



see page 6



VOL. 37 NO. 4

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MAY 2025



see page 7

Track produces State qualifiers, medalists Counts

By Grey Nyby and Anu Oguntade

A track and field season with numerous underclassmen and those stepping into new roles was a scary thought for many Brentwood Christian runners. Through hard work and dedication, however, the group was able to meet and exceed expectations.

Both the boys and girls teams had to rebuild the program after losing many talented seniors and moving up to 5A, but even with these obstacles, the season was nothing short of a success.

“[The team] improved with more experience, training, and participating in more field events,” said varsity girls head coach Katie Smith.

The girls team had many accomplishments this year including finishing second in the district meet, with multiple podium finishes. Some standouts

include Caitlin Welsh (first, 4x100; second, 100 hurdles, triple and long jump), Harper Counts (first, 3200; second, 1600; third, 4x400) and Ava Johnson (first, 4x100, 200; second, 100).

The boys had their share of successes as well. As a team, they finished fourth in District and pushed all three relays to regionals. In individual events, seniors Hollis Harlan and Griffin Smith performed exceptionally, where both had multiple top three finishes and represented their team well.

Unfortunately during regionals, due to a sudden injury, junior Josh Gonzalez wasn’t able to compete in the 4x200 and 4x400 relays. Junior Jack Hansen stepped up and ran in Gonzalez’s spot. Despite the effort of the boys, the relays were not able to qualify for state, but Griffin Smith and Gonzalez were able to make it in their respective events,

110 hurdles and discus.

The girls team placed fourth at regionals and qualified eight girls to the state meet. At the state level, the girls and boys performed exceptionally, leaving with personal records in almost every category. Harper and Hailyn Counts both landed podium finishes in the 3200, and Harper Counts also received third in



Above and Beyond Sophomore Lynden Worley, above, competes in the high jump at the TAPPS state meet, winning sixth place for Brentwood and demonstrating her determination.

see **STATE**, page 10

West dazzles, dinner a success for BCS

By Anu Oguntade

On March 1, Brentwood Christian School held its biggest fundraiser of the year, the annual Partnership Dinner. With Christian mu-



Worship Singer Matthew West pours his love for Jesus into his music. West, above, performed at the Partnership Dinner fundraiser on March 1.

sician Matthew West entertaining and performances from the jazz band and state champion Lady Bellas, the night made for a truly unforgettable event.

West contributed to a fun and engaging environment for every member of the BCS community. One of the many highlights of the night was when a previously scheduled 15 minute interview with West turned into a 45 minute one. This interview was conducted by our school president, Jay Burcham. The two got to discuss the meaning and process behind many of West’s songs.

“As someone who loves his music, that touched my heart more than even hearing him sing the songs, it was hearing what they meant to him and really came from,” said Burcham.

Following the interview, West performed a concert, and members of the BCS community from all walks of life came together and worshipped God. This created an amazing atmosphere for the 700 people present.

“Paddles Up” is a silent auction where guests raise their paddle to bid for a variety of items and experiences. This year, the initiative’s goal was to raise money for the fine arts program. The technology and stage in the CSA has not seen upgrades in a long time, but with the money raised, it will improve the already strong Fine Arts program.

“The Brentwood community really does support the arts,” said Fine Arts director Jason Montier. “We are one of the few fully diversified arts programs for Austin private schools, and we want them all to be successful.”

Another huge part of the auction is teacher time. This gives students the opportunity to bid on an activity decided by their favorite teacher or coach. A great example of this is

see **WEST**, page 7

Spring Finals Schedule

Wednesday - May 21

English: 8:00 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.

Science: 10:05 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday - May 22

History/Speech: 8:00a.m. - 9:55 a.m.

Math: 10:05 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Friday - May 23

Bible: 8:00 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.

Spanish/Comp. Science: 9:05 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Summer season brings forth opportunities for service

How do we choose Jesus daily?

Move into the season of summer with service in mind. Move into the season of fun and leisure with more than the intention of games and sun. Find ways to serve

God, be a part of a mission trip, travel, laugh, work hard, continue to follow Christ, put daily effort into furthering the bond between Jesus and yourself.

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him... You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him”(Lu. 12:35-36; 40). Jesus can be found in every situation, in every place, and in everyone. He will test patience and ask for every person to go down the harder path.

Following Jesus is not a Sunday service every few months, or the proud label: “Christian” plastered on a bumper, but it is the daily choice of getting up each morning to live for him. This means using the gifts God has given each of his disciples to spread his love, to work every day to further the kingdom. “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them

and in everyone it is the same God at work”(1 Cor. 12:4-6).

God’s calling to us all as time flashes by, like the elongated fields on country roads overgrown and marked with life, is for our footsteps on his path. The trail that Jesus has paved for us all is nothing but a shadowed deer path that straggles through life. It is almost invisible to the human eye, although God sees its intricate detail like a splatter of color on a grey canvas. God’s hand guides us, and we can help guide others.

Someone does not need to be far from God to need help, it is often the people that seem very close to God that are the most lost. Check in on friends, and look out for ways that can benefit the kingdom.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it”(Mat. 7:13-14).

Poison ivy sometimes marring the road, scratching skin, biting at legs. We are lepers, feeling no pain, ignoring the struggle. But, the poison ivy is attempting to help us, to stop our feet from leaving the path, to keep us all from losing our way. Jesus heals the leprosy, helps everyone feel the sting of branches and the scratch of ivy.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his



Family Community First Village and its needs help to exemplify what students can do outside of the school year to show Gods love to others.

good, pleasing and perfect will”(Rom. 12:2).

There is also a scary aspect of service, because it is dependent on teachings to influence others. There is responsibility roped into the intricate web that is made over time. This requires self awareness, and the ability to change things that might negatively impact others. Face questions such as: Am I worshipping for God, or for myself? Do I serve for attention, or to challenge myself to grow?

Seniors, continue down the narrow path of Jesus as new chapters unfold. Approach a year of new beginnings with joy and anticipation, but also with an open mind.

Parents, continue to pray daily for your children’s faith and health. Teachers, stay strong in patience and love, your students look to you for guidance.

For other students at BCS, use the opportunity to change your expectations for the summer, and allow yourself to be a skipping stone, sending ripples across the lake of people in need, alerting them to the workings of Christ.

Let this summer not only be a break from school or routine, but a breakthrough of relationships and conversations about God. Let the summer bring people together and help people ask the question: How will I use my time? Will I use it to serve others?

Serve the kingdom, aid the hurt. Serve the people unworthy of help, give assistance to the haughty and rude. The summer rapidly approaching calls for change in everyone. Go into summers with an attitude of service for others.

THE BEAR FACTS

Brentwood Christian School
11908 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78753

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

Editor-in-Chief
Ally Robertson

Photo Editor
Ava Cavada

Sports Editors
Ella Kennedy
Karlee Lawrence

Feature Editor
Alex Schehl

Reporters
Graham Auberger
Kenton Auberger
Cameron Cunningham
Addison Everline
Grey Nyby
Anu Oguntade
Isabella Parra

Adviser
Ethan Grant

Digital prints of The Bear Facts are available online at www.brentwoodchristian.org.

Directory			
2	3	Editorial News	Sports 8 9
4	5	News Features	Sports Student Life 10 11
6	7	Features	Student Life 12



Small Place, big Impact Impact Church is a church in the center of Houston, TX, where high school and college students are able to go and help the church take care of children, work the food pantry, and do other acts of service for Christ.

Seniors give advice to underclassmen

By Isabella Parra and Karlee Lawrence

Staff Note: Senior Adice is a student crafted and created article where a few selected seniors can share their wisdom and experience of Senior year to the rising Seniors and underclassmen.

Karlee Lawrence:

Class of 2026, when looking towards your exciting last year of high school, you should take in some very important advice. First up, your college applications may seem scary and they kinda are, but Common App is your best friend. Complete your Common App as soon as possible! You may be able to write an essay in 30 minutes, but this is the one thing I will highly encourage you to not procrastinate. On this topic, ask for recommendation letters as soon as possible and be respectful to your teachers. You want them to have good things to say about you!

Another piece of advice is to set time aside to hang out with your friends. Yes, your grades matter, but so do your experiences. Try as hard as you can in your classes but always remember that this is your time! Grow as a person and try new things! Get involved in what's happening on campus like theater or clubs, and build your skill set. Being a well rounded person who has hobbies and interests will help you succeed in your future endeavors.

Your schedule is packed, but don't stretch yourself too thin. Be involved but not too involved. Make time for yourself, touch grass, make friends. It's important to allow yourself to make memories that you can reminisce about. This is your last year at home, be happy and have fun! Have so much fun and I wish the best for all of you!

Isabella Parra:

Are you looking for the ONLY step to happiness and success in high school and the rest of life? Keep reading to find out what they are!

Before I explain the two easy steps to happiness and success in high school, let me tell you a little bit about myself and my experience throughout high school.

Although I attended Brentwood for five years and have grown up in the Church, I only started following the Lord this year. Now that I am a Christ-follower, I have

been so blessed (despite challenges and hardships). I have felt much more peace and joy in my life. I don't have debilitating panic attacks and my social anxiety has dropped dramatically. I realized my identity is in Christ, not any deed that I do. I have also made so many amazing friends that lift me up and hold me accountable. I attend a youth group called Ignite; I highly recommend that all high school students give it a try. There is also a wonderful sophomore named Chlo  . She is such a blessing and we call each other "Iron" because we sharpen each other.

You may be wondering how this relates to the ONLY step to happiness and success, but you have already heard the first one: follow Christ.

You may roll your eyes because you have heard this before, but it is true. Following Christ will bring you so much joy. He is a steadfast peace and even if you encounter a hard time, you can experience joy, knowing that God has a plan for you. That's also how this relates to success. If you follow God's plan for your life, rather than your own, how can you fail? God is on your team and He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-forgiving. He is the best teammate you could possibly have.

If you aren't already sold, then let me try a different angle. Do you have a lot of friends? Maybe you don't or maybe you do. But do you feel lonely? I bet you probably do; whether or not you have a lot of friends. You might say you aren't lonely, but do you feel pressured to constantly conform to the friend group? Well . . . a lot of my friends graduated last year, so I didn't have too many close friends at Brentwood this year. I also cut out a lot of people who didn't match Romans 16:17-19. Having my relationship with the Lord is what's carried me through.

This might sound like a very transactional way to view Christ, and I don't want you to view Him like He is something that can be bought at the grocery store. He is our God. He died the most painful, brutal, and condescending death for each one of us. But I want you to know and hear about the opportunity. The free opportunity for a personal relationship that you can have with the one true God. If God comes first, everything else falls into place.

Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

TAPPS competition success

By Alex Schehl

Brentwood Christian dove into the Art/TAPPS Academics this year with many contestants placing, helping BCS win an overall second place in TAPPS 5A State Academics and Speech.

In TAPPS 5A Calculator, junior Joshua Gonzales placed third in state, with senior Conor Schehl right behind, placing fourth.

"TAPPS overall was a good experience; you get a day or two off school to focus on being the best in a few subjects," said Schehl.

Schehl practiced for TAPPS by meeting with people who had more knowledge and experience with the material, and then asking them to teach him the things he didn't know. He also took many practice tests over and over until he got the subject down.

"I had fun competing against my friends and ultimately against the other people in our division," said Schehl.

Within 5A Math, sophomore Ames Peterson placed eight in state for Brentwood. Peterson was not expecting to place; however, he was excited to hear he made it out in top ten.

"I think I placed pretty well for my first year, but there is experience to be had and scores to be raised," he said.

Peterson enjoyed the challenges that came along with practicing and taking the TAPPS math tests. To practice for TAPPS, Peterson used previous TAPPS 5A Math tests.

"I enjoyed the downtime I had to go and hear about and congratulate my

peers on their categories," Peterson said.

Senior Grace Bello placed third in state for the 5A Lincoln Douglas Debate competition. She moved up two places in the Lincoln Douglas Debate, showing progress from last tournament.

By participating in TAPPS, Bello had fun and made good memories with her team. While staying overnight in the hotel, the Speech and Debate team played games and talked with each other until late in the night.

"The TAPPS experience overall was pretty good, they were really organized," said Bello. "I made a lot of memories, and I got to bond with Brentwood's amazing speech and debate team."

Senior Ralph Castillo placed first in the short film animation competition for the third time in a row. To practice for the competition, Castillo created other short films in his free time.

"I feel very happy that I placed first in TAPPS...it feels like I accomplished something great," Castillo said.

Sophomore Jacob Klein-Bradham placed sixth in the 5A Seek and Sketch competition. Klein-Bradham was given two hours to draw anything he would like within a quarter mile area.

"The art event chose unique prompts that required me to reach outside of the box, and I was surprised that there were so many different mediums of art to enter the competition, from dresses to giant wooden sculptures," Klein-Bradham said.

The 2025 TAPPS Academics showed change and the unique thoughts and discipline Brentwood possesses in its students. With returning contestants and students, BCS is bound to improve and continue to make Brentwood Christsian proud of the hard work they put into practicing.

TAPPS 5A State Academic and Speech Competition			
ADVANCED MATH Zino Etakibuebu Joshua Gonzales Conor Schehl	READY WRITING Ali Nelson-Cook Faith Bello Liora Naidu Gavin Wygant	ORIGINAL ORATORY Grace Bello Reid Alexander	LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE Grace Bello - 3rd Place Taia Robinson Samuel Lim
CALCULATOR Joshua Gonzales - 3rd Place Conor Schehl - 4th Place Evan Cardenas	SPELLING Hollis Leeward	PROSE Renee Groomes Bee Briseno Cody Shockey	PERSUASIVE SPEAKING Reid Alexander Grace Bello Samuel Lim
TAPPS MATH (9th - 10th) Ames Peterson - 8th Place Elizabeth McKinnerney An Nguyen	LITERARY CRITICISM Reid Alexander Maeryn McCormick Samuel Lim	POETRY Reid Alexander Gino Burke Taia Robinson	DUET ACTING Reid & Taia - 7th Place Charlotte and Bee
NUMBER SENSE Joshua Gonzales - 2nd Place Zino Etakibuebu Elizabeth McKinnerney	CURRENT EVENTS Caden Shockey - 2nd	SOLO ACTING Reid Alexander Tanner Clark	
SCIENCE Gavin McBride - 3rd Place Conor Schehl - 5th Place Elizabeth McKinnerney	SPANISH Melina Comacho - 4th Place Rhianna Lopez Ella Kennedy		
5A TAPPS ACADEMIC (2nd PLACE) AND SPEECH STATE MEET			

Shout outs Brentwood Christian School students continue to shine in the TAPPS Academic and Speech competition, as showcased by the results from this year above

Spiritual Emphasis Day raises awareness

By Ella Kennedy

Brentwood Christian School recently held its annual Spiritual Emphasis Day (SED) on Wednesday, March 5, a special event designed to help students deepen their faith through service, reflection, and worship. The day provides a break from the usual academic routine and offers students a chance to engage in activities that connect them with their faith and focus on a sense of community.

Connor White, World History and AP Economics teacher at Brentwood Christian, has been a part of the event as both a student and a teacher.

“The main goal of Spiritual Emphasis Day is to take time out of the normal routine to devote to honoring God through service, worship, and contemplation,” White explained. “We wanted students to focus on God for an entire day and reflect on what it means to live out their faith.”

A highlight of the day was a service project where sophomore students worked together to clean and organize the school’s gymnasium. This hands-on activity emphasized the importance of stewardship

and taking care of the resources that have been given to the school.

While the sophomore and freshman classes focused on the campus, the seniors took part in a service project at the Round Rock Serving Center, where they helped pack food and supplies for families in need. The seniors also went to Community First! Village, a non-profit in the Austin area. Community First is where people who have been chronically homeless are given home and work, along with many other great benefits.

Juniors also had the chance to serve at different locations. They worked at the Texas Baptist Children’s Home, St. Vincent de Paul, Crows Nest, and Headstart, each of which provided valuable opportunities for students to build relationships and contribute meaningfully to their community.

“I was able to help out at St. Vincent de Paul,” said junior Abby Rackley. “I got to see how much help was needed and was very happy I got to be a part of making a difference.”

In addition to service, students participated in several reflection stations throughout the day. One station involved creating sidewalk chalk art focused on the theme of

compassion, while others included a session with the Eastside Church of Christ youth minister and a station on conflict resolution.

“I liked the East Side Youth minister and how he made us build our skills by making us work together to make a video skit,” said freshman Hudson Borders.

By the end of the day, it was clear that SED had a lasting impact on the students. The mix of service, reflection, and spiritual lessons helped students connect their faith with their daily lives and their relationships with others. White observed how the students embraced the opportunities to serve and grow spiritually.

“I saw a mindset of humility and willingness to humble themselves,” White said. “Students chose to do things they may not otherwise want to do, but they did it with the understanding that they were honoring God through their service.”

Students, too, agreed that the experience was memorable.

“I enjoyed cleaning up the campus and growing my relationships with my friends by talking to them while working hard,” said freshman Ryleigh Ransburg.

It was clear that Spiritual Emphasis Day

was not just about physical work, but also about building connections and growing together as a community.

To close out the day, freshman and sophomore students participated in a lighthearted dodgeball game. While it was a fun and competitive way to wrap up the event, the game fostered teamwork and sportsmanship, reminding students of the importance of working together, respecting one another, and playing with integrity. The playful activity added a sense of joy and community to the day, leaving students energized and connected.

For everyone at Brentwood Christian School, Spiritual Emphasis Day was a meaningful experience that combined service, reflection, and fellowship. Students were reminded that their faith isn’t just something to be discussed, but something to be lived out in action, whether through cleaning the gym, showing compassion, resolving conflict, or even playing dodgeball.

As sophomore Evan Berger put it: “I think the main goal of Spiritual Emphasis Day is to realize that this life isn’t about us.”

Music a joy for band, choir

By Kenton Auberger

The BCS band and choir had an amazing year and second semester, continuing on their path of success by winning awards and competing well in competition and showcases alike. The band and choir also continued to perfect their lineup in school performances, including Brentwood Christian School’s Spring concert on April 29.

The band and choir performed a variety of different songs, with the band performing Armenian Rhapsody, Simple Song, and Viva, while the choir performed Keep Your Lamps (all), Down by the Sally Gardens (boys), and Lullaby (girls). The band and choir also performed a combined song called Baba Yetu, which was an intriguing and fun compilation.

This semester, Brentwood’s band has competed in several competitions. In February, the band competed in the solo and



Bows Up Director Caleb Rektenwald motions for the band to ready themselves and prepare to play at this year’s TAPPS Band Competition in Waco.

ensemble competition, where they won sixteen superior ratings from various solo ensembles, and eight more excellent ratings.

“We are playing more challenging and difficult music this year,” said first-year director Caleb Rektenwald. “Solo-Ensemble and the other competitions were a great way to grow and elevate their talent.”

see **STRONG**, page 12

Finance office adds staff

By Graham Auberger

Brentwood Christian has continued to add to its faculty and staff throughout the 2024-25 school year, hiring Amina Makamba to be the new Accounting Manager to the finance office. Makamba will be managing financial reporting, payroll, benefits, and more.

Her past experiences include working as a Payroll Specialist at Austin Community College District, Executive Assistant at Caterpillar/Congo-Equipment, and Private Banking Agent at Trust Merchant Bank. Makamba’s impressive education including a bachelor’s degree in Business Administrations and Economics, and an Associate degree in Theology, make her very well equipped for the job.

Makamba is originally from Congo, and is fluent in four different languages including English, French, Lingala, and Swahili. She is also a mother of triplet daughters who are students at Brentwood Christian School.

Makamba’s research for schools for her children lead to BCS, where she

liked the idea of a school starting from Pre-K through senior year while staying at the same school.

She and her family attend Hill Country Bible Church, and she is excited to be a part of Brentwood Christian.

“Since I’ve started here, the best things that I have loved are the community and seeing how the teachers lead the students to love God first,” said Makamba.



Amina Makamba

Cherished science teacher helps BCS community

By Isabella Parra

Upon entering Michelle Mallett’s classroom, you can immediately see her passion for fun-filled learning, God, and monkeys. She is the current AP Biology, Forensics, and Anatomy & Physiology teacher, as well as the head of the Science Department at Brentwood. Mallett is known for her deadpan humor, exciting classes, and helpful tricks.

Mallett was born in Denver, Colorado. She attended Oklahoma Christian University, and received her degree in Biochemistry and Secondary Science Education. Leading up to her teaching career, Mallett helped out with daycares and had the privilege of working at a Science Center research and patient care. While working with those patients, she realized becoming a doctor was not something she wanted to do, so she became a teacher at Oklahoma Christian Academy.

Mallett got to know two teachers at Brentwood Christian School before becoming an employee. She was working as a grader at an event called Texas Christian Schools Association (TCSA), and teachers Kaleen Graessle and Dr. Libby Weed were other graders as well.

“We spent most of the daytime hours in a grading room grading together,” said Graessle. “Both us and others really got to know each other well throughout the years. We also communicated [when we weren’t at TCSA].”

Through this time, Mallett gained a passion for Brentwood and moved here in 2011, encouraged by Graessle and Weed.

Diving into her teaching career, anyone who has been blessed enough to have Mallett as a teacher can relate to how funny she can be.

“My favorite memory in [her] class [was when she scared] people who used the restroom during class,” said senior Zaniah Williams.

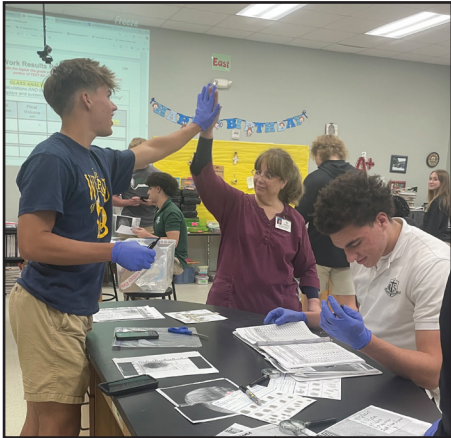
Mallett creates her class to be entertaining because she remembers how miserable she felt during some of her high school and college classes. She has made it her mission to make class engaging, and to better prepare students for college.

“She has strengthened our science department,” said Graessle. “Specifically, [she made it more] lab-centric, which was not easy.”

Mallett has had a huge impact on Brentwood Christian School by strengthening the science department and organizing Science and Engineering Day. Science and Engineering Day is an all-campus event that occurs yearly.

“She helped elevate the level of science here at BCS,” Dr. Diann Sloan said. “There are different opportunities available to students now than there were before she came over the past ten years.”

Her impact among students is huge. Mallett



Michelle Mallett

works very hard to prepare students for college and increase their love for science. What she does works and has a lasting impact.

“Mrs. Mallett is the best at teaching material because she gives you the tools to digest what you are learning,” a BCS alumna who wished to remain anonymous said. “As a current nursing student, I think about her mnemonics and word tricks while I am studying and look for “aard-varks” on all of my exams.”

“I think her class, one hundred percent, will have prepared me for college,” added Maeryn McCormick, a graduating senior. “The way that she has us take notes she helps us build up our note-taking skills and start to learn what to highlight to help our brains [learn the material].”

High school principal Carol Johnson asked several senior girls which teacher they thought prepared them the most for college, and all of them agreed hands down that Mallett was the winner.

“I will miss her knowledge and wisdom that she has in the areas she teaches,” Williams said. “It is rare to find a teacher that actually knows what they are teaching and are able to apply it to real life.”

Her love for Biology and sciences has encouraged many students to pursue careers in Biology and nursing. One of those students, alumnus Chase Allen, summarized her work at Brentwood perfectly.



“Mrs. Mallett always made class energetic and interesting with jokes, anecdotes, and funny advice,” Allen said. “She helped me remember and learn the content in both of my classes so that I actually was able to apply the content rather than just memorize it.

“She showed me how cool biology can be.”

Senior Says...

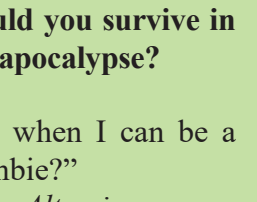
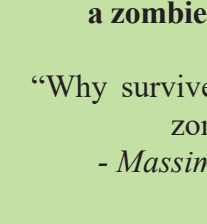
The Bear Facts asked BCS seniors a series of questions covering life, school, and everything in between...

Here are some of our favorite responses.



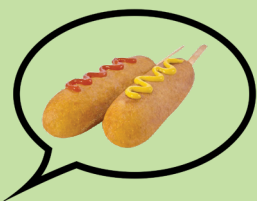

What dog breed would you be?

“Long haired Chihuahua.”
- Jocelyn Galvan



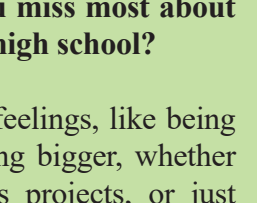
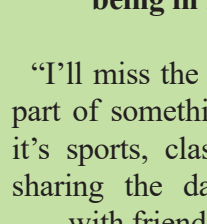
How well would you survive in a zombie apocalypse?

“Why survive when I can be a zombie?”
- Massimo Altamirano



What’s your least favorite food?

“Corn dogs.”
- Hollis Harlan



What will you miss most about being in high school?

“I’ll miss the feelings, like being part of something bigger, whether it’s sports, class projects, or just sharing the day-to-day moments with friends and teachers.”
- Minh Le

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Charis McGaughy

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2025.

THE BEAR FACTS MAY 2025

“Charis-matic” senior spreads godliness, cheer

By Ally Robertson

Affecting the lives of everyone she touches, senior Charis McGaughy has changed the community of BCS for the better in her four impactful years as a Brentwood Bear. She can be seen walking around the halls with a bright smile at all times of the day, running on the cross country, track, and soccer fields, or joking around with friends.

“I think Charis has a huge impact on the community aspect of BCS, the way that she treats people, she makes everyone feel welcome and comfortable and appreciated,” senior Mia Robertson says. “No one ever feels like they are ever being judged by her.”

This can be shown in her participation in the sports she has played. Since her first year at BCS as a freshman, McGaughy has courageously tried out new sports, succeeding in them all. She burned through volleyball, cross country, softball, soccer, and finally track and field in her senior year, where she qualified for state in the 4x200 relay her first year running, a true testament to her hard work.

In soccer, the only sport McGaughy participated in all four years, she played the crucial role of right midfield, an incredibly difficult and endurance-saturated position. Her incredible ability to stay joyful even when playing against difficult opponents or around negative attitudes makes her stand out as a valuable player.

“Charis is such a positive light and I just see her radiant light in the hallway, and she puts everyone in a good mood,” junior Hannah Hanrahan said. “She just will talk to anybody, and she is so kind and loving, I don’t think I’ve ever had an interaction with her where she didn’t say, ‘I love you, bye.’”

McGaughy won Mrs. BCHS (Brentwood Christian Honors Student) for the senior class, and took the award with humility and humor, the combination of emotions which describes her so accurately. She led the senior class artistically, as well as through her attitude.

She also designed the senior class hoodie, depicting a white sheep in a herd of wolves. Not only insightful and spiritually

moving, it is also a beautiful design that will stay with BCS for years to come. She also won first in the TAPPS State Art competition with her piece titled, “At Last.”

“Charis has completely changed the school for the better, giving so many people motivation, courage, hope, acceptance, and a place where they can be themselves without being judged, which is hard to find at this time in our lives,” junior Jack Henry Gonzalez said.

McGaughy’s magnetic personality does more

with everyone to spread positivity and the love of Jesus.

McGaughy said: “My faith affects me in a very very very very positive way. Literally all my joy comes from my faith, and anything that’s good about me comes from my faith.

“I feel like [my faith] brings out any gift that God gave me, and helps me use my gifts to be a good friend and be a person that God wants me to be. It makes me happy, go God. Go Jesus, love him.”

In addition to McGaughy’s faith, her humor is an unforgettable part of who she is. Any encounter with McGaughy will show her funny quips, attitude, and hilarious sayings that leave a person smiling for the next hour. Some of her favorite things to say randomly are: “Supplies!,” “HUZZAH!,” and “Buzz-inga.”

Outside of school, McGaughy loves to exert herself physically, spending as much of her free time outside in the sunshine as she can get.

“Charis thrives in any sort of environment with people, with people who aren’t judgemental, with people who are kind,” Mia Robertson added. “She loves anything outdoors, like swimming.”

No matter if McGaughy is playing on a sports team, working at school, swimming outside, laughing with friends, or making jokes, she has shown she is a woman of God who loves easily and judges no one. Her place at Brentwood will not be easily forgotten.

“Charis is unlike anyone that I’ve ever met,” Gonzalez said. “She has the unique ability to see the most beautiful part of you.”



than draw people to her, she uses her friendships

Oz’s dance, performances win attention of all

By Ava Cavada

This year, a wonderful production of The Wizard of Oz musical was brought to life by the Brentwood Christian School



All Tied Up Freshman Hollis Leeward (middle/Scarecrow), sophomore Ellie Walters (far left), freshman Margaret Banks (middle crow), and senior Jocelyn Galvan (far right) help make the musical a hit with their dailogue that keep the audience laughing.

theater department and was a major success among the Brentwood community. This group of many talented students, under the direction of teacher Corey Jennings, came together to create an ex-

traordinary performance for many families and friends to enjoy.

Inspired by L. Frank Baum’s, “The Wizard of Oz,” the magical yellow brick road was brought to the CSA from March 6 t h r o u g h 8, showing at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm on the CSA

stage. The musical had such an incredible cast and crew including junior Emma Kent, who played the leading role as Dorothy, with her canine companion Co-coa as Toto.

“My favorite thing about being in the musical was getting to combine singing, dancing and performing and doing it alongside some of the absolute most fun and supportive people,” said Kent.

They, along with many others, made a long lasting impression on the audience.

“I enjoyed watching my friends in the musical and being able to see them do what they love,” said sophomore Levi Baron.

This writer had the great pleasure to perform amongst the cast this year, along with the other BCS Lady Bellas, under the direction of Lisa Warner, who also helped immensely in achieving the musical’s success. BCS’ choir teacher, Yen-Ching Chiu, had a strong hand in planning and executing the musical numbers, as well as science teacher Madison Pamplin, who was in charge of hair and makeup.

“I think what led to our success as such a big group was the teamwork and the dedication that everyone put into rehearsal times; also really getting to work with Mrs. Chiu, Mrs. Warner, and Ms. Pamplin, having a good team of directors to lean on, helped with such a large cast and crew,” said Jennings.

All characters were tremendously brought to life by the cast members, creating such a fun-filled and entertaining show for everyone to enjoy.

The cast and crew were not limited to high school students, either. Many Brentwood Christian elementary and middle school students had a hand in the show, including as munchkins.

Audience members were inspired by the show’s heartwarming message of kindness, adventure, and the power of friendship. With a set design as detailed as the movie, they captivated the audience’s imagination as it brought them through the amazing wonders along the yellow brick road. With its vibrant sets, catchy songs, and wonderful performances by the actors, this musical did not fail to give the audience an afternoon in Oz.

For many students involved, this was not only a time to display their incredible talents, but to also come together and share many fun experiences with one another, creating special bonds and different friendships that will last a lifetime.

“I really liked the people; everyone was super kind and nice and just performing on stage in front of everyone is a really great feeling,” said freshman Njenga Kinuthia.

The BCS community will forever remember the time the magical yellow brick road came to life in Austin, Texas.

Hawkins on deck for 2026

continued from page 1

when eighth grader Jacob Stocksberry won Rachael Owens’ teacher time. Stocksberry and his friends all got to decorate cookies and cupcakes together for a fun afternoon.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the BCS faculty got the community engaged by playing West’s music during All Community Chapel. This got students of all ages excited for the opportunity to worship God while still having fun and enjoying the music.

Though the Partnership Dinner was undoubtedly a huge success, the administration faced some obstacles in the planning process. Due to the contract being signed later than ideal, there was only a six-week window to advertise the event. Nevertheless, there was no shortage of attendance.

The superstar behind the scenes for the Partnership Dinner is the Director of Development, Jennifer Smeltzer. Her hard work and dedication contributes to the overall success and viability of the event, which in turn allows BCS to allot funds to salaries, textbooks, scholarships, and even to technology in school years to come.

Brentwood has a strong Christian community that never fails to show up for each other and support the overarching mission the school has to guide students to love God and use their God given gifts to go on to live Christian lives. The money made contributes to the environment the students get to grow in, and the event provides a day for the community. The Partnership Dinner is truly a special occasion and leaves guests with memories of a lifetime.

“It’s more than just raising funds, it is about bringing the community together,” said Smeltzer. “It gives the community an evening where we can fellowship in a different environment that’s not on campus.”

Next year, the BCS administration has hopes to make the dinner bigger and better. This is already in motion with next year’s headliner tentatively being Christian comedian Tim Hawkins. This will bring together the BCS community, but also has the potential to bring together a variety of other Christian groups.

“There will be times where we want to make Partnership Dinners intimate with just the community, and there are times we want to expand,” Smeltzer said.



Not in Kansas Anymore Junior Emma Kent(far left/Dorothy) listens intently to a group of Brentwood students acting as munchkins, who sing “Ding, Dong, the Witch is dead!” after Dorothy’s sudden crash-landing into the land of Oz.

Baseball ends with a win Tennis ready for next year

By Ella Kennedy

This season, the Brentwood Christian School varsity baseball team ended their season on a high note, winning their last district game against rival Bishop Dunne in Dallas.

The victory was a nice end to a season of growth for the baseball team and players. After losing six seniors from last year’s team and integrating freshmen to fill their spots, the program knew it would be an uphill climb. The team won four games this season, but progress was made overall.

“We focused a lot on getting better,” said head coach Charles Bollinger. “This year we keyed in on learning the basics and getting better as a whole.”

At the beginning of the season, the team had a couple of big wins against Hill Country Christian School and Bracken Christian. Unfortunately, the annual home, beginning of the season, tournament was canceled due to weather, derailing some early momentum.

“It was unfortunate that our tournament was cancelled,” said Bollinger. “It’s always great to have so many supporters out there to get everyone hyped for the season.”

The team had three seniors who all played all four years of high school. Zach Bolden, Jack Copeland, and Griffin Smith showed great leadership and work ethic on and off the field, by showing up to practices and games and cheering on their teammates no matter the situation.

“Our seniors are great guys,” said Bollinger. “That’s one of the hardest things about the end of the season: everyone always misses our seniors.”



Out! Sophomore Tucker Smith keeps his eye on the ball to haul in an out against Hyde Park for BCS. Smith and the Bears had a tough schedule, but were able to take care of business in a season-closing win over Bishop Dunne.

“I love the seniors because they are hard workers and bring the team together,” said freshman Kolten Simon. “I know we’ll miss them a lot.”

On top of the player rebuild, the transition from TAPPS 4A to the new 5A district was difficult. Traveling longer distances was also a challenge. One tough opponent Brentwood faced was Brook Hill, the defending state champion, located over 200 miles away in east Texas. Local rivals Hyde Park and Regents added to the challenge.

The team finished off the season strong by winning their last game against Dunne, 4-2. They showed determination till the end and proved themselves, although the playoffs were not in reach.

“I’m glad we got to end off our season with a win, especially before the seniors leave for college,” said sophomore Drake Jackson.

Although the team struggled on the winning side of things, they pushed themselves elsewhere, continuing to work hard and trust each other in a mentally tough environment.

“Things aren’t always going to go as planned, but that doesn’t mean you give up,” said junior Tanner Hunka. “Instead, you should work harder and push harder than before, and I think we have done that as a team this season.”

“Even though we had a rough season, I still enjoyed it because of the team culture and the relationships we had within the team,” added sophomore Tucker Smith.

The team looks to return many of its key contributors, including junior Jack Henry Gonzalez, next season, and it will look to its current underclassmen and incoming freshman to once again make an impact in 2026.

By Kenton Auberger

Brentwood Christian School’s tennis team, in just its second year of existence, worked hard in its 2025 season to improve individually and make their mark on the court. With a relatively young squad and a young program, hopes are high that the pendulum will keep swinging upward as the years go by.

The team played numerous practiced matches this spring that strengthened and prepared them for the District tournament, which was held on March 27 at Tyler Junior College. The overnight trip was one of the highlights of the year for the players and head coach Terry Osborne.

“The team is striving to improve,” Osborne said. “All players competed to the best of their abilities...all the other teams are much more experienced.”

Even though Brentwood was unable to qualify any players, individually or in doubles at the district meet, their hopes are high that exponential growth will

continue, as will the love of the new sport on campus.

“My goals are I want to see more returning players and I would love to play additional practice matches,” Osborne said. “This season was special because of the returning players and the overall numbers of players increased by four... tennis is growing in the BCS community; the more the merrier.”

One player, sophomore Ames Peterson, will return for a third year next season, and is eying a big step forward in 2026. He is a great example of how the Tennis team has been able to continue forward even through difficulties.

“The team improved in skill, attitude, and enjoying the sport while getting better at it individually and as a team throughout the season,” Peterson said. “I am excited for new and returning people to play next year and to enjoy playing the sport with them.”

The Bears had no seniors on this year’s team, so the 25-26 Tennis team should return as a motivated group for next year’s high school season.

Golf swings into summer

By Karlee Lawrence

The Bears and Lady Bears golf teams had a learning season, with a team of mostly newcomers. The teams did their best competing at a higher level, but were unable to qualify past the district tournament as a team.

With the move up to TAPPS 5A, the competition became trickier, although the newfound competition caused a lot of players to gain valuable experience on the course quickly.

The golf teams had one player advance to regionals, senior Karlee Lawrence, after the district meet, hosted at Shadow Glen golf course. Lawrence placed 10th at district, qualifying her for regionals on April 28.

At regionals, Lawrence was unable to qualify for state for a second straight season, but left a strong legacy of success for the girls golf program at BCS, including returning golfers and sophomores Peyton Tucker and Renee Groomes.

On the boys side, senior Jack Fluitt was the top golfer for the Bears, but he was

unable to escape the district meet.

The team had an extremely busy season overall, with numerous local tournaments scheduled by head coach Rick Owens to help prepare the team for district and regional competition.

The teams also attended the annual Hyde Park invitational on March 26., where Lawrence placed in the top 10, and the boys team placed in the top 15.

“I’m really proud of the team; moving to 5A was a big change but they really pushed through and did their best.” Owens said. “The Brentwood golf team had a good season full of moments to be proud of.”

The team will be losing Lawrence to graduation and will be actively looking to find enough golfers to be able to qualify for the team leaderboard next year. Fluitt and senior Ralph Castillo were the lone seniors for the boys, who will return Liam McGaughy, Luke Sheth and Henrik Dawson, among others.

Softball short, but sweet

By Graham Auberger

The Brentwood Christian softball season ended at the hands of Hyde Park on April 17. The program was winless this season, but improvement was the goal from start to finish, and the Lady Bears left the field against the Lady Panthers optimistic for the future.

The team returned only two of its players from the co-district champion 2024 squad, leading to a year full of learning in a tough TAPPS 5A district which include two teams who were state tournament squads (Hyde Park and Brook Hill) from a season ago.

“We improved a lot and we didn’t have a single pitcher or catcher at the beginning of the season,” said sophomore pitcher, catcher and first baseman Ella Kennedy. “We filled roles, and people played in positions they have never played before.”

Kennedy and junior Reese Hertel were the lone holdovers from last year’s team, and the duo were honored as second-team all district selections at the end of the season.

Even through the struggles and challenges the team still made great memories and grew closer together, by sticking together and relying on each other for support. Junior Zuriel Davis said that one of her favorite memories was when the team begged their coach to stop at Buc-ee’s, but he said he would only stop

for coffee.

“My favorite memory was when we went to Waco [to play the Texas Wind] because the players had fun and we really played together,” said head coach Efrain Contreras.

The team developed their skills in practices and games, while their faith grew stronger during those moments.

“We grew together spiritually by cheering for each other during the tough times and praying for each other,” said Davis.

On the field, the team’s closest game came against East Austin College Prep in the second meeting between the two teams on April 8. In a back-and-forth contest, the Lady Bears fell, 11-9.

The softball team might have not played the way they wanted to, but that isn’t going to stop them from getting better for next season.

Freshmen Margaret Banks, Ryleigh Ransburg and Anna Kostas all played many innings for the team this year and will continue to look to improve leading into their sophomore season.

“The more you play, the better you become,” said assistant head coach Ethan Grant.

Some goals that Conteras and Grant have for next season include player development, pitching prowess and general knowledge of the sport. Some goals that the Lady Bears have include increased communication between each other and stronger relationships across the board.



Batter Up Junior Reese Hertel bats against Hyde Park on April 15. As one of the team’s only returning players, Hertel helped give the underclassmen a good example of how to play and face competitive teams.

TAPPS 5A revisited

By Ella Kennedy

This year the Brentwood Christian Bears moved up a division in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) competition, going from 4A (or Division III in some sports) to 5A (Division II). Many in the school were in shock to find out Dallas and Tyler were bringing five schools to pair with three from Austin to create TAPPS 2-5A.

The rest of the district was shocked too, with opposing coaches and BCS coaches often commenting on the nearly four-hour travel triangle created by TAPPS.

In retrospect, travel has been tough, and competition has, too.

Almost all of the Brentwood teams struggled with facing bigger teams from bigger schools. In terms of enrollment, BCS sits on the lower end of 5A. With at least one more year to go in the current district, returning juniors through eighth graders will likely feel the effects of the change over the coming months.

Take boys and girls soccer, for example. Last year, the boys soccer team won district while not allowing a single goal and went undefeated until playoffs. This year, they did not win one game inside of the district competition, although they did tie in one.

The girls soccer team was co-district champs last year, but this year they only won one game in district, yet they still managed to tie both games they played against the 4A co-district champ team, Veritas, from a season ago.

The softball team also struggled with the change in division. Last year they were co-district champions, yet this year they did not win a single game. All-in-all, almost every team struggled in the sports side of things.



Dialed In Senior Griffin Smith, seen above squaring to bunt versus Hyde Park, felt the rise in competition in three sports (football, baseball, track and field) this year. In track, Smith still qualified for state in the 110 hurdles for TAPPS 5A.

It was not only sports that struggled with the reform of the district. We can look beyond sports to academics and the arts for more ripple effects.

Last year, BCS was on top for academics, and this year produced a sixth-place finish. Band, which had been state champs two years in a row before the change in division, came in third.

Although most of the Brentwood competitors struggled this year, some teams continue to excel. The Lady Bellas and the men’s basketball team, both produced the exact same output from a season ago. The Lady Bellas completed a back-to-back state champion run with no seniors, and the basketball team made it to the final four for a second straight season.

Elsewhere, volleyball won district and girls basketball returned to the playoffs after missing out in 2024, but both were bested in the first round by teams from district 1.

Districts stay together for two seasons in TAPPS. With realignment likely to be finalized in October of this year, BCS will look to improve on its across-the-board excellence in TAPPS 5A and eagerly awaits what a new district will look like - whether that’s in 5A or 4A - moving forward.

Petty joins A&M San Antonio

Staff Report

Brentwood Christian School senior Blake Petty recently signed his National Letter of Intent (NLI) to compete at the college level after graduation. Petty, who started attending BCS his sophomore year, will pursue a post-high school career in basketball at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, a program which will begin competing for the first time in the fall of 2025. While competing for the Bears, Petty was part of over 70 program victories in his three seasons, really coming into his own the past two for the program and head coach Dustin Karrer. A two-time first-team all district and first-team all-state performer, Petty averaged a near double-double this season and has attracted interest for his blend of size, athleticism, scoring and rebounding ability. Petty aided the Bears to back-to-back appearances at the TAPPS state tournament, the first time the program had been to that level in over two decades.

He leaves an indelible mark at BCS, including becoming a 1,000-point scorer in his final season. A&M-San Antonio is coached by Chris Dial, a long-time Alamo City stalwart, and its mascot is the Jaguars. The campus is located on the south side of Loop 410 in San Antonio, and also currently competes in men’s and women’s soccer, golf and softball at the NAIA level.



State produces PRs, fun

continued from page 1

the 1600 run. Sophomore Lynden Worley was sixth in the high jump, sophomore Anu Oguntade was sixth in the 300 hurdles, and Johnson was seventh in the 100. Griffin Smith finished sixth in the 110 hurdles, Welsh was seventh in triple jump and the girls 4x200 relay was seventh. Joshua Gonzalez ended his season by breaking the discus school record with a throw of 142 feet, finishing fourth in state. Assistant coach Veronika Eke felt good about the season. Despite her mixed feelings over losing so many seniors last season, she feels the new athletes did well and is looking forward to the next few years of their performance. “These new runners and new experience brought back my love for track and field,” said Eke. Though challenging, this season left many participants with many amazing

memories. Track allows for connection with the team and the opportunity to meet other athletes at competing schools. “It was fun to run and a good way for improving and making new friendships,” said junior Ian Wiggins. This year, the track program was honored to have seven seniors: Afton Harlan and Charis McGaughy for the girls, and Hollis Harlan, Conor Schehl, Griffin Smith, Caden Shockey, and Max Fuentes on the boys side. All of these young men and women showed leadership and served as an example to their peers throughout the track season, as well as outside of meets in practices and training. “This has been a difficult year but despite the challenges, I think we’ve really pushed ourselves to be better and have overcome so much,” said Afton Harlan. Next season, track has plans to continue to grow. With the team’s work ethic and dedication, this goal is in reach.

Senior College Destinations

Abilene Christian University: Maleare, Shaye	Harlan, Afton(TAMU transfer) Kirchoff, Madalyn Mohamed, Armani	Howard University: Robinson, Taia	Martinez, Gavin Stromberg, Kaitlyn Van, Nhan	Etakibuebu, Zino
Angelo State University: Koncaba, Victor	Case Western University: McBride, Gavin	Oklahoma Community College: Dinh, Dung	Texas State University: Anderson, Asia Koncaba, Elliott	University of California Los Angeles (UCLA): Mohammed, Ariba
Austin Community College: Berger, Jackson Burks, Elisha Dao, Han Gates, Peyton Harlan, Hollis Hernandez, Alex Le, Minh Anh Lewis, Isis Riveron, Serafim Sabin, Julia Shockey, Caden Shockey, Cameron Williams, Zaniah	Colorado School of Mines: Schehl, Joseph	Purdue University: Bayo-Ajayi, Boluwatife	Texas Tech University: Weston, Jackson	University of Hawaii at Manoa: Garcia, Lucy
Baylor University: Castillo, Ralph	Dallas Baptist University: Allen, Coleston	Salt Lake City Institute of Fashion: Peterson, Eden	Tulsa Welding School: Ebner, Augustus	University of Houston: Elvin, Jake
Blinn College: Czerlinsky, Nathan	George Mason University: Easterling, Madison	Southwestern University: Fuentes, Cesar	University of Arkansas: Landry, Allison	United States Military Academy: Kusano, Lucas
	Harding University: Copeland, John Adam Kirchoff, Samantha McGaughy, Charis Parra, Isabella Robertson, Mia Smith, Griffin	St. Mary’s University: Galvan, Jocelyn	University of Texas San Antonio: Bennett, Caitlin	University of North Texas: Clark, Tanner
	Henderson State: Montier, Jennifer	Texas A&M San Antonio: Fluitt, Jack Petty, Phillip	University of Texas Dallas: Flandes, Rayen	University of Wyoming: Lange, Lincoln
		Texas A&M University: Alexander, Reid Bolden, Zachary Fleming, Jenna Lawrence, Karlee	University of Texas at Austin: Altamirano, Massimo Bello, Grace Burke, Gino	University of Mary-Hardin Baylor: McCormick, Maeryn
				YWAM School of the Nations: Kampman, Abigail

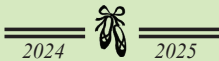
Avery Ranch Hosts Banquet



2025-26

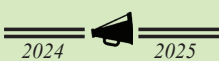
Lady Bellas & Cheer Rosters

Varsity Lady Bellas



Sr. - Emma Kent	Baileigh Tindel - Soph.
Jr. - Amayah Brinkley	Ella Poff - Soph.
Jr. - Arden Haertl	Emi Robertson - Soph.
Jr. - Ava Cavada	Hollis Leeward - Soph.
Jr. - Ava Johnson	Kaliana Cardenas -Soph.
Jr. - Peyton Tucker	Alena Sneed - Fr.
Jr. - Sebastiana Riveron	Darla Harlan - Fr.
Jr. - Skyla Jimenez	Trinity Martinez - Fr.

Varsity Cheer Team



Fr. - Ava Pugh	Elizabeth Mckinnerney - Soph.
Fr. - Brenlee Brewer	Margaret Banks - Soph.
Fr. - Evelyn Pinson	Ryleigh Ransburg - Soph.
Fr. - Lanna Worley	Scarlet Harlan - Soph.
Fr. - Parker Lacy	Ellie Walters - Jr.
Fr. - Ruthie Koch	Liora Naidu - Jr.

Harding Trip remembered



College Tours BCS tours Harding University in Arkansas, helping juniors and seniors make their decisions on college choices and encouraging the continuation of schooling after high school. The partnership between Harding and Brentwood helps students get into college quicker and cheaper.

Strong performances abound

continued from page 4

In March, band competed in the TAPPS competition that consisted of large and small ensemble performances. “They did a great job showcasing their God-giving talents and giving glory back to God for their performance, showing this to whatever competition they are at,” said Rektenwald. “I am excited to see the people that come to the fine art of band in the future, and how they can grow and learn to keep getting better at the competitions and concerts.”

Another final event in the band this year was their performance at Grandparent’s Day on May 9, as well as drumline tryouts for next year.

Brentwood choir has also accomplished much this spring. The choir competed in the small ensemble competition in February, as well as in the TAPPS large ensemble competition in March. The choir placed fifth overall in state for 5A.

“They are really engaged with the school activities,” said choir director Yen-Ching

Chiu. “They show unity and good character, helping out with chapel at school and reflecting their God-gifted talents of singing at events.”

In February, the NCSA (National Christian School Association) hosted an event at a DoubleTree hotel in Austin, and the choir sang for the audience at the event. They also sang at Brentwood’s Partnership Dinner in March.

“The choir has improved in harmony,” Chiu said. “They have improved in their dynamics and details...they have worked on unifying their voices and truly knowing the spirit of each song.”

Chiu was asked about her goals for the future of BCS choir, and she expects the group to continue to push for more success at the state level.

“I hopefully want to accomplish winning state,” Chiu said. “I want the kids in choir to enjoy the beauty of music and to do that by worshipping the Lord.”

“I hope that the kids can continue to work together and love the art.”

Juniors delight McBee youth

By Addison Everline

On Friday, April 11, the junior class at Brentwood Christian School visited McBee Elementary, only a short drive from BCS on Braker Lane, to help with different Easter-related activities for the school’s children.

This was a new activity that Brentwood had not done in the past, and it was a new experience not just for the juniors, but also for the faculty and helpers that were there as well.

Similarly to trips that National Honor Society has taken to Community First Village, Rosedale, and others, the trip to McBee Elementary allowed for the purpose and love of BCS to emanate to other places and share the love of Jesus.

The activities at the school consisted of a book reading to younger elementary grades, handing out decorated bags for students to collect eggs in, and an easter egg hunt.

Junior Ally Robertson said: “I really loved getting to interact with all the kids

and experience what it’s like to be back in elementary school again.

“My favorite part of going there was the opportunity to watch all the kids find such joy in running around looking for eggs, and for the opportunity to read the books to all of them.”

Even through language barriers and the small amount of junior girls present, all the children in the classes were read to with Bluey and Fancy Nancy literature the popular choices. The Fancy Nancy books had an extra page of stickers that the students could decorate their bags with, leading to more fun.

“My favorite part about being at McBee Elementary was walking through the halls, getting flashbacks to my time in elementary school,” said junior Grey Nyby. “It was a nostalgic experience.”

Many of the juniors said they liked the experience and hope that it is something the junior class will continue to do in future years. It’s a great way to get a break from school, but also brings joy to those in the community who are not at BCS.

Crossword

By Alex Schehl

Theme: Classes/Electives

ACROSS:

- 5. Language skills
- 8. Show dancing
- 10. Ions, molecules, and mixtures
- 12. Racing on field
- 14. Dribble
- 15. Bob Ross
- 16. Worm dissection
- 17. The past is _____
- 19. Spirit raising

DOWN:

- 1. The reasons behind why things move and fall
- 2. Putters, irons, wedges
- 3. $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
- 4. Psalm 46:10
- 6. Spiking, serving, setting
- 7. 100 yard goal
- 9. Long distance running
- 11. Solving for ‘x’, graphing
- 13. Homerun
- 16. “Ya like jazz?”
- 18. Football

