



THE BEAR FACTS



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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MAY 2016

IN SHORT

Upcoming graduations

Commencement for the BCS Class of 2016 is Saturday, May 28, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. Kindergarten graduation is at 10 a.m. on June 2, while fifth and eighth graders receive their diplomas on June 3.

Top students honored

Andrew Armstrong and Chandler Alberda were named Mr. and Miss BCHS at the academic awards banquet, held in the CSA theater on May 13.

Citizenship award winners for each class were freshman Trung Le, sophomore Tara Whitaker, junior Camille Sunshine, and senior Rebekah Legband.

Other notable award winners included Laura Doyle (Best Thespan), and Armstrong (John Phillip Sousa).

Musical announced

Theater director Michelle Alexander announced that next fall's production will be *Cinderella*. Auditions for the musical are ongoing, and the cast will be announced soon.

StuCo election results

President: Addy Hardin
Vice president: Alicia Dixon
Secretary: Genevieve Graessle
Treasurer: Nyna Vazquez
Historian: Timothy Lee
Sr. class rep: Lindsey Scarborough
Jr. class rep: Connor White
So. class rep: Adrian Battle
Fr. class rep: Addison Alberda
At-large rep: Grace McDaniel
Upper rep: Charlie Vazquez
Lower rep: Cade Young

Stewart says goodbye after 38 years

By Mary Womack

In 1978, Jimmy Carter was president, the Dallas Cowboys won the Super Bowl with quarterback Roger Staubach, and a dozen current BCS teachers were not yet born. That same year, Becky Stewart (then Miss Blake) began teaching fourth grade at Brentwood Christian School, then located on Arroyo Seco Drive.

Stewart is retiring from teaching this year, giving her the opportunity to help her elderly mother in Iowa and to spend extra time with her two grandkids. She was honored with a reception in the church parlor on May 14, where current and former students, colleagues, and friends gathered to share stories.

When a speaker at a convention once called her "Becky Brentwood" simply

by mistake, the name stuck among those who knew and loved both the school and Stewart.

"Mrs. Stewart's history with Brentwood spans most of the school's entire history," said Dr. Libby Weed, elementary principal from 1984-2014. "She was a teacher who grasped very early on what our mission was all about and a teacher

who kept us all true to that mission."

Despite the vastly changing world around her, Stewart has been able to maintain a constant love for teaching history and other subjects to sixth graders, and to fourth graders early in her teaching career.

"The class I will miss teaching the most is History and always reading the newspaper and trying to connect it with my teaching," Stewart said.

Stewart has taught many second-generation BCS students, and some of her former pupils have returned to BCS and now work in the administration. These students include Susan Womack, Jonathan Weed, Summer Best, Paul Sladek, Carrie Hunter, and Abbie Boyd.

When Stewart began at BCS 38 years ago, her class of about a dozen students was held in a house. While she had to adjust some of her methods as the location and size of the school changed, she maintained her focus on a well-rounded education from a Christian perspective.

Many students recall Stewart teaching them much more than just the assigned material and



file photo: Stewart in 2000

see **Stewart**, page 5

Students perform at Long Center, walk red carpet

By Camille Sunshine

The Brentwood Christian theater department competed in the Greater Austin High School Musical Theater Awards at the Long

Center with their production of *Seussical* that they performed in October. The event was held on April 13, and 45 students competed from Brentwood, among 28 other schools.

Brentwood was able to compete because

they were nominated by GAHSMTA for several awards. Although they did not win any awards as a school, junior Charlie Vazquez won a scholarship from the Texas Musical Theater Workshop, where he will be able to work with Broadway stars this summer at UT.

Director Michelle Alexander said that after watching a dress rehearsal last fall, she felt like Austin needed to see what she saw.

"I was just really proud of the show and the work everyone had done," Alexander said.

Although she had missed the initial deadline, Alexander emailed GAHSMTA director and producer Ginger Morris and sent her *Seussical's* info and a video reel of the roles for which Alexander hoped to have students nominated. Last fall, representatives came from GAHSMTA to one of *Seussical's* performances and it was announced a few months later that they had been nominated for Best Set Design, Best Direction, Best Musical Direction, and Best Production. Senior Laura Doyle was nominated for Best



photo: GAHSMTA

Showtime BCS students perform a song from *Seussical* at the Long Center April 13.

see **GAHSMTA**, page 4

Lighting the Darkness: Camille Sunshine

'Missional living' requires seeing, caring in everyday life

As my classmates and I are nearing the end of high school, we are being forced to become more independent. We must think for and support ourselves, and Texas culture specifically tells us to "pick ourselves up by our bootstraps." America's culture encourages us to put ourselves above all else and do whatever it takes to get to the top.

But as a Christian school kid, I know this is not how our world is intended to be.

I know I have a habit of walking through my day, thinking of a thousand things at one time, and never noticing anyone around me. There are so many opportunities that I've missed because I just wasn't paying attention.

The iconic chorus of the Beatles song "Eleanor Rigby" says "all the lonely people, where do they all come from...where do they all belong?" As humans, and more importantly, as Christians, we are called to care for "the least of these." And the first step to caring is simply seeing. What if we took the time to see "all the lonely people?" I think we would see a world of heartbreak. Christian singer Brandon Heath's song "Give Me Your Eyes" states this perfectly, as he asks God to "Give me Your

eyes for just one second so I can see everything that I keep missing; give me your love for humanity."

What can we do to truly see people? First, if we make life a journey, and not a destination, we can take the time to see people around us. No matter what society may tell you, life does not revolve around you. It does not revolve around me. We are placed on this earth to glorify God and seek out the lost, just like Jesus did.

The second step to caring is to act upon what you see. If your best friend or sibling needed anything, you would go out of your way to help them. But if we take God's Word to be true, then all Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ, and all humanity is created in the image of God. So why don't we live for our Christian siblings or those made in the image of our King?

The point I am trying to come to is a challenge toward missional living. When most peo-

ple think of missionaries, they think of people going into dangerous third-world countries, translating the Bible, and living in crazy conditions. This is a valid definition of a missionary, and I hope to be one after college. But although not everyone is called to live in a hut in the Amazon, we are all called to be missionaries.

Different people can enact missional living in different ways. I have a great uncle who, every time he eats at a restaurant, asks the waiter or waitress how he can pray for him or her. He then leaves the Gospel of John on the table when he goes.

You don't have to be as direct as he is. You can have conversations with people on elevators or with the cashier at the grocery store. You could serve at a retirement home, a soup kitchen, a children's home, or whatever else you may be called to. But what makes simply serving or having a conversation become mission work is the motive behind it. If we are

serving Jesus, everything we do is to His glory and for the purpose of worshipping Him.

1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." Mission work cannot only be serving or having a conversation. You have to be prepared to give a reason for why you serve. I certainly have not figured out how to do this.

But however God calls you to serve, do so with all your heart. Seek out the lost and the lonesome, and pray for God's guidance. You may feel like you don't know what to do or say, but the Holy Spirit will show you. Mark 13:11 says, "And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit."

Thank God we live in a country where we won't be arrested for our faith, and we can take advantage of the liberties this allows us!

We are placed on this earth to glorify God and seek out the lost, just like Jesus did.

Read It and Weep: Nick Bergeron

Editor squashes fallacies in final editorial

There's plenty of misinformation floating around. You've likely heard, and perhaps repeated, "facts" that the Great Wall of China is visible from the moon, or that different places on the tongue are for tasting different tastes. Maybe such balderdash could pass unchallenged through other high schools, but here at BCS we take pride in keeping our community informed. So I present you with a list of misconceptions and their respective corrections for the public good. In the immortal words of The Notorious B.I.G., "If you don't know, now you know."

You can't 'detox' your body.

If you make the mistake of browsing through those magazines by the checkout aisle at the grocery store, you might come across a diet program promising that if you switch to a diet of kale and cucumber juice, take certain vitamins, and listen to lots of Jefferson Starship, you can "detox" your body of harmful chemicals. At the base of this misconception there's a confusion of terms - there's a medical term for "detox" which refers to the process of ending alcohol or drug addiction withdrawals. Then there's the "detox" which quacks say will irrigate your colon or clear out harmful chemicals, and it's nothing but an attempt to swindle those who didn't pay close attention in biology class. "The healthy body has kidneys, a liver, skin, even lungs that are detoxifying as we speak," says Exeter University's Edzard Ernst. "There is no known way ... to make something that works perfectly well in a healthy body work better."

should be replaced every three thousand miles. But in your car's manual you'll find it can run anywhere between five and ten thousand miles between changes, depending on the car and driving conditions. At one point, this commonly accepted rule-of-thumb was true, but engine oil chemistry has improved since, meaning you can go easier on your wallet, the environment, and the stains on your driveway by changing your oil less frequently.

Mussolini made the trains run ... late.

The WWII-era dictator of fascist Italy is sometimes thrown a bone for "making the trains run on time." This myth plays into the bigger idea that fascism was "brutally efficient." It wasn't. Eyewitness accounts of the time period report that trains not meant for tourists were reliably late, as they were before Mussolini's rise to power. Moreover, after WWII began Italy could no longer import coal by sea, and had to move its oil by rail. Italy's railways were capable of providing the nation with about a fourth of the coal it needed, which is no great testament to Il Duce's administrative skill.

Motor oil doesn't need changing every 3,000 miles.

It's common wisdom, which no doubt works to the advantage of your local mechanic and your not-so-local oil baron, that engine oil

Diamonds aren't formed from coal.

The saying "a diamond is a piece of coal that does well under pressure," may be charming, but it's bad geology. Diamonds form 90 miles under the earth's surface in its mantle, in subduction zones, or at asteroid impact zones. Most of the world's coal reserves are found as far as 300 meters below the Earth's surface; diamonds form 90 miles down. Moreover diamonds predate earth's land plants, from which coal forms. We're not sure how to write a charming truism about subduction plates, but that isn't our problem.

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of Brentwood Christian High School. The paper is a learning tool which informs the student body while teaching students to become critical observers of their environment and to validate Truth within the context of the Christian world view.

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

STEM studies-selecting seniors say sayonara, stay Southern

By Isabel Harris

The time has come for the seniors to leave their beloved home at Brentwood Christian and make a journey off to college – some far from home and some close. Of the 49 seniors, 12 will be going out of state to learn.

Jami Lee will be the farthest from home, going 1,520 miles from Austin to attend George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She will be playing college volleyball and majoring in biology, hoping to become a nurse.

“Playing college volleyball had always been a dream of mine, and I’m beyond happy that it’s finally coming true!” she said.

Chandler Alberta will be the second farthest at 1,410 miles away at Hope College in Michigan. She said she is looking forward to getting to know and love somewhere completely new.

“This will be a huge change, but I feel that I

am completely prepared to push myself to be somewhere where I know absolutely no one,” she said. “After 13 years in the same community, I have grown to fall in love with every inch of Brentwood.”

Keely Hardin, Nicholas Bergeron, and John Hollingsworth will attend colleges in Tennessee, while Jake Dillard and Mason McCormick will be in Alabama.

Jake Velasco will be in Kansas and will attend Cowley Community College on a baseball scholarship.

“I felt like they would give me the best chance to move on to the next level,” he said.

Four seniors will be enrolled in three different colleges in Arkansas.

Eleven of the seniors will be attending Christian colleges, including three to Abilene Christian University.

A total of 11 seniors have plans to enter the

medical field, while five have chosen business-related majors, and six are doing engineering.

Senior Diego Battle will be attending Austin Community College before transferring to UT and eventually going to law school. He is interested in a career in law enforcement.

McCormick, who will attend Faulkner University in Alabama on a soccer scholarship, said he will study sports and business management in hopes of starting his own soccer club one day.

“I would love to be able to coach soccer at high school or the collegiate level,” he said.

Cailin McDaniel plans to major in worship ministry at ACU. She said her family planted a church when she was growing up, and this has inspired her to do the same.

“In the future I would love to plant a church with my family and do that again,” she said.

Sarah Arbuckle, who is going to attend Hard-

ing University in Arkansas and major in theater, said she loves entertaining people and the applause from being on the stage when she performs.

“In the future, I hope to be on Broadway or in movies or on television, or all of the above!” she said. “I definitely dream big, and hopefully I’ll be accepting an Oscar or a Tony someday.”

Rebecca Tilley is one of 12 seniors who will be attending Texas A&M. Like many of those students, she has always wanted to go to school there. She plans to major in education and eventually be a child therapist or a counselor.

“I’m realizing right now that this is a floodgate of possibility that is being opened to me, and I want to take full advantage of it,” she said. “I want to use this time to seek out what my passions are and trying new things instead of committing before I even know myself.”

SENIORS GO FAR AND WIDE IN SEARCH OF KNOWLEDGE

Abilene Christian University

Kayla Lane - biochemistry
Cailin McDaniel - worship ministry
Tori Troutman - elementary education

University of Arkansas

Natalie Williams - theater/undecided

Auburn University

Jake Dillard - finance/entrepreneurship

Austin Community College

Diego Battle - pre-law
Maggie Ortego - business
Bella Spills - marine biology
Samantha Woolverton - psychology

Baylor University

Lauren Lewis - pre-occupational therapy

Belmont University

Keely Hardin - early childhood education

Cowley College

Jake Velasco - physical therapy

Faulkner University

Mason McCormick - sports/bus. mgmt.

George Washington University

Jami Lee - biology

Harding University

Sarah Arbuckle - theater
Laura Doyle - speech path./com. disorders

Hope College

Chandler Alberda - business/commun.

Lyon College

Hailey Miller - pre-physical therapy

University of Mary-Hardin Baylor

Shelby Greer - nursing
Emily Wagner - social work

Middle Tennessee State University

John Hollingsworth - audio production

Oklahoma Christian University

Kai Lui-Harper - biology

Southwestern University

Jacob Yager - computer science

Tarleton State

Logan Schuster - geology/hydrology

University of Texas

Martha Hughes - architectural engineering
Kristen Jang - chemistry
Blair Westerlund - social work/special ed.

Texas A&M University

Andrew Armstrong - applied mathematics
Sarah Connor - public health
Brenna Decker - business
Hannah Hutton - chemical engineering
Rebekah Legband - chemical engineering
Elise Lilya - mechanical engineering
Ope Okupe - engineering

Texas A&M University (cont.)

Joshua Sass - computer science
Rebecca Tilley - undecided

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Brittney Jones - animal science, pre-vet

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Mason Miller - mechanical engineering
Garrett Shake - computer science

University of Texas-San Antonio

Margelid Baez - medical humanities
Areti Cami - biology
Kara Teal - undecided

University of Texas-S.A. (cont.)

Sofia Torres - microbiology/kinesiology

Texas State University

Hope Kronke - communications
Isabel Harris - nursing

University of Texas-Tyler

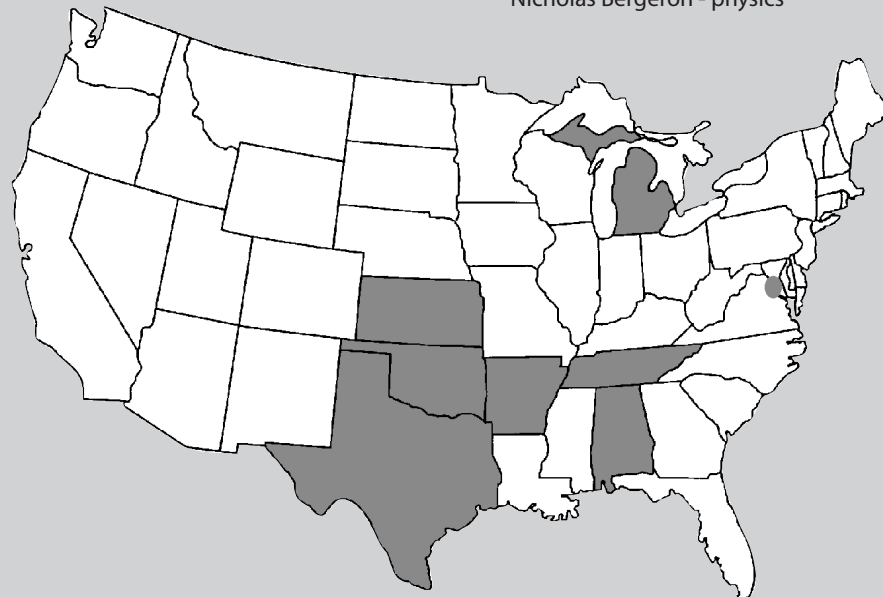
Madison French - interior design
Robert Lesko - construction mgmt.

Trinity University

Nick Pittner - biology

Vanderbilt University

Nicholas Bergeron - physics



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Martha Hughes

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

Vaunted vaulter known for logic, discipline, cupcakes

By Benjamin Helyer

Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth raises the projector screen to do an example problem at the front of the room during the beginning of first period. But there is a surprise awaiting her this morning. Instead of the typical bleak whiteboard glaring out into the room, there is a party drawn on the board filled with exciting activities and smiling faces. And at the center of it all are cupcakes – a dead giveaway to who the artist is.

It's Martha Hughes, who is an aide to Dr. Hollingsworth. But Martha's attention to detail shines through, as she has not forgotten to make the party Brentwood-appropriate. This consideration to the smaller points, combined with her dedication to her activities, makes her not only fun and creative but a first-rate student as well.

Dr. Hollingsworth notes that Martha is very

mature without being grim, as her drawings of parties on the boards demonstrate.

"(Martha is) mature beyond her years and yet knows how to have fun with her friends," Dr. Hollingsworth says.

Behind her outstanding qualities is her family, which consists of her two parents and two younger siblings, Will in sixth grade and Jane in ninth. The family lives near Taylor and has been in central Texas for all of Martha's life.

Martha came to BCS in the eighth grade after determining that public schools were not meeting her needs. Since then, she has become a core member of the senior class and the school as a whole.

One activity that she began shortly before arriving at BCS is pole vault. Since then, she has earned three first-place medals from state and also set the school record. She also owns the TAPPS 3A state record. She notes, however,

that pole vault doesn't come easily to her.

"Pole vault is probably the hardest thing I've done in my life," Martha says.

However, this doesn't discourage her. In fact, she notes that her enjoyment of the sport is due largely to the physical but also mental difficulty. This typifies Martha's disciplined approach to life.

In class, Martha has an intense ability to focus as well. English teacher Ashley Dargai says that this characteristic rubs off on others, making Martha a very positive influence.

"She has an ability to make anyone in class focus," says Dargai, adding that she has learned from her student as well.

Martha's intellectual abilities are further evidenced by her standing of National Merit Scholar earning this past year and her plans to attend the the UT Austin Cockrell School in order to study architectural engineering.

Two major components of her college plans, her school and her major, have been goals to which she has aspired since she was young. She has dreamed of attending UT since she was little, and she has known that she wanted to pursue architecture since the second grade when her parents bought her a LEGO house building set. However, she wanted more logical thinking in her career rather than artistic ideas, so she has decided to enter into architectural engineering instead of pure architecture.

Martha's logical skills arise from her ability to see the details in a situation, as math teacher Kaleen Graessle notes. She says that as an NHS officer, Martha always asks the "what-if" questions and is very detail-oriented. Graessle notes that Martha is "obsessively organized" but not anxious in the process of her organization.

"If there's a problem, she solves it," Graessle says.

From her friends and classmates, Martha has also been described as "vibrant," "friendly," "very smart," "sweet," and "fun to be around."

"There's not anything else you would want in a friend," says senior Sarah Connor about Martha's kind personality.

Martha also has a high aptitude for humor. Senior Cailin McDaniel says she knew she would become friends with Martha in the ninth grade when, at the grocery store, they dropped a Milky Way bar. Martha promptly began to circle around it, and when Cailin asked her why she was doing it, Martha responded, "I'm orbiting the Milky Way."

It is not only her fun and kind personality or her pole vault accolades that make Martha well-known around campus, however. For she has another skill that perhaps is more widely known across the school than any other: that of baking delicious treats.

Anyone who knows her will mention her baking talents. Martha says that she enjoys baking, and that her skill makes things a "really good combination of me liking to bake and friends liking to eat."

She is so good, in fact, that Dargai once hired Martha to make a cake for her husband's birthday, and later her husband hired Martha again for Mrs. Dargai's birthday. However, her husband had not met Martha until the Europe trip in March. Upon learning that Martha was on the trip, he said to his wife: "Martha is here? The Martha?" and wanted to meet her. When he first met her, he said "Can I bow to your talents?" referring to her skills as a baker.

It is difficult to describe someone such as Martha in a compact manner, with her multifarious talents and gracious personality. But to sum up a description of Martha into two words, her friend Sarah simply says: "She's Martha!"

GAHSMTA

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Lead Actress for her role as Gertrude, and sophomore Alex Pittner was nominated for best featured performer for his role as General Schmitz.

The evening was sold out to 2,500 people, having a red carpet beforehand and showcasing each musical in between each award presented.

Each school performed one number to provide entertainment for the night, and Brentwood performed the opening number, "Oh the Thinks You Can Think."

The cast and four crew members left BCS during first period accompanied by Alexander, band teacher Travis Pollard, and fine arts assistant Clarissa Vazquez and returned to BCS around midnight.

The cast got into costume and had an official practice time on the Long Center stage. They then had lunch from nearby food trucks and watched other schools practice until it was time to prepare for the red carpet.

Students dressed up in their finest and walked around outside and took pictures on the red carpet. They then returned to the dressing room to prepare for their performance in full makeup and costume. Several parents and teachers from Brentwood came to watch.

"GAHSMTA was such an incredible experience," Doyle said. "It was amazing to be able perform with such talented individuals. It is definitely something I will never forget."



Archer, Dargai among teachers stepping away

By Mary Womack

BCS will be losing five teachers and three staff members at the end of this school year. Saying goodbye are teachers Geri Archer, Ashley Dargai, Laura Nance, Becky Stewart, and Raegan Wall, and staff members Lizzie Fleet, Julia Lowen, and Karyn Morris.

The loss of sixth-grade teacher Stewart is especially notable, since she has taught at Brentwood since 1978. Stewart is retiring and will be moving to Iowa to take care of her mother.

“Mrs. Stewart has been a blessing because she has been consistently and constantly there,” BCS president Jay Burcham said. “When a growing school has true cornerstones such as Mrs Stewart, it can withstand challenges that others cannot.”

Archer’s announcement came very recently, after teaching for 30 years in both public and private schools. She started at BCS in 1995 and has taught second, first, kindergarten, and now the K4 class.

“I will miss the kids and the families that I’ve formed relationships with over all these years,” Archer said. “I’m a better person because of my time spent here at BCS.”

Her principal for nearly 20 years, Dr. Libby Weed, praised Archer for her commitment to the school’s mission.

“Geri Archer has been a critical piece of the faculty fabric in her commitment to teaching from a Christian perspective,” she said.

Kindergarten teacher Diane Troutman said she can’t imagine teaching without Archer.

“She is one of the most dedicated, hard-working, creative, and fun teachers I have ever worked with,” Troutman said.

Dargai has taught sophomore English, senior English, and AP English IV for three years. She will be moving to Dallas with her husband, J.D., who is pursuing a career opportunity there.

Dargai said she is thankful for the many memories she has made at Brentwood, like the party the senior girls threw her while she was going through a hard time in the fall. The girls brought her a care basket, prayers, and a letter.

“I’ve always loved my students, but it was nice to see they loved me back,” Dargai said.

Many students can attest that while she has not been at BCS for long, she has formed close connections with them.

“She has been a wonderful friend and mentor to me and a blessing to all who have had the privilege of having her as a teacher,” senior Sarah Arbuckle said.

Nance taught art to students in grades five through high school, but she will be moving with her husband to Lubbock, where she will attend law school at Texas Tech.

“It’s been so good to be around Christian women who have been such a light to me,” she said, naming several colleagues. “Brentwood is just such a kind and loving community.”

Wall, who taught computer, will also be departing from BCS after a year and a half. Wall taught computer coding but is interested in pursuing different tech classes such as information technology and software.

“I’ll miss the way kids act, and how no one is left out of the group,” Wall said.

In his short time at BCS, Wall had formed bonds with many students and teachers alike.

“I’m going to miss Mr. Wall because he’s such a great teacher, and he really cares about his students,” junior Claire Polasek said. “He’s really made an impact on our lives.”

Lowen, the academic adviser, will be moving to California to be closer to friends and family after a year at BCS. Lowen said she knows she has made some life-long friends.

“My favorite memories from this school year were when students would run into my office so excited to tell me good news – whether that was getting an A on a hard test or getting accepted into their first-choice school,” Lowen said.

Morris, who was the Christian counselor, and Fleet, who was the support services coordinator, will pursue other challenges while remaining in Austin.

After the first semester, Michele Weilemann temporarily replaced middle school teacher Michelle Mohrmann. BCS must now replace two core sixth-grade teachers.

Stewart leaves legacy in hundreds of students

continued from page 1

sharing useful bits of her acquired knowledge. For example, students can remember Stewart teaching them not to run cold hands under hot water to avoid scalding them.

Throughout her time at BCS Stewart has directed 34 Christmas programs, planned 31 Texas Christian Schools Association meets, and taught over 1,600 students. She was also the first TCSA Teacher of the Year, in 1991.

“As with any great teacher, Mrs. Stewart’s

legacy is measured in her students,” BCS president Jay Burcham said, pointing out the lasting impression she made on her pupils. “Teaching is a profession that requires total commitment, and Mrs. Stewart gave that to her students for many years. That is pretty special.”

While Stewart’s effectiveness has not deviated, the school has grown and changed immensely since she was hired. Stewart has seen the school change locations and continue to expand greatly; she has also helped the sixth grade transition into middle school. But the most major change Stewart said she has faced in her years of teaching is the now wide distribution of electronics among the students.

“You can no longer see the students passing notes back and forth – it’s much different than that now,” Stewart said. “Sometimes I think I was born 100 years too late. I always wanted to be a pioneer.”

Although Stewart was not not born in the 1800s, she has become a “modern pioneer” traveling all over the globe. With 26 countries and all seven continents already under her belt, Stewart is always looking for a new opportunity to explore the world.

When she’s not teaching a class or exploring yet another country, she might be singing in a choir. Since junior high Stewart has been singing in everything from school to community college choirs. Then there is her interest in sports, especially the Longhorns and Iowa Hawkeyes.

Along with her many interests outside the school, Stewart remembers some key moments during each school year as her favorites. The beginning of a new school year is particularly exciting to Stewart, and she fondly recalls meeting groups of new students and having a fresh beginning.

Another BCS event Stewart recollects is the graduation blessings, and the personal and final goodbyes shared at graduation. Stewart also said she treasures Grandparents’ Day, and she can recall the early days when the day consisted of a few students’ grandparents shadowing them in school. She said she loves being able to spend time with and share with the people who love the kids the most.

A retirement party was held for Stewart on May 14 from 2-4 p.m. in the church parlor and chapel. The party was travel themed, and dozens of pictures of Stewart and classes from four decades were displayed on TV monitors.

Guests eventually gathered in the chapel to listen to memories and many thanks presented by teachers, students, and administrators. A chorus from the church also sang three of her favorite hymns. Finally, Stewart was presented with notes from guests, a travel wallet, and \$4,000 in cash to fund her next trip.

It was also announced that the downstairs hallway in the C building would be renamed the “Bill and Becky Stewart Wing” in honor of Stewart and her late husband.



file photo: Stewart in the 1980s

Baseball loses in regionals, falls short of goal

By Joshua Sass

Brentwood fell in the second round of playoffs against Bay Area Christian 10-0 on May 17 in Tomball. It marked the end of a highly

anticipated season with the Bears winning the district championship for the third consecutive year after going 11-1 in district and 17-3 overall.

While the players are disappointed, head coach Brian Thrift put some perspective on the season.

"This team did an incredible job," he said. "We didn't achieve all of our goals, but we nonetheless had an outstanding season."

Thrift attributed much of the team's success to its "strong internal leadership," especially that of seniors Jake Velasco and John Hollingsworth.

"These two young men took ownership of this team and made sure that the guys on the team were focused," he said. "It is always a blessing as a coach to have kids that you can trust to do what is right for the team."

Things started off poorly for the Bears in their playoff against Bay Area. They fell behind 3-0 in the first inning, and things soon got worse,

due in part to fielding errors and mental errors.

Offensively, the Bears had plenty of opportunities to score but repeatedly left runners on base. Twice they had a runner tagged out at home.

Players left knowing they were better than the score showed. Seniors were especially disappointed but also grateful for what they had been able to accomplish.

"We've laid a foundation for the future and made a mark on the program," Hollingsworth said.

The Bears advanced to the regional game by first beating the Woodlands Christian at home in the area championship 5-4 in an extremely close game. Brentwood was up for a majority of the game until the Woodlands scored two runs in the sixth and another in the seventh, drawing it to a 4-4 tie at the end of seven innings.

In the bottom of the eighth, junior Garrison Ryberg hit a line drive to center field to score sophomore Dillon Smith with the winning run.

Junior Diego Escobedo led the Bears with a .540 batting average. He was followed by Smith (.434) and Hollingsworth (.420).

Escobedo also led with 34 hits and 36 RBIs, while Velasco had 28 RBIs. Velasco and Escobedo each had three home runs, and Velasco led the team with 17 stolen bases, followed by Hollingsworth with 14.

Following are recaps of their last few games before playoffs:

4/22: @RRCA 11-0 W

Brentwood's rivalry with RRCA was as evident as ever with many students attending to see their friends beat Round Rock one more time. The Bears sent Round Rock running with explosive third and fourth innings, scoring five in each, ending the game early.

Smith led with three RBIs; Ryberg, junior Michael Hickl, and Smith each had two runs.

4/23: Waco Vanguard 12-2 W

Brentwood dominated the district leaders by outplaying them in all aspects of the game. After scoring two runs in the first, Vanguard was silent; BCS scored eight in the first and second innings, putting the game out of reach.

Hickl and sophomore Patrick Hanrahan each had four RBIs; Hanrahan and sophomore Jack Oberwortsman each had three hits.

4/25: @Waco Vanguard 4-1 W

The Bears were ahead the entire game, keeping Vanguard scoreless until the sixth inning. Winning this game clinched district.

Escobedo and Smith each had two hits.

4/26: CTCS 24-0 W

Thrift honored seniors Mason McCormick, Velasco, and John after the blowout win, for most of the game the starters were out, but the Bears still run ruled CTCS after the third inning.



photo: Hannah Velasco

Locked in Senior John Hollingsworth led the Bears with his bat as well as his defense and attitude.

Softball team falls in playoffs after stirring comeback

By Joshua Sass

Hoping to win their first playoff game since 2007, the only year BCS made it to the second round, things went from bad to worse for the softball team, and after four innings, the Lady Bears were down 11-0. If they could not pick up two runs in the fifth inning, their season would end with an embarrassing run-rule loss.

What happened next was a stirring comeback that did not create a victory, but it did remind everyone watching why they love sports and, more significantly, made them proud of Brentwood. The girls did pick up the desperately needed two runs, and then four, and then three more in the following innings. Although they lost 16-9 to Kennedale Fellowship on May 4, they displayed the courage and fight that coach Paul Sladek has come to expect out of his team – particularly his six graduating seniors.

"Their heart and their will to win and compete is going to be hard replace," Sladek said.

Brentwood finished the season third in district with a 4-4 record (9-7 overall). They slipped during the last half of the season after a 3-1 start had them in second place.

The comeback began in the bottom of the fourth, when freshman Corrie Hager made

a great catch on a fly ball. In the fifth, senior Sofia Torres hit a double down the line, stole third, and scored on the next hit. But the closest the Lady Bears came was 11-6, as they were unable to overcome a quality opponent.

Making things more difficult for BCS was the absence of three key players: senior Hailey Miller, junior Hillarie Carpenter, and sophomore Madison Wells. But Sladek did not use that as an excuse.

"We got away from our game plan," Sladek said. "We were a little too excited and a little nervous. When it started going bad, we let it escalate."

Freshman Nyna Vazquez had five RBIs on three hits to lead the team.

That night, Sladek sent a heartfelt email to parents thanking them for raising "unbelievable" daughters, remarking on their "great hearts and never accepting defeat." Sladek urged the parents to be extremely proud of their girls and then closed by addressing the players:

"I say thank you, and I'm proud of the heart, hard work, and character you showed throughout this year. It's a hard day today, but it's still a great day to be a Brentwood Bear."

The Lady Bears never had a senior night, as it was scheduled to be after a non-district game

that was rained out and never rescheduled. Instead, the athletes plan to gather at the house of assistant coach Karyn Morris's parents on May 24 to honor the seniors: Madi French, Shelby Greer, Hope Kronke, Miller, Torres, Samantha Woolverton, and manager Chandler Alberda.

Sladek stated that the seniors will be hard to replace, especially Torres, who was the ace pitcher for four years.

Torres noted that while the season had ups and downs, she enjoyed the experience.

"Everyone on the team made it great, and I'm proud of how they played," she said. "I'm happy to have spent my last season with them."

Torres also led the Bears in most offensive categories, including hits (27), RBIs (23), and runs (29). French had 24 hits, while junior Nicole Dobos had 17 RBIs, and freshman Samantha Fowler scored 26 runs.

The team's leading hitters were Carpenter (.600), French (.571), and Torres (.529).

Due to TAPPS adding a 6A, Brentwood will move to 4A next year, joining a huge new district with eight teams. Newcomers will include Waco Reicher, who has won seven out of the last 10 state championships.

Following are recaps of their last few games before playoffs:

4/14: Waco Vanguard 20-10 L

Waco dominated Brentwood offensively, scoring in massive streaks. Brentwood led 5-1 after two innings, but Waco scored seven in the third and eight in the fifth.

Torres had three hits and three RBIs.

4/21: @CTCS 11-1 L

Brentwood struggled mightily on offense this game, only having five hits before being run-ruled at the end of the sixth inning. At the same time, errors held back the Lady Bears' defense from being able to keep Brentwood from staying in the game.

4/25: @Bryan St. Joseph's 12-9 L

The Lady Bears grabbed an early lead 2-0, but with St. Joseph's scoring five runs in the bottom of the first and then another six in the fifth, Brentwood was unable to match offensively. Torres and Wells each had three hits.

4/26: @TSD 20-12 W

The Lady Bears fought back despite starting in a 8-0 deficit, and with an explosive 18 runs scored in the fifth and sixth innings, they quickly put the game out of reach. A decisive moment occurred when French stole home with the score tied at 11.

Six different girls had three hits, and Kronke had four RBIs.

Hughes takes third straight state vaulting title

By Joshua Sass

Senior Martha Hughes won her third consecutive state title in pole vault, clearing 10-6 at the TAPPS 3A state track meet on May 7 at Baylor University's Clyde Hart Stadium.

"Winning state was a great way to end the season and my Brentwood track career," Mar-

tha Hughes said. "I've made such great memories with awesome teammates."

Freshman Jane Hughes placed third (9-6) in pole vault, and Wishard finished third (16.67) in the 100 hurdles. The girls' 4x100 meter relay team (Martha Hughes, junior Abby White, freshman Jaelyn Wishard, and freshman Mackenzie Gatlin) placed eighth with a season-best time of 53.00 seconds.

The boys were led by junior Jordan Johnson and senior Joshua Sass, who finished sixth (5-10) and seventh (5-8) in the high jump, respectively.

"I am proud of the way our team came out this season and took on new challenges," head coach Katie Smith said. "We had to compete in a very tough district and this team met each challenge with great effort and focus."

A week before state, the competitors had to travel to the Woodlands Christian Academy to compete in the south regional finals on April 29. Indicating the progress of the boys' program, Brentwood had an equal split between boys' and girls' events in regionals. Last year, the boys had no regional qualifiers.

To proceed to state, an athlete had to finish in the top four. Martha Hughes placed second in pole vault (10-6). Wishard finished second in the 100 hurdles with a time of 16.53, and Jane Hughes placed third in pole vault (9-6).

The girls' 4x100 team placed third with a time of 53.32. Sass and Johnson placed third and fourth in the high jump, Sass taking the tie breaker after they both failed to clear 6-0.

Sass placed sixth in both his running events, the 400 (54.8) and the 800 (2:10.43). Both times were personal bests, and the 800 time beat the school record by 0.57 second. Sass is the first male individual runner to make the top six in four years.



photo: Mackenzie Gatlin

Like a pro Senior Martha Hughes sails over the bar at the state meet in Waco on May 7. Hughes soared 10 feet and six inches, taking her third consecutive state title.

Wishard placed fifth in the high jump (4-6), while sophomore Hunter Burcham finished sixth in discus (110-01). Gatlin finished seventh in the 100 (13.71), and sophomore Preston Glenn placed eighth in pole vault (7-0).

Smith said she was proud of the overall effort of the teams, especially since the boys had not competed in the state tournament since 2013. And while the girls had fewer members going to state this year than in recent years, those who went placed consistently higher than last year, on average.

At the district meet on April 19 in San Antonio, Martha Hughes won pole vault (10-0), and sister Jane was third (9-0). Wishard finished second in the 100 hurdles (16.96), and

the 4x100 team also placed second (53.68).

Wishard was third in high jump (4-8), and senior Keely Hardin placed fifth in discus (80-4). White finished fifth in the 300 hurdles (53.44), and Gatlin placed fifth in the 100 (13.88).

Sass cleared 5-11 in the high jump, a personal best and a school record. He also placed third in the 800 (2:13.96) and fourth in the 400 (56.02). Burcham placed fourth in discus (113-02), and Johnson took fourth in high jump (5-6). Glenn finished fourth in pole vault (7-3).

The boys' 4x400 relay team, consisting of freshman Chase Blackman, Johnson, sophomore Dillon Smith, and Sass, finished fifth with a time of 3:58.18. Blackman placed fifth in long jump with a jump of 17-3.

Boys' golf fourth in state; girls' first season a success

By Joshua Sass

The boys' golf team made history for their young program on May 2-3, reaching the TAPPS state tournament for the third consecutive year and finishing fourth in 3A – their best ever showing.

While the girls' team, in its first year of existence, did not advance to state, junior Nicole Dobos did qualify for the tournament as an individual.

Played at Stonetree in Killeen, the tournament featured 36 holes of golf over two days. Senior John Hollingsworth finished just outside the top 10 at 11th, shooting 79 the first day and 82 the next for a two-day score of 161. Junior Graham Marks finished just behind Holling-

sworth at 167 (85-82), and sophomore David Tiner shot 172 (85-87). They were followed by freshman Connor Troutman (201) and senior Mason Miller (211).

"From the experience of John, Mason, Graham, and David to the enthusiasm and competitiveness of freshman Connor Troutman, this team performed well in every tournament we played," coach John Vandygriff said. "This is a terrific group of young men who made the BCS team a contender all year."

The team completed the season with one win, three second places, one third place, and two fourths.

The girls' team, consisting of Dobos, senior Lauren Lewis, sophomore Avery Miller, and freshman Keri Howell, finished fifth in the

regional tournament held at Fair Oaks Ranch Live Oak on April 18. While they missed qualifying for state by one spot, Dobos advanced by shooting 112 to finish ninth among individuals.

"I know (Dobos) is hungry for more and will work hard to improve her game," Vandygriff said. "I hope that her play will inspire others so that the entire girls team can play well enough to qualify next year."

The boys placed fourth at the regional tournament with two top-10 finishers. Hollingsworth finished sixth with an 81, and Tiner placed ninth with an 83. Marks finished just outside the top 10 with an 87. Troutman finished with a 96, and Mason Miller completed the course with a 107.



photo: Susan Tiner

Masterful Sophomore David Tiner shot rounds of 85 and 87 at state on May 2-3.

Band, choir score high

By Benjamin Helyer

The BCS band placed third in the TAPPS state contest after competing in the instrumental competition on April 23 at the Midway ISD Performing Arts Center in Hewitt, while the choir came in fourth in the same contest after competing in the vocal competitions on April 22 at the Killeen Civic and Convention Center.

Choir had won state five consecutive years and also had a string of 12 years in which they took first in state 10 times.

However, in the large group competitions, the choir earned a “1,” the highest rating, in all of their events: large ensemble, sight-reading, and sacred ensemble. Last year, the choir earned a “1” in sight-reading but a “2” in large ensemble.

In past years, Brentwood was able to accumulate points through sheer quantity of students entered into small ensemble and solo competitions. This year, the BCS choir only had two ensembles with 18 soloists, compared with 26 events last year.

Travis Pollard, band and fine arts director, is still proud of the accomplishments of the choir, saying that the choir performed “the most difficult selections of any participating school” and still earned a “1.”

Choir director Whitney Wick looked favorably on the choir’s performance as well.

“It was probably some of their best singing,” she said.

Wick, who began teaching at BCS in January, said she chose pieces that she was familiar with and that she knew would be attainable yet challenging for the choir.

On the instrumental side of the competition, the band earned a “1” in sight-reading and a “2” in large ensemble and jazz ensemble.

Pollard said that the the band’s performance was commendable.

“I thought the band played really well,” he stated. Complimenting both the band and the choir students, he went on to say, “I am very proud of our music students.”

Pollard also noted that if the scores of the choir and band were combined from the TAPPS competition, BCS would be second place in state for 3A and first place in the Austin area of private schools of all sizes.

The final score of both competitions was calculated from their respective placings at the large ensemble contest added to the points earned from the solo and ensemble performances on March 31 for both band and choir students.

One of the changes made this year to the organization of the competition was the fact that orchestra and band events were scored separately. This meant that schools who earned extra points for their orchestra programs were no longer competing against schools who only entered a concert band, such as Brentwood, for the final scoring.



photo: Alex Sass

Morning tea Junior Khue Tran laughs with a guest at the Grandparents’ Day breakfast served by NHS students on May 6. Visitors were entertained by songs led by new music teachers Amanda Stanglin and Whitney Wick. Before the guests moved to classroom sessions, Bill Trees received the Grandparent of the Year award.

Junior/Senior charms guests

By Michelle Emmel

Starting off chaotic due to road construction leading to the “White House,” Brentwood Christian’s annual Junior/Senior Formal took place on April 29 at Casa Blanca, a wedding venue in Round Rock. The evening included a delicious dinner, pictures taken by a professional photographer, and a magic show, along with a memorable presentation for the seniors to conclude the night.

Many students got lost along the way due to the detours on the construction-filled and packed roads, which caused late arrivals. Senior Margelid Baez was an hour and a half late.

“Already running late because I lost my shoes was annoying, but the detours adding even more time to my embarrassing late entrance was just the worst,” Baez said.

Those who arrived on time quickly absorbed the beautiful scene in front of them.

“I loved it so much,” junior class rep Lindsey Scarborough said. “I toured it in the summer with Morgan (George), and we both fell in love with it when we saw it. It was definitely worth the money.”

This formal was prepared by the junior class officers, led by president Julia Hwang. Mom and former teacher Michelle Mohrmann played a major role in helping with the planning as well.

Dinner consisted of Caesar or garden salad

along with bread, and various types of pasta including lasagna and ravioli covered in mushroom sauce.

Once students were finished eating, everyone headed to a separate building for desserts and a magic show. Magician John O’Bryant kept the audience engaged the whole time, often asking for volunteers and injecting comedy into the show. He also kept the audience in suspense by telling everyone he would make a snake come out of a box, but it turned out that the snake was a fake one.

“He blew my mind away with all of the tricks he did,” sophomore Alec Shelby said. “My favorite part was when he had people pick random numbers and he guessed all of them right. That really got me.”

The show was followed by a presentation for the seniors that included pictures of memorable moments throughout the years and also short video clips from juniors talking about what they love and will remember about the seniors.

Anita Chambers put together the programs, which included the wills for juniors and the prophecies for seniors. The night concluded with the chance to take more pictures with friends at the event that was planned since the beginning of the year.

“I liked the vibe of Casa Blanca,” senior Kai Harper said. “It was very cute and unique. It was overall a magical night.”



photo: Dorothy Walters

High drama Seniors Laura Doyle and Andrew Armstrong perform in *Louder, I Can’t Hear You* during the Way Off Broadway production in the theater on May 7.