

# THE BEAR FACTS



VOL. 29 NO. 5

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MARCH 2017

## Seniors tour Italy; others visit D.C.

By Kaitlyn Baird

Between the White House and the waters of Venice, two BCS classes are embarking on unforgettable spring break trips.

The senior class left Austin on March 9 to fly to Italy, while the eighth graders will leave Sunday for Washington, D.C.

The 27 seniors on the trip will spend nine days in Italy with 14 parents and six sponsors. Highlights of the trip include visits to the Colosseum, Pompeii ruins, and the Sistine Chapel.

"I'm excited," senior Rachel Beggs said. "It'll be fun to see the new culture and a lot of history."

Before landing in Italy, some students will have to change flights in other cities.

Senior Daniel Ayala said he's excited for the trip, but for a reason other than the history. He is one of a few seniors who are hoping to attend a soccer game while they're in Italy. Ayala isn't sure whether they'll get to go or not, but he said, "It'll be cool if it works out."

The group flew overnight to Italy, and they will land in Milan today. Then they will travel to Venice, where places such as the Grand Canal and St. Mark's Square are waiting to be explored.

The seniors will stay in Venice until day four. Then they will head to Florence and get to see the Duomo, which is the domed top of the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral. On day five, the seniors can also choose to take a half-day excursion to Pisa, or they can stay in Florence.

Their sixth day in Italy will be spent in Assisi, where they will visit the Basilica of St. Francis, which is the resting place of the Saint.

Day seven will consist of going to Pompeii and seeing the ruins left from the destruction caused by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in



photo: Expedia.com

**History awaits** Seniors have already departed for Italy, where they will tour such sites as the Roman Forum.

79 A.D. While they are near the cities of Sorrento and Pompeii, the seniors also have the option to visit the island of Capri nearby.

Senior Megan Crawford said she's looking

see **TRIPS**, page 8

## Young actors both touching, funny in plays

By Lauren Weilemann

Remember in middle school, how all you wanted was to be part of the "in" crowd? How the only thing that could make you cool was to have less acne, stylish clothes, and a new haircut? Nobody knows those feelings better than the students in the one act plays *Hoodie* and *Eggheads*.

The Brentwood Christian middle schoolers portraying these students poured their souls into these exaggerated and all-too-relatable characters during performances on Feb. 17 and 18 in the Center for Science and the Arts.

The students had audience members laughing out loud with their portrayal of cringe-worthy, awkward moments and witty jokes.

"It was remarkable how such new actors were able to convey so much depth and maturity through a simple comedic play," said senior and last year's student director Camille Sunshine.

*Hoodie*, in *Hoodie*, was played by seventh-grader Emma Ayers. Other cast members included seventh-graders Sam Benton, Sarah Orick, and Lilly Ruiz, and eighth-graders Mason Hejl, Alyssa McLain, and Abi Walker.

Gwyneth and Phil, in *Eggheads*, were played by seventh-graders Janae Thompson and Brandon Tindel. Other cast members included seventh-graders Alicia Gardner, Keller Jackson, Lola Ohlhaber, and Cruz Wilkie.

*Hoodie* is about the struggles of personal image and insecurity in the life of middle school students, who, unbeknownst to the rest, are struggling with a lot of the same issues: too much cologne or not enough? Is my T-shirt cool enough? Will my voice crack when I'm talking to someone cool? What if I don't want to conform?

While some of the questions the kids wrestled with were normal, others were quite laughable. Instead of body changes in terms of puberty, the character of Jimmy

see **ONE-ACT**, page 4

## Soccer falls one win short of state

By Jackson Baird

Midway through the second half, senior Brandon Patterson scored with a low, hard driven shot from just inside the 18-yard box, and the home crowd erupted. With this goal the Bears secured the 3-0 win in their second-round playoff game on Feb. 25 against McKinney Christian.

Freshman Zach Myers burned the McKinney defense for the game's first two goals, one in each half. Brentwood dominated its opponent throughout the game as they lived to play another round.

Three days later, their season ended with a 3-1 loss against Dallas Covenant in Waco. Brentwood got down early and were trailing 1-0 at halftime. In the second half the Bears gave up another early goal, but they kept up the intensity and got a goal back off a 40-yard free kick from freshman Jonah Connor. But Covenant recaptured the momentum and sealed the win with another goal.

The Bears finished the season with an

overall record of 11-3, closing with a seven-game win streak to win district.

First-year coach Jesse Jordan expressed a lot



photo: Kim Connor

**Fast-paced** Brandon Patterson, right, who led BCS with 18 goals this season, and Preston Glenn helped the Bears beat Waco Reicher 6-0 on Feb. 13.

of pride in his team and what they were able to accomplish.

"We have a lot to be grateful for this season," he said. "We improved this season as a team and as individuals. We overcame adversity, learned life lessons through the great game of soccer, and most importantly, grew spiritually," Jordan said.

Senior Brandon Patterson led the team with 18 goals, followed by freshman Zach Myers with 16. Leading in assists was Patterson with 13, followed by senior Will Moncure with seven.

The Bears ended their regular season on Feb. 16 with an 8-0 win in Temple against Holy Trinity, securing their fifth-straight district title. Patterson was proud of the seniors' accomplishment of winning district all four years.

"It feels amazing, and it shows how hard we have worked over the last four years," Patterson said.

see **SOCCER**, page 5

*Lighting the Darkness:* Camille Sunshine

# Play your part in life's story with purpose

Ever since the beginning, humans have been interested in story. Especially before becoming literate, a culture's identity was held in the words of the storytellers and the tales of the songs they sang. I absolutely love stories. My favorite things in the world are filled with them: books, movies, TV shows, history, old books, old people, old technology ... You get the picture. Story is about feeling, life, and identity.

"Everything's a story – you are a story, I am a story," said author Frances Hodgson Burnett.

If you think about it, you could write a great book about anybody's life. Maybe even a movie. There are several basic plotlines and several basic roles you could fill.

In terms of love: You can be the best friend, the reject, the guy who has tried so many times but just can't get anyone, the flirt, the creep, the jock, or the girl who gets whom-ever she wants. You could be the hero, the villain, the bystander, the victim, the supporter, those people who get stepped on while they run screaming, the first to die, or the survivor. Your life could be a fairy tale, a stream-of-consciousness poem, a horror movie, a Russian tragedy, a Greek play, Shakespeare, a comedy, or a reality TV show.

You can look at your life from a third-person point of view, first person, or even second person, or better yet, a combination of all three. Your story can be a predictable love story, a thriller with a shocking spoiler, a tragic life story, a pointless sitcom, or maybe even a quirky detective show. You can be the girl with the perfect life, the guy with a dark past, the man with no future, or the woman who is still

waiting.

Please don't treat these like a personality type test. My point is that God created you uniquely, and your story is going to be unique. There is no "supposed to happen" or "should be's" in life. Nearly every episode of Veggie Tales ends by saying, "God made you special, and He loves you very much."

People like to say things like, "Be the hero of your own story." And sure, that's great. But I

---

*Our stories are made up of here and now. Your past is something you can do absolutely nothing about, and as much as you plan for the future, things get in the way that you never expected.*

---

know when I think "hero," I think that means I need to go out and do something big – that my life up until this point has been Peter Parker before he got bit by a spider. And some people are going to do "great big" things, like find the cure for cancer, die saving 50 people, become the first something or another to do this or that, invent the next fad, or become rich enough to own some huge islands.

But maybe being the hero of your story doesn't mean becoming Iron Man. There is nothing wrong with being the best friend of

the story. Maybe her story doesn't get told, but that doesn't mean it wasn't a great story. I think, more than doing things that everyone hears about, we should spend more time in our stories right where we are. If you stepped into Middle Earth and told Frodo Baggins everything he was about to go through, he would have wasted all his peaceful time in the Shire planning for the future, and he would never have been a friend to Samwise Gamgee. And we all know that if Sam hadn't come with Frodo, the ring would never have been destroyed.

Our stories are made up of here and now. Your past is something you can do absolutely nothing about, and as much as you plan for the future, things get in the way that you never expected. Captain America had no idea that he would get frozen for 70 years.

Matthew 6:34 says, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Let's take our stories one sentence at a time, making each sentence the best it can be, and by doing that making the chapters of those around us even better.

And no matter how our stories may end, whether they would be traditionally classified as happy or sad endings, let's live in a way that makes them meaningful, no matter how random they may seem. Let's live so that every word works together to characterize the hero of the little things, the lover, the best friend, the supporter, the cheerful giver, and the sacrificer, who gives the obvious heroes their stories.

Doctor Who, one of my favorite TV characters, once said, "We are all stories in the end – just make it a good one."

## THE BEAR FACTS

Brentwood Christian School  
11908 North Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78753

The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of BCHS. 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.

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Camille Sunshine

**Photo Editor**  
Thomas Yates

### Reporters

Jackson Baird	Savannah Jowers
Kaitlyn Baird	Michael Milicia
Blake Benton	Hannah Odum
Zack Haswell	Uyen Phan
Benjamin Helyer	Lauren Weilemann
Nicholas Hunka	Mary Womack

### The Honorary Omelettes

Rachel Beggs	Merideth Mallett
Samantha Mack	Gabie Nguyen

**Adviser**  
Jonathan Weed

The Bear Facts is available online at  
[www.brentwoodchristian.org](http://www.brentwoodchristian.org).

## The Honorary Omelettes: The Animal Talent Show

My tongue is 20 inches long!



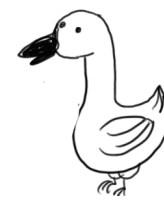
I can sense electronic fields!

I can hold my breath for 20 minutes!



There are 50,000 of me per acre.

I peck at small children.



**READER:** What happens when you give a mouse a cookie?

**EDNA:** Many books are sold.

**READER:** What should I do if I'm bored over spring break?

**EDNA:** Try checking out the various lists detailing how to get kicked out of Walmart.

**READER:** Is the moon really made of cheese?

**EDNA:** It's sharp cheddar, to be exact. The cow that jumped over the moon was pulled

## THE DEAR EDNA COLUMN

by the lovely Ms. Edna

in by the moon's gravity and was trapped for so long she decided to start a cheese making factory, and that's why we call it the Milky Way.

**READER:** How can I make myself seem smarter over text?

**EDNA:** Address them by their full name to as-

sert dominance. Or place judgmental emojis after everything they say.

**READER:** My favorite puzzle is missing a piece. What do I do?

**EDNA:** Accuse your friends, family, and pets of stealing it until you realize it was stuck to

your thigh all along.

**READER:** Do guinea pigs prefer people with blonde hair or brown?

**EDNA:** Brown. It reminds them of their days lounging in the dirt as normal, free range pigs.

**READER:** How do we know that the sky is "up"?

**EDNA:** Sky is up 'cause you look up to see it. Just like fall is fall 'cause leaves fall down.



THE BEAR FACTS MARCH 2017

# Seniors take day off to honor each other

By Hannah Odom

"I'm not ready for the day we say 'goodbye' instead of 'see you later.'"

Abbey Rae Alcantar expressed these sentiments to her peers as she reflected on the bittersweet end for Brentwood Christian's Class of 2017 at their Super Senior celebration.

Gathered at the Longhorns for Christ Center at University Avenue Church of Christ on Tuesday Feb. 7, the senior class enjoyed skipping class, hanging out downtown, and blessing one another.

Students were accompanied on their field trip by class sponsors Cindy Nestor and Pam Hardin, secondary principal Carol Johnson, and marketing and communications manager Oriana Wilson.

The seniors enjoyed breakfast tacos and a spread of other "delicacies" such as donuts, fruit, cheese, and juice, followed by seniors reading one-page blessings to one another on stage in front of all of their classmates.

Commonly thought of as one of Brentwood's sweetest seniors, Morgan George moved the audience with her self admitted "cheesy" poem for Charlie Vazquez.

While some of the blessings were mushy with sentiment, others were slightly less sweet. As Claudya Torres put it, "It's not bullying if it's mutual – it's friendship."

This "friendly bullying" could be found in a number of the seniors' blessings. One of the

class's favorite blessings was CJ Eno's blessing to Daniel Ayala, as it was riddled with wisecracks.

"I hope that your afro grows bigger and bigger and touches more lives," Eno said to Ayala, who is known to friends as BLD, or Bad Luck Daniel.

Hannah Odom, an outgoing senior, performed a Hamilton rap parody as her blessing to Uyen Phan.

"It was amazingly touching," Phan said. "I have never seen so much dedication and talent in a gift like Hannah's rap. That was some top-notch, next-level senior blessing."

After the blessings, the seniors were let loose for a couple of hours on South Congress, where everyone grabbed a bite to eat, wandered about, and did some selfie shooting.

Most students went to Hopdoddy or Home Slice and then acted as tourists, visiting Lucy In Disguise and antique shops, and viewing Austin's most beautiful graffiti attractions.

Though the seniors' time together is coming to a close, Macy Kidwell reminds the

Class of 2017 that "although we are approaching the end of high school, that doesn't mean we are approaching the end of our friendship."



Friends Sam Mack embraces Claudya Torres after giving her a blessing at Super Senior on Feb. 7. *photo: Oriana Wilson*

# Dinner guest is legendary Longhorn QB

By Blake Benton

The 26th annual Partnership Dinner is just around the corner. For 26 years, Brentwood Christian School has been hosting this fundraising dinner to help keep tuition low. This year, BCS will be interviewing a college football legend who will talk about how he has continued to keep his faith throughout his football career.

Colt McCoy is currently a quarterback with the NFL's Washington Redskins. His legacy started with the University of Texas, where he graduated in 2010 as the winningest college quarterback of all time after breaking multiple school records. McCoy was selected twice as a Heisman Trophy finalist. In the five years he was at UT, he took the Longhorns to a 45-8 record and a trip to college football's championship game against Alabama.

Students and parents alike have expressed an eagerness to hear McCoy speak.

"After growing up in a Longhorn crazed family, hearing that Colt McCoy is speaking at the dinner excited my whole family," sophomore Madison Moseley said.

BCS dad Brent Allen will interview McCoy at the dinner, asking him questions about how his football career has had an effect on his spiritual life and how he managed to stand firm in his faith in a world where glorifying one's self is more popular than glorifying God.

"I am excited to hear him tell his story and share with our families how he has managed to keep God so firmly in his life when he lives in such rarefied air," Brentwood president Jay Burcham said.

BCS event manager Sarah Wilson and the rest of the development and events office is in charge of planning the dinner, which will once again be held at the Renaissance Hotel in the Arboretum, on Friday, March 24. Families who have made reservations can come at 6 p.m. to participate in the silent auction. Then they will enjoy dinner as they are entertained by McCoy, followed by a live auction by BCS dad Jason Rzepniewski.

Some of the items going up for grabs at the auctions are two #12 Texas Longhorns jerseys signed by McCoy – one burnt orange and one white – as well as a signed Washington Redskins #16 McCoy jersey. Those participating in the silent auction must register to bid on their smartphones or computers since the auction is completely mobile.

To keep the tradition alive, a black lab puppy will be auctioned off to a lucky bidding family.

Dress code for the evening will be business casual or your favorite football jersey.

# Students learn at Johnson Space Center

By Benjamin Helyer

Continuing a tradition of 31 years, the BCS sixth-grade class ventured to NASA on Feb. 28 for a day filled with excitement and learning.

The day began with an early start at 5 a.m., when the class of 48 students headed out on buses

to the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Upon arrival, the students got on a tram for a tour starting at 9:30, and they spent the rest of the morning exploring the Space Center.

At one point during the day, the class was able to see an astronaut in training. After the morning activities were completed, the sixth graders gathered for lunch before beginning the next part of their day.

In the afternoon, the class split into two groups and headed to either the Expedition Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science or the Expedition Center at the George Observatory for simulated space missions. The students performed tasks related to positions that they had applied to before the trip, with jobs ranging from life support to navigation. After the simulations were complete, the class arrived back home

around 9:30 p.m.

The coordinator for the trip was sixth-grade teacher Carrie Hunter, who went on the trip when she was in sixth grade at Brentwood in the 1990s.

"I think that this is such a great experience for the kids," she said, and noted that the students not only learn about NASA and mission control, but also work on communication, problem solving, and other general skills that will help them throughout the rest of their lives.

Several students expressed excitement for the trip before leaving. When asked about his anticipations for the trip, Hunter Biegert simply exclaimed, "NASA!" Jason Lilya noted that his father has been on the NASA trip with his other three children, and this will be the last year for him to go. Nathan Esche said he was looking forward to the missions and was excited about performing his job as one of the navigators.

Also accompanying the class were teachers Kay Taylor, Paula Bennett, and Evan Johnson, and secondary principal Carol Johnson.



*photo: Carrie Hunter*

High pressure Mia Fluitt and Hayden Hutson carry out their assigned tasks on Feb. 28 in Houston.



**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Alicia Dixon**

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2017.

# Creative athlete, leader, passionate about faith

By Mary Womack

“Good morning, good *morning* ...”

It’s first period, and Alicia Dixon has entered the room singing to everyone, or to no one in particular. This was her routine last year.

Alicia’s name is well known and loved around and beyond the Brentwood Christian campus. She’s not the kind of person anyone forgets easily, even if they’ve only met her once. Her outgoing personality, quirky humor, long blond hair, and obvious passion for Christ make her stand out in any crowd.

## One-act plays

continued from page 1

turned into a square.

“I’m a square! It’s not normal to turn into a square,” seventh-grader Jesse Brothers’ character Jimmy cried. “Who wants to be friends with a square?”

While both *Hoodie* and *Eggheads* were comedic, *Eggheads* had a touch of charm.

*Eggheads* revolves around the character of Gwyneth, who has just gotten her results from a standardized test back saying she is a certified genius, or an “egghead.” The results say she should move up to 11th grade next year. Gwyneth, already dealing with trying to fit in, is thrown quite a curveball. She is afraid that if the other students find out that she is a genius, she won’t have any hope of fitting in.

In a string of conversations resembling the game “Telephone,” Gwyneth’s problem gets morphed into being given the condition “eggy head” by aliens, working in a government lab, and even going to jail for hacking into a government website. In the end, Phil, worried for Gwyneth after hearing she’d been arrested, discovers all the rumors are false, and reminds her that she is not alone in being different.

First-year middle school theater director Deborah Strickland said she was pleased to see how well things came together.

“Since I’m new to teaching theater, there was a lot that I had to research or draw from people who have more experience,” Strickland said. “I think the most difficulty I had was with the timing of everything.”

Assistant director and eighth-grader Mason Hejl said he thought Strickland deserved high marks for her leadership.

“Getting to be the assistant director was good experience, and Mrs. Strickland did great considering this was her first play. I liked that all the rehearsals were very organized and planned out,” Hejl said.

In fact, many seniors can recall when they first met Alicia, and what a massive impact she played in their lives.

“I remember meeting her at a fire drill and just being so struck with her positivity and love for other people,” close friend Elayna Bruce says. “She spoke so passionately about her church, which is one of the main reasons I go to church there today.”

Alicia’s older sister Rachel is a sophomore at St. Edward’s University, and her younger brother Sam is a BCS sophomore.

Alicia is famous for her ability to maintain a good attitude about whatever comes her way, especially the many things she participates in, both on and off the BCS campus. When other students might be complaining about a difficult week at school, Alicia is the one to smile and genuinely exclaim, “You can do it!”

Ever since she came to Brentwood in fifth grade, Alicia has been actively involved in volleyball, basketball, and even cross country for a year. She has participated in BCS basketball since fifth grade, and volleyball since sixth grade.

“Sports taught me dedication and commitment,” Alicia says. “Sometimes it was a challenge for me to push through. But in sports you really are encouraged to commit fully and grow in your role on the team.”

Every team Alicia has played with has benefited from not only her athletic ability but also her leadership and personability.

“She’s probably the most focused on fundamentals out of any other player I’ve coached,” basketball coach Devan Loftis says. “I think it speaks to her character and desire to do things the right way and commit.”

Alicia’s focus and dedication are a major part of why she has been so successful in basketball. She is fifth overall in BCS Lady Bears history with over 1,200 points, and third all-time in rebounds and blocks. Not only this, but she is the first player to be named first-team all-district all four years of high school. This year she can also add the honor of first-team all-state.

Not only does Alicia commit fully to her sports teams, she has been involved with Student Council throughout high school and was elected vice president her senior year.

“I love the creativity I can have in StuCo,” Alicia says. “It’s limitless.”

For example, Alicia participated in last week’s talent show both with StuCo and in another act when she rapped “Can’t Hold Us” with fellow senior Hannah Odom.

“She has so much confidence and never is afraid to take risks,” Hannah says. “Her energy

is simply amazing.”

Alicia’s confidence and ability to think outside the box have always been a big part of her character. She excelled at art her first three years in high school but was unable to continue this year due to her busy schedule. But Alicia continues to exercise her creative abilities during yearbook. She

has been an essential part of the yearbook staff since ninth grade and was promoted to editor-in-chief this year.



“I’m so thankful to have Alicia in class,” yearbook teacher Mere Rowlett says. “Her creativity is the driving force behind the yearbook. She is always really excited about new ideas she has.”

But despite all the talent and initiative Alicia possesses, she is never known to brag. And it is quite clear to Alicia’s friends, coaches, and teachers why.

“Her faith is evident in everything she does. She is never afraid to ask the hard questions and really pursue Jesus with all she has,” close friend Jessica Bruce says.

Alicia attends Grace Covenant Church where she is actively involved in the youth group and has gone on many mission trips. Some of these mission trips include going to Houston her sophomore year and Uganda her junior year, and she will be going on a mission trip to Houston again during spring break.

“Missions showed me the crazy amount of power Jesus’ love has. It’s really great to watch it in action and working through people by acts of service,” Alicia says.

Many people would agree that Alicia’s ability to see the big picture and put things in perspective is a direct result of her complete faith in God.

Alicia will carry her faith and positive attitude with her as she departs for Texas A&M next year to study either health or nursing.

“Remember,” she likes to remind her friends, “it’s trash *can*, not trash *can*.”



# Enthusiastic teacher loves family, nature, reading

By Uyen Phan

Five-foot-three, dark-haired, with a celestial voice and the welcoming charm of a classic Southern belle, second-grade teacher Cynthia Hutson always maintains an aura of support and enthusiasm, whether she is hitting the high notes of “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” during devotional time, sharing faith to the elementary girls at her church, or cheering for her children’s performances.

“She is a born teacher,” fellow second-grade teacher Sandy Patterson says. “When I first became a second-grade teacher, I would just grab her for help all the time when she picked her kids up after school like, ‘Come in, come in!’”

According to Patterson, Hutson’s gift for teaching provided her assistance and training throughout her first few years in the elementary department, especially when it came to special needs students. Her readiness and creativity have also been an incredible asset to Patterson since the two became colleagues five years ago.

Patterson says she remembers their first field trip to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Neither of them had been to the place, and there were no tours that they could book. The planning process became more urgent when Patterson had to take a week off right before the trip due to family business. When she came back, Patterson said she was astounded to see that Hutson had planned out everything neatly.

“I am so grateful to have her teaching by my side,” Patterson says.

Born and raised just outside New Orleans, La., Hutson moved to Texas to obtain a bachelor’s degree in special education at Abilene Christian University and a master’s in language and learning disabilities at Texas Woman’s University in Dallas. Hutson said this decision came from her concern for those with disabilities, which was sparked from interacting with a close aunt and special needs students during high school.

“I held a special place in my heart for those with disabilities and learning differences,” Hutson shares.

Hutson spent a total of nine years in the Dallas area, teaching upper elementary with learning difficulties in Richardson ISD and then Lewisville ISD. It was also in Dal-

las where she met her husband Darrell; they taught preschool and vacation Bible classes together at Prestoncrest Church of Christ. Hutson stopped teaching for a while when she had their first child, Haley (BCS Class of 2015).

They moved to Austin after having their second child, Hope (BCS senior). Hutson started teaching at BCS when Hope started school, but she took some time off again to care for their third child, Hayden (BCS sixth grade). Nevertheless, her desire to teach enabled



her to reapply to Brentwood when the second-grade position came open.

“I love to see kids learning. You can just see when the light turns on and they just get it,” Hutson says with a wide beam.

Hutson shared that she thinks second grade is an important stage when students can incorporate basic knowledge into application, especially in reading and mathematics.

“You can see when the love to read starts to form in students,” Hutson says.

The transition from being a second grader to an adult is an incredible process, according to Hutson. Seeing how much students have matured when they come by to say hello always surprises her in the most pleasant ways. Hutson says she recalls when the former “shy, quiet” Erika DuPond (BCS Class of 2013) came to visit before her high school graduation and left Hutson teary-eyed with gifts and words of encouragement.

“Sometimes you don’t realize the little things you did could impact someone so much,” Hutson reflects.

Indeed, Hutson always seems to guarantee the most memorable activities in her lessons. One of her trademarked projects for the second graders is writing a book about bats as part of a unit on vertebrates.

“Austin is a large home to Mexican free-tailed bats, (which) makes it even more exciting,” Hutson says.

The research usually takes weeks and involves multiple parts such as going on field trips

to Austin Nature and Science Center and reading books about the animal. Students write and rewrite their work, so by the end of the project, striking improvements can be seen in their writing skill. Hutson says she and the students are always amazed by the progress.

Beside winged mammals, Hutson also has a passion on Native American and pioneer studies, which are then transcribed to entertaining yet educational hours in class. Students visit Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms, learn to square dance for a performance on Grandparents’ Day, and even make cinnamon-sugar butter and recreate pioneer recipes in class.

“We would bake in her class,” says seventh-grader Claire Pittner, who reveals that she most adores Hutson’s pumpkin muffins.

When class time is over, Hutson is a PSIA coach for the listening competition. A member of FAB due to her children’s ardor for fine arts, she constantly helps out in school events and goes to games. Hutson’s knack for teaching is also utilized in her contributions for Leander Church of Christ: She leads a fourth/fifth-grade girls’ Bible class, Vacation Bible School, and seniors’ youth group Sweetheart Banquet.

As active a teacher as she is, it is not a surprise that one of Hutson’s hobbies is exploring nature. She says every summer, her family goes to Great Smoky Mountains National Park to visit her relatives and spend time with each other. They cover up to 12 miles a day, spotting bears and elks on the way, playing in the streams, and watching “the film” at the Visitor’s Center every time, reciting the script and music until all burst out laughing. They have also tried rafting on the river and snowboarding in Colorado, which Hutson claims “were both fears that (she) faced and enjoyed.”

“I love spending time with my family, and I love being out in nature to see God’s creation,” Hutson shares. “I consider both God’s richest blessings.”

When alone, Hutson says she likes to read novels, especially Christian fiction. Her all-time favorite, she says, is the Mark of the Lion trilogy by Francine Rivers, due to its brilliance in perfectly integrating the Christian aspect into the historical context.

With her passion for teaching and for God’s creation, it’s hard not to love Mrs. Hutson.

## Soccer

continued from page 1

Following are the results of the final regular season games:

**2/6: @ Waco Vanguard 8-2 W**

The Bears had a rough first half, allowing two goals off mistakes. But they quickly regained the lead and went into half with a 3-2

lead with three goals from Myers. In the second half BCS controlled the game, scoring six goals and allowing none. Second-half scorers included Myers, Patterson, junior Luke Tilley, sophomore Isaac Drew, and junior J.D. Bailey.

**2/9: San Juan Diego 8-3 W**

Myers again had three first-half goals, and Brentwood went into halftime with a 4-2 lead. The Bears struck first in the second half with a goal off a header from junior Preston Glenn.

Patterson added two more to his first-half goal, capping off his senior night with a hat trick. BCS gave up one more goal before finishing the game with a late goal from junior David Reich.

**2/13: @ Waco Reicher 6-0 W**

In a rematch against the team who beat them earlier in the season, the Bears dominated. They scored two quick goals from Patterson and Bailey, and went into the half with a 2-0

lead. In the second half BCS added four more goals, including a 20-yard free kick from sophomore Riley Walker late in the game.

**2/16: @ Temple Holy Trinity 8-0 W**

Leading only 2-0 at the half, the Bears came out with energy, scoring four goals in the first 10 minutes, putting the game away and securing their fifth-straight district title. Patterson led the team with four goals.



## Varsity track teams endure rainy meet

By Michael Milicia

Heading to spring break with their first two meets completed, the BCS varsity track teams are in good shape, with multiple athletes prepared for district placements and hoping to advance to state.

"I think our season is off to a great start," girls' head coach Katie Smith said. "It has been a little crazy with getting new runners each week from basketball and soccer, but now that we have our whole team together I am excited to see how we will do at the next few meets."

On a cold, rainy March 4 at St. Andrew's, Brentwood competed against a mixture of large and small public and private schools. Coach Smith said it was about the worst weather conditions she can recall in her 17 years of coaching track.

"I was extremely proud of how we ran yesterday in the poor conditions, and the way everyone competes without complaining," said Smith, who coaches all distance runners.

Junior Tyler Hughes took first place in the long jump (19-10), while junior Hunter Burcham was third in the discus (108-9), and sophomore Gavin Damra was fifth in the same event (99-0). Sophomore Blake Benton was first in the JV discus (103-2).

Senior Jordan Johnson finished fourth in high jump (5-6), and freshman Sam Orick was sixth in the 200 meters (26.01).

Junior Trinity Ragsdill took third in the discus (81-3), and the girls' 4x200 relay team also finished third. Sophomore Mackenzie Gatlin took sixth in the long jump (13-10) and eighth in the 100 (14.3), and freshman Kelli Tindel was sixth in triple jump (26-5).

see **TRACK**, page 8

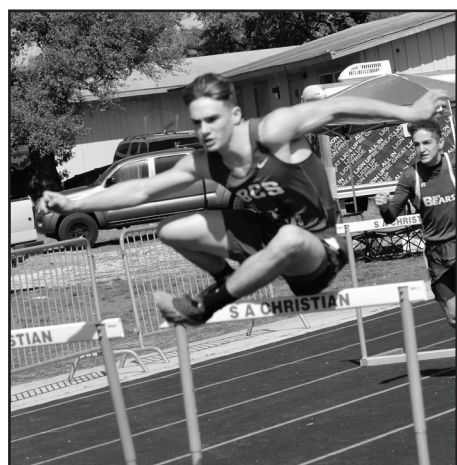


photo: Madison Bailey

**Out front** Junior Tyler Hughes won the 300 meter hurdles at the Bears' first track meet on Feb. 17 in San Antonio.

# New coaches, same strong pitching

By Benjamin Helyer

The varsity baseball team started off their season on March 2 with two easy victories at a tournament hosted by Hill Country. The planned conclusion to the tournament on Saturday was cancelled due to rain.

The Bears won their season opener 16-0 over Reagan, as senior all-state pitcher Garrison Ryberg struck out 12 batters and allowed only one hit in four innings of work. Junior Dillon Smith had a three-run home run in the game.

In the second game, against Hill Country, junior Diego Escobedo pitched five innings, striking out 10 batters.

Freshman Travis Whitaker pitched the final innings of both games.

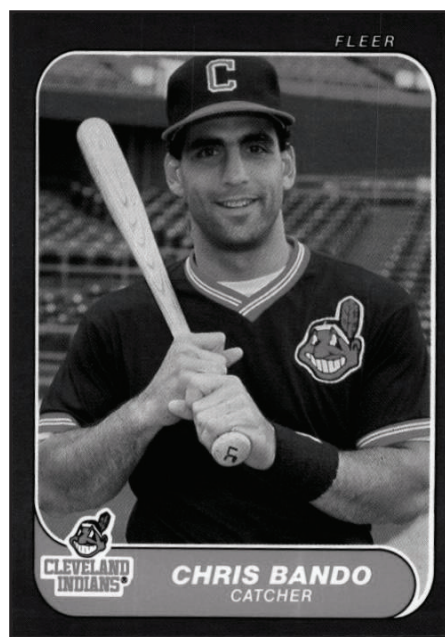
With two new coaches this year – head coach Mike Bando and his father, assistant coach Chris Bando – the team is experiencing a high level of expertise. Chris Bando played in college for Arizona State, and then in the major leagues for several seasons with the Cleveland Indians. He was also the head coach for San Diego Christian College.

Mike Bando was an assistant coach at SDCC, where he had formerly played for two seasons. He also played professionally for the Washington Wild Things of the Frontier Independent Baseball League, and previously coached at Valhalla (Calif.) High School and for Action Baseball in Cedar Park.

Mike Bando said that he came to Brentwood eager for a change from his experience in the public school system.

"Without the ability to invest spiritually in the kids, coaching just wasn't the same. So when the opportunity arrived at Brentwood, I jumped on it," he said.

This year, the team consists of eight freshmen, two sophomores, three juniors, and three



**Coach Bando** Former Cleveland Indians catcher Chris Bando is an assistant coach for the Bears' baseball team this year; his son Mike is the new head coach.

seniors. With a solid team this year, Mike Bando said that the only weakness that will need to be improved upon is the youth of the players.

"We have a lot of young talent, and their mental maturity is yet to be determined," Bando said.

Senior pitcher Garrison Ryberg said that the team looks forward to leadership from experienced upperclassmen. He also said the practices are more fruitful this year, with the new coaches bringing in solid drills. Due to this, he expects the team to improve greatly in com-

parison to previous years.

"I think the leadership from senior and junior players will help point the team in the right direction," Ryberg said.

With regard to goals for this year, Bando has several major focuses.

"My goals for the team this year are three-fold: That each player learns how to play baseball to the glory of God, that each player develops fundamentally in relation to all aspects of the game, and that we have fun and the kids grow in their love for the game," Bando explained.

Bando also expounded on the talents of Ryberg.

"He is going to be one of the key contributors this year both on the mound, at the plate, and in relation to his leadership," Bando said.

Ryberg has plans to pitch in college as well, stating that he is looking at potential junior colleges to begin his post-high school baseball career. With this being his last year at Brentwood, he says he wants to finish strong.

"I'm going to make this one count," he said. "This is it."

Bando named Escobedo and sophomore Jack Oberwortmann as two more key components of the team.

"Diego also is a very talented player that will be a huge impact in every way that Garrison will be," he said. "Jack is one of the most talented players on the team and has baseball instincts that you can't teach."

At the other end of the spectrum for ages on the team, freshman perceptions about the team are positive as well.

"We have a great team and great coaches. If I mess up, they are there to pick me up," freshman Isaac Copeland said. "You are part of a tradition, and that's cool."

## Boys' hoops season ends with heart-breaker

By Savannah Jowers

The varsity boys' basketball season came to an end on Feb. 14, when they lost 51-50 in Houston to Woodlands Christian.

Brentwood finished the season third in district with an overall record of 19-13.

Led by seniors Jordan Johnson, Graham Marks, and Michael Hickl, who each scored 11 points in the game, the Bears took the lead over Woodlands in the first half. Holding the lead until the end, Brentwood fell behind with 30 seconds left and were unable to answer.

"They played the best in the last two weeks, but sometimes the ball just doesn't bounce our way," head coach Jan Jernberg said.

The regular season ended on Feb. 3 when the boys beat Geneva 64-58, making them second in district going into the district tournament.

The boys opened the tournament at home with a 66-32 win over Giddings. During the first quarter, Johnson sprained his ankle, and Marks stepped up and took on Johnson's role as point guard.

Next, on Feb. 9, Brentwood lost their rematch with Geneva 52-51. Ahead by one point, the Bears lost control of the ball with a few seconds left, and Geneva made the winning shot.

Back at home on Friday, Feb. 10, BCS defeated Marble Falls in the consolation game by 20.

Jernberg said the boys lived up to his expectations for how the season would go, and

that even when they lost games, they never lost their team bond.

While the seniors agreed that they will miss playing, they said they had a good season. Johnson added that the team has gotten better in their offensive skills, both as individuals and as a team.

Jernberg celebrated his 800th career win near the end of the season. Jernberg has been coaching for 40 years, but this is his first year at Brentwood.

"He's the best coach we've had," Michael Hickl said.

Jernberg said that overall the Bears had a good season, and they are excited to welcome new players to their team next year.



# Girls fall in playoffs to eventual champ

By Nicholas Hunka

After winning their first playoff game against Woodlands Christian, the Lady Bears were unable to defeat a strong opponent in Houston Lutheran North on Feb. 18 at Blinn College in Brenham. The 55-38 loss ended Brentwood's season just short of making the state tournament.

The Lady Bears finished the season second in district with an 8-2 record (22-9 overall).

BCS had a difficult time scoring against Lutheran North. Coach Devan Loftis said the Lions had two guards that were difficult to defend. He also said Brentwood played outstanding defense but it just wasn't enough to keep Lutheran North from hitting their shots.

"Overall it was a solid game for us, and even though we lost, we know we played hard with no regrets," senior Addy Hardin said.

Lutheran North went on to win the state title, defeating Trinity Christian 59-45.

In the Lady Bears' previous playoff game on Feb. 14, Brentwood defeated Woodlands Christian 49-24 at Brentwood.

Before playoffs began, BCS played in a district tournament to determine the district champion. Playing in the championship game on Feb. 10, the Lady Bears were defeated by top-seed Marble Falls.

BCS came out strong and played defense well in the first half. At halftime, they led the Flames 17-15, but in the third quarter Marble Falls took the lead by two points. Although Brentwood battled, they couldn't regain the lead. They missed a 3-pointer that would have tied the game and lost 40-37.

Loftis said the game was one of the team's best of the year, and the girls competed really hard throughout the game.

After the season, seniors Alicia Dixon, Addy Hardin, and Kayleigh Lawrence were named first-team all-district. Senior Abby White and sophomore Nyna Vazquez were named second-team all-district. Juniors Grace McDaniel, Emma Leidlen, and Hannah Lewis all were given honorable mention.

Thinking back on her experience as a Lady Bear, Hardin said that playing at Brentwood means more than simply being an athlete on a team.

"The Loftises have built up a solid program that not only helps each person become a better player, but also teaches us what it truly means to be a Christian," Hardin said.

# Softball team preparing for 'brutal' district

By Lauren Weilemann

The varsity softball team opened the season by beating St. Andrews 14-6 on Feb. 20 before losing several games the following week against difficult competition.

The girls will begin their district season against Faith Academy on March 21.

Head coach Paul Sladek and his players knew they would have trouble with their early opponents, since Sladek intentionally scheduled tough teams so the girls would be ready for their difficult district schedule.

Sladek said the team has lost some great assets from last season, with Sofia Torres one of the biggest.

Relying on a lot of underclassmen this year, Sladek said he hopes the girls will stay positive as they are competing in a "brutal" district.

One of his main goals for the team is to get better at defense, because he says this was a weakness that hurt them in the playoffs last year.

On the bright side, the team still has Hillarie Carpenter, who Sladek says "may be the best player in school history." He says that she is an example and leader to the other girls; she can play any position well.

For the first time, Brentwood has established a middle school softball team. This year, seventh- and eighth-grade girls have the chance to hone their softball skills in preparation for the high school varsity team. They are playing in a league at Balcones, where the varsity plays its home games.



photo: Mark Hickl

**Mirrors** Senior Addy Hardin and junior Grace McDaniel play defense during the district tournament last month. Brentwood lost the championship game by three points.

# Young girls' soccer team makes playoffs, shows grit

By Jackson Baird

The girls' varsity soccer team's season ended on Feb. 25 with a 5-2 loss to Cypress Christian in the first round of area playoffs. Freshmen Kelli Tindel and Genevieve Graessle scored Brentwood's goals.

The team finished the season with an overall record of 7-6 and was fourth in district.

According to head coach Cash Miller, the team's last game in Houston really showed their "grit" and sums up their competitive spirit. Two players were out with illness, including the goalkeeper, and they only 11 players. Two other players played through sickness, including one who threw up during the game.

"We lost 5-2, but I think that game really sums up who we are. Competitors," Miller said.

This season was seen as a success by the players, who accomplished their goal of mak-

ing playoffs despite being a very young and inexperienced team.

"I thought our season went very well, considering that we had many who have never played soccer before," said junior Avery Miller, who filled in at keeper in the playoff game.

Connor and sophomore Madison Moseley led the team with 18 goals each. Miller led with 14 assists, followed by Tindel with six.

Following are the results of the final regular season games:

**2/6: Boerne Geneva 2-0 L**

Brentwood struggled to produce any offense against a team they scored five goals against earlier in the season. Therefore the Lady Bears could not withstand Geneva's constant attacks the whole game, giving up two goals.

**2/9: Pharr Oratory Athenaeum 8-1 W**

The Lady Bears dominated their opponent the whole game, going into the half with a 4-0

lead, with two goals from both Connor and Tindel. In the second half BCS added two goals from Moseley and one each from Connor and Miller.

**2/13: @ San Marcos 14-0 W**

The Lady Bears equaled their highest number of goals scored in a game this season. Connor led the team with four goals.

**2/17: Austin Veritas 8-0 L**

It was a tough night for the Lady Bears, who struggled to play defense against the district champs. There were several opportunities for BCS to get on the scoreboard late, but they could not find the back of the net. Veritas outscored their opponents in district play 108-1.



photo: Kim Connor

**Scoring machine** Junior Bekah Connor scored 18 goals this year, as did sophomore Madison Moseley.



## INSHORT



### Seniors sign to play ball

Three BCS seniors signed letters of intent to play college sports in a ceremony held on Feb. 15 in the athletics center. Brandon Patterson will play soccer at Harding University; Nicole Dobos will play volleyball at Clarendon College; and Hillarie Carpenter will play softball at Hardin-Simmons University.

### Golf champs

Both varsity golf teams won their tournaments in Temple on Monday, March 6. Senior Graham Marks shot a 72 to take the boys' individual title, while senior Kayleigh Lawrence was second among all girls.

### Velasco wins

Junior Hannah Velasco won the 100 meter butterfly and the 100 meter breaststroke at the TAPPS state swimming finals on Feb. 10 in San Antonio.

### Kolagani advances

After winning first in the school spelling bee, third-grader Michael Kolagani achieved runner-up in the Austin Regional Spelling Bee on Feb. 25 in Kyle. He will be competing in the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee on April 1.

## Students shine in talent show

By Hannah Odom

Parents, teachers, and students packed into the CSA on March 2 at 7 p.m. with high expectations for entertainment at this year's Talent Show.

After pulling the act together the day before, freshmen Addie McDaniel and Adrie Gruis won first place with their duet of "That's What's Up," by Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros.

"We weren't expecting to even place because of all the other amazing acts that performed," Gruis said. "But we had a lot of good laughs practicing, and I'm glad we did it together."

Second place was awarded to freshmen Taylor Warner and Addison Alberda, who, dressed identically, performed a synchronized en pointe dance to Galantis's "No Money."

"I'm just so excited that we could get up there and do what we love and have people enjoy it with us!" Warner said.

Seniors Morgan George and Charlie Vazquez, with Gruis on guitar, won third place with their duet of a Taylor Swift mashup of "Blank Space" and "Style."

"We had such a great time practicing and performing for the show," George said. "They're



photo: Brayden George

**Nerds** StuCo members dance to the song from *Napoleon Dynamite* at the school talent show on March 2 in the theater. The show was emceed by teacher Jimmie Harper.

both so talented, and getting to share the stage with them was awesome."

With his song "City On Our Knees" and a brief inspirational speech, eighth-grader Garrett Reagan won first place in the middle school category.

Secondary teacher Jimmie Harper emceed the show. He opened by singing Tony Bennett's "The Best is Yet to Come," capitalizing on the perfect opportunity to unleash his golden vocal cords for an adoring audience of his pupils.

Throughout the show Harper successfully executed a broad range of eccentric jokes, including getting dressed up like his backwoods

cousin named Skeeter and singing Pocahontas while stalling during the judges' deliberation.

"Being MC was such a blast," Harper said. "I had never done anything like that before, so I wasn't sure how it would go, but everyone has been super supportive and extra encouraging."

Teachers Carrie Hunter, Evan Johnson, Mere Rowlett, Jonathan Weed, and Mel Witcher served as judges for the show.

"The talent show was a huge success," StuCo president Addison Hardin said. "I think it's one of the most important StuCo events each year because it gives students the opportunity to showcase the talents God has given them."

## Track

continued from page 6

Several BCS athletes placed high in their first meet on Feb. 17 at San Antonio Christian School against schools like St. Michael's Catholic, San Antonio Christian, Antonian College Prep, and KIPP University Prep.

Hughes won the 300 hurdles (43.90) and long jump (19-7.5), and was second in the 110 hurdles (18.87). Orick got third in the 100 meters (12.91), and freshman Phillip Mach finished

fifth in the 200 (26.78). Freshman Michael Milicia was fourth in the 800 (2:31) and fifth in the 1600 (5:50). BCS took second in the 4x400 (4:15).

For the girls, Gatlin got third in the 100 (14.13), fifth in the 200 (30.35), and first in the long jump (14-02). Sophomore Jane Hughes was first in the pole vault (8-06). Ragsdill took first place in discus and fifth in shot put.

"I wish there were more girls in distance and sprints, but we have plenty of throwers," Smith explained. "We don't have enough runners to score enough points to compete at high levels.

It's not going to be impossible, but it will be tough."

This year's varsity track teams have many new runners, including 12 freshman boys and two freshman girls.

Boys' head coach Correy Washington coaches all sprinters and relay teams. Brentwood has four additional coaches specializing in different events.

Brentwood's next meet will be March 23 in Lexington. Their district meet is on Wednesday, April 19, in San Antonio.

## Trips

continued from page 1

forward to the excursion to Capri.

"I'm super excited," Crawford said. She added that she's eager to see the "really pretty beach."

On days eight and nine, the seniors will visit Rome and see its famous arena, the Colosseum. They will also go to Vatican City and the Roman Forum, the meeting place of Ancient Rome where Julius Caesar delivered some of his speeches.

The Class of 2017 will leave Italy and return

to the United States on March 18. However, the group will be taking five different flights back to Austin, and some of them will have layovers in Zurich, Amsterdam, or Frankfurt.

The six sponsors accompanying the seniors on the trip are secondary principal Carol Johnson, teacher Jimmie Harper, class sponsors Pam Hardin and Cindy Nestor, staff member Jeff Morris, and his wife Karen.

There will be 23 eighth graders exploring Washington, D.C., with nine parents and teacher sponsors Carrie Hunter and Russell Larson. Their flight leaves on March 12 at 5:15 a.m. after they meet at the airport at four in the morning.

Hunter said the day they leave is also when

the time changes, so it might be difficult getting up in the morning because everyone will already be losing an hour of sleep when the clocks spring forward. However, she said she is still looking forward to the trip.

"I am so thrilled," said Hunter, who went on to express how pleased she is to have such a "great group."

The group will visit a variety of places, including the Arlington National Cemetery, the National Holocaust Museum, the Smithsonian, the U.S. Capitol, and Mount Vernon. They'll also get to stand outside the White House to take pictures. The trip will also include visits to several memorials, such as the Lincoln, Jef-

erson, World War II, Vietnam Veterans, and Korean War Veterans.

"I'm really excited about seeing all the American history," eighth-grader Nathan Morgan said. "But even though it happened a long time ago, even now it's still going on."

One place Hunter said she is excited to visit is the National Zoo. Last year's class didn't get to go to the zoo, but this year's eighth graders will visit it before they leave on March 15.

"I am looking forward to seeing a bunch of cool destinations in person because I've only seen them in pictures," eighth-grader Caroline Griffith said.