harper as well as parents Brian Jackson and Ryan Rivera. He says he is able to coach long hours because he “really loves working with the kids and the game of football.” He also said that all of the players are “Brentwood kids,” so they are all “well behaved and very smart.”

Trevino said that they all coach according to his manual that lays out his coaching phi-

losophy and game plans, so everyone is on the same page.

Practices officially started for both teams on Aug. 14, and soon the players were assigned positions and teams. There was a camp especially for quarterbacks a week before school started so that Trevino could get a “head start on that position.”

Soccer boys two weeks from competing in state tournament

continued from page 1

in the midfield. Senior Charlie Sinclair, a new addition, starts at center back for the Bears. Senior Haehwan Park is also a new addition, playing the wing position.

“We’re strong on defense, and this year we have a much greater offensive capability than last year,” senior Evan Herring said. “It’s really helping us play like a more complete team.”

Junior Joshua Sass leads the team with 30 goals, while senior Brodie Brown has added 12. Senior Jae Hwang and Brown lead with eight assists apiece. Junior goalie Mason Miller has seven shutouts, and has made 61 saves.

Following are the team’s game results:

9/30: @ Concordia 3-1 W

Facing a better goalie than they did the first time these teams met, the Bears had a closer contest. Sass scored two goals, giving him 101 in his career; Patterson also scored.

9/25: C.A.S.A. 11-0 W

Brentwood controlled the ball in the midfield. Miller was kicked in the face and had sit the rest of the game after the first five minutes. Freshman Patrick Hanrahan finished the game for a shutout.

Sass led the scoring with four goals, while senior Christian Montgomery had three.

9/23: @ S.A. Keystone 3-2 L

Already missing Patterson, who was out with a foot injury from the previous game, Brentwood then had more trouble when in the first five minutes Miller was kicked in the face and suffered a mild concussion. Dizzy and having

vision problems, he stayed in the game anyway.

Keystone scored all three of its goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half on shots Miller would have normally blocked. But even after going down 2-0, Brentwood rallied with a goal from Sass. When it was 3-1, Sass was fouled inside the 18-yard box, and junior Mason McCormick made the penalty kick. Keystone later committed a handball inside the box with less than 10 minutes remaining, but this time the penalty kick was stopped.

9/19: @ S.A. Universal City 10-0 W

Brentwood controlled the game effectively versus a weaker opponent in another easy win. The Bears kept the ball on their opponent’s side of the field, which led to many goals for the offense, including four by Sass.

9/16: S.A. Trinity 14-0 W

BCS matched the score from the first time these teams played, keeping an almost uncontested possession throughout the game. Hwang led the scoring with three goals, while Brown and freshman David Reich each had two.

9/9: @ Waldorf 3-0 W

The Bears defeated last year’s district champions, who had also won two out of the past three state championships decisively. Shortly after halftime, Waldorf scored an own-goal. Brown and Patterson followed with goals.

Sass and Hwang each had one assist, while Miller had 11 saves.

9/5: Concordia 11-0 W

Brentwood started off fast against the Cardinals with an impressive defensive performance, allowing only seven shots on goal. Sass

led the scoring with four goals, while Hwang scored two.

9/2: @ C.A.S.A. 9-1 W

The game started off close as Brentwood allowed their first goal of the season on a penalty kick when leading 2-0. The game was still close at halftime with the Bears ahead 3-1. But an explosion of offense in the second half led to four quick goals for the Bears.

Sass led with four goals, and Hwang had two. Miller had nine saves.

8/28: S.A. Keystone 2-0 W

This game was the team’s first real test against a physical, tough defense. Brentwood did not allow anything on the defensive end, but even though the team possessed the ball for most of the game, they could not convert possessions into goals. Brentwood took 35 shots, but against a strong keeper they struggled to score.

Sass scored the only two goals of the game; Miller had seven saves.

8/26: @ Trinity 14-0 W

With the season’s first road game in San Antonio, the Bears came away with another effortless win. Brentwood allowed only three shots on goal and put up massive amounts of goals from starters as well as second-string players.

Sass led the scoring with four; Brown and sophomore Will Moncure each also had two goals.

8/22: S.A. Universal City 13-0 W

The boys kicked off their season with an easy win against last year’s second-place team in their district. A lack of offense from the other team, combined with dominance by Brentwood on both offense and defense, led to the win.

McCormick led the scoring with three goals, while Sass and Patterson each had two. Miller had five saves. Matthew and Patterson led with two assists each.



photo: Alex Sass

Watch this Senior Jae Hwang makes an over-the-head kick that his opponents can only watch. The Bears have cruised through district in their return to fall soccer.

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2014

Rotich earns citizenship

By Grace Rogge

Brentwood coach and IT director Jacob Rotich, who grew up in Kenya, became an American citizen on July 31 in San Antonio.

The citizenship process consisted of a written test, an interview, and an oath at a ceremony that was held at Edgewood Theatre of Performing Arts. The ceremony included citizens from 75 other countries.

Many of his friends from Brentwood took a trip down to the ceremony to support him. Those in attendance included school president Marquita Moss, retired elementary principal Libby Weed, and several other friends from school and church, including Geri Archer, Adam Brown, Carrie Hunter, and Celeste Scarborough.

"It was like being born again," Rotich said afterward.

In June, Rotich took a test consisting of 100 questions ranging from tougher questions on political science and geography to easier ones on reading and writing. He said an example of a harder question was having to know that the

Mississippi River is longer than the Missouri River. But overall Rotich said it wasn't difficult.

Rotich came from Kenya to run track at Harding University in Arkansas on full scholarship in 2001. He began at BCS in 2005, and he married Hellen, who also came from Kenya and Harding, that fall. They have a son named Jonathan who is four and a girl named Natalie who was not yet born when The Bear Facts was sent to print Wednesday.

One thing Rotich struggled with after coming to America was the change in temperature. In Kenya, he said the average temperature was 70 degrees. In America, he found the weather much colder during his first winter in Arkansas.

While he remains close to his family in Kenya and will always be proud of his heritage, he has no plans to move back.

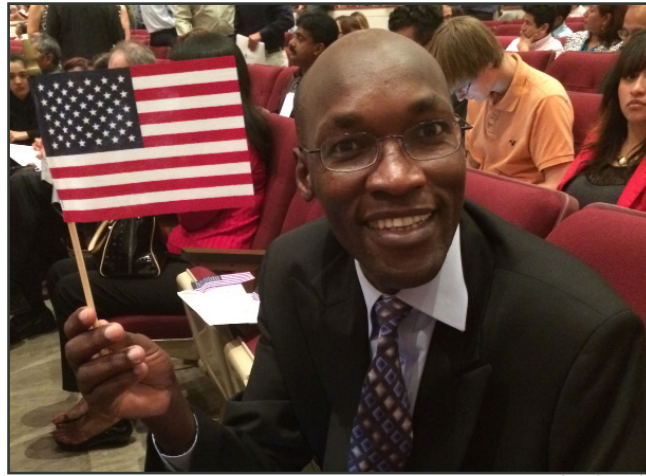


photo: Geri Archer

New home IT director Jacob Rotich is now a U.S. citizen.

"When you live in a place for a long time it becomes home," Rotich said.

Rotich still regularly competes in – and wins – road races and is looking forward to one coming up late this fall. He currently runs about 20 miles per week and also swims.

Along with his citizenship, Rotich is now eligible to serve in other ways such as voting and jury duty, and he can even run for office.

Students play, ponder future, bond at retreats

By Tony Lee and Kira Juranek

The BCS seniors enjoyed various activities such as swimming, eating s'mores at the campfire, glow tag, zip-lining, and a worship service at their retreat at Camp Buckner on Aug. 24-25.

Three weeks later, the school's biggest freshman class ever – 60 students – enjoyed a two-day quest to become closer as a class and unite as brothers and sisters in Christ. They set off on Sep. 14 to Camp Tejas in Giddings, and arrived back at BCS after school the next day.

Seniors finally utilized the ropes course that bad weather had prevented them from enjoying on their seventh-grade retreat.

"We got to swing around like Tarzan, walk like Cat Woman, and jump like a boss," Duc Minh Phan said.

Class president Madalyn Garelick said she felt good about how the seniors were unified.

"I think the retreat really helped us to get together," she said. "Senior year is all about making endless memories."

Freshmen at Camp Tejas enjoyed a zip line, trapeze, a huge water slide, and canoes.

"My favorite part was swimming in the lake because we played king of the hill on the floating dock!" Elena Milan said.

Sponsors asked students questions to help them consider whether they really wanted to make a big impact on many people's lives, and what they could do to make that impact. They wrote answers on big sticky notes and hung them around the room for discussion.

The other main goal of the retreat was to "foster class unity and promote a sense of camaraderie," according to Adam Brown, a freshman class sponsor. President Marquita Moss explained the importance of having these kinds of friendship goals throughout high school, while suggesting ways to create these bonds.



photo: Mikayla Brinthaupt

Up so high! Senior Gina Huh grabs the trapeze after leaping from the pole at the ropes course on the senior retreat, which was held Aug. 24-25 at Camp Buckner.



photo: Diann Sloan

Fish out of water Freshmen Kaitlyn Baird and Merideth Mallett enjoy themselves at the inflatable waterslide. The Class of 2018 enjoyed two days at Camp Tejas bonding and pondering their futures.

Parts of campus receive facelift

By Mary Womack

During the summer and the beginning of the new school year, many physical changes have been brought to the Brentwood Christian campus. This extensive list includes the new back entrance, renovated classrooms in the A building, and the mysterious disappearance of the stage area in the Family Life Center.

The old road leading to the school from the Knollpark neighborhood was torn up, widened, and repaved during summer vacation. The old road had many breaks in the asphalt, potholes, and poor drainage.

The project cost \$85,000, and the funding was divided equally between the church and school, Brentwood Oaks minister Roger McCown said. The work began on June 30 and ended in late July.

"The road was too narrow to provide the degree of safety we wanted for those times when traffic is entering and exiting at the same time during the school day," McCown said.

The Lamar entrance and all parking lots were also given a seal coating and re-stripped.

The A124-126 classrooms will no longer be used for the Developmental Preschool, since that program no longer exists. McCown said the church elders realized that, "for reasons largely beyond its control," the ministry had been unable to reach its goal of providing care for many low-income, single-parent families, and those who could afford a normal preschool were using it. The classrooms are now being used for the children's ministry of the church.

Children's minister Jackie Boyd said the old DPS playground will remain for use by the kids in the school and church.

During the third week of school, students showed up in the FLC/cafeteria for lunch, only to find that the old stage had disappeared from sight, filled in by a wall. The stage had been used by BCS drama students from 1981-2011, until the opening of the Fine Arts building.

President Marquita Moss said that behind the new wall, the old stage area is being renovated and will be divided between the church and school.

McCown said the church plans to use its portion of the space as storage for chairs and new banquet tables. They also installed speakers, and will be converting the wall into a screen. Moss said the school will use its space for an additional classroom this year, and a relocation of the uniform store next year.

Outside the FLC in the breezeway, where poles have been supporting a cracked beam, McCown said the roof and supporting beams will be replaced soon.