



# THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

APRIL 2016



## BCS takes TCSIT title, then loses it

By Camille Sunshine

After being told that they had won first place in high school, BCS took second place at last week's TCSIT competition in Abilene.

The one-act play won Grand Champion, and middle school took third place.

In the award ceremony, it was announced that BCS had won first place by nearly 100 points. But when the numbers were reexamined later, it was discovered that the points had been announced for the wrong team, and Fort Worth Christian had had nearly 100 more points than BCS. The third place team was also incorrectly announced, and BCS came in second.

"There were so many other schools who'd love to come in second," TCSIT coordinator Michelle Mallett said. "It's disappointing, but it happens."

Senior Andrew Armstrong earned a BCS-record eight awards, including six first-place medals. Math teacher Kaleen Graessle said people at TCSIT know Armstrong's name and always ask when he will graduate.

"What he has done is exceptional," Graessle said. "But it didn't happen just 'because he's Andrew.' He's worked harder than any other per-

son consistently. And he's humble on top of all that; he's so gracious when he wins."

In comprehensive math, Armstrong took first and junior Yunxi Wei placed second. In number



photo: Kaleen Graessle

**Mathletes** Seniors Andrew Armstrong and Josh Sass, and juniors Gabie Nguyen and Yunxi Wei, pose with math team coach David Armstrong.

sense and calculator applications, Brentwood swept the top three: in number sense, Armstrong, senior Joshua Sass, and junior Gabie Nguyen, respectively; and in calculator applications, Armstrong, Nguyen, and Wei.

Sophomore Benjamin Helyer placed first in Algebra II, third in chemistry, and fifth in extemporaneous speaking. Freshman Micah Best placed first in geometry, and classmate Adrian Battle tied for first in biology and placed third in geometry.

Brentwood also won team math, which was made up of Armstrong, Sass, Wei, and junior Inyoung Choi. Armstrong also earned first in physics and comprehensive science, third in poetry interpretation, and fourth in dramatic duets with junior Camille Sunshine. Sass placed sixth in physics, and Nguyen was fourth in humorous interpretation and fifth in editorial writing. Sunshine also placed fifth in news writing and sixth in editorial writing.

Sophomore Khang Phan finished first in chemistry and third in social studies, and classmate Kaitlyn Baird earned a silver medal in spelling, news writing, and social studies. Sophomore Courtney Min placed second in on-site drawing, and classmate Donni Lee's art portfolio won first.

Junior Charlie Vazquez took first in Spanish

see TCSIT, page 4

## Baseball team eyes playoffs

By Diego Escobedo

With six district games left, the varsity baseball team is in second place with a record of 5-1. They have defeated their last three opponents by a total score of 47-0.

The team's defense has been solid, but players agree that they have been struggling with mental mistakes and have left too many runners in scoring position. But they're working hard and are improving.

"We are in good position. One loss isn't bad," senior John Hollingsworth said. "We still need to work on the small things."

Senior Jake Velasco is encouraged by what he sees.

"The team is slowly starting to build into what we have the potential to be, we just need to focus on being patient at the plate," he said. "When our defense is clicking, it's easily one of the best in state."

Head coach Brian Thrift said the team is progressing well and is hitting much better than they did last year "as a collective group." Thrift said the boys are working more on hitting during practice, and are

see **Baseball**, page 6

## Students open hearts, give thousands of dollars to Zambians

By Andrew Schmitz

BCS students brought in a total of \$5,774.81 in this year's Money for Medicines fundraiser, averaging \$9.10 per student. The students had two weeks to raise the money, from March 24 to April 6.

This year's winners are Mrs. Howard's kindergarten class, Mrs. Davis's fifth-grade class, Miss Wick's eighth-grade class, and Mr. Harper's freshman class.

Howard's class donated \$326.73, averaging \$19.22 per student. Davis's class won in upper elementary with a total of \$708.98, averaging \$32.23 per student. Both classes will receive an ice cream sundae party.

Wick's class donated the most money in middle school with a total of \$171.78, which was \$7.81 per student. The class will be re-

warded with an extended lunch to Gattiland.

Harper's class was best in high school, raising \$803.86, averaging \$33.49 per student. They earned an extended off-campus lunch.

Money for Medicines was introduced at all-school chapel on March 24 by Michele Broadway, who reminded students that every penny could help cure a Zambian of various diseases such as malaria. Later in the day each student received a bag of M&Ms, which served as a reminder to students of the fundraiser. For the next several days, the students brought everything from loose change to checks.

Some of the elementary students were very generous with what they donated. First-grader Macy Loftis brought her \$20 of birthday money to donate. Teachers reported that many students donated money earned doing household chores.

Members of the faculty also donated money to help the Zambians.

"I donate because Mrs. Broadway does a good job of explaining how our every penny makes a difference," secondary teacher Ashley Dargai said.

This is the 12th year for Money for Medicines. In total, Broadway said Brentwood students have brought in more than \$120,000 in those years.

Broadway founded the effort with former second-grade teacher Linda Gregersen, and she has been in charge of the fundraising each year. She and her husband still travel back to

Zambia whenever they can.

"I love the laid-back nature of their culture and the beauty of their country, but mostly I love them as a people," Broadway said.



photo: Michele Broadway

**Positive change** Student money counters have a tradition of spelling things with the Money for Medicines.

*Read It and Weep:* Nick Bergeron

# Cursive deserves its place in the elementary classroom

Where I went to elementary school, every assignment was required to be written in cursive, so cursive became and still is my native tongue. I sort of re-taught myself print in middle school when I realized many kids couldn't read cursive well (and some couldn't read at all – you lifelong private school attendees have no idea how good you've got it) but I've always preferred cursive. It's pretty and elegant, and distinctly adult, which is a major advantage when you're fourteen and not a kid anymore, Mom. Besides, it's faster, so you can blitz through your note taking faster than the rest of the class and get back to drawing cars on things.

All this has been to say I'm not unbiased when I approach the ongoing and surprisingly heated debate over whether cursive should still be taught in schools or phased out in lieu of something more immediately useful.

For years, there's been a push to set aside the loops and swishes from the classroom on the grounds that modern technology has made longhand writing obsolete in many situations. Some say it's time for education to adapt; after all, the point of an education is to "prepare students for life," right? In my search for summer internships I recently came across an ad from a company seeking applicants who could type "thirty words per minute or faster." Barring

arthritis or missing fingers, everyone should be able to type much faster than 30 WPM, but many can't. And if you think it's a downer that people type slowly, look at the rest of their computer skills. Even among professionals it's not uncommon to see abysmal computer literacy. Computers are tools required by almost every career in some way, yet many people treat them as magic boxes whose occult inner machinations are comprehensible only to the sorcerers at the help desk. The main argument from the anti-cursive-in-schools camp is that cursive isn't a very practical skill to have, at least in comparison to other skills like typing and computer literacy that could be taught using the same class time, so why keep it around?

The other side of the argument seems pretty compelling as well. The pro-scribers say penmanship isn't just a tool. It's an art. There's an unquantifiable beauty and even self-expression in the written word for which typing offers no substitute. One's handwriting is more than just a legal signature; it's also a way to show something of a little flair for their aesthetic taste. (Allow me a brief tangent: handwriting can't be analyzed to determine personality traits. That's called graphology, and it's pseudoscience.) Careful attention to handwriting also develops fine motor skills, and there are some

psychology studies to be taken with a grain of salt that show sitting down to write something longhand increases information retention. Most documents from the past, including the Declaration of Independence, my US History notes, and Grandma's letters, are written in script. It would be a shame if nobody could read them in a few generations.

The question of whether or not cursive should be taught in the classroom boils down to a question of what the purpose of education is to begin with. If an education is just supposed to give students useful tools for the rest of their lives, then I don't think cursive has a leg to stand on anymore. But if that's true, then neither does history, literature, music, math beyond basic algebra, or physical education. If school is just about teaching people what they'll need to know to go to college or get a job, then we're wasting an inexcusable amount of time, because there's not an employer in the world who'll turn you down for not knowing the plot details of *Les Miserables* or what happened at The Battle of the Somme.

Of course there is value in studying literature and history, just like there's value in cursive. We have to recognize that the point of education isn't just to get the student ready for a vocation. There are intangible but significant

benefits to having a trained mind that can appreciate literature and music, think mathematically, consider the historical context of one's country and world, and, yes, write in cursive.

When I began this editorial I had intended to conclude on the other side of the debate, but the more I read and thought about it, the more convincing it seemed to me. While typing skills and computer literacy do deserve to be taught better than they currently are, that shouldn't be done at the expense of cursive. Even if students choose to neglect the skill later in life like many do, they should have the opportunity while they're still young to pick up a skill that's artistic, expressive and fun.

Our education system makes many subjects mandatory that aren't really necessary, but that's what makes it an education, not simple vocational training. When done properly, elementary and secondary education can give people a basis for appreciating math, arts, science, and history, even if they'll ultimately become lawyers or therapists and not absolutely have to remember the content of most of their high school classes. A good education doesn't just get you a job – it shows you there's more to life than making money.



photo: Kristen Jang

**Fun with cupcakes** Seniors Sarah Connor, Martha Hughes, and Cailin McDaniel serve cupcakes to children at the Rosedale Spring Festival. For more than 20 years, BCS National Honor Society students have visited Rosedale several times a year.

## THE BEAR FACTS

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# Students sleep on ship, pet piglets, find flowers

By Camille Sunshine

Petting baby piglets, searching for bug infested plants, and sleeping on a battleship: BCS students get to do all these things in their elementary careers. Why? They get to go on field trips.

Sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart, who has taught at BCS for 38 years, said field trips are important because they let kids go beyond book learning.

"They get to experience it and not just read about it," Stewart said. "It's the 'being there' aspect."

Elementary schoolers get to go on many field trips, and three recent trips were the kindergarten trip to Crowe's Nest Farm, the second-grade trip to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and the fifth-grade overnight trip on the U.S.S. Lexington.

The BCS fifth graders went on arguably the most memorable field trip of all elementary school – overnight trip to the U.S.S. Lexington, a World War II aircraft carrier.

To enhance their study of the war, this trip has been going on for nearly 20 years, since before either of the current fifth-grade teachers were teaching.

Students left Brentwood at 8 a.m. on March 30 and drove to Galveston in cars, driven and

accompanied by 36 parents. They were given a flight operations tour, where they learned the steps of being a pilot and what happens on the flight deck.

"You could barely hear on the flight deck because of the wind," Kennedy Drennon said. "We learned how you went from a trainer on the flight deck to a pilot."

The students were able to play games in an on-

board game room, and they spent the night in the ship's sleeping quarters, which are metal bunks.

"For me, it was scary because it was a battleship and people died on it," Sarah Walker said.

At evening colors, when the flag is taken down, fifth graders were given a history of the United States flag and learned about the branches of the military. Some students helped take the flag down and fold it, and others

helped hoist it again in the morning.

Students were sent on a scavenger hunt to explore as much of the ship as possible and view its museum; the kids also led a devotion in the chapel. To close out the trip, the fifth graders went to the nearby Texas State Aquarium, where they viewed sharks, stingrays, and urchins.

Hunter Biegert's great uncle, Wilton Biegert, served on the Lexington in the war, working on the flight deck and in the radio tower.

"I didn't know him that much, but I do know that he was on the flight deck most of the time," Biegert said. "He almost died twice."

Biegert said that once his uncle was knocked off the deck and caught in a net. Another time he was blown by a plane propeller in the direction of another running plane, only surviving by managing to slide right under the plane's propellers.

On March 28, the kindergartners took their annual trip to Crowe's Nest Farm. One reason they enjoy taking this trip in the spring that there are so many baby animals.

When the students arrived, they saw a video presentation in the big red barn with Farmer Joyce, where they learned the history of the farm and saw some reptiles. They were then taken on a hayride across the farm, which was



photo: Sandy Patterson

**Happy together** Second-grade students enjoy the outdoors on a recent field trip.

see 'Scary', page 8

## Parker uniforms are back

By Isabel Harris

After five years with CFJ Manufacturing as the school uniform provider, BCS is changing back to Parker, the previous uniform supplier.

Jeff Morris, the school's chief financial officer, said an extensive review of potential vendors was undertaken in order to best provide high-quality materials and service. Parker was chosen as the best fit for the school in terms of value and reliability.

The school store, which has operated in room C111, will close at the end of the school year as supplies last. The room will return to being a classroom.

Families can purchase clothes online or at Parker's nearest location, which is just a few miles from campus at 7756 Northcross Dr., Ste. 111.

Some students have said the change to Parker is a good one.

"CFJ skirts are awful, and they don't stay pleated down," senior Keely Hardin said. "Parker skirts rock because you can have

the same one for like 10 years and they stay pleated."

Cindy Nestor, who works in the secondary office and is also the parent of a high school student and a graduate, said she is happy with the change. She said Parker uniforms have held up better over time.

"I would rather pay a few more dollars to have it last longer in the end," she said. "(CFJ) might have cost a little less, but the quality was not there."

Store workers expressed disappointment that the store will be closing, because so much work and effort was put into making the school store a convenient place for parents to buy uniforms at reasonable prices.

But Jody Lewis, a mom of two high school girls, said the CFJ brand has been a disappointment from the start.

"The saying 'you get what you pay for' is true," she said. "Although the cost (for Parker) is more, the quality is worth it. The quality is such that you keep a skirt for many years if you don't outgrow it."

## BCS second at TAPPS academic Choir and band currently among state's best

By Benjamin Helyer

After hanging onto first place for half of the second day, BCS finally fell behind Round Rock Christian to cling to second place in the final stretch at the TAPPS state academic meet on April 4-5 at the Waco Convention Center.

In competition with Houston St. Thomas Episcopal during the majority of the event for first place in 3A, Brentwood was never far behind first place on either day before oral event results were posted at the end of the second day. With these results, Round Rock clutched first place while BCS slipped to second with 111 points, 18 behind Round Rock.

BCS TAPPS coordinator Michelle Mallett said the students excelled this year at TAPPS, in spite of a more hectic year.

"Every student rose above," Mallett said. "Nobody ever complained."

In math events, senior Andrew Armstrong placed ahead across the board, winning first in number sense, calculator, and advanced math. He also took third place in science.

Senior Joshua Sass took third in number sense and advanced math, while junior Gabie Nguyen placed seventh in calculator and fourth

in mathematics. Junior Judy Wei took second in mathematics, and junior Khue Tran placed eighth in science.

On the liberal arts side, sophomores led the way in several events. Khang Phan took first in current events and issues and second in social studies. Kaitlyn Baird placed third in spelling and sixth in social studies.

In oral events, Meredith Mallett placed sixth in prose interpretation and fifth with Katie Griffith in duet acting. Benjamin Helyer took seventh in persuasive speaking.

The school yearbook also took first place.

BCS students in band and choir competed at the TAPPS 3A vocal and band solo and small ensemble state championships on March 31 at Regents. Four days later, students competed at the TAPPS 3A art competition held at the Waco Convention Center, finishing out of the top six.

Unlike in previous years, competition in choir and band is not over, as they have other large group performances coming up on April 22 and 23, respectively. Fine arts director Travis Pollard said the two groups are currently ranked very high in state, and he is confident they will finish well.

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:** John Hollingsworth

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2016.

# Lovable golfer contributes skill, devotion to BCS

By Joshua Sass

There's a slight error during chapel with some relation to the technology onstage. All of a sudden students begin to turn and face the back of the theater, and then the whole crowd laments, "Joooooohhhhhn!" But laughter follows shortly after, emphasizing the joke.

While senior John Hollingsworth might not even have been involved in the production of today's activity, the running joke continues due to his crucial role in the theater program.

John is admired by those younger than him, respected by his peers, and reputable among any adult that knows him. You'll have

to search very far and wide if you want to find someone who genuinely dislikes this young man who was described by baseball coach Brian Thrift as "one of the best young men I have ever had the honor of coaching."

"John's a great friend," senior Mason Miller says. "His good nature and kindness make me glad that I've

had the pleasure of knowing him."

John plans to attend Middle Tennessee State University next fall and study audio production. This field of study holds many opportunities in both live performances and movies, but the career field is very broad and allows an effective practitioner never to run out of work.

John plays a pivotal role in athletics, excelling in both baseball and golf. When he first joined the golf program he was described by coach John Vandygriff as the "catalyst" to the team's immediate success, along with his "rare

God-given combination of smarts, emotional control, competitive drive, work ethic, and athletic talent."

Vandygriff also described John as currently "one of the better high school golfers in Austin." John is also the leader by example for the rest of the golf team.

A passion of John's unknown to most is his love of a cappella groups and barbershop quartets. John has a very analytical and logical mind, which he devotes to his love of music along with his daily walk through life. Listening to his favorite

band, country a cappella group Home Free, is a favored pastime of John's. He has all of their songs downloaded on his phone, but also almost all of them memorized.

John also is a defining leader for the younger students, and both the administration and teachers alike recognize him for his talents in the area of relating to the less experienced middle schoolers. John was one of the senior leaders chosen for the seventh-grade retreat, Spiritual Emphasis Day, and the middle school discussions.

"John has continually shown patience with younger students and works to help them regardless of what it requires of himself," middle-school science teacher Evan Johnson says. "John is able to bridge the gap between fellow student and leader. It is incredibly hard to relate to someone as a fellow student while also maintaining his position as a leader, and John does this flawlessly."

He starts at second base and also pitches for the baseball team, taking part in a very confident squad, focused on making a deep state

playoff run. Thrift describes John as "unmatched" in character and "incredibly intelligent." Furthermore, Thrift says John is the major component in the success that the baseball team has achieved over his four years. In the process, John remains extremely humble, always ready and willing to serve others and, in doing so, giving glory to God.

"I could literally talk about all the positives John has for weeks," Thrift says. "I am a better coach because of John, and I couldn't be more proud of him for all he has done for BCS."

Band and fine arts director Travis Pollard has come to depend on John's technical skills putting on all sorts of events in the theater.

"Replacing John after he graduates won't be possible," Pollard says. "There will be other students that come forward to fill his various roles, but John is a special student because of his reliability, dedication, flexibility, and leadership."

Students have only a few more opportunities to see John in action, whether they are cheering for him on the baseball field or calling his name from their seats in the theater.

## TCSIT competitors excel

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boys' Bible reading, and senior Kayla Lane placed third in feature writing. The school yearbook placed second.

In middle school, eighth-grader Emma Nguyen led the way by taking first place in number sense and calculator applications and second in comprehensive math eight. The middle school math team, composed of seventh-graders Aaron Sass, Hayden Shellenberger, and Nathaniel Nguyen, and eighth grader Emma Nguyen, finished in a five-way tie for third place. Sass also placed second in calculator applications and fourth in number sense.

Eighth-grader Adrie Gruis earned third in extemporaneous speaking and second in duet acting with classmate Addie McDaniel. McDaniel also got an honorable mention in girls' Bible reading. Seventh-grader Noble Wilson received a silver medal in social studies.

Eighth-graders Megha Sama and Genevieve Graessle were in a three-way tie for first place in picture memory. Graessle also placed fourth in Bible knowledge and sixth in duet acting with classmate Addison Alberda. Sama was fifth in social studies and received an honorable mention in girls' Bible reading. Alberda also took fourth in extemporaneous speaking.

For the past three years, Brentwood has taken charter buses to TCSIT, but this year they took the new school buses. Filled with

students, the two buses left at 6 a.m. on April 7, along with a few extra vehicles.

But about an hour outside of Abilene, teachers noticed smoke coming out of the smaller bus. Students competing that day proceeded on the larger bus, while the rest waited at a Dairy Queen in Brownwood for the bus to return for them. Every bus trip until Saturday morning required two trips, altering some of the traditional plans.

After the smaller bus was working again, it began smoking again on the trip home, complicating the group's return.

"I think everyone did fantastic even with all the blips on the way, especially the students," Mallett said.

The high school one-act play's victory was its fifth in a row at TCSIT. The competition took place Jan. 16, which was earlier than usual, and Brentwood did a production of *Little Women*, which earned the highest possible score, along with only one other among all the schools that competed. The grand champion was not named until the rest of TCSIT on April 9.

Senior Hope Kronke and sophomore Austin Biegert received honorable mention, and senior Laura Doyle and Sunshine were named all-star cast.

"It's always great to be awarded for our hard work. It gives us an assurance that we're doing something right," junior Hope Hutson said.





# Math teacher has heart for students, Zambians

By Benjamin Helyer

Petting lions, directing band, farming, frequenting medical missions to Africa, running audio and video, refinishing furniture, hunting, putting the Psalms to contemporary music, solving puzzles, and finding solutions to polynomials are such a wide variety of activities that one might struggle to find participants in each one in an entire classroom, let alone in one person.

But math teacher Michele Broadway has done all of these activities and more.

Born in Houston, Broadway (then Jetton) soon moved to Victoria, where she would spend the majority of her childhood.

After completing high school, she attended Abilene Christian University, where she majored in music

education and minored in math. Her choice of majors was inspired from her band and math teachers in high school, and this inspiration also caused her to go into teaching immediately after college.

Broadway taught at two other schools before she came to Brentwood, including eight years at Cedar Valley in Austin. Among the classes she taught there was a multimedia course that included claymation.

As a church member at Brentwood, Broadway knew something about what an “amazing place” the school was, and soon she

acquired the desire to teach at BCS. However, being single at the time, she couldn’t necessarily afford to make the transition. Upon being offered to teach at Brentwood, she at first rejected it.

“Either find me a man or a cardboard box to live in,” she stated of her conditions for coming to teach at Brentwood at the time.

And, well, they found her the man: Mark Broadway, a BCS science teacher at the time. She met him at a Leadership Training for Christ event where the two of them were coaches from different churches. They married in 2003.

In the classroom, Broadway has the students put up homework problems on the seven

whiteboards on the walls. In addition, she allows them to work problems on their desks using dry-erase markers during class. She also uses the interactive games Quizlet Online and Kahoot to reinforce the material learned during class.

“I like to teach my students why we do what we do mathematically, not just a bunch of steps to do,” she says. “I want them to really understand conceptually what we are studying. Hopefully it will help them remember from year to year.”

To students in her classes, her methods of teaching and helpful attitude are greatly appreciated.

“She’s very open minded, and you can ask her any question, no matter how easy the question is to solve, and she is happy to answer it,” says eighth-grader Greg Brown.

Broadway currently teaches Algebra I and Pre-Calculus, but it is unknown to many that she was a band director before she took up teaching math. She taught band at two schools before coming to BCS. During this time, the “no pass, no play” rule of competitions caused her to tutor students struggling in math so that they could play in the band. While tutoring as a band director, she realized that she could be certified to teach in math by taking an exam. After studying a bit for the math certification and then successfully completing the test, she became officially certified and could then teach math courses.

While she doesn’t miss teaching band much, she still enjoys playing her instruments, which are kept in her classroom’s closet. These days, she contributes to the BCS band program by playing in the school orchestra during musicals.

One of the things Broadway is most widely known for at Brentwood is her sponsorship of Money for Medicines. She first got connected with the mission because she was a member at Brentwood Oaks, where she met David and Linda Gregersen and began to housesit for them when they would go on the medical mission to Zambia. However, one year she decided that instead of housesitting, she should go on the mission trip.

Since then, she has never ceased her support for the mission and for the Zambians, having gone on the trip 10 times. She considers the various times she has gone to be influential on her faith.

“It’s opened my eyes to the world,” she says. “God wants us to spread the gospel, and one way is that medical mission.”

In addition to simply widening her view of the world, she has seen that she is blessed materially, and that there is hunger for the gospel in Zambia. She notes that her faith is encour-

aged through the Zambians’ faith.

“At one level, it’s opened my eyes to God’s people everywhere,” she says about the church in Zambia.

As for church at home, Broadway currently attends Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, where she helps with the audio and video during the services. In addition to running the equipment, she also is currently working with a group at her church that has the goal of putting every Psalm to contemporary music.

Broadway has no plans to move on from BCS currently, and one of the major factors that gives her the desire to stay are the students.

“I really love to watch how generous our kids are towards others,” she says. “They serve through lots of activities from elementary school to high school, and hopefully they see that this is what God calls us to do all of our lives.”

She notes that students’ generosity through Money for Medicines is just one of many examples for this.

As for hobbies, Broadway says that she is a “secret farmer.” When she was a child, she grew up going to her then-grandparents’ farm near Lockhart which has been in the family since the 1800s. Her parents retired to the farm several years ago, and she and her husband spend about every free weekend visiting the farm and restoring the land.

“We like to go and obliterate cactus,” she jokes about how they target shoot at cacti.

She has recently got a hunting license with plans to hunt turkey on the land. In addition to getting the license, she also now has the gear after a trip to Academy with her husband.

“I have the whole camo thing,” she says, laughing about her preparation.

Alongside farming, Broadway also enjoys reading, refinishing furniture, and doing puzzles.

“Mrs. Graessle is always trying to distract me and tempt me into coming into her room for five minutes to work on the puzzle,” she says about the ever-present jigsaw puzzles in her neighbor’s classroom. “I always succumb, and it usually turns into much more than five minutes.”

Broadway allows creativity to flow inside the classroom and out. Students enjoy her helpful and fun teaching style along with her caring attitude about their lives outside of school.

“The biggest thing I appreciate about her is how much time she takes out of her day to ask me how my day’s been,” says senior Sarah Connor, who is a student aide for Broadway. “She’s invested a lot in me, particularly in math skills, but also in coming to my soccer games and just seeing me grow as a person,” Connor continues. “She really cares about what I’m doing.”



# Baseball team scoring many runs, allowing few

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also focusing on the fundamentals of fielding and base running.

Thrift pointed out that the starting pitching of junior Garrison Ryberg and sophomore Diego Escobedo has been dominant, as they have only allowed five runs in district play thus far. He also praised Velasco for his "tremendous amount of leadership and ownership of the team."

"It is not uncommon to see guys giving each other pointers in practice," Thrift said. "They have been very encouraging to each other."

Leading the team in hitting are Escobedo (.526) and junior Michael Hickl (.500), followed by Hollingsworth (.419) and freshman Jack Oberwortmann (.385). Escobedo leads the team with 23 runs scored, followed by Hollingsworth (21) and Velasco (20).

Escobedo and Velasco lead in RBIs with 22 and 21, respectively. They also lead the team with three home runs each.

On the mound, Ryberg has been the ace with five wins and an ERA of 0.32. Ryberg and Escobedo lead with 38 strikeouts each.

Following are the team's most recent results: **3/24: @ St. Joseph 8-1 W**

The game was scoreless until the fifth in-

ning, when Escobedo hit a sacrifice fly to center field, scoring Hollingsworth. Hickl later hit a double to right field with the bases loaded, scoring two more runs. BCS scored another in the sixth, and in the seventh they scored three runs with two outs. Hollingsworth and Oberwortmann each had run-scoring hits.

**3/29: Round Rock Christian 5-0 W**

The Bears started slow on offense and allowed two hits from Round Rock in the first inning. Eventually BCS got on the scoreboard first, scoring three runs in the fifth with a four-hit streak after two outs. Escobedo hit a double to right field and scored on the play after two errors. Ryberg followed with a double to deep center field, and he scored after sophomore Dillon Smith doubled to right-center field. Sophomore Patrick Hanrahan then singled to score Smith.

Brentwood picked up two more runs in the seventh inning, and Hollingsworth came in to finish the shutout. Escobedo, the starting pitcher, gave up only three hits and struck out 13 batters.

**4/4: @ CTCS 25-0 W**

The Bears dominated their opponent from the first inning, until the mercy rule took effect, giving Brentwood another win. Escobedo

pitched the three innings. Velasco led the game hitting a two-run home run in the second inning.

**4/8: Concordia 17-0 W**

The Bears scored 10 runs in the first three in-

nings and seven runs in the last inning, including a home run from Smith. Velasco and Ryberg each had three RBIs, and on the mound, Ryberg threw a no-hitter with 10 strikeouts.



photo: Hannah Velasco

**Bringing heat** Sophomore Diego Escobedo, a newcomer to BCS, has teamed with junior Garrison Ryberg to make things very difficult for opposing batters.

## Softball looks to playoffs after big wins, tough losses

By Mary Womack

After beating TSD on Tuesday, the BCS varsity softball team is second in district with a 3-1 record.

"I think that we're up and down on our energy and effort," head coach Paul Sladek said. "I think we have the ability to make the playoffs, and have a chance to win our first playoff game in a long while, but the energy and effort have to be consistent."

Brentwood has four district games left, including senior night on April 22.

Senior Sofia Torres has been both pitching and hitting the team to multiple victories and accomplished multiple rare feats, including a no hitter and hitting for the cycle.

Six starters are hitting over .500, including senior Madi French (.625), junior Nicole Dobos (.579), freshman Samantha Fowler (.556), and Torres (.553).

Dobos leads the team in RBIs with a total

of 14, followed by Torres with 11, and junior Hillarie Carpenter with nine.

Torres leads the team with 17 runs scored, followed by Fowler with 15 and sophomore Madison Wells with 13.

Carpenter said she has enjoyed watching everyone improve this year and is proud of her teammates.

"I'm very excited because playoffs this year looks very promising if we keep up the hard work," she said. "I love these girls to death, and could not be more proud of how hard they work."

Following are the most recent game results:

**3/22: Concordia 19-10 L**

Sladek rested all of this seniors in this non-district battle. Freshman Kori Howell and Dobos stepped up for the Bears to pitch, and Sladek said he was proud of the way his girls played despite the loss.

**3/29: @ Waco Vanguard 15-0 L**

Playing against one of the top teams in the state, the Lady Bears knew this would be a rough game. Despite Torres' solid pitching, seven opposing batters combined for 14 hits, and Waco Vanguard scored five runs in each of the three innings.

"We can play them a lot better, and we will have to if we want to win district," Sladek said.

"That aside, yes, they are a good team, but to fear them is exactly what they're trying to do to us."

**3/31: St. Joseph's 8-7 W**

The girls trailed by one until they tied it in the third inning. St. Joseph's later retook the lead, but in the sixth inning, the Bears scored three runs, led by Torres with a two-run homer.

Torres had a single, double, triple, and home run – known as a "cycle" – for what Sladek said is probably the first time in school history.

"I took a look at the stats, and just saw a single, double, triple, and home run, and I was just so pumped for her," Sladek said.

"I didn't really notice at first," Torres said. "I realized after the game and it was pretty cool."

**4/7: @ Hyde Park 10-0 L**

The Bears struggled in this non-district game against a very strong opponent.

**4/12: TSD 26-16 W**

Torres led BCS to victory over TSD with four extra-base hits and five RBIs. She had a double in the third, and triples in the fourth and sixth. The Bears won by 10 runs despite having six fewer hits than TSD's 21. During the sixth inning Brentwood clinched the game with nine runs, including a steal of home by Fowler.



photo: Melanie Howell

**Direct hit** Senior Samantha Woolverton lines a shot during a recent game.



# Track athletes of all ages having exceptional year

By Michelle Emmel

Twenty-seven varsity athletes have qualified to represent BCS at the district track meet on April 19 in San Antonio.

"We have a lot of freshmen who have come in and made big contributions to our teams already," head coach Katie Smith said. "Our district is very tough on both the boys' and girls' side, so we will have to perform at our very best to have a chance to qualify some for regionals."

Regionals will be held on April 29 in The Woodlands, with the state meet concluding the season on May 6-7 in Waco.

The latest meet was held on April 9 at Florence High School. The girls' team placed third in the varsity division. Top scorers include senior Martha Hughes, who won pole vault, and freshman Jane Hughes, who followed her with second. Freshman Jaclyn Wishard won the 100 meter hurdles, junior Abby White took second in the 300 hurdles, junior Jordan Johnson finished second in the high jump, sophomore Hunter Burcham was second in discus, and senior Keely Hardin was third in discus.

The team of freshman McKenzie Gatlin, Martha Hughes, White, and Wishard took third in the 4x100 relay. The team of Gatlin, Jane Hughes, White, and Wishard took third in the 4x200 relay.

On March 31, the teams competed at the Lexington meet about an hour away. The boys competed in the JV division, competing against schools such as Giddings, Taylor, and Rosebud-Lott, who tied with Brentwood for third place. Senior Joshua Sass took first place in the 800 meters and the high jump, and third in the 400 meters, ranking him second in boys overall.

"It's great to show improvement after all the hard work we've done as a team this season," Sass said.

Johnson was second in high jump, and Burcham took second in discus. The team of freshman Chase Blackman, Burcham, Johnson, and sophomore Dillon Smith placed fifth in the 4x200 relay, while Blackman, Johnson, Sass, and Smith finished fifth in the 4x400.

The girls took ninth place in varsity at Lexington. Top finishers include Martha Hughes, who won pole vault, and Jane Hughes, who again finished second to her sister. White placed fourth in the 300 hurdles.

Brentwood's middle school track team did well in the Tiger Relays in Thrall, taking first place in both seventh-grade boys and girls.

First-place winners for the boys were seventh-grader Zach Billante in the 400, seventh-grader Ethan Rutt in the 800 meters, and sixth-grader Keller Jackson in the 1600 and the 2400.

Winners for the girls were seventh-grader Katie Rzepniewski in the 2400, seventh-grader Julia Glenn in the 1600, and sixth-grader Kristin Smith in the 400. The 4x400 relay team of seventh-grader Taylor Dudley, Smith, seventh-grader Abi Walker, and seventh-grader Hannah Womack won, as did the 4x100 team of sixth-grader Enissa Wright, Walker, sixth-grader Alicia Gardner, and Dudley.

In the San Antonio meet on April 7, the fifth- and sixth-grade boys won first place overall with eight individual first-place finishes. Nathan Joseph won the 100 and triple jump, Jack Leidlein won the 400, Seth Taylor won the 800, Keller Jackson won the 1600 and 2400, and Sam Benton won the high jump and long jump.

The fifth- and sixth-grade girls finished second overall. Wright won the 100, and Smith won the 400 and long jump.

Rzepniewski won the 2400 for the middle

school girls, and the 4x100 team also took first.

The middle school boys finished third overall. Eighth-grader Greg Brown set a school record for all levels, soaring 6-0 in the high jump to take first place.

Susan Womack, one of the coaches of the

four teams, said the teams are filled with kids "who really seem to care, love running, are driven to improve times and compete."

"It's definitely a joy and a privilege to coach kids who have this kind of attitude," she said.



photo: Jenna Beggs

**Airborne** Freshman Jane Hughes soars toward the bar during the Lexington meet on March 31. Hughes finished second to her sister Martha at Lexington, as she did in the following meet at Florence. BCS is preparing for the district meet on April 19.

# Both varsity golf teams finish second in district

By Michelle Emmel

Junior Graham Marks placed first in the district golf tournament on April 7 at Fort Sam Houston's La Loma Course. Marks defeated a golfer from Geneva School of Boerne on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff after the two tied for first place with a 79.

Both the girls' and the boys' teams finished second and will advance to the regional tournament on April 18 at Fair Oaks Ranch.

Marks made a 15-foot putt on the first playoff hole to extend the match. On the third hole, he made par while his opponent made bogey.

"It felt good, and it was a great experience," Marks said.

Senior John Hollingsworth had the second-best score for the Bears with an 83, followed by sophomore David Tiner's 88 and senior Mason Miller's 104.

Junior Nicole Dobos led the girls with a 113. Freshman Kori Howell and sophomore Avery Miller both shot 117, and senior Lauren Lewis had a 134.

A week before the district tournament, Hollingsworth shot a 75 to win the individual championship at a tournament in Kingsland.

"I played well except for one hole, but it was

a solid day overall on a new golf course," Hollingsworth said.

Marks followed him with 79, which was second overall, and Tiner placed third with an 81. The team placed second with a score of 351.

Dobos placed third in the girls division, but the girls could not place as a team since they did not have four golfers.

A week before that, the boys finished second in their tournament on March 22 at Grey Rock. Hollingsworth shot an 80, placing him in 3rd individually.

The girls only had three golfers in this tournament as well, and could not place as a team.



photo: Nyna Vasquez

**Clutch** Senior John Hollingsworth drops a putt at the district tournament April 7.

# Senior gives account of life-changing Europe trip

By Chandler Alberda

Days before the plane took off to begin our long-awaited senior trip, teachers still went on teaching classes, even though most seniors only had dreams of gelato, coffee, and pizza on their minds.

The trip was bound for success for many reasons. Our sponsors, Mrs. Dargai, Dr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Harper, and Mrs. Graessle, were some of the most skilled and experienced travelers to accompany a class to Europe. But the most important key to our success was the unique bond within the group. With our best friends at our side and our neck strap with passports on, we were ready to face every adventure.

We arrived in Athens on a cold and rainy night and immediately met our tour guide Jason, to whom we became quickly attached. Our hotel was in the midst of the city and made food, shopping, and sightseeing impressively accessible. We strolled through streets filled with people, stray dogs, and cars trying to push their way through. From nearly any point in the city you could glance up to see the Parthenon, lit up and overlooking the city. Restaurant hosts would stand on the street trying to quickly convince you to eat their food.

As we became used to denying persistent street vendors and finding the best desserts in small cafes, we were ready to continue our travels through the countryside. We started the day off with breathtaking views from the Oracle at Delphi and eating lunch overlooking hills dotted with herds of goats. We passed our

time on the bus singing songs and waiting in the rotation for our three-minute massage from John Hollingsworth.

Once we got to Kalambaka we were all tired, and only gelato could solve our problems. We roamed the streets of the small village for a while and then quickly decided to rest for the upcoming day. The next morning we drove through cliffs and hills to the monasteries of Meteora. There was fog resting on the cliffs, and the monasteries perched on top of the cliffs high in the sky. After our tour of the monasteries we continued our drive toward the ferry, growing increasingly fond of our bus

driver Demitri. He could get our giant bus in the smallest alley ways and always aimed to please his passengers. He made plenty of special stops, and we were able to see a sight rarely seen by native Texans: fresh snow!

The ferry from Greece to Italy was the perfect chance to rest up. In no time we were in Rome and preparing for a full day of exploring. The next morning there was an optional trip to the Catacombs, but I spent the morning getting a head start on exploring and eating gelato at the Trevi Fountain for breakfast. In the afternoon, the whole group got back together to tour Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel. That night

people explored restaurants around our hotel and gathered in common areas for the best access to WiFi and late night games. On our last day in Rome we saw more of the Trevi Fountain and toured the Colosseum. As we walked through the city we saw where Julius Caesar was stabbed, eventually making our way to the shops leading up to the Spanish Steps. Every once in a while we rejuvenated with more gelato, coffee, and pizza.

On our last day we took a train to Florence, and with six hours of free time there to look forward to, everyone had shopping on their minds. We started with a walking tour and saw gorgeous churches and statues. Markets are filled with thousands of purses, journals, and jackets that are sold by very pushy vendors. After that we had the rest of the day to ourselves to explore the city and its bountiful shops and vendors. People received discounts for things like being blonde and being from Texas. After the day was over nearly everyone had shopping bags filled with presents to take home. My personal favorite purchase would be the handmade leather sandals that I bought at the market – stylish, and good story to go with it.

After a couple of days back in Texas with family we were all ready to go back. It is said that world travelling is a life-changing event, and I would agree. You could watch as the group forgot the normalcy of life at home and enjoyed the moment with the people around them. Discovering the different cultures alongside my closest friends was an experience I wouldn't trade for the world.



Oracle at Delphi

photo: submitted

## 'Scary' llamas, chocolate flowers wow students on field trips

continued from page 3

the first hayride ever for many of the students. The students also went to the dairy and learned how to milk a cow.

"Well, the guy did squirt milk out of the cow on some of the people," Elizabeth McKinnerney said. "He showed us how to milk the cow with the milk machine."

For lunch, the students had a picnic, and they were allowed to put their leftovers in a bucket for the pigs, which they all enjoyed. The last hour of the field trip was left to exploration.

"We got to look at the animals, even an ostrich egg," Michael Molina said. "The llamas were scary when they stand up on their feet."

The kindergartners went on trails and saw a porcupine, owls, and farm animals, as well as the area for tiny animals, which housed various different "mini" animals. The kids also saw a peacock, some very large pigs, and a three-week-old piglet, which they could pet.

"The hen was squeaking too much and it was so funny," Toby Olasode said.

The kindergartners go to the farm to study new life, and they learn how Jesus also brings new life through His resurrection. According to teacher Diane Troutman, some are simply excited to ride the bus.

"It was the first time to take the school bus, which was exciting for the kids; for the teachers it was a relief," she said. "We always stress out about getting the kids in the cars with the parents. The bus allowed more parents to go."

The father of senior Natalie Williams is a farmer at Crowe's Nest who does presentations with the dairy cow, and he always says Brentwood is his favorite school that tours.

"It's nice that since they know where we're from, they can present in a Christian way, how God has blessed the farm with animals and all they give us," Troutman said.

On March 22, BCS second graders went to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for

a day to continue their science unit on plants.

The students were able to go to five interactive "smarty plants" stations: plant parts, plant habitats, a scavenger hunt, water, and insect evidence.

"I like the rocks and water," Kendal Robertson said. "It's when the water changes the rocks to smooth and hard."

The study of water's effects on rocks was a favorite of many students, but a fierce competitor for highlight of the day to the students was the scavenger hunt. The kids had to search all around the center for pictures of cartoons and other things, and the hunt ended with outdoor exercise equipment for the kids to play on.

The fifth station, insect evidence, taught the second graders the effects a bug had on a plant, and the students were sent out to find plants affected by insects.

"My favorite part was looking for leaves with big bumps when they were injured and worms would live inside them and eat them,"

Jack Hansen said.

The students were able to look through a waterfall, and according to second-grade teacher Sandy Patterson, there were a lot of bluebonnets and other wildflowers this year due to the amount of rain Austin has received recently.

"We saw a waterfall in a cave and we got to smell some flowers," Caleb Catron said. "They smell yummy. One was a chocolate flower."

The students had a picnic lunch in a wooded area where there were double and single seater swings and a rope swing. Soon it was time for all 46 second graders and 12 adults to return to campus.

Most high schoolers look back on the field trips of their elementary and middle school days and the places they went fondly.

"It's a place you normally wouldn't get to go to and experience, and you experience it with classmates, parents, and teachers, and that makes it special," junior Claire Nestor said.