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# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 36 NO. 1

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2023



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## Record number of new staff welcomed

By Bear Facts Staff

The 2023-24 school year marked the largest crop of new teachers, faculty and administrators in Brentwood Christian School's history. From Athletics to Fine Arts to office staff, the Lord provided an incredible group of new employees to add to the

frontlines of BCS' mission and foundation.

**Miranda Bundick** is the Finance Department's fresh face after consulting in three interviews prior to accepting the job. As the Account Payables specialist, which translates to "bill payer," Bundick hopes to make Brentwood her home for the foreseeable future.

Bundick believes this is an incredible opportunity for her after seeking help from God to send her somewhere she can stay for at least 5 years.

"I plan to stay here for as long as God and Brentwood Christian School will allow me to stay," said Bundick.

- Kali Whitmire

**Yen-Ching Chiu** has taken on the role of Choir Director at BCS in her first year as a teacher. Previously teaching private vocal lessons, Chiu graduated with a master degree from Texas State University.

"I want to take choir to a whole new level," Chiu said.

Chiu became a teacher after falling in love with teaching piano; her family were educators, as well. Chiu is married and has two children.

- Drake Jackson

**Sean Cummings** becomes a new member of the BCS community as a new Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 teacher. Cummings graduated from The University of Massachusetts and has been teaching for 25 years.

Cummings, who played college football, chose Brentwood because he enjoys being surrounded by other believers.

"It is a Christian-based school and this is great because you can profess your talk about Christ, and I love God because he is amazing in so many ways," said Cummings.

- Ava Cavada

**Andy Dudney** was hired by Brentwood as Middle School Athletic Coordinator. He taught at public schools for 30 years and

see **NEW STAFF**, page 5

## Johnson enters 12th year

By Everett Merrell, Lukas Fenske

This year, Brentwood Christian School celebrates high school principal Carol Johnson's twelfth year of service at BCS. After spending over a decade in a leadership position, there are many things to reflect on and celebrate from Johnson's time as a Bear.

From academic success to spiritual growth, Johnson has played a key role in the current culture and standard of excellence Brentwood strives to adopt daily, monthly and yearly. She has positively impacted many students in a Christ-like way, including senior Bryson Best, who has seen her acts of Christianity for many years as a high school student, and even prior in middle school and elementary school.

"She makes sure that everything we do glorifies God," Best said.

Johnson first came to Brentwood in 2012, hoping to be a positive influence on kids and to take on the challenge of being a principal.

"I was at church in the morning and someone told me that Brentwood was looking for a principal position," Johnson said. "I applied for the job because I always wanted to be a high school principal and work with kids and support students."

She never had thought of working in a private Christian school before, spending the first half of her career working at public schools such as Leander Rouse High School.

"The change from a public to private school was different," Johnson said.

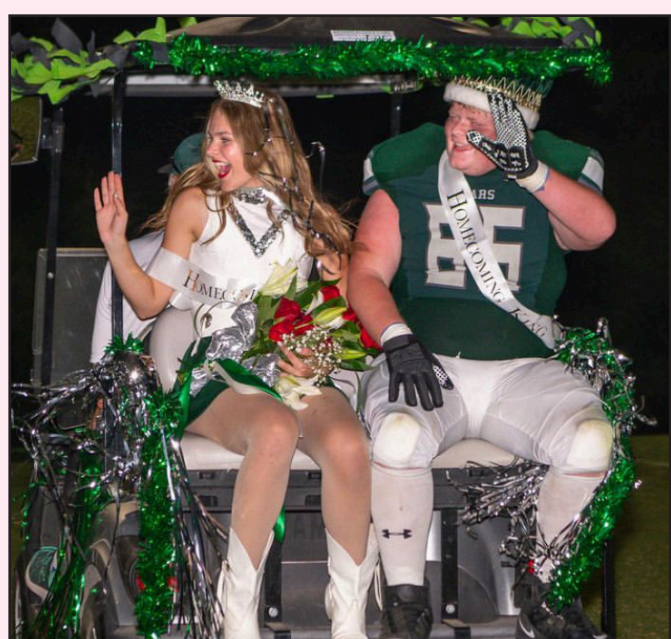
She had never been around students who were so respectful. With that in mind, some of Johnson's proudest accomplishments are enhancing that level of professionalism in the students and making a safe and fun learning environment for all.

"My biggest accomplishments include making Brentwood a very good

see **PRINCIPAL**, page 3



Chiu



Smile and wave! Homecoming King and Queen Micah Riley and Lyla Kate Jackson greet their new subjects following their coronation at halftime on Sep. 22's home football game vs. St. Dominic Savio.

see **HOCO**, page 8

## Henderson Cup triumph well-earned

By Ally Robertson, John Youngdale

Brentwood Christian School received the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Henderson Cup for the 2022-2023 school year through a collective achievement of all the school's departments in TAPPS activities.

The school tied with Geneva School of Boerne with a score of 86 points, highlighting the importance of even the smallest contribution of BCS programs. Thirty of Brentwood's 86 points came from three state championships in girls cross country, band and academics, respectively.

President Jay Burcham expressed what this award says about the collective assortment of

God-given abilities at Brentwood.

"It represents the fullness of the talent and effort on our campus because it encompasses academics, the arts, and athletics," Burcham said.

The Henderson Cup has been given to the overall champion of each TAPPS division since 1989. This champion is decided through a scoring system that awards points based on placement in all TAPPS competitions.

The three state championships played a vital role in this accomplishment. Band and academics received state championships due to the points scored in multiple

see **AWARD**, page 3

All the Right Questions with Lucy Belcik

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2023

# Editor discusses solutions to fast fashion

Ever since the establishment of thrift stores as a solution to textile waste in the early 1900s, buying second hand has been viewed by the general public as distasteful—a symbol of poverty and uncleanness. Even as late as the 1990s and 2000s, thrifting for those above the poverty line was at best a decidedly “alternative” way to shop, braved only by those seeking to make a statement.

It is only in recent years that thrifting as a mainstream approach to fashion and shopping has become accepted among wealthier consumers, especially among members of Gen Z. Fueled by internet trends and a general distaste for “fast fashion”, these avid shoppers

hit the racks regularly, competing for the most high quality and unique pieces.

The reasons behind this phenomenon point to multiple facets of Gen Z identity, primarily their aversion towards large corporate brands with dubious environmental impacts. McKinsey’s State of Fashion report from 2019 states that nine in ten Generation Z consumers believe companies have a responsibility to address environmental and social issues, and are reluctant to buy from brands they believe to be “unsustainable”.

And as a solution to this distrust of fast fashion, thrifting seems to be the perfect fix. Thrifting is both accessible and trendy—a way to find one-of-a-kind high quality pieces for low prices, while reducing consumption of brand-new and cheaply-made clothing from brands like Zara and Shein. All it takes is time—of which Gen Z has plenty, as most are young enough to still be students yet to enter the workforce full time.

However, consumption of fast fashion is just as prevalent among Gen Z, whether they choose to admit it or not. Brands like Shein, offering on-trend clothing at next-to-nothing prices, have seen a boom in sales in recent years, fueled mainly by Gen Z shoppers. A survey from INDYX showed that although 94% of Gen Z consumers were in favor of action for sustainability, 62% admitted to buying from retailers like Shein and Zara at least once a month.

Clothing from such brands is almost always cheaply made and worn out after only a few wears. This method of production allows for strict adherence to trends, with new styles shipped out to stores and offered online monthly, weekly, or even daily.

It also leads to lax adherence to environmental and worker safety standards, with most

brands choosing to base their factories in third world countries, taking advantage of workers desperate for a steady income. The production practices of fast fashion have raised flags in several areas, from those concerned with the ethical repercussions to others worried about impacts on the environment and the improper disposal of waste produced by factories, as well as the increasing amount of textile waste produced by consumers who wear a piece once, then throw it away.

A quick search on any social media platform for “haul videos” will easily bring up hundreds of clips of creators, usually young women or teen girls, showing off huge amounts of new clothing, often from popular fast fashion brands. It’s hard to imagine that every article of clothing displayed in these videos will get worn more than once before being tossed or donated.

The repercussions of fast fashion are far-reaching enough to impact even the thrift stores that were meant to be a haven from reckless consumerism (at least according to Gen-Z). Long-time frequenters of thrift stores have noticed that their favorite racks have recently been flooded by cheap cast-offs from well-meaning donors.

In the 2022 New York Times article “The Golden Age of Thrifting is Over,” seasoned thrifter Tina Koepe remarked on the changes she experienced in her local thrift stores beginning with the Covid pandemic.

“I’d go into thrift stores thinking I could find a few things for my wardrobe or for my family, and it would just be absolute, you know, garbage on the racks,” Koepe said. “Like stained fast-fashion clothes that nobody wants.”

Koepe commented that sometimes the clothes from brands like Lularoe, Zara, and Shein, were donated with the original tags still

will most likely end up in a textile landfill.

What, then, is the solution, if thrift stores are becoming swiftly polluted and fast fashion brands don’t seem to be slowing down anytime soon? I believe that it will take a complete change of the American attitude towards consumerism to fully solve the issue of textile waste and fast fashion, but there are small changes that we can begin to make to change this attitude.

The rise of interest in thrifting and second-hand clothing and goods is already a good sign that perhaps future generations will see a shift in how we interact with our economy. Remember, thrifting extends beyond just cute outfits—things like furniture, dishes, and books can be purchased second hand as well, rather than bought brand new from big box stores.

Fast fashion and purchasing brand new is not inherently bad. In fact, it is almost impossible to avoid completely, especially for basic pieces and everyday necessities. And thrifting, like all things, has its positives and negatives. It takes time and patience, even more so with more low-quality pieces to sift through at your local Goodwill or Salvation Army. What most flashy thrift hauls on social media don’t reveal is just how long it took to find that vintage sweater or funky pair of jeans.

But I’ve found that even with its time-consuming nature, thrifting is a lot more fulfilling than buying new. The excitement of finding a designer dress with a \$5.99 price tag far outweighs the time it took me to come across it, and I’m assured that I most likely won’t be accidentally twinning with anyone at whatever function I choose to wear it to.

Fast fashion isn’t going anywhere anytime soon. But small changes are still changes for the better. Look for quality over quantity. Don’t be afraid of repeating outfits. Be conscientious of what you donate. Don’t buy it if you won’t wear it. If we all thrifted one more piece of clothing this year, the world would already be one step closer to ending textile waste.

We are called by our Creator to take care of the world he has blessed us with. “God took man and put him in the Garden to work it and take care of it.” (Gen. 2:15) Being careless with his creation or denying that we are harming it at all doesn’t fulfill this calling or glorify him.

We know we are granted eternal life with God in heaven. We also know loving others is one of the greatest commandments he has given us. I believe that this commandment is obeyed not only by extending love towards all, but also by doing our part to take care of our beautiful home on Earth, leaving it better than we found it for future generations.

## THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published quarterly 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.

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



photo: The New York Times

**Camera ready** Catherine, Princess of Wales, shows her support for sustainable fashion by taking a rented Emilia Wickstead gown on the red carpet.

on.

“If you donate trash to a thrift store, it doesn’t just disappear,” says Adam Minter, author of “Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale.”

Increased interest in thrifting has led to increased donation to thrift stores, but not all clothing is created equal. Especially in the case of locally owned stores, excess donation of cheap clothes leads to higher business costs, as more time must be spent sorting to find clothes in good enough condition to sell. Often stores will have to pay to have damaged or unsellable items shipped out, where they



## Principal celebrates career

continued from page 1

learning environment where the teachers don't have to deal with students misbehaving and where the students can get a good education and ultimately go to college and make lifelong friends," said Johnson.

Other accomplishments include the academic accomplishments. Under Johnson, and with the hard work of teachers and students, the school has become a program to watch in the TAPPS Academic Meet, taking home the title the past seven years straight.

Brentwood alum Connor White, who has been a student and teacher while Johnson has served as principal, has experienced Johnson's innate leadership abilities firsthand.

"She shows veteran leadership. She is very good at helping people who are new and her willingness to work with anyone shows her Christian leadership," White said.

Johnson brings a lot to the table, such as her natural inclination for loving others.

"She brings the ability to care for people," White said.

Brentwood Christian president Jay Burcham has witnessed her kindness, servant heart and resilience over the last decade-plus, even in times of great trials and adversity.

"She is a great caretaker," Burcham said. "She showed her faith in God when her husband had a terrible stroke. She was by his side for his whole recovery."

Johnson is known by students and teachers alike as a very selfless person; she cares

about people before anyone else, including herself.

"She tries to get to know each student, and seeks to motivate them in ways that make sense to them," said high school teacher Paul Robison, who has been teaching high school for the majority of Johnson's career at Brentwood.

Johnson has always been one for helping students and faculty in ways that allow them to thrive in her school environment and has positively impacted many at Brentwood with her natural tendency of teaching and helping others. Robison accurately described how the Brentwood community best feels about Johnson, a statement likely shared by teachers, students and alumni alike.

"She has been a blessing to me, academically, spiritually, and personally," Robison said.



photo: Jake Hale

Johnson

## Cafeteria welcomes Crave-It

By Cam Cunningham, Brayden Jennings

Crave-It Nutrition, a new food service for all school lunches on campus, has recently become a hit with the Brentwood Christian School students. After striking a deal with BCS over the summer, Crave-It took full command of the cafeteria, taking over for Taher Food Services.

With more to offer than Taher, including

snacks, drinks, a variety of daily meals, and ice cream, Crave-It has worked hard to make the first two months of the cafeteria experience a positive one for students. There are multiple new ways to get lunch: a pre-order option, a healthy option, or a daily special being the main ones.

Food Service Director Misty Farrand believes what makes Crave-It different from other lunch providers is the overall product. Farrand also noted that the company, which is located here in Austin, makes for a smooth working arrangement and customer service for local partners such as BCS.

"Crave-It is a locally owned business that cares," Farrand said.

With strong reviews from students and staff alike thus far, Brentwood Christian School expects to partner with Crave-It for many years to come.

## Award brings honor, excitement

continued from page 1

events and competitions throughout the school year.

Former band director Travis Pollard's reflection on the accomplishment in fine arts signified the culmination of many years of hard work.

"We had been pushing for that state win for a few years," Pollard said. "I think everything came down to our amazing student leadership, both those that were placed into leadership positions and those that lead by example."

Championships award schools 10 points toward their Henderson Cup total, a number which factors heavily when TAPPS tabulates scores at the end of each school year. Additionally, for the seventh year in a row, Brentwood earned 10 points for the academic state championship.

Last year's TAPPS academic competition was held on Apr. 12-13 in Waco. The days featured competitions in speech, math, science, and literature. Brentwood dominated the competition with a score of 150 points, compared to second place's 112.

Girl's cross country's 10 points came at their state championship at the state cross country meet in Waco last October. The state win was the first championship for the school since 2021 and set the tone of

high achievement for the rest of the school year.

"It's all about the athletes... as coaches we just get to benefit from it," said Katie Smith, head cross country coach. "I'm happy to be a part of it but it's all for the school and the students."

Other high scorers for the school towards the Henderson Cup total included the Bellas, volleyball and the boys and girls track and field teams, all of whom recorded eight points as runners-up in their respective activity.

Going forward, Brentwood plans to expand its athletic depth with an addition of a Tennis program and an expansion of the Swimming program. The goal going forward is to repeat as champs.

"The next thing is to defend it and maintain a certain level of competitiveness," Athletic Director Julie Walker said. "We have to be serious about it and be intentional. Half the battle is having a plan."

Brentwood students continue to work hard, collaborating with new and old coaches and a brand new fine arts department led by new Band Director Jason Montier. With the Henderson Cup in mind, our Bears will continue to accomplish great things in arts, academics and sports, adding to the long list of achievements in an already illustrious history of success at BCS.



**Champions** Athletic director Julie Walker and secondary principal Carol Johnson proudly hold aloft the Henderson Cup alongside middle school principal Leah Smith (left), elementary principal Jeremy Thornton (clapping) and Fine Arts Director Jason Montier (far right) at the award celebration held at Brentwood's first home football game on Aug. 25.





**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Aubrey Acheson**

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2024.

# Spirited senior leads in sports, on campus

By Katie Pittner, Elli Harlan

If you've ever needed some encouragement or someone to show you a positive spin on things, you've likely talked to Aubrey Acheson. Acheson is recognized around campus as positive, hard-working, talented athlete, as well as a Christlike leader.

Known for her ready encouragement and enthusiastic smiles, Aubrey is glad to be known as someone who people can go to for help, and always lends a hand to those around her.

"I'm encouraging," Acheson said. "A lot of people ask me questions because they know I'm going to help them out—I will never say anything negative."

Acheson was born in San Antonio and came to Brentwood Christian School in the seventh grade. Ever since then, she has worked hard to make the Lady Bears volleyball program great. In her fourth year on varsity, she is known for always putting her all into the sport she loves, honing her skills to better the team.

"For me, volleyball is a game of perfection, but in a good way," she said. "There's so much room I can get better at, and I want to perfect it."

Known for her natural leadership, Acheson is captain of the volleyball team. Always ready with a kind and positive word, she often leads with her actions as well, earning the respect of her teammates.

"Aubrey leads by example," friend and junior Rayen Flandes says. "She never says anything that she won't do herself."

Acheson's positive attitude allows her to lead well. Whether it be in the classroom or on the court, Aubrey words and actions always inspire others to live with a positive mindset. This is especially true day in and day out at her practices.

"She is passionate about volleyball, she shows up with a great attitude to work in practice, which encourages her teammates as well as the younger athletes to have the same spirit," said Paula Trejos, head volleyball coach.

Acheson will graduate with many accolades in athletics. For her sophomore volleyball season, she earned first-team All District and All-State Honorable Mention, as well as second team All District and state runner up her junior year. In addition to her volleyball honors, Aubrey has earned many TAPPS basketball honors while serving as a point guard for the Lady Bears

basketball team.

In addition to leading in athletics, Acheson serves as an inspirational Christian example to her peers. She participates in chapel planning as she enjoys worshiping the Father and wishes all to experience his love.

"She inspires me to live in a way that shows Christ's love for us. She really does walk in a way that shows she shines because of Him and leads in a way that pushes people around her to be better," Flandes said.

An attendee of Parkway Bible Church,

Acheson has gone on multiple mission trips with her congregation. Recently, she went

on a mission trip to Mexico that she says impacted her prayer life.

While setting up clinics and helping kids, Aubrey heard many locals' stories of healing brought about by

prayer. She says that healing is something she hopes to inspire others to pray with her more for.

"I feel like in America we don't pray for things like that. We often just think of medicine, science, and what is humanly possible; but in Mexico there are so many miracle stories, so that definitely impacted my prayer life," Acheson said.

Acheson's dedication to prayer has not gone unnoticed, as she has encouraged spiritual growth all over campus, especially in her teammates on the volleyball team.

"There is no question, what she believes, nor who she believes in when she acts, whether leading the team in a pre-game prayer, praying over an injured teammate, or praying over the PA system before a game," said Trejos. "Not by designation; however, by example, Aubrey has become the spiritual leader of the team."

Acheson has many other hobbies, one of which is traveling. She says her favorite place she has ever been was Costa Rica. Her favorite memory was bungee jumping as she enjoyed the scenery of the rainforest.

"It was so pretty," she said. "It was like it is in the movies."

In addition to traveling, Acheson says she loves swimming in any body of water, watching college football, and hanging out with her friends, with some of her closest being senior Zariah Williams, junior Rayen Flandes, and junior Zaniah Williams.

Though still unsure what university she will attend, Aubrey has plans to play collegiate volleyball. In addition, she wants to go on a pre-med track, majoring in Biological Sciences. After her undergraduate career, Acheson hopes to attend medical school and become a surgeon.

Whichever college she ends up at, Acheson is sure to spread Christ's love in all that she does, in a way only she can.

"I can best describe Aubrey as Aubrey," Trejos said. "She has a very strong will that defends what she believes in one hundred percent without wavering."

"I would also describe her as an encourager who spends a great amount of her time and energy building her teammates up, on and off the court, tirelessly."





# New staff and faculty bring fresh spirit to campus

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coached high school basketball.

Originally at Austin High School before moving to Corpus Christi, he taught Algebra as well as serving as Special Education Transition Coordinator before coming here to Brentwood.

"I'm enjoying working with our coaches to improve our entire athletic program here at BCS," said Dudney.

Besides being the Athletic Coordinator, he also coaches flag football for fifth and sixth grade.

- Rachael Nguyen

**Ethan Grant** signed on to BCS for English, Newspaper, and as the assistant coach for the girls basketball and softball. He lived in Garland, Texas before attending Trinity University and Texas State University, majoring in Mass Communication and minoring in English.

He has been teaching and coaching for eight years and was previously the head girls basketball coach at Midland Christian School.

"My favorite thing about Brentwood is the way we love the Lord in chapel and around campus," said Grant.

- Grey Nyby

**Samatha Halbert** is a new Kindergarten teacher at Brentwood. Previously, she taught at NYOS Charter School and Bryan ISD. Her husband attended BCS in his youth, prompting her to pursue employment in Austin.

"I am looking forward to sharing my days with the sweetest group of kindergarteners, teaching them about Jesus, and teaching them to read," said Halbert.

- Arden Haertl

**Jake Hale** became the new Communications Director and defensive coordinator



Hale

for the football team this year. Hale learned about BCS after coaching against them for Regents School of Austin.

"I played BCS when I coached at Regents, and thought out of all the teams we played, Brentwood Christian competed the hardest and never gave up against us," said Hale.

Hale used to work for the Calanda Broncos, a professional team in Switzerland, where he won two championships. Hale also worked at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, where he won the NCCAA Championship as the running game coordinator.

- Alex Schehl

**Jeannette Hargreaves** is the new elementary computer teacher. She received her Master's Degree in Divinity from The Seminary of The Southwest. She has a broad background from news media to past education jobs.

Hargreaves chose Brentwood because she fell in love with the mission and the community, as well as being inspired by the late Dr. Libby Weed to work at the school.

Her plans for the students are inspired and faith based.

"God created technology through us," Hargreaves said. "That means it's a tool for us to use to be loving."

- Cam Hudson

**Trevon Jackson**, a Baylor University Fine Arts major, went on to teach undergraduate non-theatre majors at the University of Wisconsin before coming to Brentwood this fall. Despite his interests elsewhere, focusing on his passion was a major reason why BCS stood out as a great option for employment.

"...I wanted to put those things to the side and do Theater," Jackson said.

He is teaching a litany of classes in the Fine Arts department this year, including Speech and various Theatre sections.

- Mason Foster

**Granville Jones** came to Brentwood last spring, but is transitioning to a full-time role as high school Academic Adviser.

Jones, who previously has worked as a head of school, athletic director, assistant principal, coach and teacher at various private, public and charter schools, is fired up about assisting in the spiritual and academic advancement of BCS students.

"Nothing gives me greater pleasure than seeing one grow in their personal walk with Jesus Christ and work toward fulfilling their God-given vision," Jones said.

- Bear Facts Staff



Montier

**Jason Montier** is the new Fine Arts Director as well as the new Band Director at Brentwood Christian School. He graduated from East Central University with a Bachelor of Science in Instrumental Music. He previously worked at Grace Community School in Tyler, Texas before choosing Brentwood.

Mr. Montier has big plans for the fine arts department.

"It's not just about teaching band, it's really making those connections and making those programs just something that becomes a light on a hill," said Montier.

- Levi Olewin

**Brittany Rackley** heard of Brentwood through being a member of the Westside Church of Christ. She joined Brentwood to show her love of teaching young minds in a Christ-like environment.

Rackley, who teaches the fourth grade whilst juggling the responsibilities of taking care of four children, used to live in Houston and graduated from Texas A&M University, earning a degree in Elementary Education. Her past occupation was library assistant at Round Rock ISD.

"I just love the idea of teaching kids in a Christ-like environment," said Rackley.

- Jack Sutton

**Sydney Trees** joined the Brentwood community this summer as the new head softball coach and Sports Information Director. She graduated from St. Cloud State in Minnesota and has a Masters Degree in Sports Management.

Trees, who also coaches JV volleyball, said that she loves her job here so far and can't wait for the softball season.

"The girls here are awesome, and I can't wait to work with them as we get closer to season," said Trees.

- Ella Kennedy

**Paula Trejos** joined the Brentwood staff in June, and is the head coach of the volleyball team while also teaching art classes and graphic design. Trejos came to Brentwood from Magellan International School, where she had been teaching for 10 years.

"I enjoy the student-athlete life environment, how respectful and open-minded students are, and their pride in representing the school," said Trejos.

Trejos said that with her busy schedule, she hasn't gotten to know the other teachers yet as well as she'd like, but is excited to continue to build relationships with staff and students alike.

- Ally Robertson

**Murry Walker** is one of the new football coaches on campus, taking over the role of Operations Manager as well.

Walker has lived in Austin, Texas for 17 years and his now wife previously attended Brentwood Oaks Church. The couple now attends Westside Church of Christ in Round Rock.

After beginning his career wanting to be a preschool teacher, Walker pivoted to high school, and worked at Wichita Falls ISD and Cedar Park High School previously.

One way he plans to improve the department is by being a "student of the game."

- Sevastiana Riveron

**David Waters** is another new football coach for BCS, doubling as a high school teacher for Economics and Computer Science. He previously coached and taught in schools ranging from 140 students up to 2400 students.

His positive and joking attitude makes him a favorite amongst the student body.

"God opened the doors for me to come here and I never looked back," said Waters.

- Gavin Edmondson



Trees

# New staff aids in football's fast start

By Lukas Fenske, Jack Gonzales

The Brentwood Christian School football team is off to a hot start this fall, going 5-1 (at time of print) to begin the 2023 season after a heartbreaking 28-27 loss to Shiner St. Paul on the road on Friday, Sep. 29.

The Bears have played in several high-scoring affairs this year, highlighted by a 40-21 opening-season win over Central Texas Christian School and a 49-14 win over St. Dominic Savio in the 2023 Homecoming game. The team has scored at least 24 points in each of its first six games.

Brentwood has undergone major changes from last year, including a new coaching staff.

"[They make] a huge difference," said sophomore Brayden Jennings, the team's new starter at quarterback. "We have a different offensive play style than last year, and it seems to be making the necessary changes the team needed."

The team has been led by new football coach Kyle Maxfield, who in Week 3, was named Dave Campbell's Texas private high school football Coach of the Week.

Additionally, the coaching staff has welcomed defensive coordinator Jake Hale, receivers/defensive line coach Murry Walker and offensive line/linebackers coach David Waters into the fold this season, pairing them alongside Maxfield and returning coach Charles Bolinger.

Another player who credits the team's success to coaching is senior Taylor Cunningham.

"The coaches have brought an energy that we didn't have last year," said Cunningham. "We're all so much more motivated to play because of the fun they bring to it."

"We're essentially the same team as last year only losing a few players, but the new coaching has made a huge impact on our success."

While the players credit coaching, Maxfield was highly complimentary of his players' effort and intentionality in embracing new expectations.

"Older players being able to fill positions, and learning our system has been huge," said Maxfield. "This team needed to learn how to win and we did that week one."

The Bears' fifth win of the season over Savio capped an impressive start to the season, one in which Brentwood defeated opponents by a combined total of 136 points.

Jennings combined for over 500 yards of total offense in the first five games (passing and rushing), while junior running back Connor Schehl logged over 100 carries and over 800 yards on the ground.

Defensively, the Bears have been anchored by senior linebacker Mark Caesar, averaging over eight tackles per game, while Cunningham (two sacks) and senior Bryson Best (four interceptions) have aided the cause.

The Bears have big goals this season, with a district title and a deep playoff run among the targets the team will look to hit, according to Cunningham.

Brentwood returned to action last Thursday against Geneva School of Boerne (score not available at time of print). The squad will look to rest up for three critical district games, needing a third-place-or-better finish in district play to secure a spot in the TAPPS Division III playoffs.

The first of those three will be on Friday, Oct. 20 at Bay Area Christian School.



**United front** Brentwood Christian football captains, including senior Bryson Best (3), shake hands with players from Somerville prior to the home game on Sep. 1.

## 2023 Varsity Brentwood Bears

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #0 Jakob Megilligan (Sr.)     | #26 Huxley Harlan (Fr.)     |
| #2 Brayden Jennings (Soph.)   | #32 Joshua Gonzales (Soph.) |
| #3 Bryson Best (Sr.)          | #34 Josiah Kampman (Jr.)    |
| #4 Griffin Smith (Jr.)        | #42 Noah Cabiya (Fr.)       |
| #5 Tucker Smith (Fr.)         | #50 Cameron Hudson (Fr.)    |
| #6 Zach Czerlinsky (Soph.)    | #53 Nathan Czerlinsky (Jr.) |
| #7 Jay Marwill (Soph.)        | #54 AJ Koncaba (Fr.)        |
| #9 Judah Walker (Fr.)         | #60 Caden Shockey (Jr.)     |
| #10 Levi Barron (Fr.)         | #61 Josh Howe (Fr.)         |
| #11 Luke Weed (Soph.)         | #63 Jack Copeland (Jr.)     |
| #14 Gabe Washington (Soph.)   | #66 Micah Riley (Sr.)       |
| #15 Trey Campbell (Soph.)     | #70 Samuel Moore (Fr.)      |
| #17 Esteban Gutierrez (Soph.) | #71 Cam Cunningham (Fr.)    |
| #18 Everett Merrell (Soph.)   | #72 Victor Koncaba (Jr.)    |
| #19 Isaac Ruiz (Sr.)          | #75 Alex Hernandez (Jr.)    |
| #20 Jack Hansen (Soph.)       | #76 Elliott Koncaba (Jr.)   |
| #22 Connor Schehl (Jr.)       | #77 Lincoln Lange (Jr.)     |
| #24 Mark Caesar (Sr.)         | #81 Taylor Cunningham (Sr.) |
|                               | #88 Daniel Womack (Sr.)     |

### Varsity Results and Schedule

- Aug 25.....CTCS.....W, 40-21
- Sep 1.....Somerville.....W, 50-22
- Sep 8.....TMI Episcopal.....W, 40-7
- Sep 15.....D'Hanis.....W, 24-13
- Sep 22.....St. Dominic Savio.....W, 49-14
- Sep 29.....Shiner St. Paul.....L, 28-27
- Oct 5.....@ Geneva School.....Score not available at time of print
- Oct 20.....@ Bay Area Christian\*..7 pm
- Oct 27.....vs. Cypress Christian\*...7 pm.....Pink-Out
- Nov 3.....vs. Legacy Prep\*.....7 pm.....Senior Night & White-Out

\*TAPPS Division III-District 4 Contest



# Cooper, Counts lead charge for XC

By Nico Napper, Yuqiao Yu

The Brentwood Christian School cross country team of 2023 is off and running.

With the girls team returning six runners after winning the TAPPS 4A state championship last year and the boys team returning seven across both varsity and JV, both squads look forward to representing Brentwood at state this time around.

This year, there are many returning runners with lots of experience. Sophomore Harper Counts remains the lead runner for the girls after the de-

parture of seniors Rebekah Echols and Kennedy Drennon, who each graduated in 2023. The boys team, after earning fourth at state last year, features senior Renne Cooper as the lead runner after the departure of graduate Rodrigo Real.

The team, led by head coach Katie Smith, have put in lots of work preparing for another run at state. The theme for this year's team is Run as One, connecting to the school's theme verse of Ephesians 4:4.

"We will prepare like every year by putting in the mileage and the pacing, running in competitive races, and working together as a team to challenge all of our runners to be at their best," Smith said.

After a successful season last year, Smith and the rest of the team hope to do their best to win again this year.

"Our goal is to win the state championship for both boys and girls," Smith said. "We want to run as one all season and give our best while enjoying our season as a team."

The Bears raced at the FEAST, Salado, and St. Andrews meets, placing in the top six as a team each time.

At their own host race on Saturday, Sep. 30 on campus, both the varsity girls and the boys took home first place in their division, with Harper Counts winning the varsity girls division with a time of 12:18.59. Senior Lucy Belcik (fifth), sophomore Hailyn Counts (sixth), senior Lauren Self (10th) and senior Katie Pittner (12th)

all posted strong runs for the Lady Bears.

On the boys side, Cooper took first amongst varsity boys with a time of 17:06.40, while junior Hollis Harlan (fourth), senior Anh Truong (seventh) and sophomore Nico Napper (eighth) all finished inside the top 10.

Harper Counts and Cooper both placed second at state last year and are excited about the possibility of helping their teammates put together another strong effort. The duo have taken on the additional challenge of extra meets this year, competing at Lovejoy and McNeil in the elite category. Per Smith, both runners finished in the top 15 in each of these elite races.

Cooper, who has one of the fastest 5k times in the country, also holds the cross country record at BCS. His attitude towards his craft helps him be an example to his fellow male runners.

"I do cross country because while it may not seem fun, I enjoy running fast, and I've grown to love the time I spend running," Cooper said. "It also teaches me a lot about human limitations, and I enjoy breaking the barriers of what I feel is possible for myself."

The Bears team has yet to run in the state meet this year, which takes place at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco on Oct. 30.

With all the preparation that the Bears do during and before the cross country season, the hope of repeating on the girls side and doubling that effort with a boys championship is at the front of Smith and every runners' mind.

## 2023 Varsity Bears and Lady Bears

Lucy Belcik (Sr.)

Gino Burke (Jr.)

Hailyn Counts (Soph.)

Harper Counts (Soph.)

Renne Cooper (Sr.)

Lleyton Drennon (Soph.)

Dalton Griswold (Fr.)

Afton Harlan (Jr.)

Hollis Harlan (Jr.)

AJ Kent (Fr.)

Jacob Klein-Bradham (Fr.)

Nico Napper (Jr.)

Xavier Parra (Fr.)

Lauren Self (Sr.)

Anh Truong (Sr.)

Lynden Worley (Fr.)

John Youngdale (Sr.)



In control Senior Renne Cooper, above, took the top prize at BCS' host race.

# VB cruising through 3-4A

By Karlee Lawrence, Noelle Shepard

The Lady Bears volleyball team is soaring through district, starting with a 6-0 record after defeating Holy Cross of San Antonio in straight sets on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

Now 32-9-1 overall on the season (at time of print), Brentwood's next game will be Tuesday, Oct. 10 against Incarnate Word Academy of Corpus Christi at home in the last match of the first round of TAPPS District 3-4A action.

Last season, the Lady Bears went 13-0 in district, winning the regular season title and making a deep playoff run before bowing out in heartbreaking fashion in five sets to Arlington Grace Prep in the TAPPS 4A state championship.

With determination as their ally and a possible state title on the line, the team is ready to return to state and finish what they started last year.

Despite some changes on the starting line and the coaching staff, the team has been working hard and gaining experience each week. New head coach Paula Trejos is settling into the new environment and making major changes off the

court, including more conditioning, mobility, and explosiveness. Trejos expressed that she only wants success for the team and wants them to grow upon their previous experience.

"The goal of the volleyball program is to do our best to be our best," Trejos said. "We hope to continue and further that success."

Even with the team on cruise control through district, the Lady Bears have run into some speed bumps, one of them being senior Lauren Petty being out with a foot injury. The Bears gained Petty as a new asset on the team over the summer, but soon after the senior's arrival, she fell injured during a preseason game and will miss the remainder of the year.

Even with the loss of one of their senior newcomers (the other being senior Maeve Chamberlain), the Lady Bears have flown through district, gaining big wins and are excelling toward success in the district tournament. Trejos added that they are set apart from other district teams because of their strength and volleyball IQ.

see **VOLLEYBALL**, page 8

## 2023 Varsity Lady Bears

#1 Aubrey Acheson (Sr.)

#9 Lauren Petty (Sr.)

#2 Parker Kimball (Sr.)

#12 Claire Montgomery (Soph.)

#5 Carina Combs (Sr.)

#13 Maeve Chamberlain (Sr.)

#6 Addison Everline (Soph.)

#14 McKinley Grim (Sr.)

#7 Rayen Flandes (Jr.)

#15 Abigail Kampman (Jr.)

#8 Ariba Mohammed (Jr.)

### Key Victories

Defeated **Copperas Cove**, 3-0

Defeated **Leander Glenn**, 3-0

Defeated **Regents**, 3-0

Defeated **A&M Consolidated**, 2-1

Defeated **Geneva**, 3-0

Defeated **Hill Country**, 3-2

Defeated **Holy Cross**, 3-0



# Spirited students jam into homecoming

The Brentwood hallways were filled with spirit this homecoming season, with colorful decorations courtesy of StuCo, and dress-up days set to the theme of “Jammin’ Into Homecoming.”

Homecoming week came to an exciting conclusion with football’s 49-14 win against St. Dominic Savio on Friday, Sep. 22 and the third annual homecoming party hosted by the Lady Bellas on Sep. 23.



Spirit Song  
✧ ✧ ✧

## Homecoming Court Results

*Freshman Lord and Lady*  
AJ Kent and Lynden Worley

*Sophomore Duke and Duchess*  
Zach Czerlinsky and Harper Counts

*Junior Prince and Princess*  
Jackson Berger and Charis McGaughy

*Senior King and Queen*  
Micah Riley and Lyla Kate Jackson

Disco  
🌐



Country  
👒



Classical 🎵



**Rock, paper, scissors...Shoot!** Sophomore Luke Weed and first grade buddy Marx Succes enjoy a game during their chapel family meet-and-greet held on Sep. 19, prior to the first All Community Chapel of the year, held on Sep. 20. A new way of connecting older students to younger ones, families consist of 4-7 members, with high schoolers, upper elementary, and lower elementary coming together to bond and worship each All Community Chapel.

# Volleyball starts strong

continued from page 7

Senior Aubrey Acheson is the team’s libero, and as Trejos puts it, “the back row leader.” Acheson leads the team with experience and an abounding love for the sport.

“She will always go the extra mile to see her team succeed,” Trejos added.

Other key members of the varsity squad include junior Abigail Kampman, a powerful middle hitter who continues to see her court time increase, as well as both setters - junior Rayen Flandes and senior Parker Kimball. Both have had extraordinary moments taking control of the game and gaining needed points to win close matches.

Sophomore hitter Claire Montgomery leads the team with a 3.0 hits-per-set average, while Acheson leads with 4.7 digs per set. Brentwood played

their first preseason game in early August and hasn’t slowed down since, taking on the likes of Regents School of Austin, St. Michael’s and Austin Hyde Park. On the road, the Lady Bears have traveled to Fort Worth, Rockdale and Pflugerville for various tournament action.

After Tuesday’s tilt with Incarnate Word, Brentwood will host the first round of the district tournament on Thursday, Oct. 12 in the Athletic Center against an opponent yet to be determined.



**BI CI SI!** Junior Rayen Flandes (7) and the Lady Bears volleyball team begin the TAPPS 3-4A District Tournament this Thursday, Oct. 12.