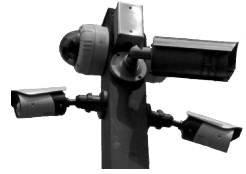


see pg. 5



THE BEAR FACTS

see pg. 2



VOL. 29 NO. 1

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2016

'Cinderella' to enchant BCS audiences next week

By Lauren Weilemann

The Prince is giving a ball. Lilted waltzes, glittering gowns, and pealing laughter fill the room as Cinderella and the Prince's eyes meet across the room. This is her chance to change her miserable living conditions once and for all.

The high school theater program will be putting on Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella: The Enchanted Version* on Saturday, Oct. 15, Thursday, Oct. 20, and Saturday, Oct. 22. Each date has a 7 p.m. performance; both Saturdays have matinee performances at 2 p.m.

The musical stars seniors Hope Hutson and Charlie Vazquez as Cinderella and Prince Christopher, senior Hannah Odom as the Fairy Godmother, senior Camille Sunshine as the stepmother, and juniors Merideth Mallett and Grace McDaniel as the stepsisters, Grace and Joy.

As a young girl, Cinderella is left with her stepmother when her father dies. Her stepmother treats her like a servant, and Cinderella always longs for a better life. News of a ball gives her hope of a better future, and with her fairy godmother's help, she is able to go. She and the Prince fall in love, and as every fairy



photo: Vaughn Amann

Enamored Croix and Ambergray Bates pose with Cinderella and her prince (Hope Hutson and Charlie Vazquez) at the Cinderella movie night photoshoot on Sep 30.

tale goes, they live happily ever after.

Though not the well-known Disney version, this *Cinderella* is very similar and has the same fairy tale feel. The musical features different songs, such as "The Prince is Giving a Ball,"

"In My Own Little Corner," and "Ten Minutes Ago," but the same lovable characters. Hutson said it is a "totally magical experience."

Hutson said she anticipates the audience's expectations will be blown away at what the

Brentwood theater department can do.

"This is closer to Broadway than anything we have done before," Hutson said.

By popular demand, the choice was made to break the tradition of only having a musical every two years.

Students, especially theater die-hards, were thrilled when news of *Cinderella* got out last May. Hutson said she has always dreamed of going to a ball and loves creating beautiful,

see 'CINDERELLA', page 6

Cinderella the Musical

Where: CSA Theater

When: Oct. 15 (2&7pm), Oct. 20 (7pm), Oct. 22 (2&7pm)

Tickets: Available online or at box office during show weeks

Director: Michelle Alexander

Starring: seniors Hope Hutson and Charlie Vazquez

New teachers, staff grace Brentwood Christian halls

By Uyen Phan

BCS welcomes 12 new members to the ranks of teachers, coaches, and staff members this year. Here is an opportunity to learn a little bit about these men and women.

Teaching high school English is Jeri Birdwell. A graduate of the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in German, she has taught English in Pflugerville, Taylor, and Manor ISDs for 20 years.



Birdwell

Birdwell became aware of the job through church at Brentwood and, being just retired from public education, decided to apply.

"My expectation was to be able to incorporate the love of God and Christ-centered ideas in the classroom," she said.

Meredith Rowlett teaches Yearbook and



Rowlett

her M.A. in graphic design.

Rowlett was introduced to the position by high school history teacher Jimmie Harper, with whom she was friends from her Harding days. She said that initially she was afraid she would make mistakes, but she is now very comfortable due to the faculty's affability.

"I'm just really blessed ... and very thankful the administration gave this job to me," she said.

Mark Cotham joins BCS as the new high school English and Bible teacher. Born and raised in Houston, Cotham went to Southwestern University in Georgetown; after that, he obtained an M.D. in arts and an M.A. in foreign language education at UT.

art classes this year. She is from Mountain Home, Ark.

A graduate of Harding University with a bachelor's in graphic design and a minor in art history, Rowlett is currently working on

Cotham, who previously taught Spanish at Veritas Academy, said he is astounded by Brentwood's educational quality.

"This is a place where students can ... grow into strong people who can learn to think critically about the world," he said.

Cotham recently married his wife, Morgan, and is learning Japanese in his spare time.

Eric Thomason is the new computer science and personal finance teacher and football coach. Born and raised in San Antonio, Thomason moved to Georgetown at age 14, then to Los Angeles, Calif., after graduating from Texas State University with a bachelor's in print journalism; he also earned an MS in sports management in 2015 after four years of being a graduate assistant and football coach at San Jose State University.

Thomason said he enjoys teaching his academic classes and meeting new students, and that the school's welcoming atmosphere and high spirit for the football team amaze him.

Thomason and his wife, Lindsay, have been married for two years.

Jan Jernberg is the new varsity boys' basketball coach and health teacher. Originally from San Antonio, he obtained a master's degree from UT-Pan American.

Prior to Brentwood, Jernberg coached at St. Dominic Savio, but he decided to change his position as he missed the feeling of leading a class.

"I want to make Health Education a topic that is not boring and give the message that I have always believed in: Your body is your temple - keep it clean and healthy!" he said.

Jernberg is married to Dr. Cynthia Lanier, a public health educator and director of Rice University's Health Education.

Dr. Coreen Pesco is the new middle school math and IPC teacher. Born in Trinidad and Tobago, she moved to the U.S. in ninth grade

see NEW, page 3



Cotham

Lighting the Darkness: Camille Sunshine

As election looms, editor urges faith, not despair

When I was ten, I was so sad when I realized that I was going to miss voting in the 2016 election by a mere ten days. But when I heard about the candidates this year, I realized how relieved I am that I don't have to vote between what I believe are awful choices.

For many years, we've published two stories about the election, one for each major candidate. But I'm not going to do that, nor am I going to tell you who to vote for.

But what I will say is this: We need to pray, and we need to vote our consciences.

The world around us is pretty terrifying when you think about it. The number of disasters – individual, national, and global – that could happen on any given day is immeasurable. From Zika to nuclear war, kidnappings to terrorism, global warming to car crashes, it's not surprising that we have agoraphobics in the world. Many Americans look at our options for president and feel like the world is going to end. Sometimes I feel the same way.

But what we often forget is that disastrous leaders are not a new phenomenon. They were around before the written language. All one has to do is go through history to find a lesson in how not to run a country: Nero, Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Josef Stalin, Pol Pot, and King Ahab, just to name a few. And unless you know something I don't, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are not as bad as these.

Donald Trump is a businessman, not a politician, and whether that makes him more honest or not, he seems to think he is right about everything, with no openness to democracy.



Emilio "Mimi" Soltysik

Many, including myself, find his treatment of women to be highly offensive and his attitude toward other races to be insensitive, to say the least. He does not always seem informed on topics pertinent to running a country; he, despite his claim to be different from other politicians, attacks his opponents as much as, if not more than, their stances, and his plans do not appear to be well thought out.

Hillary Clinton has a dubious past, to say the least. The entire Clinton family has been accused of multiple lies and inconsistencies that are quite dangerous in the White House. Additionally, Clinton does not seem to be all that competent: She used an insecure email address that inadvertently caused the leak of a bunch of secret information, and many blame her for the Americans who died in the Benghazi attacks on the 11th anniversary of September 11.

Yes, there are some third-party candidates, but only three of which are on the ballots of

20 or more states: Gary Johnson (Libertarian), Dr. Jill Stein (Green), and Darrell Castle (Constitution).

There are about five candidates on ballots in 5-20 states, such as Evan McMullin (he's actually pretty decent) and Emidio "Mimi" Soltysik (and yes, that is actually a man), about 20 on fewer than five ballots, such as Princess Khadijah Jacob Fambro of the Revolutionary Party, Dan Vacek for the Legal Marijuana Party, and Joseph "Joe Exotic" Maldonado, as well as somewhere between 50-100 write-ins, including someone known as "Santa."

Apparently there are parties for nutritionists, prohibitionists, pacifists, revolutionaries, veterans, "Americans," and those who support legal marijuana.

Yes, there are some third-party candidates who look better than these, but this was my list of must-see. Wow, that was a rabbit trail.

All that said, you do have options. You could find the candidate you think is best, or you could protest vote. There are two ways to protest vote: Either vote for someone you know won't get elected simply to detract votes from the frontrunners, or don't vote at all.

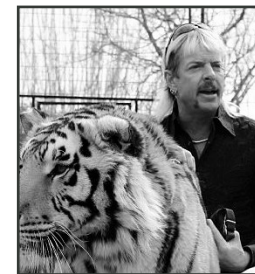
I'm a little hesitant to recommend not voting, because America has had centuries of people who fought and died to protect your right to vote, and that is not something to take lightly.

With all this said, God is still God. We serve

a God who is greater than security issues, drugs, revolutions, racism, idiocy, or even – I know it is hard to believe – bad hair. He has used many unrighteous leaders in the past, some of which to accomplish many great and wonderful things. He used Paul, a murderer, to be one of the greatest apostles ever.

But many of the evil leaders He uses, He uses for the sake of judgment. From King Nebuchadnezzar to Samson to the Philistines, God enacts punishment through people.

Whatever conclusion you want to come to from this, God will be with us. That does not mean that we are getting a good president, and that also does not mean that America is going to keep getting better and better. At some point, America is going to fall, as every other empire eventually does. I doubt that that time is now, but then again, I'm not God. But God will be with His children and He will care for us, no matter what. So for now, my only advice is to pray a lot and vote how you believe God is calling you to vote.



Joseph "Joe Exotic" Maldonado

THE DEAR EDNA COLUMN

by the lovely Ms. Edna

READER: Are Lucky Charms good to eat every day, or should I start eating Life? Or maybe Raisin Bran?

EDNA: Life can be bitter. Raisin Bran has 18 grams of sugar per serving, while Lucky Charms only has 10 grams. Our time on earth is too short to eat bran that's more un-

healthy than anything an animated leprechaun is peddling.

READER: I love the people at Brentwood, but why do some of them think they are better than everyone else?

EDNA: It's a very human tendency to think you are the center of the universe. Not just a Brentwood thing. Remember, there is always a bigger fish. And with big fish come fishing trawlers and sports hunters.

READER: My friend's birthday is coming up. What should I do to make her b-day awesome?

EDNA: Confetti rocket launchers will make anyone's day better. That, and maybe some Lucky Charms.

READER: My feet really smell. How should I get rid of that smell?

EDNA: If peanut butter doesn't work, the only practical way is to walk on your hands for

the rest of your life. Your arms will get buff and your feet won't smell. It's a win-win.

READER: I'm not currently on the football team, but I think I could be really good. My question is, where can I get that black stuff to put under my eyes?

EDNA: Oooh! I love that stuff! Most guys use eye shadow, but I've heard that melted chocolate works just as well. Plus your teammates will be like, "Hey Hershey, good play!"

PAWSIBLY UNBEARABLE - BY THE HONORABLE OMELETTES



Broadway visits Haiti, views need for more wells

By Zack Haswell and Hannah Odom

BCS math teacher Michele Broadway made a trip to Haiti from Sep. 1-5 after being invited by Healing Hands International to see how drilling a well for people in need can transform an entire community.

Healing Hands is an organization that sets up wells all over the United States to raise money for wells for economically struggling countries and villages. Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ will host its fourth annual Walk 4 Water event this weekend. In this event walkers have the opportunity to carry large jugs of water, or jerrycans, as they walk four miles to experience in a small way the struggle of an average Haitian having to get water every day.

Broadway, who helps organize this event through Brentwood's Hands and Feet ministry, said the Walk 4 Water project exists in order to relieve suffering and bring people easier access to clean and fresh water. Before HHI places a well in a village, they have to conduct lots of research for determining where the best locations are for placing the 300-foot deep wells.

Since the 2010 earthquake, Haiti has been in great need of wells. One of every 10 Haitians either died or was displaced in the disaster. Broadway pointed out that when people don't have to spend all day going to get water, it al-



photo: Lara Jenkins

Water! Michele Broadway washes her hands at a well in Haiti, where she visited last month so that she could see up-close the importance of new wells for Haitians.

lows "kids to be kids." It also allows them to go to school while adults do the farming, and it allows people to clean themselves more effectively.

Broadway observed that the people in Haiti speak an interesting language that combines

French and Spanish, which was very foreign to her. The most interesting thing she had to eat there was a spicy coleslaw-like food called pikliz, which the Haitians use to complement the flavors of meats and fried foods.

The trip organizer was aware of Broadway's numerous medical mission trips to Zambia.

"I know that Zambia fills your heart," she told Broadway, "but you'll find room for Haiti."

This is exactly what happened.

"Haiti is in my heart now," Broadway said. "I haven't been able to stop thinking about them since I've gotten back."

Students and their families who wish to join Broadway and a host of other walkers on Sunday at 4 p.m. may register online at walk4water.org. Donations can be made online or at the event.

New teachers, mentors provide new insight, vast experience

continued from page 1

and to Austin in 2009. She obtained her residency at John Hopkins University and a fellowship at UT's MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Before BCS, Dr. Pesco was a veterinarian at Banfield Pet Hospital. She said she decided to apply for the teaching job because science has always been her love and passion.

"To get kids to see science in everyday life is my goal," she said.

Dr. Pesco and her husband, Jonathan, have two children, third-grade Cooper and K-4 student Trinity. In her leisure, she loves 5K runs with her kids and her mother.

Teaching middle school history and Bible and coaching varsity volleyball this year is Russell Larson. He has 33 years of experience in teaching and administration at Elgin, Manor, and Pflugerville high schools.

Larson said he heard about the coaching position when he became a member of Brentwood Oaks in May. His interest grew after he learned of the open teaching opportunities, as he was excited to be in the classroom again.

"I get excited when I teach, and I want to bring that excitement for students, especially in Bible and history," he said.

Coach Larson has been married for 32 years to Tami Larson. He has two daughters who both work in the education field.

Leah Smith is the new academic adviser. Originally from the Abilene area, she has lived in Taylor since 2003. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in applied arts and sciences from Texas State and a master's in education from Angelo State.

Previously a high school teacher and counselor in Taylor and Thornedale, Smith said she is wowed by the dedicated staff at BCS.

Smith and her husband, Caleb, have two children, 12-year-old Caleb and seven-month-old Shaylee. They like taking walks together and playing sports such as basketball.

Paul Morrow is teaching fifth grade this year, replacing Carrie Hunter, who is now teaching middle school. Morrow is an Austin native and BCS alumnus. After graduating in 1996, he be-



Larson

came a missionary in Brazil for 13 years where he met his wife, Ana.

Morrow said he is astonished by the changes in Brentwood since he was a student, but that the school still provides a fundamental base for students to grow academically and spiritually.

"The fifth grade is a crossroads into adulthood, and I am excited about this specific time in a student's life," he said.

Morrow and his wife have a first-grade son, Jonathan. Morrow's mother, Sandra, was Brentwood's elementary librarian for 28 years.

Stacy Hansen is the new K4 teacher. She is from Victoria, where she obtained a degree in criminal justice from the University of Houston at Victoria. She also has a master of science in education administration and has taught in public elementary schools for 10 years.

Hansen said Brentwood exceeds her expectations of a Christ-centered educational environment, and that the community is friendly.

Hansen has a son, Dean, who is in kindergarten at Brentwood. She loves playing Hot-wheels and Transformers with him, going swimming, and riding bikes together. Hansen

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 Odom
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.

is also the aunt of three BCS students.

Khadijah Huckaby is the new afternoon campus door monitor. A UT-Arlington graduate with a bachelor's degree in criminology, Huckaby previously worked for the government. She is married and has three children at BCS.

Debbie Walker is the new elementary substitute teacher, lunch director, and workroom coordinator. She is also voluntarily coaching the BCS debate team. An Austin native and former Brentwood student, she has a degree in English and communications from Sam Houston State. She is married and has three children at BCS.

Carrie Hunter, who taught fifth grade for 11 years, is now teaching sixth-grade history, Bible, and reading. Hunter said that in her junior year at Oklahoma Christian University, she was assigned to teach sixth grade and fell in love with it. So switching to middle school was "only a matter of time."

While Hunter does miss the elementary faculty, she said she is loving her new job so far.

Elsewhere, the position of athletic director was handed to BCS head football coach Stan Caffey, since Brian Thrift left in the summer to coach college basketball at Judson University in Illinois.

Faithful soprano chases clouds away

By Mary Womack

When a senior is having a hard day, there is always one person who can and will give a much needed hug and share a comforting adage.

Morgan George, or “Mo,” can almost always be found sporting an encouraging smile, offering a witty remark about mass amounts of homework, and communicating a firm resolve to conquer any task.

“Whenever I’m around her I just have this feeling of absolute peace,” senior Jessica Bruce says. “She’s just such a calming person to be around. It helps me to take a deep breath and focus.”

Senior and fellow Encore member Charlie Vazquez can easily relate.

“Morgan is probably the only reason I’ve gotten through certain classes,” he says. “She has a bubbly personality that always brightens my day.”

Many classmates, teachers, and friends alike can agree on Morgan’s constant attitude of encouragement and fun sense of humor.

“Last year Morgan, Addy, and I used to have homework sleepovers,” senior Lindsey Scarborough says. “Addy and I were always unmotivated to continue, but Morgan could always push us to finish.”

Morgan transferred from Walsh Middle School to BCS during the second semester of Karen Peyton’s sixth-grade class.

“I remember feeling nervous because I came during the middle of the year, but certain people like Abby White were so welcoming. Everyone was so young, but they put out effort to know me,” Morgan reminisces.

This was especially important to her since she joined Brentwood because she wanted to find a Christian atmosphere where she felt she could belong.

According to Morgan, English teacher Dr. Paul Robison has been a major influence in her life since he first taught her in her freshman year. Dr. Robison can recall reading her freshman autobiography and noting the obvious faith and Christ-like attitude it revealed. Since that year Robison has grown to understand Morgan’s character more and more through English papers and how she interacts with her classmates.

“She’s not the star dunker, but she has a lot of assists in quiet ways that make an impact,” he says. “She feeds the ball to others and rejoices in their triumphs; she’s very gifted in support.”

Morgan now aides for Dr. Robison and says she enjoys her time spent there immensely.

Morgan’s siblings – freshman Gavin and sophomore Brayden – also attend Brentwood.

Ever since the eventful day that Morgan first came to BCS, she promptly made a splash in

the music program. Morgan has been involved in choir throughout middle and high school, and she has participated in Encore for three years. Morgan is also the vice president of choir this year and a section leader for the sopranos. In addition she is starring as the queen in the musical *Cinderella* opening next week.

But Morgan doesn’t just share her beautiful soprano voice with Brentwood; every Sunday she can be seen on New Life Church’s worship team, and in her youth group band. Her followers on Instagram will also sometimes hear duets she posts with her mother, Shannon.

“She has a very clear, beautiful, and flutey sound. She’s able to soar over the high notes with an uplifting and calming tone,” choir and Encore director Whitney Wick says.

Morgan is always ready to perform in early morning Encore practices and constantly brings a positive atmosphere, according to Wick.

“Encore is one of the biggest blessings Brentwood has given me,” Morgan says. “It’s a big part of my identity; I stepped out of my comfort zone to do it, and I’m proud of it.”

In addition to her musical talents, Morgan is also an excellent student. This will be her third year to be a member of National Honor Society, and she is the senior class vice president.

“Morgan is a great student,” Dr. Robison says. “I would describe her as diligent, determined, and sensitive.”

Morgan will attend the University of

Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton next fall and is planning on majoring in elementary education. When Morgan first considered what she might major in she wasn’t sure if elementary education was the route she wanted to take. But her

recent job with the extended care at

BCS showed her that it is indeed the path God wants her to take. She chose UMHB because of the smaller community, encouraging people, and how strongly she felt the faith on campus.

Morgan says she became interested in teaching because of the inspiration and influence of certain teachers.

One of these is Jimmy Harper, who taught her U.S. History in her junior year and is her current Government teacher.

“He just made class so enjoyable,” she says. “We learned so much, but it didn’t feel like learning.”

Those who know Morgan well and those who don’t know her as one who encourages merely by her presence.

“She’s like a beam of sunshine on a cloudy day,” senior Addy Hardin says. “Everyone needs a Morgan in their life.”

It’s hard for all of Morgan’s friends and teachers to believe that in less than a year her long, curly red hair will no longer swish around the BCS hallways and her gentle soprano voice will no longer grace their ears. But they all know that she will bless the atmosphere around her wherever she goes in the coming years.



Students serve around town, reflect artfully

By Timothy Lee

Brentwood’s annual Spiritual Emphasis Day was held on Sep. 22, a day in which the high school students of BCS participated in services projects and drew closer to God through art, prayer, meditation, and bonding time. This is the third year that math teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth has managed and coordinated the event.

“I want our students to experience a variety of spiritual practices so that they all have opportunities to see God at work in their lives,” Dr. Hollingsworth said. “God encounters each person in unique ways; some meet God in service, some in prayer, some in fellowship, and some in worship.”

The day began with the students splitting up by grade level and heading off to service projects: the freshmen at various Head Start locations, the sophomores at Village Christian Apartments and Texas Baptist Children’s Home, the juniors at the Central Texas Food Bank, and the seniors at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food bank and the Head Starts in Leander and Georgetown.

“Being given the opportunity to serve others, even if indirectly, is always an honor,” junior Austin Biegert said. “At the end of the morning, getting to see the physical product of our work – thousands of pounds of food sorted, that was a very happy moment for all of us.”

After each group finished volunteering, the students stopped for lunch and came back to BCS to reflect and pray on the events that transpired that day. The seniors were paired with their freshman buddies, while the juniors and sophomores split up by class for each of the stations. The students participated in three activities to focus their minds on God and the theme verse for this year, Matthew 5:14, 16: lighting up the darkness with candles, creating interpretive art, and joining a multi-layered prayer called the smoothie prayer.

“The smoothie prayer is essentially where each person says their own prayers out loud at the same time,” said senior Addy Hardin, who introduced the idea. “Personally, this is one of the most powerful forms of prayer that I have experienced. Hearing the sound of so many voices all worshipping the same God at once is truly moving.”

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2016

Updated security, new classes among campus additions

By Benjamin Helyer

Brentwood Christian has undergone several modifications since the conclusion of last school year. Cameras now monitor the entire campus, a new walkway has been constructed, parking permits have been issued to student drivers, 3D printers have been added, several new classes have begun, and a Forensics Challenge will launch this year.

The change which has earned the most attention is the new security system. The system installation began in March and finished in June under the direction of chief security officer Wayne Marks.

While a few students have voiced concerns about the cameras, Marks stressed that they are only intended to ensure the security of the campus.

“The reason we have cameras is not to invade your privacy, but to keep you safe,” he said.

Marks went on to say that all the cameras are in areas that would be considered “public,” such as roads, hallways, and doorways, and that there are no cameras in bathrooms or locker rooms.

Last year, there were some cameras already in place but in locations that inadequately covered the campus. This year, the school upgraded to an entirely new system of 53 cameras. The installation process involved finding what to cover and designing locations for the cameras.

With the new camera system, one can watch a car go all the way across campus using any possible route. However, the system is still in the process of being fine-tuned in areas such as license plate detection.

Marks has also gotten a few laughs from the cameras. He noted that at the end of last year, he was able to observe the senior prank of put-

ting wild decorations in the hallways. Though he knew the prank would occur beforehand, he said that he saw some amusing dancing by the seniors. This year, with the new card reading system, Marks has seen teachers frantically waving badges at the wrong readers, wondering why they were not being let into the building.

Alongside the new camera system, parking permits have been issued to student drivers on campus. In order to park or leave campus for lunch, students must have a parking permit displayed on their rearview mirror.

In addition to the security upgrades, another notable

addition to campus is the new walkway that was installed between the science wing of the Center for Science and the Arts and the parking lot. The concrete walkway was a gift from the most recent senior class.

Many people enjoy not having to walk through mud after a storm or avoid ant piles while trying to traverse the median between the science wing and the parking lot.

“Everyone loves that walkway!” junior Derek Lilya said.

Elsewhere on campus, new bleachers have been installed on the athletic field. According to president Jay Burcham, the seating capacity is nearly doubled from last year’s temporary bleachers. In addition to this new seating, Brentwood had its first “Friday Night Lights” football games this season. Fans have enjoyed

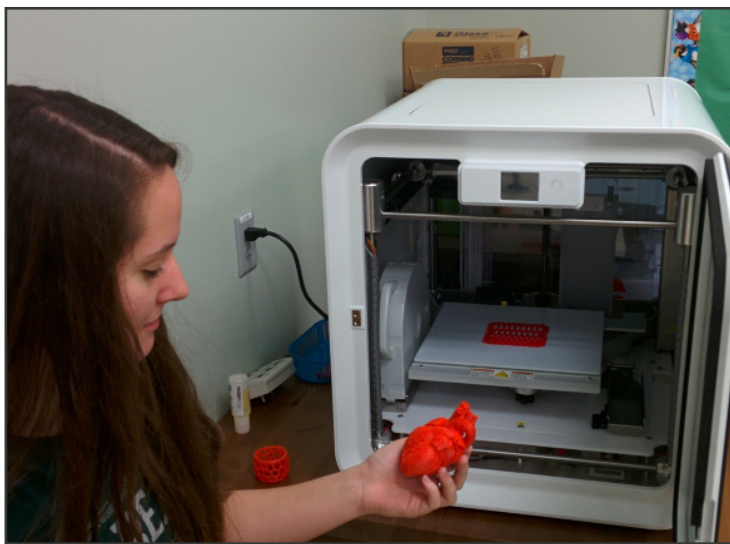


photo: Thomas Yates

Hard heart Junior Trinity Ragsdill, an aide for Dr. Diann Sloan, holds a heart model made by one of the school’s new 3D printers.

watching the school’s first 11-man football team under rented lights.

Several new features have been added to the science department. A “Forensics Challenge” will begin at some point during the year, in which students from other schools will be challenged to solve crime scenes by the students in the BCS Forensics class.

Several 3D printers have been added by the science department as well. These arrived right before the school year began, and they are managed by Dahill, the same company which manages the copiers for Brentwood. High school science teacher Michelle Mallett said that she will use them for all of her classes, especially with her Forensics class, but is currently waiting on training in order to better operate the printers.

The science department has added AP Physics 1 to its curriculum as well. Physics teacher Dr. Diann Sloan said she is excited to have the opportunity to teach a college level class and has been preparing to teach the class since the summer of 2015 when she went to a workshop on the course. She said the course was added in order to expand the current science curriculum.

A competition math class was added this year as well, taught by Kaleen Graessle. The class focuses on preparing for competitions such as Texas State Math League, TMSCA, TCSIT, TAPPS, and other UIL meets throughout the year.

Another new class this year is Italian, which means that Brentwood will now have two foreign language programs. Dr. Paul Robison, who lived for 18 years in Italy, began teaching

the class this year after being asked by secondary principal Carol Johnson. He said the class is already singing simple hymns in Italian and will be watching cartoons in Italian soon. Students in the class have greeted him in Italian while walking across campus as well. There are several seniors in the class who will be going to Italy in the spring also, and he hopes that learning some Italian beforehand will benefit them.

Brentwood also changed uniform providers over the summer. The transition was made from CFJ Manufacturing to Parker, which was the initial provider for school uniforms years ago. There will no longer be an on-campus uniform store due to this change, but the Parker uniforms are widely considered to be of a higher quality than the ones CFJ provided.

After-school programs feature cooking, biking, music, more

By Nicholas Hunka

If you have noticed the field behind the auditorium filled with kids swinging golf clubs on Wednesday afternoons after school, then you’ve seen one of the new BCS after-school enrichment programs.

This year Brentwood Christian has started offering after-school programs ranging from cooking to music to sports. A need for the programs was perceived by administration, including president Jay Burcham and extended day coordinator DeShondra Booker. The goal was to give parents extra time to pick up their children while giving the students time to

work on activities not offered during the school day.

Programs are offered after school on Mondays through Thursdays, and semester costs range from \$100 for Mountain Biking to \$500 for String Orchestra.

Cooking is the most popular choice, with 21 elementary students meeting every Monday. Students in grades K-2 meet at 2:40, while grades 3-5 meet at 3:40 for Kids Kitchen. The children learn some basics of cooking and make a different recipe every week with dishes ranging from blueberry muffins to Pad Thai. Third-grader Caitlin Welsh said yogurt parfaits from the first week were her favorite.

Mountain Biking is offered to middle and high school. Students bring their own mountain bike on Tuesdays after school and can participate in one weekend ride per month. Cody Baron, father of BCS students Judah, Elijah, and Levi, is the coach. His goal is to form a competitive BCS mountain bike team to enter the Texas High School Mountain Bike League this spring.

Creative Movement Dance is offered by drill team teacher Lisa Warner for grades K4-5 in the CSA on Thursdays. There are 18 students in the class, and each week focuses on a different style of dance. Warner said the students have been introduced to jazz, ballet, musical theater,

and hip hop, with more dance styles to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Golf and Tennis are offered through the TGA program for all elementary students. Kids and parents enjoy that all equipment is provided at every practice with this program. Students learn the fundamentals, etiquette, and rules of golf and tennis.

Music programs include Piano Music and String Orchestra. Students must have at least one year of violin, viola, cello, or bass experience for the String Orchestra. A concert will follow the class at the end of every semester.

Booker said she feels the programs have been successful and a good addition to BCS.

Football team takes easy wins, tough losses in debut

By Blake Benton

The lights shine bright on the Bears' field while snare drums, cheers, and the smell of roasted corn fill the air. Senior quarterback Jordan Johnson drops back in the pocket and fires a shot over three defenders downfield connecting with junior tailback Hunter Burcham for a 15-yard touchdown on the fourth play of the game, putting Brentwood Christian on the board 6-0. About 1,300 fans erupt in cheer as they witness school history in the making.

Many prayers for a football team had finally been answered as Brentwood's first-ever 11-man football team crushed East Austin College Prep 49-0 in the 2016 season opener at home. In preparation for the season, BCS added new bleachers, lights, and a first-ever drill team.

"That was definitely a game I will remember years from now," said senior Jaime Lopez, a leader of the Claw Crew.

Six games into the season, the Bears are 3-3 overall and have a 0-2 district record, but it is a very promising start for a brand new program.

Before the season, Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine predicted Brentwood to be the underdogs that could barely muster up enough players to take the field. However, while their 25-man roster consists of ten freshmen, eight sophomores, four juniors, and only two seniors, Brentwood has surprised a lot of people.

"Coaching inexperienced guys is like trying to teach a new language," head coach Stan Caffey said. "We go into each game holding our players to the same expectations as a veteran team."

With such a young team, BCS is having to rely on mostly freshmen and sophomores to mature and step up to make key plays against much more experienced teams. When asked how he feels about the progress of the team, Caffey's response was clear.

"Anytime you go up against good competition, you get better," Caffey said. "Iron sharpens iron."

The boys turned heads starting off the season, winning by a combined score of 93-0 in



photo: Darnell Mack

Bulldozer Junior Hunter Burcham rumbles through a hole in the East Austin College Prep defense during the Bears' 49-0 victory on opening night, Aug. 26.

their first two games against the East Austin College Prep Tigers and the Central Texas Christian Lions.

"Winning those first two ball games helped raise our confidence," Caffey said.

Next Brentwood loaded the buses and headed over to the Westwood High field to play St. Dominic Savio, a powerful running team. Although the Bears lost 48-0, they gained experience to prepare for the game to come against Texas Military Institute.

"Anytime you face adversity, it makes you stronger," Caffey said afterward.

Offensive/defensive line coach Eric Thomason is new to the coaching staff this year, joining defensive coordinator Correy Washington and assistant coach Ryan Rivera. Coach Thomason brings college-level coaching experience to the Bears young linemen, having previously coached at San Jose State University and Football College.

Johnson leads the Bears passing with 439 passing yards and eight touchdowns. He also leads the team in rushing with 569 yards and 5 touchdowns. Freshman Phillip Mach leads in receiving with nine catches for 124 yards and

a touchdown. Freshman Sam Orick leads the defense with 28 tackles.

Johnson, the team's outspoken leader, admitted it has been a challenge to be one of two seniors on a team of mainly freshmen and sophomores.

"At times it is extremely frustrating, because there is lack of experience and maturity," he said. "But I enjoy being the leader out there and helping those guys improve, because it makes me confident in how much better this team will be after gaining this experience."

Brentwood has nine returning players from last season's inaugural six-man football team. The boys finished with a 3-5 record in a non-district season.

Following are recaps from the Bears' games thus far (* denotes district game):

8/26: East Austin 49-0 W

Johnson completed 12 of 18 passes for 180 yards and four touchdowns. Burcham scored twice and had 39 total yards. Sophomore Blake Benton also scored twice and had 120 all-purpose yards. Burcham led with eight tackles.

9/2: CTCS 44-0 W

The Bears scored early and kept building

on that lead all night, despite losing two key starters to injuries. Johnson exploded with 318 total yards, three rushing touchdowns, and one touchdown pass. Junior Tyler Hughes led the Bears in tackles with 12. Benton scored two touchdowns off of fumble recoveries on consecutive plays in the first quarter.

9/9: @ St. Dominic Savio 48-0 L

Brentwood took a tough first loss in their first road game, playing at Westwood High School. The Bears were missing three starters: freshman offensive/defensive lineman Isaac Copeland, junior wingback Tyler Hughes, and sophomore wingback/thunder linebacker Blake Benton. The defense could not stop the powerful running game of Savio, and the offense had trouble making first downs. Johnson led the defense with 12 tackles.

9/16: @ Texas Military Institute 33-32 W

Brentwood scored 21 unanswered points in the first few minutes of the game, but TMI fought back and tied the Bears 26-26 at the half. The second half was a defensive struggle until Orick broke a 50-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. With only a few seconds left, TMI scored to pull within one point of Brentwood, 33-32. They tried for a two-point conversion to win the game, but the Bears' defense made a crucial stop and pulled out the win.

Orick finished with two touchdowns and had 93 total yards. Johnson completed 11 of 17 passes for 147 yards, threw three touchdowns, and ran for another. Burcham led the team with seven tackles.

9/23: @ Shiner St. Paul* 49-6 L

In their first district game, Brentwood's opponent was the defending TAPPS Division 3 state champion. BCS took their second loss of the season because of turnovers and failure to make first downs. Burcham drove in the Bears' only touchdown on a three-yard run.

9/30: Hallettsville Sacred Heart* 35-0 L

Hallettsville jumped out to a 21-0 lead midway through the first quarter. The Bears stopped the Indians' offense for the rest of the half as the score stayed the same. Brentwood played better in the second half offensively but could not find the end zone.

'Cinderella'

continued from page 1

memorable moments.

Mallett said her favorite part of the musical is right after the ball.

"In this scene, you get to see the stepfamily and Cinderella acting like a true family, even if it is just for a little while," she said.

The cast and crew have been working long hours since before school began. Practices ending at 9 p.m. started three days into the school year. These long practices have typically not

started until a month into school.

This year's musical is a very different genre from last year's *Seussical*. *Cinderella* is a show more suited for choral voices. While *Seussical* was a show more heavily centered on the ensemble, *Cinderella* focuses more on the lives of the principal characters.

The BCS theater department has an almost entirely new crew. The loss of graduate John Hollingsworth, whose ability with lights and sound was widely heralded, has presented a challenge.

But senior Nhat Do said he thinks the transi-

tion will be pretty smooth, and he said many people have expressed interest in being a part of the crew.

A new choreographer, Madison Carson, has been hired to work on *Cinderella*. She is a professional with extensive dance knowledge, and she has choreographed Austin-area shows in which Alexander has performed.

On a limited budget, Alexander said she is having a hard time finding time period costumes of a reasonable price for so many people. Getting costumes for the women's ensemble

included a group trip to Goodwill to find peasant clothes organized by Sunshine, and a mass order of ball gowns from Amazon.

This past January, BCS welcomed Whitney Wick, the choir director, and this is her first Brentwood musical.

"I love absolutely everything about her," said senior Morgan George, who plays Queen Constantina.

Tickets for *Cinderella* are available online and can also be purchased at the box office before and after school during the next two weeks.

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2016

Volleyball team cruising with 8-1 district record

By Kaitlyn Baird

After winning the first-ever BCS athletic state championship last year, the Lady Bears are coming together under a new head coach and finding their identity: to play for Christ and win a fourth-straight district title.

The Lady Bears are second in district behind John Paul II with an 8-1 record (18-15-1 overall), after defeating San Marcos Academy on Tuesday. After their game against Faith Academy on Oct. 6, the girls have four more games before the district season ends Oct. 20.

Senior Night will be Oct. 11 when Brentwood takes on Boerne Geneva.

“Our goal is to win district,” senior Alicia Dixon said. “Many goals will come before that, however, such as building chemistry, or missing no more than one serve per set.”

The Lady Bears have worked to overcome a few challenges as they make their way through district.

“We struggled with finding our identity at the beginning, but we got over that hump,” new head coach Russell Larson said.

According to Larson, the team didn’t know how to come together as a team and who would take the leadership roles near the beginning of the season, but they figured out how to unite, play their parts, and play “for Christ and for his glory.”

Larson said the team worked on improving their defense and “staying in the system,” meaning each player should know what they’re supposed to do and then do it. He also said the team’s biggest strength is spirituality.

For the most part, the girls have responded

positively to his approach.

“I think he’s the leader our team has needed spiritually,” Dixon said.

The team has a tradition of praying together after every match and singing the school song to the stands as a way of thanking the crowd.

Through Sep. 30, senior Addy Hardin leads the team with 617 assists and 45 aces. Dixon leads with 237 kills, followed by senior Nicole Dobos with 184. Sophomore Jaclyn Wishard leads with 46 blocks, and sophomore Nyna Vazquez has the most digs with 565.

After a few losses near the beginning of the season, the team’s recent wins have “set the tone for the last half of the season,” according to Larson.

The Lady Bears won 3-0 against Geneva on Sep. 15, which Larson said was a huge win for the team. He said it was a tough match, but it was also “a lot of fun.”

The girls suffered their only district loss 3-1 on Sep. 20 against John Paul II. Larson said the game was a battle, but the Lady Bears never gave up. He said he’s proud of them and they made some great plays.

The Lady Bears came back with a 3-0 win against Concordia on Sep. 22 and a 3-1 win against Texas School for the Deaf on Sep. 27. They also swept San Juan Diego Catholic on Sep. 29.

Brentwood finished fourth with a 4-2 record at the annual BCS Bestpack Invitational on Sep. 9 and 10, after losing 2-1 to Regents in the third-place game.

Last year the Lady Bears reached their goal and took home the state title for the first time in BCS history. Four members of that team are



photo: Kevin McKinnery

Look out! Senior Claire Polasek prepares for the kill against a recent opponent.

now playing in college: Keely Hardin, Jami Lee, Kara Teal, and Blair Westerlund.

“This year it has felt like we are in last year’s shadow, but that most definitely isn’t true,” Dixon said. “I feel excited for our team’s future and am proud of our work.”

Larson has spent 20 years coaching club and high school volleyball. He most recently

coached at Elgin High School, where he took his team to playoffs the two years he was there.

Larson retired from coaching in public schools, but he considered returning to officiate volleyball, which he did for 25 years. However, Larson said athletic director Stan Caffey convinced him to return to coaching volleyball at BCS, alongside JV coach Taylor Gray.

Lack of runners clouds cross country

By Michael Milicia

With one more meet before state on Oct. 29, the high school cross country teams have been improving their times dramatically through their five meets this season.

A big disappointment this year has been lack of participation from both sides of the team. The girls’ team only has three runners: senior Macy Kidwell, junior MaeAnn Herring, and freshman Marina Murillo. This means they won’t be able to make a score as a team, although they can place individually.

The boys’ team has five runners: junior Derek Lilya, sophomores Nathan Ging and Mitchell Johnson, and freshmen Michael Milicia and Cade Young. While they do have enough runners to make a placement for the school, they lack upperclassman leadership and experience.

Coach Katie Smith said she would like to see more students, especially girls, come out for

cross country next year.

“Cross country’s a hard sport,” she said. “We’re looking for people who want to run, not just join the team. It’d be nice to have more.”

Smith also said she wants to see better placements and times individually. She said she’s very happy with the runners she has now, as she is seeing a lot of progress between meets for every runner.

At the Vista Ridge Invitational on Aug. 27, the boys competed in the JV division. Ging came in first for BCS with a time of 21:52 in the 5K run, immediately followed by Milicia (21:52).

Herring was first on the girls’ team with a time of 15:38 in the two-mile run, followed by Kidwell (16:21).

At the St. Andrew’s Invitational on Sep. 10, the boys competed with varsity 1-4A schools. Milicia led the way with a time of 20:39, followed by Lilya (22:17), Ging (22:20), and

Johnson (22:42).

Herring led the girls with a time of 14:15, followed by Kidwell (15:26).

At the Cedar Park Invitational on Sep. 17, the boys finished 11th out of 17 teams for 5K small school varsity. Milicia was first with a time of 20:34, followed by Johnson (21:44), Ging (22:31), Lilya (22:57), and Young (23:41). Herring finished in 14:21.

At the Brenham Hillacious Invitational on Sep. 24, the boys were 19th out of 22 for the varsity 1A-4A. Milicia led the way in 20:50, followed by Ging (21:27), Johnson, (21:32), Lilya (22:13), and Young (22:14).

Herring paced the girls with a time of 14:56, followed by Kidwell (15:16), and Murillo (18:15).

Practice is every day from 3 p.m. to about 4:30. The days alternate between long distance and shorter distance runs, and runners use neighborhood streets as well as trails in the woods.



photo: Alicia Dixon

Battling Freshman Cade Young keeps the pace at a recent cross country meet.

Retreating seniors zip, hike, blob, explore spiritual pathways

By Hannah Odom

Senior Morgan George shakily climbs to the top of the canopy and, standing upon wobbly legs, clings to the rope that will keep her from falling. Classmate Camille Sunshine reminds her through the song “Isaiah 43 (Do Not Fear)” that, because God is with her, she has no reason to be afraid. George leaves the canopy, ziplining down with shrieks of joy.

Seniors worked toward strengthening their relationships with God and their classmates on the senior retreat at Camp Buckner on Aug. 28-29.

During the trip, students enjoyed ziplining, hiking, playing human foosball, swimming, “blobbing” one another in the pond, playing beach volleyball, and growing closer to God through community.

Senior Alicia Dixon said the retreat “felt no different than the ninth-grade retreat,” because the class doesn’t try to act cool or feign maturity. “We can all still goof off together, talk to each other, and bond.”

Math and Bible teacher Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth taught the campers that individuals have different worship styles, or “spiritual pathways,” when it comes to growing close to God. These pathways include the enthusiasts, contemplatives, naturalists, sensates, ascetics, and activists.

After taking a survey, students were classified according to their spiritual pathways and attended three of the six activities that best fit their personalities. Enthusiasts sang very soulfully with teacher Jimmy Harper;



photo: Kristyn Chambers

Sass Daniel Ayala and Claire Polasek pose near the bean bag toss at Camp Buckner, where the seniors enjoyed a chance to strengthen relationships on Aug. 28-29.

naturalists went exploring in a creek with coach Paul Sladek. President Jay Burcham led ascetics in 20 minutes of silent meditation, and sensates went with Hollingsworth to worship through the stimulation of all five senses

using music, clay, candles, and chocolate.

“I like seeing people encountering God in ways they didn’t expect,” Hollingsworth said.

Burcham’s speech was another important part of the retreat. He reminded the students

that life will get more challenging, but they need to bounce back and “live a little”; there is no winding back of the clock. Everyone should try to get the most out of their final year of high school.

“God is sovereign,” Burcham reminded the seniors, “but take risks.”

The seniors also discussed class business, such as the announcement of freshman buddies. The class’s theme verse was almost unanimously decided upon to be John 16:33. Also, after the terrorist attacks in Paris, the senior trip’s new destination was voted to be Italy.

The senior gift and class song were also discussed at the retreat, but, after some riotous discussion, both topics were left undecided. Harper even used this chaotic event as a teaching point for his Government class to show how direct democracy can get a bit disorderly.

Students left Brentwood in buses at 8 a.m. Sunday morning and returned to campus at 3:30 p.m. on Monday smelling of sweat, campfire smoke, and lake water.

“I found the retreat to be a truly relationship-reviving experience, growing closer to people I didn’t know anything about and strengthening relationships with people I have known since kindergarten,” senior Charlie Vazquez said.

The boys led the group in a devotional about leadership, reaching out to others, and having a good attitude.

“The retreat was an awesome reminder that we are still youthful and have an awesome year ahead of us to spend with all of the Brentwood family,” Dixon said.

Freshman retreat features sports, watermelon, future plans

By Savannah Jowers

“Everybody stop!” freshman Addie McDaniel yelled while searching for her glasses in the middle of glow-in-the-dark capture the flag. After she found them, the game resumed with the final score undetermined.

This chaotic game of nearly 60 freshmen running and waving glow sticks in the dark was a small part of the fun activities enjoyed at the annual freshman retreat, held at Camp Buckner on Sep. 11-12.

The two Brentwood buses filled with freshmen left campus at about 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Accompanying the students were class sponsors Summer Best and Kaleen Graessle, as well as secondary principal Carol Johnson and teachers Evan Johnson and Jonathan Weed.

“I think the retreat went smooth, and Mrs. Johnson said it was one of the best ninth grade

retreats she had seen at Brentwood,” class president Natalie Barry said.

The two days were filled with challenges and games as the Class of 2020 was split up into four groups, each led by a class officer. The groups competed in a kickball tournament, a watermelon eating contest, and a lip-sync battle. There were times for swimming – including “blobbing” on the pond – hiking, nine square, human foosball, gaga ball, and sand volleyball.

“The watermelon eating challenge was my favorite because it was interesting to see how far people are willing to go to achieve something, and how cohesively we can work to achieve a common goal,” Addison Alberda said.

The getaway also held a nature hike around the trails on the campground and included a few stream crossings and hill climbing. Fresh-

men also spent some time in worship, including a campfire and s’mores. Both the evening and the morning devotions were led by some of the boys. Isaac Copeland spoke both times and was able to share some wise words.

“I was nervous at first, but once I got in a groove it just felt natural,” Copeland said.

On Monday, school president Jay Burcham spoke to the freshmen about their futures and encouraging them to think about what things matter most.

Over the two days the freshmen discussed what their class song would be, what their shirt might include, their motto, and how they wanted to be remembered.

“I think we are a funny and smart class,” Elias Qussad said. “I want us to be remembered as one of the most unique classes.”



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Yum Isaac Copeland tries to pick up the slack for his team by eating as much watermelon as he can in a short time.