



THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MARCH 2011

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IN SHORT

Regional science fair

Freshman Erika DuPond won third place in her category at the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival on Feb. 24, and she will move on to the state fair in San Antonio on March 31-April 3. She also received an award from the Society for Women of Engineering. Her project title is "Energy Efficiency in Building Design - New Concept in Windows Design."

BCS had two other three-person teams entered in the secondary division of the festival, which took place at the Palmer Events Center.

In the elementary division, Brentwood sent 10 projects; of those, four won first place, four took second, and two were third.

PSIA champs

BCS students took the PSIA district championship in their March 5 academic meet. Their 816 points were enough to top Redeemer Lutheran (634) and St. Francis (532). Students finishing in the top two of their event advance to state competition at TCU in Ft. Worth on April 30.

TMSCA meets

BCS dads Mark Sass and David Armstrong have been taking small groups of students in grades 5-7 to TMSCA academic meets, and the students have done well against much larger groups. They recently earned a third-place finish at a meet in San Antonio. In addition, a few students qualified for the state meet on April 9: seventh-graders Andrew Armstrong, Brendan Hollaway, and Joshua Sass; and sixth-grader Gabie Nguyen.

Campbell baby

Samuel Paul Campbell was born at 12:11 a.m. on Feb. 10 to English teacher Chloe Campbell and her husband Andrew. He weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.

Mrs. Campbell plans to return to teaching later in the semester.

Runners brave heat, raise money

matthew **ARCHER**
reporter

With the dawning of spring, newfound greenery was brought to the expanse of the BCS soccer field. However, this change in seasons also meant that Jog-a-fun was just around the corner, when the new growth would be temporarily trampled down.

For the 28th consecutive year, BCS students jogged hundreds of miles to raise money to help pay for some of the school's expenses that tuition does not cover. As the sun rose higher, runners on the track and on the high school's 5K route began to feel the effects of temperatures in the mid-80s. But they enjoyed Christian radio station Spirit 105.9, who was there doing a remote broadcast and giving away prizes.

This year's top runners in lower elementary were second-grader Caden Cunningham (33 laps) and classmate Katie Rzepniewski (30). In upper elementary, fourth-grader Philip Peyton (38) was the top boy, and classmate Caroline Ryan (36) was the top girl.

The leading junior high lap runners were eighth-graders Michael Lam (38) and Mia Dedear (32).

The top runners in the high school 5K were

junior Marcus McCormick, junior Brittany Brunson, and senior Gabe Breternitz.

New director of development and jog coordinator Brandon Tatum implemented a change in the prizes this year. Instead of awarding the top five overall money raisers, he decided this year to split into elementary and secondary groups, giving prizes in each group to the top three money raisers and the top boy and girl runners.

The elementary winners will get to choose from prizes that range from a scooter to an air hockey table. For secondary, prizes include a flat screen television and a digital camera. In recent years, students chose prizes from a variety of tickets to theme parks and sporting events.

The awards ceremony will be at the end of April.

Since 1984, Jog-a-fun has been keeping tuition low for families.



photo: Kay Taylor
Free ride Elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed plays around with second-grader Aaron Lilya at Jog-a-fun.

Girls basketball wins first playoff game, loses second

megan **MONACELLI**
reporter

The BCS girls' varsity basketball team fought to the finish in a 36-33 loss on their home court to Katy Faith West in the second round of the TAPPS 3A playoffs on Feb. 19.

An 8-0 lead by their opponent at the end of the first quarter made winning difficult for the Lady Bears. However, they outscored their opponent 20-16 in the second half.

Shots were not falling for Brentwood in the first half, but a three-pointer by sophomore Lanae Hollingsworth in the third quarter brought their score to within two, 26-24. Another pull-up jump shot by Hollingsworth made it 29-28 halfway through the fourth quarter, and a free throw by sophomore Morgan Vandygriff then tied the game.

Behind 35-33 with a minute left, the Lady Bears fouled four times in a desperate attempt to squeeze out the win. Although their opponent made only one of their final eight free throws, the Lady Bears were unable to

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BCS dominates TAPPS district

jenny **NGUYEN**
reporter

BCS took first place in TAPPS academic and art competitions last month. Also, choir outperformed all others in district, while band struggled to meet its goals. All competitions were held at Cameron Road Church of Christ.

Brentwood won the district championship at the TAPPS academic meet on Feb. 10 by outscoring the second-place school 156-100. Junior Daniel Gardner was named Most Outstanding Student for scoring a total of 30 points and placing in all four of his events, winning two of them.

Brentwood sent 35 students to the competition, and four of them were event winners: Gardner in Science and Calculator, senior Polly Park in Number Sense, senior Min Shin in Advanced Math, and junior Carlos Franco in Spanish. The Bear Facts also took first place in Newspaper.

The math team did particularly well in this competition, and every competitor qualified for the state meet.

"I believe this year Brentwood has one of the strongest math teams the school has ever had," math coach Kaleen Graessle said.

Sixteen students who placed in the top four of their events will go to state competition April 1-2 at Austin's Concordia University.

The unexpected first-place finish in art came

on Feb. 22.

"I feel absolutely, incredibly, hysterically excited," art teacher Lori Morin said.

Before the contest, she said she really hoped that BCS would place in the top four, since the school is entering a new division this year that has extremely strong art competitors such as Regents and Round Rock Christian.

Of Brentwood's 27 participants, 14 students ranked high enough to qualify for the state meet on March 25-26 at Concordia.

First-place winners included seniors Honney Khang and Erica Shultz; juniors Julie Kwon and Haley Shake; and sophomore Serene Nermal.

On Tuesday, March 1, Brentwood's choir advanced every group event they entered to the state competition, which will be April 8. Out of their 20 soloists, 18 advanced to state.

"We have a lot of new members in choir this year, and it has been exciting to watch them grow as musicians as we tackled all of this difficult music," director Missy Weaver said.

This year band did not advance to state. However, junior Anh Tang will continue to compete in piano along with the clarinet ensemble, which includes freshman Alex Singleton, sophomore Travis Clark, and senior Tara Cole.

Director Travis Pollard said missing nine band members for various reasons made it a "pretty rough day."

Large and in charge : Kia Khadem

School curmudgeon's new target: sports

Editor's note: This article reflects the opinion of the reporter and not the Bear Facts staff.

The spirit of cheer surged through the campus when all four of our varsity teams made the playoffs last month.

Guess what: I don't care.

Everybody just chases a ball around a field or runs up and down endlessly on the court while a geezer blows his whistle.

I mean, why exhaust yourself over chasing a ball? You could use a fraction of the energy to make a sandwich and sit down on a couch and watch an episode of "The Biggest Loser."

If people want to feel like winners and have a piece of plastic commemorating their meaningless achievements, they should spend \$10 at a trophy shop for a statuette of a bronze giraffe.

And why do so many people obsess over sports? Take Super Bowl Sunday, one of the biggest televised events of the year. I go shopping at Wal-Mart the day before the game, and I see miles of people hoarding hot dogs, sodas, and chips like greedy pigs and screeching like belligerent chimpanzees.

You even hear stories of rednecks having brouhahas over whose team is better, deep in

the heart of the good ol' South.

It's just a game, people. This isn't the war on terrorism. No one's live depends on whether the Groundhogs defeat the Prairie dogs in pickle ball.

But enough hatred for sports in general; let me direct my spitfire at soccer. Soccer, in my opinion, is a wimpy sport. In fact, it's the France of sports. In gruff and burly sports such as football, people get tackled; in boxing, people get punched in the face; in soccer ... people get grazed, trip over the ball, and skip around while blaring vuvuzelas, and vehement fans skriegh in the background.

So this year our school has golf. Now this sport is a real chore to sit through; it's like

No one's life depends on whether the Groundhogs defeat the Prairie dogs in pickle ball.

the morning announcements. You know how golf has 18 holes? Let's cut that down to two, remove most of the walking, and if the players tie they can beat each other silly with their shiny expensive golf clubs.

Let's get to the American pastime, and one of our spring sports: baseball.

There are so many rules in baseball that a written test is required before you are allowed

to play.

I was flipping channels one day when I heard a baseball fanatic say this:

"A team's table setter must occupy the alley if the pea ends up in a bag. However, if a meatball is delivered, or if Mr. Spalding ends up in the hot corner, then the ace reliever must perform pepper. If the ball ends up on the screws, then the utility man may make a free run to the dish."

But since we're desecrating sacred cows, why not target the golden calves? Yes, I am talking about the almighty sport of football.

Where do I even begin with this stinker? It's boring to watch, has too many rules, and has terrible referees. But the worst part? Football players tend to be more out of control than other professional athletes. In fact, with all of the allegations of assaults, burglaries, and drug use, football players make Tiger Woods look like Mother Teresa.

Now I know what you're thinking. If sports are so useless, then what is a constructive use of your time? That, my people, is what I like to call the television. The television allows us to experience the thrills of this magnificent world without having us to get up from our La-Z-Boys.

So let's enslave our attention spans to the almighty overlord that is the television, and ignore the rubbish that is sports.

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is available online at
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photo: Kay Taylor

Crazy Hat and Sock Day Third-graders Jack Mulkey (left) and Luke Jackson enjoyed this day, which was declared by BCS President-for-a-Day Greyson Wilson, also a third-grader. Wilson won the honor at the Partnership Dinner's silent auction, and declaring Feb. 14 "Crazy Hat and Sock Day" was only one of many privileges he experienced.

Mentors find creative ways to encourage

Joseph KANG
reporter

Secondary student mentor groups are once again building relationships and working on various activities and services this year. A total of 35 groups, each composed of six to eight secondary students, are receiving mentors' advice for emotional and spiritual growth.

Secondary principal Jared Lee said that as students grow emotionally and spiritually in the turbulent teen years, they tend to stand more and more on their own with the sense that depending upon parental support might question their maturity. He said students need trusted adults in their lives in whom they can confide, and from whom they can receive advice. Lee said the adults on the campus are good spiritual examples and are able to be a stabilizing force as mentors to young men and women.

According to teacher Mel Witcher, the program was begun about 10 years ago by former secondary principal David Bush. Witcher also said the mentor groups were formed especially for students who are introverted. Through trusted adults and their advice, introverted students in the past have become more sociable.

Lee said that when he came, he wanted a trial period to observe mentor groups' effectiveness. He discovered assigning students to an adult mentor on campus is still the most efficient way. Once again, all students in grades 7-12 have a mentor who is a member of the school or church staff.

Although there are five scheduled meeting times during the school year, the mentor program is very individual, and each group has a different plan. But most mentor groups focus on developing a firm relationship that can bless both the mentor and the students this year.

Some mentors expressed concern about the sparse meeting times with students. Brentwood youth minister Adam Herndon said he hopes his students can express their feelings openly so he can help them more efficiently. Herndon also said he needs to be closer with his mentees before getting much response, and this is why he said more frequent meetings are required.

Mentor Kaleen Graessle's group of junior girls gathered in her house and baked Christmas cookies and decorated her house in December. They also made a list of group members' prayer requests to pray for each other.

Mentor Juliana Ewing meets with her

see **MENTOR**, page 8

Seniors head to Rome, Paris, London for spring break

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

"When in Rome, do as the Romans do."
Brentwood Christian's seniors are seeing exactly what this world-famous quote entails. After a day of traveling starting in Austin and eventually landing in Rome this morning, the students have begun their longed-for senior class trip. The jetlag and time change is hitting them as they begin touring Rome straight from the airport.

They left yesterday, March 10, and will return on Saturday, March 19. During this 10-day hiatus from all things American, the group of 21 seniors will tour such historic sites as the Colosseum, the Eiffel Tower, and the Tower of London. In the fall of 2009, the class chose to take a European tour of England, France, and Italy – the fourth consecutive year BCS seniors have

chosen this particular trip.

They are accompanied by seven chaperones: class sponsor Cissy Johnson and her husband James, secondary principal Jared Lee, and mothers Leigh Ann Brunson, Varsha Grogan, Tanya Quinn, and Shelby Robinson.

One hundred days before the trip, the seniors had an Italian themed luncheon where they ate Italian food and learned some vocabulary. Since then they have had English and French luncheons where they ate, learned some French words, and were given information on how to traverse the cities. The seniors were also given information about packing, travel itineraries, and maps of the cities by Linda Riedesel, office assistant and trip coordinator.

"We held these luncheons to pump them up," Riedesel said.

Some seniors have been counting down since the day they signed up. Several of them have posted pictures and status updates on Facebook about the countdown. Alison Riedesel said that she has always enjoyed learning about Roman art and

architecture, and so she is very excited about being able to see it in person. Other seniors are simply ready to spend time with friends before they graduate.

"It's fun to travel, but traveling with friends makes great memories," Tina Grogan said.

The trip is packed with as much as possible, beginning in Rome. The minute they walk out of the airport, the trip begins: no hotel, no food; straight to touring. They will be able to see the Sistine Chapel and the world's largest church, St. Peter's Basilica. After two days in Rome the group will head to Florence for one day, with an optional side trip to Pisa. In Florence they will visit Giotto's bell tower, the Baptistry's bronze doors, and the Piazza della Signoria.

Next the seniors will board an overnight train to Paris, where they will visit Notre Dame Cathedral and the Louvre Museum, before they go to London for the last two days of their journey. In London they will tour the Tower of London and see such sites as Buckingham

Palace and Westminster Abbey. They already have tickets to "Les Miserables" at the Queen's Theater for Thursday, March 17. Although it may seem chaotic – three countries in 10 days – the seniors will have free time in each city to sightsee on their own.

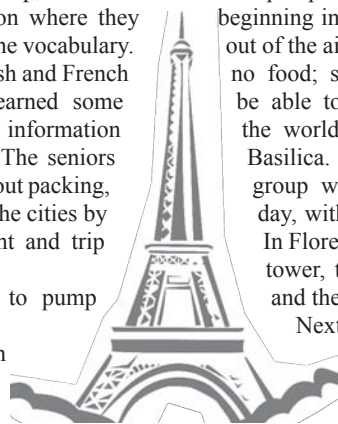
Many students are looking forward to the sites, while Ryan Doyle is especially looking forward to trying the Parisian food. For a few, the trip is all that motivates them.

"This is why I go to school every day," Brian Peterson said.

While the trip is fun and full of memories for the seniors, it also excites adults. Cissy Johnson said she is looking forward to seeing Italy and Paris.

Lee, on the other hand, said that while he takes pleasure in seeing sights like Michelangelo's "David," his favorite part is watching the seniors' reactions.

"I enjoy seeing how much the kids enjoy it," Lee said.



Spring plays draw crowds, interest

jackson **HAGER**
reporter

With the fall play long gone, spring is the time for BCS one-act plays to rise from the back of the closets full of costumes and props.

The junior high performed their two one-act plays – "This Is a Test" and "The Shakespeares" – on Feb. 18-19.

This year's high school one-act play is called "An Actor's Nightmare," telling the story of George Spelvin, who wakes up to find that he is the leading actor in a big production – except he doesn't know which one. Brentwood's play has been in

production since the beginning of November, and will be performed in April at TCSIT in Abilene, and in May at Way Off Broadway.

The play, written by Christopher Durang, includes portions of a variety of other well-known plays. Characters continually switch between these plays, leaving poor George confused and nervous.

The cast includes freshman Bryce Morin as George Spelvin; juniors Shannon Lesko, Kailey Rodden, and Kayle Morin; and sophomores

Travis Clark and Jackson Graessle.

The cast has been meeting since November, and recently both cast and crew have been meeting twice each week in the Family Life Center. They begin each practice with "improv" games and then move on with rehearsal. While



"Prithee, let me stay!" Eighth-grader Tyler Clark, right, performs with classmate Brodie Brown in "The Shakespeares" in February.

practicing, actors perform the characters with different personalities.

"My favorite part is when we get to use different accents," Graessle said.

At TCSIT they hope to gain a "one," the highest rating a show can get. They also plan to repeat as Grand Champions.

"Whenever I see this show at a contest, it always wins," Singleton said.

Last year BCS was Grand Champion with Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Parent founds NCL chapter

elena **BATLLE**
reporter

The presence of the National Charity League in Texas has taken a step forward by adding a new chapter due to the efforts of Mrs. Julia White, a BCS mother of sixth-grader Abby White and freshman Patti White.

For more than 50 years, NCL has been one of the nation's most prominent mother-daughter membership organizations, serving communities through philanthropic work. It is for women and daughters in grades 7-12, and is in 17 states.

White worked hard to get Patti to become a member of NCL after her sixth-grade year, but with all three chapters in Austin full at about 25 per grade level, Patti was not able to get in. White then took it upon herself to figure out a way to birth a new chapter.

"It is inspiring to see my mom get involved because it sets such an awesome example of what I want to do in my future," Patti said. "She is in such a large leadership position, and everything she's doing is complete volunteer work."

This particular chapter began with a phone call White made in April of 2010 to the National Office in California. White then began the arduous process of founding NCL'S fourth chapter in Austin, which the board named The Hills of Austin, and of which she is the president.

The chapter had its formal formation meeting on Monday, Feb. 28, at Highland Park Baptist Church, with 143 girls and 123 moms. Membership does not reopen until next year, and White said they will only open up the upper grades if the membership numbers need an increase.

NCL began in 1925 in Los Angeles with a small group of women interested in philanthropic

work. It was incorporated as National Charity League in 1958. Girls are recruited in February of their sixth-grade year to begin service in the fall of their seventh-grade year. Today, NCL has 167 chapters nationwide with more than 40,000 actively engaged members.

White said that what excites her most is "the empowerment of women with skills to lead, inspiring a legacy of social awareness and compassion, and providing depth of support in our local communities."

According to White, there are three main pillars of NCL: community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences. Daughters also get to cultivate an awareness and appreciation for their community, and enhance leadership and social skills through team building, problem-solving, mentoring, and officer positions.

In general, NCL inspires and empowers women to succeed as confident, well-rounded, and socially aware contributors in their communities, according to White.

"Its core values of honoring the mom-daughter relationships by learning, growing, and modeling responsibility and graciousness motivated me," White said.

Service work will begin for the chapter with three or four organizations that it will support; new philanthropies are continually added as needs arise in the community. The group has chosen seven organizations to begin working with, although they have to be voted on by the membership and approved before work can begin. Their possible options include The Long Center for the Performing Arts, The Art School at Laguna Gloria, The Capital Area Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, The Colorado River Foundation,

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Polly Park

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

Versatile “Polly Pocket” won’t stop studying, loving BCS

mike LEE
reporter

How much talent, energy, and spirit can a small Asian girl contain? The answer, many seniors would argue, is revealed in their beloved valedictorian-to-be, Polly Park.

For her classmates, to say that Polly is a well-rounded person is an extreme understatement. She sings in choir, plays flute in the band, and helps edit the yearbook. She is a cheerleader and played for the varsity soccer team that finished its first and historic season just weeks ago.

She participates in TAPPS and TCSIT academic competitions, and she serves as the vice president of NHS. In her junior year, she was vice president of her class and was voted the homecoming princess. She fluently speaks two languages, and she regularly ruins the curves on tests. And in the midst of all these activities, she was able to excel on the SAT and AP exams, while maintaining the highest GPA in her class.

As impressive as the records are, however, one should make no mistake of judging a person solely based on statistics. So, what is the 17-year-old Korean really like?

“She’s as cute as a button,” answers math teacher Kaleen Graessle, who got to know Polly not only in class, but also in various activities such as TAPPS contests and NHS.

According to Graessle, Polly is also very hard working, kind, and humble – a “servant leader” who is “very generous with her time.” Graessle also noted Polly’s academic excellence, and said that she felt like she was exaggerating facts when she was writing recommendation letters for Polly, because “they were too good to be true.”

Apparently the math teacher is not the only one who thinks Polly’s records are too good to be true.

“She’s good at everything she does. I’m convinced that she came from another planet,” senior David Ko says.

For this reason, it may be necessary to trace her origin.

Polly, in fact, was born and raised on the earth, only 7,000 miles from Texas, in Daejeon of South Korea. Before she made a little trip around to globe to the United States, Polly also lived in Oxford, England, for six months,

when she was six. She came back to Korea and graduated from Daedeok Elementary School and Global Vision Christian (middle) School, before finally coming to the warmth of the Brentwood family and the blazing heat of Texas in August 2007.

After heating up her brain, Polly jumped into the pool of activities – most of which were opportunities not available at her old schools in South Korea. While many Brentwood students were lamenting the absence of a football team, Polly joined the band and the choir, “getting the most out of her high school,” in the words of office worker Linda Riedesel. In effect, she was able to be friends with many students both in classrooms and in activities.

“I first thought she was a nice and shy girl,” her classmate Tina Grogan says. “(But) she has a sarcastic side too – sarcastic in a very nice way, though.”

Many words – studious, generous, kind, happy, loyal, patient, sweet – have been used by her classmates and teachers to describe Polly. However, everyone could agree on one word: encouraging. According to her classmate Somare Peyton, it is because Polly is “always in a good mood that brings others to a good mood.” Riedesel says that Polly is not a standout leader but an encourager who tends to stay in the background and see who needs encouragement. Graessle simply says that Polly tries to be “Christ-like.”

“So many other things just follow,” she says.

However, her friendliness and kindness are not only making more friends for Polly, but are “leaving a legacy,” according to Riedesel, who says she watches Polly “like a mother duck does.” She says that it is remarkable how Polly overcame language and cultural barriers to make dozens of American friends and to involve herself in so many activities, perhaps setting an example for future foreign students at BCS.

Although Polly says she was not trying to leave any legacy on the campus, she encourages the foreign students who hesitate in joining activities to follow two steps: “Just do

it, and have fun with it.”

Whatever she is doing, Polly is an example of patience. This is evident on an everyday basis, like when she’s helping her peers with homework. Whether in Calculus, Physics, or English, Polly does not refrain from helping her peers and sharing her knowledge, always with a good mood.

Her extraordinary talent and energy is widely appreciated on the campus, but the small private Christian school is not the only place that wants her vigor. In fact, there was an attempt to hijack her from BCS by the University of Southern California. Last year, Polly applied and was accepted to USC under the Resident Honors Program, which is an early entrance program for high school juniors. As she admits, it was a very tempting offer, including a \$10,000 scholarship that is renewable for four years and an opportunity to take

part in one of the most prestigious honors programs offered by USC.

“I was planning on going, in fact,” she says. “I paid the enrollment deposit and housing deposit, and everything was completely set. All I needed to do was to just show up at school. However, I simply could not leave BCS.”

It was a difficult offer to let go of, but she says she does not regret her decision to stay, because there would have been friends, teachers, and activities she would have missed if she had left BCS. Fortunately, she says her senior year has been the best of all. And one of the most special parts is yet to come.

There is one reason that makes graduation little bit more sentimental for Polly. Contrary to Somare’s statement that Polly is “always in good mood,” the Korean confesses that she often feels sad that her parents are not around.

“There were times when I just felt so sad because I wanted them to see me do stuff such as playing the flute or singing in choir,” she says. “I knew they would be here for my graduation at least, and I really wanted to have them here, for once, and just see me and congratulate me for what I have done.”

Another aspect of graduation she looks forward to is the valedictorian speech, something that her parents “would be so proud of.”

Polly has applied to many schools and has already been accepted by UT and Northeastern. Brentwood can expect Polly’s academic vigor to be carried into her college years, since one thing she is unable to do is “to see a reason why not to study hard.”

“If you study hard, you will have a bright future ahead of you,” she says. “A few years of studying may be boring, but those years will enable you to succeed in the future and to enjoy a good life for the rest of your life.”

Finally, after getting sick of studying, she plans to be a medical doctor to help others in need and, hopefully, to cure herself of studying illness.



Brunson makes all-state; high expectations in place for next year

continued from page 1

capitalize on the chance to steal the win.

“The game was going in our favor, but we just could not get a shot off in that last minute,” head coach Devan Loftis said.

Junior Brittany Brunson led the girls with 16 points.

The girls clinched first place in district with a 36-33 win against undefeated Round Rock Christian Academy on Feb. 3, giving Brentwood its fifth district title in the past six years. However, sophomore starter Rachel Orick tore her ACL during the game, ending her season.

Loftis described Orick, the team’s second leading scorer, as a scrappy and aggressive player, but he said other players, such as sophomores Hollingsworth and Priscilla Glenn, and junior Celeste Cole, did a good job of stepping up and filling in those minutes.

The Lady Bears beat Hallettsville Sacred Heart 38-26 on Feb. 15 at home in the first round of the playoffs.

Brunson had four three-pointers and finished with 18 points, and Vandygriff made seven of eight free throws in the first half.

Loftis said he was pleased with how the Lady Bears “took care of business.”

“It wasn’t our best shooting game, but we

went in there with a business-like approach and got the job done,” Loftis said.

Brunson made second-team all-state. Her 16.2 points per game is the second-highest scoring average in the past 10 years, behind Stacie Hall (’06).

Brunson, Vandygriff, and Orick were named first-team all-district, while Gum and sophomore Brooklyn Merkord were named to the second team. Junior Kat Taylor got honorable mention.

According to Loftis, the girls had one goal for the season: to win district.

“Everything else is just icing on the cake,” Loftis said.

Gum, Taylor, and Brunson agreed the season was successful.

“We had fun together and got close as a team, and we definitely developed team chemistry on the court,” Taylor said.

All five starters are returning next year, with one senior, Tina Grogan, graduating. Brunson pointed out that the team was young, but with most of the players returning, they will get to develop their skills through summer league games, offseason training, and summer workouts.

“I hope to be state champions next year, and I think we have a good shot,” Brunson said.

THE BEAR FACTS MARCH 2011

TEACHER FEATURE: Truman Craig Moore

Moore than just a mustache

kailey RODDEN & carter BOYD
reporters

The year is 1950, and a six-year-old mustachioed young man named Truman is spending his summer organizing his vast stamp and coin collections before heading out to practice his archery and tomahawk-throwing skills. Enjoying adventure and the outdoors, little Truman's childhood and family life prepared him for a long, fascinating, eccentric life rivaled by none.

Born to Truman Sr. and Rita Moore in Oklahoma City, Okla., on July 19, 1944, Truman Craig Moore Jr. spent his early years in Amarillo. He spent his happy childhood with his older sister, Lyndal, and his younger brother named Brent. Moore described his family as loving and close. They sometimes spent two hours at the dinner table discussing things they had read. And they spent a lot of time at church.

In his elementary years, Moore enjoyed outdoor activities such as archery and camping, and was a member of a Boy Scout troop. Building on his enjoyment of outdoor activities, Moore participated in track and cross country while he attended Amarillo High School. He took part in many events, such as the high jump, long jump, and the mile relay, and won multiple championships in the pole vault.

After two years of college, Moore won a one-year internship as a writer for "Track and Field News." Then he attended West Texas A&M University and majored in English. He decided to enter the United States Navy to fulfill his military obligations, but neither he nor his Olympic-medal-winning friend passed the physical exam. He then went on to The University of North Texas to study Library Science and English, two fields that would prove quite useful later in his life.

When Moore was 27, he married Cloydia, whom he met at church and married in the middle of Lubber Run Park in Arlington, Va., to the "lilting strains of 'Dixie Hoedown.'" They have three children: Cade, an air traffic controller in Germany; Corbin, a Dell sales engineer in Austin; and Cara, who is training to receive her certificate as a registered dietitian at Hunter College in New York City.

As a child, Moore enjoyed many interesting pastimes, and even recently he has developed many quirky new hobbies. His expressive tone and enthusiastic hand gestures display his aptitude for storytelling, incidentally one of his

favorite hobbies. Moore is also the author of published poetry and continues to write on occasion. When asked what he likes to do at home, Moore's answer is simple: He makes paper.

"I blend a mixture of plant fibers together, along with water and the lint that you find in your navel or a dryer," Moore explains. "Then it becomes a pulp that you stretch out. I use the term 'paper' loosely; the result is more like thin

as a data processing security officer at a federal finance installation. He was in charge of information security and monitoring company software, and he also won awards for the instruction manuals he wrote while working there. Thanks to his writing experience, and also to having taught courses in security while at this job, Moore felt prepared to teach, and had been interested in doing so for some time. When he retired from his position after 30 years, he began searching for a place to apply his teaching ability and passion for language.

"English was, and is, one of my big hobbies. I love poetry and literature," Moore says. "I thought that I was qualified enough for the job."

Moore heard about Brentwood Christian from a number of family and friends who were members of Brentwood Oaks. He said he thought the place was "marvelous" and that it would be a fun place at which to teach. Moore began working as an English II and Humanities teacher in 2007. Since then, he has become quite popular and found quite a large fan base among both students and faculty. Longtime English teacher Linda Pimentel, however, may or may not be among them.

"Every year, I take the senior class and lead an attack of hundreds of paper balls at Mr. Moore," Pimentel sheepishly admits. "We take him by surprise every year."

This year, Moore teaches English IV, American History, and Old Testament Theology. He is also the field events coach for high school track.

Since coming to Brentwood, Moore has made friends and memories with every student to enter his classroom. The halls of BCS are constantly abuzz with new anecdotes of Moore's latest antics. Some of

his hilarious teaching tools have been labeled famous, and a video of Moore demonstrating how to ride a camel can be found on YouTube. Students will probably share imitations of Moore's trademark hand motions or of the eccentric educator saying "H... Hello!" when calling out answers to matching questions. Recently in his history class, he has pantomimed how to wring a chicken's neck and how to kill a snake; he also recounted an interesting conversation involving Yugoslavians, Indians, hats, and contracts.

"He's a crazy, kooky, cool teacher," said junior Tyler Davis, who has had multiple classes with Moore over the years. "But at the same time, he's a dignified, scholarly man."



photo: Gabriel Breternitz

Moore the mentor Beloved teacher Craig Moore answers a question posed by senior Garrett Burkhart. His senior AP English class is just beginning their biggest project, the senior research paper.

cardboard. But it is a good hobby."

Often pursuing more scholarly interests as well, Moore initiated and founded the University of Texas' Foundation for Biblical Studies with the help of two friends in 1990. Moore is quite proud of FBS, a funded research foundation which "supports Christian scholarship on the UT campus."

"The Foundation for Biblical Studies is perhaps the leading research foundation of its kind. We do many things, including an archaeological dig in Italy, and we often work with very old manuscripts," Moore proudly states. "It is, I would say, my single greatest life's work."

An elder at the University Avenue Church of Christ since 1994, Moore was also an outstanding employee at his former job. Moore served

Open house showcases BCS experience

priscilla GLENN
reporter

Brentwood Christian School hosted an Admissions Open House on Sunday, Feb. 13, and advertised BCS to new and interested families. According to admissions director Karla Smith, 62 new families visited.

Preparation, which started in November, led to the two-hour event that showcased everything BCS offers, from Children's Ark through high school. To advertise for the event, Brentwood used radio ads but mainly counted on families to spread the word.

Visitors began arriving in the courtyard at 2 p.m. School staff, board members, and current BCS families welcomed the arriving guests. Once the families were signed in, student ambassadors led them on campus tours.

Thirty-three students volunteered to be ambassadors or to represent a school activity or group. Volunteers attended a training session the Friday before the open house, where they prepared to serve as guides.

Throughout the school, teachers, grouped by their departments or grade level, explained their classes and expectations. Some classrooms featured student representatives of activities like StuCo, JuCo, Yearbook, writing and knitting clubs, NHS, and NJHS.

Other activities were displayed in the courtyard for the entertainment of the new arrivals. Encore, jazz band, and drama took 20-minute shifts throughout the event.

Smith, who planned the event with a group of seven others, said it was very exciting and successful. Up until the event began, she did not know what to expect, but she said the response was phenomenal. Visiting families shared their excitement with Smith after touring the school.

According to Smith, one guest said the event had "a real earthy feel, not too formal, but more relaxed." The last guest to leave called BCS "a physical and spiritual oasis," Smith said.

As a result of the open house, families are applying for enrollment and new students are already "shadowing," which involves a potential student following a current BCS student around for a regular school day.

Smith started planning by first asking BCS parents to invite families they felt would benefit from the BCS community. The admissions office handed out flyers to the student body and asked each BCS family to distribute postcards to interested families. She also asked the churches of BCS students to place the flyers in their bulletins and on their bulletin boards. They also put a 30-second ad on KLBK-AM radio.

Smith said she is proud of all the effort everyone put into this year's open house.

"Thank you to everyone who helped organize and who participated, and to those who invited their friends to visit."

Varsity boys third in district, make playoffs

megan **MONACELLI**
reporter

For only the second time since 2002 the BCS varsity boys' basketball team made it to playoffs. Their 44-35 win against St. Dominic Savio on Feb. 12 sealed their third-place finish in district and sent them to play New Braunfels Christian in the first round of the playoffs on Feb. 17.

The Bears lost 49-39 to New Braunfels, ending their season, but first-year head coach Brandon Tatum said the Bears played tough against a good team.

"I was proud of the way we handled their pressure and the poise we showed playing a playoff game on the road," Tatum said.

Senior Ryan Brunson led the Bears with 18 points. His average of 23 points per game is the highest "in the past 10 years," according to athletic director Devan Loftis.

"Our shots were just not falling," Brunson said. "If we would have made a quarter of the shots we took, we would have won."

Against St. Dominic, Tatum said the Bears were able to rotate defensively, covering in help-side defense and not letting their opponent score on the weak side. They also kept the opposing post players from getting easy layups.

The Bears lost 72-50 to Round Rock Christian Academy on Feb. 3 despite Brunson's season high and personal best of 39 points. Even though the Bears were outsized, Tatum commended seniors Brett Withem and Patrick Carlin for stepping up and playing well inside. After the loss, BCS needed to win the next three games in order to finish third in district.

The Bears beat Temple Central Texas for the second time this season, 54-44 on Feb. 8. Brunson led the team with 23 points and senior Immad Qussad had 19.

Two days later, the Bears took a second win against Giddings, 55-46. The Bears' defense kept two talented guards from scoring their average and from getting layups.

Brunson was named first-team all-district, while Qussad and Withem were second team. Carlin received honorable mention.

Tatum credited the Bears for buying into defensive strategies and working hard to keep teams from executing their offense.

Brunson said the Bears worked to develop individual skill and team chemistry.

"We set goals and worked toward them, and we came close to reaching our full potential," he said.

The team set the standard high, Tatum said, and they should be proud of their success.

"This team started a tradition of winning and made the road to playoffs something that should be expected," Tatum said.

Next year's team will miss six seniors: Brunson, Garrett Burkhart, Carlin, Brian Peterson, Qussad, and Withem.

New golf team shows fast improvement

e. j. **SUNG**
reporter

Brentwood Christian's newly formed golf team opened their season at the Regents/Summit Invitational at the Grey Rock course in South Austin on March 3. It was the school's first golf tournament since 2003.

Five days later, the team competed in a smaller tournament hosted by Holy Trinity Catholic School of Temple at a course in Killeen. Senior Ryan Brunson had the best score, with senior Brett Withem four strokes behind. The team score improved by 50 strokes from the first tournament. Withem's score improved by 30.

"If we can sustain this rate of improvement over the next two tournaments, we will be competitive at the state tournament," head coach John Vandygriff said with a wink.

In the first tournament, Brentwood placed last among the 11 schools competing, with Brunson shooting the team's lowest score. He said there were a lot of things to learn from the first competition.

"We need to play the course better and try not to overplay," he said. "We also have to work on hitting the ball straighter."

Along with Brunson, the students who played in the tournament were seniors Patrick Carlin, Levi Matus, and Brett Withem; junior Diego Cole; and sophomores Matthew Archer and

Anthony Milan.

Vandygriff said it was a learning experience for everyone, including the coaches.

"The team now has a taste of what golf competition is like, and we will work harder on various aspects of our game including both the mechanical and psychological parts of the game," Vandygriff said.

Golf has been added this year to keep the number of sports for each gender equal, since girls' soccer was also added. Only girls can play volleyball, and now only boys will play golf.

Athletic director Devan Loftis said golf requires a different set of skills from most of the other sports at BCS. He was also positive about adding the sport.

"I am excited about playing golf, and my expectation for this year is to be a learning year, but I am confident that the players will get some great training," he said.

Ten boys signed up to play golf, and nine of them decided to join the team. They reported to the first practice at Tejas Golf driving range on Feb. 10. Mandatory practices are every Tuesday and Thursday at either Tejas Golf, Harvey Penick Golf Course, or Golfsmith. Optional practices are on other days. The players were required to purchase their own clubs, balls, and shoes.

Coaches Vandygriff and Brant Troutman will

select a five-man team for each tournament, depending on the success and commitment of the players. The team score is determined by adding the four lowest scores. The players not selected for the team compete as individuals in each tournament.

Vandygriff, who is the father of sophomore Morgan Vandygriff and has played golf "for about 40 years," said the boys are initially focusing on "short game" and putting during the practices. He said he hopes the team will have fun, but he also expects them to work at learning the game.

"As the saying goes, the harder you work the luckier you get," Vandygriff said.

Troutman, who also played golf competitively in high school, is the assistant coach. He is the father of fourth-grader Connor and seventh-grader Tori, and husband of Diane Troutman, a BCS kindergarten teacher.

"My expectations for the team are to have fun, to take pride in being part of the BCS team, and to represent BCS in a positive manner," Troutman said. "I am excited to help Coach Vandygriff in any way that I can to start the golf program at BCS."

Sophomore Matthew Archer said his team is improving with each practice.

"For most of us, this is our first year to play golf, but we are working hard and improving," Archer said.

Baseball returns to BCS with ferocity

carlos **FRANCO**
reporter

First the baseball team found out they had enough players for a team. Then on Feb. 24 the Bears won their first game in two years. Two days later, they won second place in a tournament.

Things keep getting better for the BCS baseball team, which now has a record of 2-1-1. Their first district game will be on March 22.

In their opening game against San Marcos Baptist on Feb. 22, the Bears finished with a 1-1 tie. The game stayed scoreless until San Marcos scored a run in the fifth inning. But Brentwood tied the score after freshman Skylar Treut-Shaffer reached base and eventually scored on a hit by senior Tommy Schiffgens.

Freshman Wesley Mory made an impressive catch – not expected from a player who started playing two days before the game –

saving a run and preserving the tie. The game lasted only six innings because of darkness.

Two days later, the Bears opened the Hill Country Tournament with a 16-9 win over Central Texas. BCS dominated the game from the first innings, led by hits from Schiffgens and the performance of sophomore outfielder Ciro Castro. Contreras said there was also a great improvement in hitting the ball compared to the game against San Marcos.

In their next game of the tournament, on Feb. 25, Brentwood defeated Round Rock Christian 12-10. Senior Matthew Welter had a home run, and he scored another run when he hit a double and scored on an error.

"I only have one word to say: fantastic!" Welter said.

In the championship game on Saturday, Brentwood played Pasadena First Baptist, but lost 16-0 after making many mistakes. Contreras said the lack of communication from the infielders let Pasadena score about

10 of their 16 runs.

At the beginning of the game, the score stayed very close, but in the third inning Pasadena started scoring fast.

"The other team put the ball in play, but we didn't make routine plays," Contreras said. "But we're happy we won second place."

Contreras said the team's captains are Welter and Schiffgens, because they are the most experienced players on the team, helping the inexperienced players with their skills and tips for playing better.

"I think having players that have played baseball before is good, because they help new players to make their workout right in order to play good in the games," Castro said.

Pitching for the Bears this year are Welter, junior Diego Cole, and Treut-Shaffer. Playing outfield are senior Derek Tresslar, junior Carlos Franco, sophomores Jordan Varnier and Castro, and freshmen Mory and Kent Howell. Playing infield are Tresslar and freshman Carson Chambers at first base, Schiffgens at second, senior Brandon Jones at third, and Treut-Shaffer at shortstop.

Contreras said he expects to get to playoffs because of the potential he has seen so far with his players, but he admits they need to practice more to improve.

"The key to success in baseball is good pitching and completing routine plays," Contreras said.

The Bears have to wait more than three weeks after the Hill Country Tournament before they play their next game. Contreras said he thinks this time could be good if it is used productively, but it could seriously damage the team if they stop practicing during spring break.

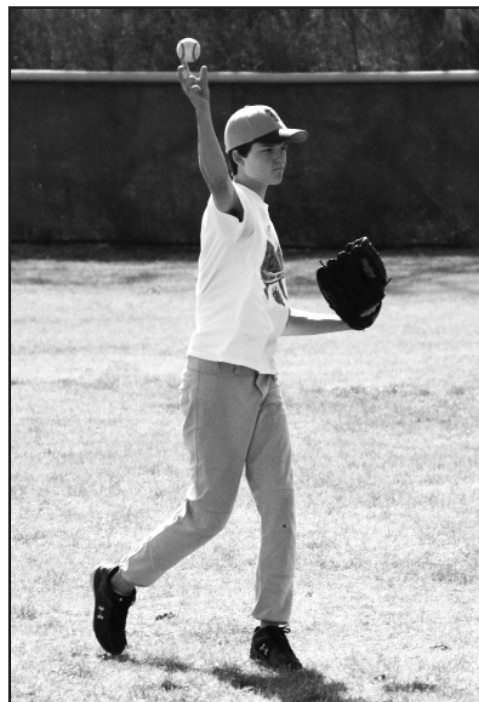


photo: Gabriel Breternitz

Playing catch Freshman Skylar Treut-Shaffer adds needed depth in pitching.

Track girls win first meet

matthew **ONABAJO**
reporter

The varsity girls' track team started off their season with a dominant first-place finish at SAS Relays, hosted by St. Andrews, on Saturday, March 5. The team finished above the host team by 97 points. With only five athletes competing, Brentwood's boys finished seventh.

Girls' varsity coach Katie Smith said she was pleased with the win and she hopes that the team will continue to improve "in all areas." "I was surprised how well we did against some of the big schools that were there," she said. "Our times must continue to improve in

order to compete well at the state level, but I think for the beginning of the season it was a great meet."

Last season, the girls finished fifth in district.

This season, Brentwood Christian dropped down to 3A, which Smith said makes it easier for the team to compete in district. It also allows them to travel to closer meets in comparison with last year's season, according to boys' coach Jacob Rotich.

At the SAS Relays, both boys' and girls' teams competed against bigger schools such as St. Andrews, Eastside Memorial, Stephen F. Austin, and St. Stephens.

Sophomore Michelle Dembosky won the discus and shot put by throwing 92-5 and 25-10.75, respectively.

Sophomore Priscilla Glenn won the 100-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles, running in 18.36 and 53.89, respectively. Glenn also won the long jump by jumping 15-5.5; senior Ashley Gardner and sophomore Serena George placed third and fourth, respectively.

Sophomore Morgan Vandygriff won the 400 meters with a time of 1:05.4, and she got third place in triple jump.

In the high jump, the girls swept the top four spots with George winning by clearing 4-6. Glenn and sophomore Courtney Flores tied for second, and junior Bridgett Beck took fourth.

In the 100 meters,

see **TRACK**, page 8



photo: Gabriel Breternitz

Up, up, and away Sophomore Steven Bailey clears the bar during a friendly pole vault competition at track practice. The vaulters were honing their skills for the March 5 meet.

Softball begins quest for title

matthew **ARCHER**
reporter

The BCS softball team competed well in a tournament last weekend in Victoria, according to head coach Paul Sladek.

The tournament started with a 7-3 loss to Incarnate Word, and then the girls had a 7-6 comeback win against Freer. That was followed by a 4-4 tie with Pettus. Then came an 11-8 loss against Victoria St. Joseph JV.

BCS won their game against Freer in dramatic fashion. They came into the last inning trailing but won on a two-RBI walk-off single by sophomore Katie Montgomery. Sladek said it was a great game in which the girls showed they will fight until the end.

District play will begin for the team on March 22 at St. Dominic, and they will have their first home district game two days later against Texas School for the Deaf.

The Lady Bears started their season on

Feb. 18 in good fashion with a dominating 25-2 victory against Lanier High School. Senior Somare Peyton and junior Kailey Rodden each had three hits.

After already having a couple of difficult scrimmages against Harker Heights and the Round Rock JV, this was the first game that the team had played.

Sladek said the offense is much better than last year's, which will be important as they work toward their goal of a state championship. He also says that this is the best defensive team that Brentwood has ever had. Last year's team was one game away from going to playoffs, but the girls are looking to do more than that this year.

"This team has the ability to win state," Sladek said.

The team captains are Peyton and junior Sydney Jung. They also have five returning all-district players: sophomore Lanae Hollingsworth; juniors Haley Decker, Jung, and Rodden; and senior Peyton.

Boys' soccer makes playoffs

ciro **CASTRO**
reporter

After a challenging season, the boys' soccer team finished third in district before falling in the first round of playoffs on Feb. 5.

"The last game was a heart-breaker," senior captain Gabe Breternitz said.

Playing in Houston in cold sunny weather, the Bears fell behind when St. Thomas, a former state champion, scored early in the game. Despite trailing, the Bears were in charge of the game for most of the second half, which led to a goal toward the end of the game by sophomore Ciro Castro. Their joy was cut short when the referee blew the whistle for a handball in the Bears' penalty box with two minutes left in the game. St. Thomas converted, shattering the dreams of the Bears.

Despite the loss, head coach Jesse Jordan was happy with the team's effort.

"I think that we played great in our playoff game," he said. "We played especially well in the second half."

For the season, Breternitz led the Bears with 10 goals, and senior Will You scored seven.

Breternitz said the team did about as well as he expected.

"We played with basically a whole new team all season, but the district was much easier than last year," he said. "It's certainly nice to reach playoffs, and we actually placed higher in district than we did last year, but once again we couldn't get past the first round ... which

was our goal."

Senior Caleb Kronke agreed with Breternitz. "I feel like we could have done a lot more pre-season to better prepare us," he said. "But considering we made playoffs despite all the ups and downs through the season, it is hard to argue that we had a bad season."

Coach Jordan said it was a successful season overall.

"We were never at full strength from the start of the season all the way to the playoff game," he said. "But we overcame injuries, ineligibility issues, and adversities to finish third and make the playoffs for the third year in a row."

Next year the team will have to fill in the gaps of the six seniors. Four of them were all-district, and one of those was also named all-state. Breternitz was named first-team all-district and honorable mention all-state; You was named first-team all-district; senior captain Brandon Jones and junior Jimmy Lidgley were named second-team all-district; and senior Mike Lee and junior Marcus McCormick were named honorable mention all-district.

"Even though we are going to lose some good seniors," sophomore Anthony Milan said, "we are going to grow and improve, and I think we will do well next year."

Junior E. Jae Sung agreed with Milan.

"Since a lot of talented seniors are gone, we may find it more difficult to score," he said. "But if we work hard in each practice and build our team chemistry, we can improve throughout the season."

Soccer girls exceed expectations

ciro **CASTRO**
reporter

The Lady Bears surpassed expectations in their first soccer season, finishing second in district, hosting their first playoff game, and winning that playoff game in dramatic fashion. Their season ended on Feb. 12 in Waco with a 4-1 loss to Colleyville Covenant, the eventual state champions.

The first playoff soccer game in the Lady Bears' history was played on Feb. 7. Secondary principal Jared Lee allowed the students to leave their seventh-period classes early to watch the game, which started at 2:30 p.m. With a large crowd cheering for them, the Lady Bears started the game with confidence but let in a goal in the first half. Senior captain Alyssa Legband tied the game in the second half, and after an exciting 90 minutes, the game went to overtime.

Although they came close, neither team scored during the overtime, so the game went to a shootout. The teams were tied after five shots and had to add one more shot at a time. On the eighth set of shots, junior Megan Monacelli scored Brentwood's goal before the other team had their shot stopped by goalie Alison Riedesel. The girls and the crowd jumped up and celebrated their fantastic playoff win.

Riedesel, who had not played soccer before this season, said she felt pressure but did not want to let the girls down.

"When it came down to shootouts, I was so scared," she said. "It was a whole lot of pressure, but I saw all of my girls staring at me

and I knew I couldn't let them down."

Other players felt the pressure too. "I felt really nervous towards the end of the game and during the shootouts," junior Aurora Franco said. "I felt like screaming."

Sophomore captain Courtney Flores agreed with Franco.

"It was really nerve-racking, and it's not very fun when a game comes down to that," she said. "We had an off game and should have finished the game earlier, but I'm glad we won."

The Lady Bears traveled to Waco for their second playoff game on Feb. 12. Both teams started the game well, but Colleyville Covenant was the one who got the first two goals. Still in the first half, Flores gave the team confidence by scoring a goal, but Covenant scored another goal, making it 3-1 at halftime. The Lady Bears continued playing well but let in another goal, and Covenant advanced to the final four.

Despite the loss, head coach Stephen Colwell was content.

"My girls worked so hard in the final game," he said. "The opponents were very polished and experienced, but I felt like we had a good chance to match them."

In their first year of existence, the Lady Bears made it into the top eight teams in state. They also had several players recognized individually. Flores was named first-team all-district and all-state; Franco was named first-team all-district and second-team all-state; and Legband was named first-team all-district

see **FLORES**, page 8

School store to open after spring break

kailey **RODDEN**
reporter

Posters have gone up around BCS announcing the opening of a first-ever school store in April. Students will be able to purchase uniforms and other useful items on campus in room C111. Called "The Bear Essentials," the store will open with a 20-percent-off sale.

The idea for the new store was proposed by school uniform supplier CFj in mid-November. According to BCS president Marquita Moss, it is supposed to make both uniform sizing and purchasing easier. Since many families have had trouble receiving ordered uniforms from

CFj, the store is supposed to help with any confusion or shipping errors.

Michelle Mohrmann, head of the Mustard Seed Project, which brought CFj to Brentwood, said parents will be able to take home well-fitting clothes directly from the store. Along with uniforms, there might also be snacks, drinks, and basic school necessities like paper and pencils sold in the store.

A parent focus group was formed last October. The group gave feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the uniform program. Moss said they offered many helpful suggestions, including fixing the fabric and making purchases more convenient. The need

for convenience brought about the idea for an on-site store.

On March 1, surveys were given to students around Brentwood. Students were able to voice their opinions on what they want sold in the store. Then, students chose which hours of the day they wished The Bear Essentials to be open. While that has not been set yet, the store will be open all school year, with extra dates in August, before school.

Former BCS English teacher Linda Pimentel is serving as consultant for the new store, and she initiated the student survey.

More announcements about the store are expected after spring break.

NCL: Julia White guides girls in philanthropy

continued from page 3

and Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Each year they will also participate in a senior "pre-sents," a mother-daughter tea, and a father-daughter event as well. These three events are mandated from headquarters for all chapters each year.

White said she is hopeful that there will be "about 6 to 10" moms and daughters from BCS who will join the new chapter. According to White, it would be "great for Brentwood to have a strong showing of girls" who would be a part of NCL, desiring to serve communities through helping the less fortunate.

Working with her daughters and being able to be part of the formation of a new chapter of NCL excites White.

"I'm just praying each day the Lord is raising up women who have a desire to serve with their daughters and who will take on leadership roles and serve outside of their box," she said.



Unfurl the banner Julia White (right), mother of two BCS girls, reveals the banner for the new chapter of National Charity League at the formation meeting on Feb. 28.

Track

continued from page 7

Gardner and George finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the relays, Gardner, Flores, George, and Beck won the 4x200, while Vandygriff, Glenn, freshman Marisol Lawson, and Flores won the 4x400.

Of the five boys who competed Saturday, four are new to track, according to Rotich.

Junior Trenton George placed fourth in shot put, and freshman Kent Howell was fourth in high jump.

Rotich said many of Brentwood's athletes are committed to doing other things, and the track team suffers because of that.

"We have some talent, but we really need (more guys)," Rotich said.

Beginning with the Panther Relays in Pflugerville on March 26, both team have three more meets before the district meet in Lockhart on April 19. Athletes who place in the top four in their events at district will qualify for the regional meet in Houston on April 28. Those in the top four at regionals qualify for the state meet in Waco on May 6-7.

Flores named first-team all-state

continued from page 7

and honorable mention all-state. Also, junior Schuyler Hagen was named first-team all-district; junior Megan Monacelli and freshman Marisol Lawson were named second-team all-district; and sophomore Niky McCaffety was named honorable mention all-district.

Legband said she was content with how well they did.

"I think we did great in our season, especially when it was the first in Brentwood history," she said. "I was really proud of what we accomplished. Everyone worked so hard, and we really clicked as a team."

Flores said that despite their inexperience, they had a great season and surpassed her expectations.

"So many people had huge improvements, and we made a huge improvement as a team throughout the season," she said. "It was a lot of fun, and I'm super proud of us."

Colwell agreed with Flores.

"The team improved tremendously throughout the season both as a group and as individuals," he said.

Even though soccer only came in her senior year, Legband said she still enjoyed it.

"Having soccer made my senior year; it was definitely worth the wait," she said. "I didn't think I was going to ever get to play at Brentwood, and when I found out we were going to have a team, I was ecstatic."

She added that she only expected them to have fun and not do well, but that she was mistaken when they made it to regional playoffs.

"The first playoff game was intense, but we pulled through," she said. "The last one we fought hard, but the other team was really good and experienced. Even though we did all we could, I'm sad it's over."

Hagen said she believes the team can be really good next year.

"We need to go harder and stronger next year," she said. "We also need to have higher expectations and try to grow closer as a team so we can ultimately win state."

McCaffety agreed with Hagen that they will improve.

"We're going to be a different team with our seniors and Aurora (Franco) gone," she said. "But I think we will keep getting better."

Mentor groups create lasting friendships

continued from page 2

freshmen every other Friday at lunch. They eat together and are learning how to knit. Her group is working on a service project, knitting baby hats for a charity called "Stitches from the Heart," which sends hand-knit baby items to hospitals all over the country for either premature babies or babies of low-income mothers. According to Ewing, she wanted to teach students how to knit like an old-fashioned knitting circle where people talk and get to know each other.

Lori Morin also has freshman girls, and they decided to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month for lunch. Her group has selected secret sisters among the group, and they exchange small gifts and notes during the semester. They also "adopted" the custodians to give them little surprises so they know her group appreciates the way they take care of the school.

As a mentor, Morin becomes much attached to the girls in her group, and she prays for them individually. Morin said the mentor program allows her to get to know a few students better. She also said she has stayed friends with mentor group members after they graduated.

"We understand ourselves and others better when we serve, because it builds relationships," she said. "I think that is why Jesus called to serve our brothers and sisters and to care for those who are in need."

Secondary office assistant Linda Riedesel said she tries hard to keep groups intact from year to year, but since students and teachers come and go, this task is difficult.

"I prayerfully approach the task, but in many cases a new student will move into a vacant spot," she said. "I trust God and pick a name randomly and place them with a mentor name. Isn't that how they chose the apostle when Judas left?"

Riedesel is also a seventh-grade group mentor. Her group meets once a quarter with Michele Broadway's group. Riedesel said this offers a break in the middle of the day from having to think. They eat pizza and dessert, and play kickball and throw Frisbees.

"I love having a mentor group," she said. "My group is very large, but as the students get older, the groups are smaller, and more meaningful things may be discussed or planned."

"I actually had a group of boys that were my mentor guys from eighth grade all the way until they graduated; they were my sons by the end of their school career," Riedesel said.