

IN SHORT

Safety swearing-in

This year's group of fifth- and sixth-grade students serving as crossing guards will be sworn in on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 9:45 a.m. in the auditorium. Austin police chief Art Acevedo will again administer the oath.

Under the leadership of Kay Taylor, these 29 students have completed an application process that includes multiple recommendations and interviews. Throughout the year, Taylor said these students will be taught spiritual leadership skills as they attempt to model this year's theme, "Follow in his steps."

Chuy's honors teachers

Secondary teacher Cissy Johnson was honored by Chuy's as September's "Teacher of the Month" when her name was recently drawn. Scott Kimbrough, one of the managers at the North Lamar Chuy's, wants to honor BCS employees with a complimentary dinner for two once a month. August's winner was elementary teacher Becky Stewart.

Kimbrough is the son-in-law of Mary Kay Clark and husband of BCS graduate Meredith Gowing ('90).

Faculty gets fitter

BCS faculty, staff, and administration are again competing against each other in achieving weekly fitness goals. New this year are two leagues: standard and honors. Teachers rack up points for their three-person teams by exercising, eating right, and practicing other healthy habits. Few would be surprised to know that cross country coach Jacob Rotich is the runaway leader in individual standings.

Led in the fitness initiative by "czars" Tere Hager and Jonathan Weed, the school was certified by the Mayor's Fitness Council last spring and recognized in a ceremony with the Austin City Council in June.

Work pays off in play

Crowd loves "You Can't Take It with You"

elena **BATLLE**
reporter

After six weeks of rehearsals, including both backstage and on-stage preparations, high school students at Brentwood Christian performed "You Can't Take It with You" on Sep. 24-25. This was the last fall play that will be performed in the Family Life Center, according to the play's director, Cindy Singleton.

"You Can't Take It with You" is a comedic play in three acts written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. The original production of the play opened at the Booth Theater in New York on Dec. 14, 1936, and played for 837 performances. It won a Pulitzer Prize and was also made into a movie in 1938 directed by Frank Capra.

"You Can't Take It with You" relates the humorous encounter between two families, the Kirbys and the Sycamores. The son of the unhappy and conservative Kirbys, Tony, falls in love with Alice, daughter of the Sycamore family. This family amuses with their energetic physical antics and inspires with their whole-hearted pursuit of happiness. Critics have long admired the play's witty one-liners.

Singleton has been at Brentwood since 1992, and this is her tenth year as theatre director.

"It feels really weird to think about this being the last fall play in the FLC," Singleton said. "Many great and special moments have happened in this space. I will always treasure them and the many, many students who worked so hard to create great theatre here through the years."

The students who performed in the play and worked backstage began practicing on Aug.



photo: Carter Boyd

Love at last Alice Sycamore (junior Kailley Rodden) and Tony Kirby (senior Brian Peterson) share a tender moment.

19. The schedule consisted of three practices a week, and actors were scheduled specifically see **STUDENTS**, page 8

CEO confident uniform woes will be fixed

priscilla **GLENN**
reporter

After waiting long into September, your new uniforms have finally arrived. You have the new blue polo and some new skirts and shorts. You're excited – but wait. You go to get dressed only to find the zipper is broken!

The new uniform program at Brentwood Christian offers a lot of promise for the school but has to overcome several hurdles before it can be labeled successful.

In a phone interview, the CEO of Brentwood's new uniform supplier agreed that the project has been a "horrible experience," both for BCS families and for her company. Sharon Evans of CFJ said she even began to question whether the whole idea would work, but her optimism has returned and she is determined that the venture will be successful for both parties.

According to faculty member and project director Michelle Mohrmann, the overall goal of the new uniform project, called the Mustard Seed Project, is to raise money for Christian schools while saving money for families. Brentwood no longer requires Parker school uniforms, instead using CFJ, based in Ft. Worth.

However, this new venture has left many parents and students frustrated. According to Mohrmann, one concern is the delay in getting the actual items delivered. Some families

see **RIPS**, page 4

Loan secured, construction continues

megan **MONACELLI**
reporter

The pounding of nails, pouring of cement, and plastering of drywall will become common sights and sounds on the BCS campus in the coming months.

Construction on the Center for Science and the Arts has resumed, as the needed multi-million dollar bank loan was secured last Friday, Sep. 24. Over the past two-and-a-half months the details for receiving the loan were being worked out and finalized with the bank, Comerica, and site preparation had temporarily ceased.

The loan is to cover the construction expense while donors are completing their pledge payments.

Last spring the school was granted permits for both the site work and the building construction. Site preparation, which includes land preparation and bringing utilities to the site, began in June.

However, this came to a halt when the school sought the bank loan for the next phase of the construction. In light of the recent failure of prominent banks in the U.S., the government-mandated controls are making it more difficult and time consuming to secure financing. Banks now require more documentation. The school was required to provide an updated land survey, an updated appraisal, and an environmental survey.

In August, the bank offered the school a contract with unfavorable terms, according to BCS president Marquita Moss. The contract

stated that if the bank even feared the school might be unable to pay at any time, they could foreclose on the whole church and school property.

"It would have been foolish for us to sign that contract," Moss said.

Moss said the initial goal for the completion of the building, which was May 2011, might not be a reasonable target due to the current halt.

"I will be surprised if it is done by May," Moss said.

However, Fred Strietelmeier, who helped negotiate construction financing, said he is confident that the loan issue will not push back the project timeline too much.

see **NEW**, page 8

Megan's Musings: Megan Monacelli

Final exams: Like eating your veggies

"Are you kidding me? That's so unfair!" BCS upperclassmen had strong reactions when they heard the news. Many juniors and seniors are still grumbling and complaining about the fact that they have to take at least one final exam in every one of their classes. This has not always been the case at Brentwood. For years juniors and seniors, if eligible, could exempt up to all of their final exams.

For new upperclassmen like myself, anticipation for these coveted privileges has now been smashed, but if we peek into the future a bit, we will find a greater amount of pros than cons for this new rule. While gaining freedom by exempting up to all of our finals is an attractive motive to work hard during the semester and is seen as a much-needed break, we are losing practice of how to study for and take semester exams. This becomes a problem when many graduates go to college, and since the vast majority of BCS graduates does choose to further their education, it is an increasingly prevalent problem.

Semester exams pull content from the entire semester, whereas unit exams cover content learned in a relatively short amount of time. This allows us to do what almost every high

schooler has done – cram the night before. This is not the most effective and logical way to retain information, but it does succeed in helping us regurgitate the information somewhat accurately and immediately, earning us a decent grade on the exam. This is why cramming, on the surface, is successful.

On semester exams, though, the amount and diversity of information covered is wide and varies vastly, making cramming much less effective. Semester exams require students to digest and properly retain, synthesize, and filter information – actually learning the content. This puts information in the long-term memory, as opposed to cramming, which puts the information into the short-term memory.

Truly learning information requires two main commitments from us that we are reluctant to give: time and focus. This contradicts the anticipation for the break just around the corner, and often, I find, we are burnt out on school. We want – and more importantly, need – a break. However, dodging semester exams could significantly hurt us in the very near future.

In college, the level of difficulty and class load increases along with responsibility and privileges. You can say goodbye to completion grades, unit tests, and study guides, because in college classes your grade sometimes hinges on only one or two exams and maybe a couple

of research papers. Semester exams often determine whether a student passes or fails the class.

Having taken two college courses this past summer where semester exams were worth 80 percent of my grade, I can attest to the pressure and difficulty of this kind of test. However, practice in studying for this type of test in high school (since BCS lower classmen have always been required to take some exams) equipped me to study for and execute these tests with confidence.

By not taking semester exams in high school, a typical college freshman could easily feel overwhelmed and unprepared to study for semester exams. The usual art of cramming cannot bring forth the same kind of results as it did in high school and therefore will be ineffective in college. So the poor student is stuck not knowing how to study for such a test.

While tests are often stress-inducers and I dislike siding with the administration, maybe the new exemption rules will keep us from panicking in our dorm the night before a college final. Maybe we'll just have to grit our teeth through our Pre-calculus and Government finals, knowing that studying for these is adding to our arsenal of study weapons which will soon come in handy.

Bretz knows best: Gabriel Breternitz

Much ado about not much at all

Change hangs thickly in the air here at BCS. It presides over our collective head like the ill-fitting cap of our favorite sports team (the Bears, of course). Everywhere you look you can see new developments being developed, new advancements being advanced, and new ideas being identified. There is the frenzy of activity at the site of the almost-completed BCS Center for the Science and Arts. There are the frightened faces of the new freshmen and the Calculus class. And, yes, there are the striking new non-Parker uniforms in the traditional school colors of green, black, and navy blue.

Of course, not all the change is good. I, for one, was not happy to learn that the senior parking is now designated for elementary parents only. Some students have also been complaining about the new exemption rules, but in all fairness, most of us are unaffected by the changes due to the strenuous show-up-to-class-on-time requirement.

Still, not everything has changed. The friendly, familiar faces of our favorite teachers still greet us with a smile every morning. The morning announcements still take up the first half of first period, and the subsequent interruptions take care of the other half. Already, we are settling into our old school groove, waking up at unholy hours of the morning, and absorbing knowledge as efficiently as a ShamWow. School is becoming a natural part of life again.

In all seriousness, it's actually a little scary that it has been so easy to transition from summer to the first semester, especially considering that this will be my last first semester. I've spent almost ten years at Brentwood, and next year at this time I could be miles and miles away, assuming that I ever get around to doing college applications. As the great poet and occasional song-writer Bob Dylan would say, "The times, they are a-changing," and yet I still feel as if nothing has changed, that I'm back at school for another year and next year will be the same, and the year after that as well, and it's just one big run-on sentence of BCS high school – but Dylan's words still lurk in the back of my mind, forcing me to add the end punctuation and realize that reality and the way things feel rarely have anything to do with one another.

That is, unless you're feeling good. And why wouldn't you be? The thing to do right now is crack jokes, enjoy yourself, and make the most of the year. After all, change is flowing like our beloved boarded up water fountains here at BCS, and that can only bring newer, more exciting, and better things.

THE BEAR FACTS

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

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photo: Beth McKinney

Easy does it Freshmen Jackson Hager, Reed Robinson, Jamie Messinger, and Kyle Back enjoy a quick game of shuffleboard in their free time during September's freshman retreat at Camp Tejas. For story, see page 5.

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

Pentathlon program expanded

carlos FRANCO
reporter

After a successful first year, Brentwood Christian School has decided to continue the Math Pentathlon program, expanding it to include students from kindergarten to seventh grade.

Math Pentathlon is a program in which students compete in a variety of math games against other students in their respective age divisions.

Before the competition in the spring, students enjoy many weeks playing math games in after-school practices.

"The goal is to learn math and have fun," elementary teacher and program coordinator Michelle Mohrmann said.

Some might ask how anybody can have fun with math. According to secondary teacher Kaleen Graessle, it is simple: "by playing competitive strategy games which use mathematical concepts, progressively getting better." As the name suggests, Math Pentathlon consists of five different games, and the difficulty differs in every division.

In August, Mohrmann and Graessle began inviting students to participate. When they invited high school students to volunteer on coaching the participants, they got a better response than they expected.

"I am pleased that high school students are willing to help with this program," Graessle said. "We only needed eight volunteers, but approximately 20 have signed up."

In order to help the kids be successful in the competition, teachers, parents, and students will coach them, teach them, and practice the games with the children every week from the end of September until March.

The practice materials and training will be funded by a \$1,000 grant BCS received from A+ Education Foundation, making it easier for the school to prepare the students. It gives Brentwood more resources than last year, when money came from parents. It also enabled BCS to expand the program, since last year it only included second and third grades.

"We are going to be able to do more this year for the Math Pentathlon, because we got help from A+," Graessle said.

The exact date for the contests is still to be announced, as well as the schools where this national competition will take place, because it has to be at venues large enough to fit the 1,000 children competing. The tentative dates for the tournaments are March 26, 2011, for Division I (K-1); April 9, 2011, for Division II (2-3); and May 7, 2011, for Division III (4-7).

StuCo starts year with Bash

jenny NGUYEN
reporter

With a successful Back-to-School Bash behind them and plenty of surprising events along with traditional activities ahead, the Student Council is excited about the new year.

Led by president Mariah Robinson, the members of StuCo hosted the Back-to-School Bash on Friday, Sep. 17, from 6-9:30 p.m. in the FLC for all high school students. The \$10 cost included games, pizza, popcorn, and drinks.

Participants enjoyed a volleyball tournament and were able to play traditional games such as slip-and-slide, Super Nintendo, Xbox 360, and ping pong, as well as karaoke and a variety of other games. According to StuCo sponsor Linda Riedesel, the party was a good opportunity for upper level students to hang out and build strong friendships.

The most exciting station was the volleyball tournament, where teams heatedly competed. Outside the building and over the slope, students played slip-and-slide, which involved a lot of soap and water. Meanwhile, the pizzas from Papa John's had arrived, which included pepperoni, sausage, and cheese.



photo: Patti White

All smiles Although the Bash featured many different activities for students to do, several groups like this one composed of sophomores and freshmen preferred to simply talk, relax, and enjoy each other's company instead.

New chapter for Jazz Band

e. j. SUNG
reporter

Last year's seniors dominated in many areas, including soccer, basketball, volleyball, and drama. However, there is another field in which they excelled: music. In particular, the Jazz Band was filled with talented senior musicians, including Adam Cammack, who played bass guitar and won the John Philip Sousa award.

With eight seniors gone, the band's only returning members are senior Tara Cole and sophomore Steven Bailey and Travis Clark. Currently there are two seniors, four juniors, four sophomores, and six freshmen.

Director Travis Pollard said he was worried that with a lot of seniors gone, there would not be anyone to step up and fill their shoes, but

This year, Riedesel said she is happy to see the new StuCo's enthusiasm to broach new ideas and plans for surprises. She said she is also amazed by Robinson and her creativity in ideas.

For example, Riedesel said the marshmallow fight on Aug. 27 was Robinson's idea to help students have a random fun day. Students who signed up and paid \$5 got a kit that included a bag of marshmallows and a shooter, their weapons to fight in the gym during lunch.

Riedesel said that since Robinson is so good in drama, she has a dramatic, artistic view and is full of energy.

"I am impressed by how many things can come out of her small-sized body," she said.

Robinson, who has been in BCS since kindergarten and in StuCo for three years, said that she had wanted to be StuCo president ever since she was young. She used to look up to the older kids and determined to be like them.

Robinson said along with old traditions, StuCo will try to do new things and have the all high school involved. There will be movie nights as well as some random fun days. Also, the council's goal for this year is not only to do service to the school, but to "branch out" and serve the community as well.

Return of magazines, weepulmania

kia KHADEM
reporter

In the midst of a crowd of secondary students in the gym, secondary principal Jared Lee donned his trademark rainbow colored wig. At once, wise students realized what time it was.

Brentwood once again teamed up with QSP for the annual magazine sale from Sep. 17-27. The sale started off with a rally to inspire students, and the "pep rallies" continued at 3:15 each day. While BCS did not reach Lee's goal of \$30,000, Lee announced this week that an "outstanding" \$23,003 was raised.

The top five sellers were eighth-grader Macy Franklin (\$1,281), eighth-grader Tyler Clark (\$1,213), senior Alison Riedesel (\$1,191), freshman Trace Brinkman (\$764), and senior Somare Peyton (\$658).

Students received a ticket for each magazine sold, and in addition received a bonus incentive for selling a set amount of magazines. During the rallies other important events were discussed, such as the current amount of sales, as well as the top sellers of that day.

During each rally, students had a chance to participate in a raffle dubbed "The Weepul Game." The students winning the most money in this raffle game were eighth-grader Mia Dedear and junior Haley Shake, who each won \$225.

Two years ago Lee changed the way Brentwood did magazine sales, which he said has boosted the annual amount raised from about \$5,000 to \$30,000.

"The magazine sales help get students excited about going to Brentwood. They also directly benefits the students," Lee said.

see **MAGAZINES**, page 5



BCS JAZZ BAND 2010-2011

Seniors Tara Cole
Kevin George

Juniors Marcus McCormick
Min Shin
E.J. Sung
Bryan Williams

Sophomores Wyatt Allee
Steven Bailey
Travis Clark
Hannah Witcher

Freshmen Carson Chambers
Marisol Lawson
Jamie Messinger
Bryce Morin
Alex Singleton
Tiffany Truong

that has not been a problem at all.

"This year's jazz band is even bigger than last year, and we have more saxophones and percussionists," said Pollard, who will be playing some saxophone with the band.

To qualify for the band, Pollard said students are required to have experience on their instruments and read music well. The Jazz Band practices every Friday at 7:15 a.m. and during lunch every Wednesday. Performances are about once a month, and the first one is expected to be performed in front of the school, Pollard said.

"The purpose of the Jazz Band is to learn to play various jazz styles," Pollard said. "Also, it is to represent and perform for Brentwood Christian School."

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Victoria Stewart

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2011.

Talented Tori sings, entertains, raises cats

carter **BOYD**
reporter

Very few people at Brentwood Christian School can honestly claim to NOT know Victoria Stewart. Those who can will surely recognize her as “the girl who licked the floor during that one play!” She is familiar to all, and a friend to many. But to truly know Victoria, one must go beyond the Victoria seen during school hours.

From 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on any given weekday, Victoria plays many roles at BCS. She sings alto in the high school choir, which

“If I had free time, I would probably spend it doing really unexpected things.”

she says is her favorite class, and is one of six members of Encore. She is the senior class representative to StuCo. She played a prominent role in this year’s fall play, as she has in many plays before. At times, she provides comic relief for her classmates. Friendly, involved, and relatively important, Victoria Stewart is a fascinating student. But to find out what makes her so interesting a classmate requires taking a look at her fascinating home life and diverse personality.

Victoria lives in a house with her jovial African-American mother, refined British

father, an older sister who left BCS two years ago, and a younger sister who is a Brentwood freshman. Having grown up in Austin, she came to BCS in third grade, and before that was homeschooled. She is a loving master to her dogs Buddy, Buster, and Lady, and to a yodeling cat affectionately named Mrs. Euberta Jeswina Pennyapple, or “the Fat” for short. Her parents are enrolled in a Kung Fu class, as her father explains that it allows them to release their anger and be better parents, with “less yelling.”

“I’ve been to her house once or twice,” Victoria’s comrade and classmate James Rambin says. “It’s pretty fascinating. There are colonies of cats living under furniture, birds throw themselves at windows until they shatter, her grandmother is constantly watching the Jeffersons, and her father calls me ‘Jim, lad.’”

Among Victoria’s favorite things are Earl Grey breakfast tea – an example of the British culture her father brings to the Stewart household,

jacket weather, Indian luxury trains, ABBA, and Cee-Lo Green. She cannot abide spiders or country music, and she passionately hates novelty T-shirts, an ironic aversion since her father once started and owned a novelty T-shirt company.

Victoria’s

interests and activities are diverse, intriguing, and at times obscure.

“If I had free time, I would probably spend it doing really unexpected things that most other people don’t do,” Victoria says. “But between StuCo, Encore, all-state choir, the play, and homework, I don’t have any. At all.”

English teacher Chloe Campbell taught Victoria in ninth grade, and since then, the two have been good friends. Campbell says that, at least in her class, Victoria was a very studious pupil, and always participatory.

“But even outside of class, she’s the most awesome person in the world,” Campbell adds. “And she wants to be like me when she grows up.”

Victoria says that even though she’d “rather start a cat ranch,” she would like to attend the University of North Texas and major in either theatre or archaeology, possibly rooming with her long-time friend Danielle Kawaja.



Rips, tears, delayed shipping cause uniform concerns

continued from page 1

who ordered at the end of last school year are still waiting for the new uniforms to come in. Another issue deals with the sizes of the new uniforms. Items were not fitting as parents expected, and they had to return or exchange them, adding to the frustration.

An additional problem concerns the quality of the new uniforms. The problem stems from the fact that CFj is using a different fabric than last year’s uniforms.

Female students have complained about their skirts not meeting their expectations, with holes forming and seams ripping. Freshman Jasmine Selman said she purchased two new skirts from CFj but now only one remains since the first skirt did not hold up in the wash. Her other skirt is also starting to rip at the seams.

Mohrmann recognizes that there are also issues with the boys’ pants and shorts, including some zippers breaking. Some students have pointed out that poor quality skirts and shorts could actually be more costly to parents in the end.

“I don’t think the new uniforms are worth the money if they keep ripping,” Selman said during a class discussion about the uniforms.

After getting “screamed at” plenty of times on the phone by parents who were justifiably upset, Evans said she has decided to create a focus group beginning in October. It will be made of students and parents who will help CFj get the uniforms to fit the ideal image. She also said that her company is planning to take a sample of the old skirt fabric next year. They will then try to duplicate it for future years and put an end to any quality issues.

Evans recognizes that this year will be a “monster year” but said there is hope for the future.

“Next year we’ll have a track record, and things should go much more smoothly,” she said.

As for now, Evans said everything should be delivered to waiting families by Friday, Oct. 8.

Still, for parents who have questions and complaints, Evans and Mohrmann recommend that dissatisfied parents and students should

contact CFj by phone (800-964-6308) or email (schooluniforms@cfjmf.com).

“I encourage anyone to contact CFj about any issues, but to be polite and clearly explain the problems,” Mohrmann said.

Named after a parable in Matthew which indicates that greatness can come out of something small, the Mustard Seed Project raises money for the school without any overhead costs. Mohrmann said BCS buys the uniforms from CFj and then resells the items to Brentwood families, keeping the prices lower than before and the profits high. In previous years all profits would benefit the former uniform store, not BCS.

BCS is one of eight Christian schools having their uniforms supplied by CFj. According to Evans, their hope is to eventually supply 200 different Christian schools. They are not making any profit from the project, but if everyone works together, BCS should benefit immensely along with many other Christian schools. Evans said the overall average give-back will be about \$235 million annually,

which will “change the world for Christian education.”

“The end result of this is much bigger than all of us,” said Evans, a close friend of long-time Brentwood teacher Linda Pimentel, who retired in June.

Although parents, students, and BCS staff have encountered unexpected problems with the new uniforms, students have appreciated some changes. They are now able to buy blue polos, in addition to the traditional green, black, and white, and all of the new uniforms have a school crest on them. Girls can now wear capris, and there is a new P.E uniform as well. The white T-shirts and green shorts have been replaced with gray T-shirts and black shorts.

Coming soon will be new outerwear that should keep BCS students warm on those colder days.

“Overall, I despise having to wear uniforms,” said sophomore Amanda Conway. “But now that they have blue, my favorite color, I’m able to deal with them.”

BCS welcomes three teachers, counselor

mike **LEE**
reporter

The beginning of every school year presents numerous surprises, hiding in every corner of campus, waiting to welcome the students, brighten their days, and wake their hibernating brains from long summer vacation. However, few can be more exciting than the fresh perspective provided by the new teachers and staff members.

This year, Brentwood Christian School embraces three new teachers and a counselor: Juliana Ewing, Sharon Howard, Cindy Nestor, and Rebecca Ellis.

The new occupant of C-219 is Ellis, the new high school guidance counselor. Ellis, who grew up in Ft. Worth, spent the past five years in Memphis, Tenn., and came to Austin in July. She has a bachelor's degree in family studies from Oklahoma Christian University and a master's in marriage and family therapy from Abilene Christian University. Although she has spent only a couple of months at BCS, Ellis said her new job has been very rewarding.

"I like being able to interact with students and help in any way that I can with colleges and class work here," she said.

Ellis served as a family therapist for Agape Child and Family Services for five years, counseling teenagers. However, this is her first year as a high school guidance counselor. She said she has many goals for her new position, two of which are to help students get prepared for college and to be available if students and faculty members have questions, problems, or concerns.

Ellis said she sees her position at Brentwood as an answer to prayer.

"I prayed a lot ... (asking) God to put me in a place where I can be used and serve other people, and the door opened up at Brentwood," she said.

Her family includes her husband Marcus, two-year-old daughter Hadley, and a dog named Murphy. She said she loves to do puzzles, eat snow cones, and visit the humane society with Hadley to play with the dogs. Christian music is her favorite, and she likes to run in her free time. In fact, she is planning to run a marathon next year.

The new addition to the science department is Ewing, teacher of Biology and Environmental Science. Ewing holds a bachelor's in biochemistry from ACU and a master's in education from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minn. Although she taught biology and chemistry for 20 years at seven different schools, in both California and Texas, this is her first year in a private school.

Ewing said she enjoys being a teacher at BCS, especially for the students and the atmosphere.

"I like the students here a lot. There's certain level of respect toward adults that I think is appropriate for teenagers and kids," she said. "(Such level of respect) is often lacking in our society. So it's very nice."

Ewing also said she was "disillusioned" with the public schools, partly because she was required to prepare students for specific tests rather than to teach the materials she believes



photo: Joseph Kang

Storytime New teacher Sharon Howard holds student Lily Trueper while reading to her class of kindergartners. Howard, an ACU graduate and a Dallas Cowboys fan, has 13 years of experience teaching kindergartners.

are important for the students. As a member of Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ for three years, she saw there was an opening and applied for the position.

Ewing, a self-proclaimed "big college football fan," said she likes to knit and to read mystery books. She is married to Chris, her husband of 21 years, and has two children – Forrest and Anna, who are respectively 16 and 13 years old.

The only new teacher in elementary is Howard, graduate of ACU and holder of a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Although Howard has 13 years of experience teaching kindergarten, this year is her first year back as a full-time teacher since she took a three-year break after having her son Thomas, a BCS eighth grader.

Howard said kindergartners are "a fun age to teach," because it is a big excitement to see the kids' faces light up when they learn how to "blend the sounds together and make the words." In addition to teaching students how to read, Howard emphasized how important it is to teach from a Christian perspective.

"One of the things I like the most about teaching here is using the Christian perspective. We are able to talk about how what we're doing applies to our lives as Christians and as children of God," she said.

Howard served as a substitute teacher at BCS for two years and was hired after Karla Smith, a kindergarten teacher for six years, became Brentwood's new director of admissions.

"It's been great, because I've been able to take what she has left, and then add what I've brought with my teacher years to be able to make a good combination," she said.

According to Howard, whose husband's name is Richard, a few of her hobbies include reading, scrapbooking, watching movies with family, and walking her dog. She also said she

loves watching football "if the Cowboys are playing." Although she enjoys watching Indy car races as well, Howard said her favorite sport is basketball, because she gets to watch her son Thomas and his friends play.

Hired just last week, Nestor is Brentwood's newest teacher. BCS saw the departure of new junior high English teacher Hope Ronning in early September, when she resigned. Secondary principal Jared Lee said he is proud to announce the hiring of Nestor, and he also praised the students for remaining patient in the less-than-ideal situation.

Nestor has a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Houston and a teaching certificate from LeTourneau University. She has substituted at BCS for several years and briefly joined the faculty two years ago as teacher of a special-needs student.

"I'm thrilled to be here," she said. "I hope to make it a wonderful year for the students, especially because they had a rough start."

Nestor said her goal is for students to have fun with strenuous academics. Her family includes her husband Mike and children Mark (11th) and Claire (6th), both of whom attend BCS.

Freshmen form fine friendships

jackson **HAGER**
reporter

Ninth graders headed back to school on Sunday, Sep. 12, to load the buses and ride off to their freshman retreat at Camp Tejas. There, they grew closer together and decided on their class goals and vision statement for the next four years.

Freshmen arrived at their destination, near Giddings, in late afternoon, greeted by the sight of waterslides, zip lines, and friendly staff. After a quick meeting, they played games such as "Have You Ever?" and "Ninja." After dinner and a short devotional led by Bryce Morin, the class went to the conference room for a meeting led by class president Grace Cammack and the rest of the officers.

"Our class has super strong bonds," Cammack said.

After the hour-long meeting, freshmen packed the back of a trailer for a hayride, to go to a nighttime devotional and enjoy s'mores. For some students, it would be their first s'more ever.

"It was amazing! I loved it!" said Jenny Jeong.

When they returned to camp, the students were given free time to play games like ping pong, beach volleyball, and "nuke 'em," a simple version of volleyball.

After nighttime devos with class sponsors Travis Pollard and Kristin Berry, then sleep and breakfast, the class headed back to the conference room to discuss their individual goals for their high school years. Led by BCS president Marquita Moss, the class talked about the importance of grades and hard work for high school, college, and beyond.

Freshmen were given some last free time to do things like the zipline and pool sports such as basketball and riding down the large waterslide. Others went to the game room and marveled at Trace Brinkman's dominance at ping pong. But the time soon ended, and the freshman class was on the road, tired but wishing they could stay for one more day.

Magazine sales total: \$23,003

continued from page 3

Forty percent of the price of each magazine a student sold directly to that student's account, providing money for the costs of the eighth grade class trip to Washington, D.C., and the senior class trip to Europe. If a student does not participate in a trip, the money will go to the class fund, which will cover the costs of things like the Junior/Senior Formal.

While students could only sell subscriptions by print during the magazine sales, magazine

subscriptions can be sold online through the QSP website throughout the year, with 40 percent of the price going to the student's account. However, magazines sold outside the magazine sales period will not earn students prizes or bonuses.

This year's sale was shorter than those of the past two years since Lee wanted to cut down on the amount of class missed for the rallies.

Volleyball team heating up

Lady Bears head for playoffs with only one senior, plenty of leadership

kailey RODDEN
reporter

The varsity volleyball team is 4-2 in district with four district games left in the season. Through Tuesday's win they were tied for second in district, awaiting the beginning of playoffs on Oct. 14.

On Sep. 23, the Lady Bears traveled to Waco and defeated Texas Christian in four games. The girls had also played Waco in August and won the match in a sweep.

The team defeated St. Joseph in Bryan on Sep. 16 in a five-game match. The Lady Bears won the first game, but the Eagles came back to win the next two. After coach Efrain Contreras gathered the team to regroup, the girls came back with a new lineup to win the last two games, 25-18 and 15-7.

Leading the team in kills are juniors Brittany Brunson and Brooklyn Merkord, who Contreras said are each averaging about four kills per game. She and junior Haley Decker lead the team in aces, averaging about two per game.

Sophomore Morgan Vandygriff, who plays the libero position, leads in digs, and senior captain Jennifer Quinn has the most assists.

Freshman Avery Westerlund, who has been out for a month with an injury, averages three blocks per game to lead the team; Decker and junior Megan Gum follow close behind.

In late August, just days before the district season started, the team suffered a setback during the Schulenburg tournament. Starting middle hitter Westerlund sprained her ankle and was unable to play for a month, missing five district games and two tournaments.

"I was definitely mad about having to sit

out. I felt like I was disappointing the team," Westerlund said.

She returned to the lineup Sep. 28 in the game against Austin St. Dominic, which Brentwood won in three games.

The match against longtime BCS rivals Hyde Park on Aug. 23 was particularly encouraging for the team. After BCS won the first game, Hyde Park came back to win two. In the fourth game, the Lady Bears rallied to a 13-13 tie before losing 25-21.

Although they have only one senior, the girls

are confident in the team's abilities and are hoping to place high in district and playoffs.

"We have a great group of girls with a lot of talent," Decker said.

Contreras is also confident in the team and said he thinks they will continue to do well in district.

"It's a young team, but the girls are all improving," he said. "They've been through obstacles with injuries, but this provides opportunities to step up and play well."



photo: The Bear Tracks

Take a breather Senior Jennifer Quinn and junior Brittany Brunson rest for a moment between serves at the BCS Invitational Tournament last month.

Brunson, McCormick lead runners to state

matthew ONABAJO
reporter

With the cross country season nearing an end, all BCS teams will be competing at the McNeil Cross Country Meet in Old Settlers Park tomorrow at 10 a.m. Both high school groups have competed in four meets so far, as they train for the TAPPS state championships in Waco on Oct. 16.

Varsity girls' coach Katie Smith said her team is the most talented she's ever coached. Because of that, the goal for her team is to win the state meet. Last season the girls took seventh at the state meet, but Smith and boys' coach Jacob Rotich said the shift down to 3A means a new level of "competitiveness" for both groups because Brentwood now competes with schools of similar size, such as Round Rock Christian and Regents School of Austin.

Rotich said even though his group is young, they are hard-working young men with good attitudes. He said they are more organized than in previous years, quick to learn, and have great potential. His goal for this year is to have two runners earn top-ten in state.

On Sep. 3, the varsity girls' team earned third

place at Brushy Creek Sundown Relay in Cedar Park. The meet was abnormal in the fact that teams were split into groups of three to run a 1.5-mile relay race. In addition, the meet was at 7 p.m., so it was run under lights. Junior Brittany Brunson, sophomore Priscilla Glenn, and freshman Marisol Lawson teamed up and earned third place, with the times of 9:42, 11:04, and 10:26, respectively.

According to Rotich, the meet was a "starter meet" to see what both groups were capable of doing.

On Sep. 11, the cross country teams had a more traditional meet at the Belton Invitational, and junior Marcus McCormick and sophomore Steven Bailey earned 7th and 8th, respectively, in their division with times of 18:23 and 19:23 in the 3.1-mile race.

Despite missing four runners due to the BCS volleyball tournament, the varsity girls ran well in their two-mile race, according to Smith. Lawson, Glenn, and sophomore Rachel Orick earned 5th, 8th and 9th, respectively, with times of 13:17, 13:28, and 14:02.

At the Pflugerville ISD meet on Sep. 17, the varsity girls earned third overall, led by Brunson, who finished second in a personal-

best 12:29. The girls finished behind public schools Rogers and Brady, but beat all other private schools in the division.

McCormick and Bailey earned 18th and 36th, respectively. McCormick's time of 17:50 was the third-fastest in BCS history behind '09 graduates Mark Nesslage (17:35) and Nick Sterling (17:36).

McCormick said breaking the record would be "cool" and it would help him improve his overall time.

According to Rotich, 600 students from 20 to 30 schools showed up at the meet. The terrain was flatter than normal and it was substantially more humid, according to Bailey.

The most recent meet was the Puma Centex Invitational in Cedar Park on Sep. 25. In a meet of mostly public schools, the girls finished ninth in the A-4A division. Finishing ninth individually was Brunson, at 12:39.

The boys finished 15th overall in their division, led by McCormick and Bailey again. Coach Rotich said the weather caused times to be slower than average.

This season came with changes that include

see **STATE**, page 8

Creative coach helps hoops team toughen

matthew ARCHER
reporter

Somersaults across the soccer field, line drills where one does a full-out dive instead of simply touching the line, rolling around in the mud while it's raining... New varsity boys basketball coach Brandon Tatum's off-season workouts are tough and creative, bringing a new adventure each day for the boys' basketball team.

While a student at ACU, Tatum (BCS '03) began his coaching career as boys' head coach at Abilene Christian High School. He then was briefly an assistant coach at Lubbock Christian University, before coming back to Abilene to be an assistant at ACU. Most recently Tatum was head coach of the men's team at York College in Nebraska.

"He gives us a lot of excitement," athletic director Devan Loftis said. "He'll teach the game well, and his experience gives him a lot of credibility with the kids."

Along with his ability to come up with tough workouts, players have said that Tatum has a great sense of humor and can usually find a way to make them laugh even during some of their tougher workout days.

A couple of months ago Tatum told the team that he had something very "fun" in store for their next practice. The next day, ideas of workouts that would be challenging and borderline legal flashed through the minds of players. However, they were pleasantly surprised to find out that they were only going to be scrimmaging. Except there was a catch: there was no ball.

Tatum said he did this to give a feel for playing an entire game and to help them be able to communicate, listen, and see what's going on better. Still, some of the team said he seemed to enjoy it a little too much.

The Bears come into a season with many changes from last year. The obvious one is the coaching change, which includes David Peyton taking over as JV coach. They will also be without last year's five seniors from a team that placed seventh in a very challenging district. Despite the losses of the seniors, who played big roles, team members expect to do well this season.

"We just have to keep truckin'," senior Brett Withem said. "We lost some of our main starters, but people are stepping up to fill those roles."

With volleyball in full swing and many of the girls on the basketball team participating in that, a small group remains in off-season and is working as well.

The Lady Bears will have a young team with only one starter, junior Brittany Brunson, coming back. But head coach Loftis said he hopes the girls will be able to gain a lot of experience in the beginning of the season and

see **HOOPS**, page 8

Athletic director Loftis excited about opportunities

Joseph **KANG**
reporter

Devan Loftis was hired last spring as the interim athletic director of BCS after 10 years as a coach and history teacher.

Bear Facts reporter Joseph Kang recently asked him a few questions:



photo: Joseph Kang

We are in a very different situation, compared to last year; I hear that high school sports are in a new district, and junior high is in a different league.

High school moves to TAPPS 3A (from 4A), which means we are playing schools more our size. And our district requires less travel.

Junior high school moves into AIPL (Austin InterParochial League). AIPL has 26 schools and offers five different levels of competition for us to compete in. This league should serve as a challenge for our athletes while maintaining an environment that is still at the introductory level for our athletes who are just beginning.

And we have added some new sports?

In high school we are adding girls' soccer this winter and boys' golf in the spring. In grades 5-8 we are offering boys' flag football this fall and changing soccer to co-ed this spring.

We want to be able to provide even more venues for our athletes to compete and use their various talents to God's glory.

How do you feel about your new position?

I'm excited! But it is a big task. It is a bit overwhelming at times but I have a lot of good help from my administration, coaches, and Mrs. Pam Hardin.

Why did you want this job?

I wanted the job because I believe athletics is

such an incredible training ground for Christian young people, and I'm excited about the opportunity to work with the kids and coaches to make our programs continue to be what they can be with God at the front.

What has been the best part of the A.D. job so far? The worst?

The best was meeting with the coaches at the beginning of the year. It is a great group, and so many of them are part-time but still want to be a part of this. And as I mentioned in chapel – opening football uniforms!

I guess the worst is knowing you can't always make everyone happy when you handle conflict. That is tough for me.

What will be some differences between you as A.D. and your predecessor, Coach (Joseph) Walker?

Well, my office will never be as neat. Coach Walker is tough to replace. But he left a great vision for what athletics should be at a Christian school, and he did a lot of great things to boost athletics the last 10 years, so in some ways he's made it easy for me too.

What are your plans for the future?

First, I want to improve the quality of our programs. Then, instill a sense of pride not only in our athletes but the whole school community. I'd like to see even greater involvement, and some new programs and facilities. But most importantly, I want to see athletics building

leaders and strong people of faith, who can transfer their passion for sports into lives of service to our heavenly Father after they leave BCS.

What do you hope to see accomplished in the future of BCS athletics?

Three things: One, that our kids and families have a great experience and make great memories. I hope the service we provide will be valuable both here and now and eternally.

Two, I'd love to see more school spirit! We have a fantastic school – we've got to get excited about what we are doing!

Three, that we use athletics to honor God – that He is pleased with what we do.

I heard that you are not going to be in the classroom anymore because of the athletic director's work. Is that right?

I'll miss my 11th grade US history class, but I am glad to still have one period of Government in the mornings. It's quiet over here during most of the day.

Do you have anything to say to BCS students and fans?

First, a grateful thanks for the support and kind things so many people have said to me. Secondly, I'd like feedback on changing the athletic scripture to II Kings 2:23-25. Look it up – that's where we got our mascot idea. Finally, we need everyone to come out, get crazy, and support the teams!

Flag football returns, fans turn out in force

Lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

Football is back. After an eight-season hiatus, flag football has returned to BCS in both junior high and elementary.

The elementary team is 0-3 and has five games remaining in the season. The junior high team is 3-2 with five games left. In both cases there are no playoffs.

A large crowd gathered to watch the first junior high game on Sep. 3. The Bears were shut out in the first half but came back and scored two touchdowns on passes from seventh-grader John Hollingsworth to eighth-grader Charlie Sinclair. Still, they ended up taking the loss to Redeemer Lutheran 35-14.

"The speed of the game was a lot faster than they thought, but they showed improvement," head coach Brian Hall said after the game.

Hall previously coached flag football at Brentwood from 1998 to 2001. He is assisted by Gary Marsh, the father of eighth-grader Zach Marsh, and Jeff Orick, the father of eighth-grader Jacob Orick.

The elementary team is coached by Jesse Jordan, who is also the varsity boys' soccer coach. They were shut out in their first two games but showed improvement by scoring a touchdown in the third game.

"It's a learning experience," Jordan said about the football season.

Flag football began at Brentwood in 1980, the year before the school moved from its former location on Arroyo Seco to its present location on North Lamar, but BCS dropped it in 1996 when they switched from Austin InterParochial League to Austin Christian Athletic Association. The sport came back in 1998 and stayed through the 2001 season. Athletic director Devan Loftis said that there were several factors contributing to the decision to reinstate flag football this year, including the change in athletic associations and the addition of co-ed soccer.

The return of football has brought a lot of excitement to the BCS atmosphere. The junior high cheerleaders have been cheering at some of the games. They even stood in the rain to cheer when the Bears played St. Ignatius.

Flag football has brought emotions to BCS ranging from enthusiasm to anticipation, but in one case it brought even more.

"When I opened the boxes and pulled out the jerseys, my eyes teared up," Loftis said.

Brentwood's football program does have some claims to fame. One former flag football player at BCS, Charlie Tanner, was a four-year letterman for the University of Texas. Also, in 1991 the Bears beat a St. Andrews team led by quarterback Drew Brees, the reigning Super Bowl MVP with the New Orleans Saints.

Following are accounts of junior high games since the opener:

Sep. 14 St. Austin (W 21-6):

Hollingsworth threw two touchdown passes to seventh-grader Dane Foster, and Orick had a touchdown run. They also had several

strong defensive stands as the Bears won their first game in nine years.

Sep. 17 St. Ignatius (L 26-21):

Despite the pouring rain, the Bears attempted a comeback but came up one play short. After scoring on Hollingsworth's 40-yard touchdown run, the Bears trailed 20-7 at halftime. In the second half they mounted a 14-point comeback on a Hollingsworth-to-Foster hook up and an Orick touchdown run. This put them in the lead 21-20, but the Bobcats scored a touchdown on the next-to-last play of the game.

Sep. 20 St. Francis (W 15-7):

After the Wolves ran back the opening kickoff for a score, the Bears came back to score twice in the second half. Hollingsworth threw touchdown passes to Foster and eighth-grader Jacob Peyton and connected on a two-point conversion to a leaping Sinclair. The Bear defense then held strong.

"Charlie (Sinclair) dove to get a flag and came up with a bloody nose, but still had the flag in his hand and basically saved the game," eighth-grader Cody Hunt said.

Sep. 28 St. Paul (W 19-0):

The Bears dominated in their first shutout of the year, as the defense came up with two interceptions. Marsh had the first pick and returned it 40 yards for a score, and Peyton had the second. They scored two more times on a touchdown run by Peyton and a pass from Hollingsworth to Peyton.



photo: Lanae Hollingsworth

Unstoppable Seventh-grader Dane Foster scores a touchdown in the season opener against Redeemer on Sep. 3.

Students present last FLC fall play

continued from page 1

by Singleton to come to those practices since it wasn't necessary for every actor to come to every practice. Practices ran from 6-9:15 p.m. with Singleton and the stage manager, junior Kayle Morin. The week before the performance was a hectic week in which some students stayed from 3:30-11 p.m.

All the long practices were definitely worth it in the end, according to art teacher Lori Morin, who was in charge of painting the set.

"I think the play turned out very well, despite the fact that I was frightened (three days before the first performance) when someone didn't know all their lines," she said. "It's always worth it in the end."

Senior Somare Peyton, who was in charge of lights, agreed that the experience was a positive one.

"We did better than we expected to do," she said. "I'm happy with how it turned out."

Starring in Brentwood's production were seniors Alison Riedesel as Penelope Sycamore, Victoria Stewart as Essie Carmichael, Brittany Johnson as Rheba, Brett Withem as Paul Sycamore, Gabe Breternitz as Martin Vanderhof, Brian Peterson as Tony Kirby, Patrick Carlin as Boris Kolenkhov, Mandy Wiles as Gay Wellington, Tara Cole as Miriam Kirby and Mariah Robinson as the Grand Duchess Olga Katrina.

The cast also included juniors Kaleb Chambers as Mr. DePinna, Kailey Rodden as Alice Sycamore, and Carter Boyd as Wilbur C. Henderson. Also in the play were sophomores Jackson Graessle as Donald and Travis Clark as Anthony W. Kirby, and freshman Bryce Morin as Ed Carmichael.

Hoops teams working hard, have high hopes

continued from page 6

be able to build on that for district play.

"I think since we dropped down to a smaller district we will have a better opportunity to do well," Brunson said. "A lot of us haven't played very much together, so we're going to have to work hard and play well as a team."

As Brunson noted, a big change for both teams this year is the move from TAPPS 4A to 3A. BCS has a new set of opponents, including long-time elementary and junior high opponent Round Rock Christian.

After-school practice will begin on Monday, Oct. 18, for both teams, and games will start in the first week of November.

State meet in two weeks

continued from page 6

no district qualifying meet and many more meets than the previous season. The need for a district meet was eliminated with the shift down to 3A, according to Rotich.

The boys' team, composed of eight runners, has added five to last year's group: juniors Carlos Franco, McCormick, and Daniel Pando, and sophomores Arin Baltaoglu and Bevin Koyikalathu.

The girls' team has six returning runners and has added four: Lawson, sophomores Catherine Amann and Elena Batlle, and junior Aurora Franco.

Between the Oct. 2 meet and the state championships two weeks later, all teams will compete in the Georgetown Invitational Oct. 9.

Cafeteria raises prices, changes menu, promotes health

priscilla **GLENN**
reporter

The problem of long cafeteria lines is a thing of the past, thanks to changes made by the manager of Brentwood's lunch program. Now students have more food options, along with no rush to get seconds.

According to Chris Turner, owner of CC & Company, the goal of these changes is to promote healthier eating by encouraging students to eat more fruit and vegetables.

The change that has stirred the most

conversation focuses on going back for seconds. In past years, students could decide during lunch if they wanted seconds, at no additional cost. Now they order seconds during first period and pay an additional dollar at lunch time. This means the cafeteria can save money by ordering the exact amount of food it needs, and students do not need to rush through their meal to get seconds. Turner said the cafeteria should always have enough food for all the students.

Along with the menu changes comes an increase in price. For the first time in three

years, tray prices have increased 25 cents, bringing the total to \$4 for fifth through twelfth grades. The price increase was due to an overall increase in the price of groceries, Turner said.

While Turner said pizza, hamburgers, and grilled cheese continue to be the favorites, the cafeteria is now adding new food options to the menu. Turner said one of the new items, meatloaf, has received good reviews and more new foods are coming, like chicken casserole and sloppy joes. More sides are available too, and along with that comes the option of

selecting one side, both, or neither.

According to volunteer Theresa Glenn, students can also ask for additional servings of the healthy sides when they go through the line the first time, and Turner said students are taking more fruits and vegetables because of this.

Some things stay the same, though, including many of the parent volunteers and dedicated employees.

"I hope the excitement of volunteering in the cafeteria lasts throughout the school year," Turner said.

New building construction has resumed

continued from page 1

"We are still looking at finishing in May, and it could possibly go into June," Strietelmeier said.

Moss said she has not received any complaints from parents or students about the standstill situation.

"Most parents have been understanding about what's happened in the banking market," Moss said.

The loan was a \$2.5-million deal which Brentwood will pay back as pledges are received. The project will cost a total of about \$4.5 million, and about \$850,000 of that still needs to be raised. If it is not, Moss said some portions of the construction will be postponed to a later phase.

The architectural firm, Danze and Davis, also designed the upper elementary building, and Zapalac-Reed was the contractor. Moss said both the architect and the contractor have great track records with Brentwood. The upper elementary building was completed under budget and on schedule.



photo: Joseph Kang

Moving dirt After months of stasis, construction finally begins anew on the BCS Center for Science and the Arts. It was originally projected to be completed in May 2011, but the recently resolved difficulties could push back the end date.

Skunks spotted

arin **BALTAOGLU**
reporter

"I saw two skunks fighting – it was scary," junior Jimmy Lidgey said.

Recently Brentwood Christian staff and students have spotted several skunks on campus. Teacher Mel Witcher was startled to see one on his way back from lunch in early September. It's possible he felt this way because he knows what maintenance supervisor Kent Singleton knows about the dangers of skunks.

If felt endangered, Singleton said "a skunk will raise its tail and release a spray that when in close contact will make you sick to your stomach, and the odor may linger for days."

Lidgey was not the only student who set eyes upon one of the innocent-looking but dangerous beasts. Many high school students have reported seeing one by the main entrance, where the skunk fight occurred.

A skunk was spotted on the upper elementary playground by art teacher Lori Morin. Singleton said anyone using the playground facilities should look for signs of skunk activities, such as unusual messes and strange odors.