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# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 36 NO. 2

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2023



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## Cross country sweeps silver

*Boys and girls teams finish second in state*

By Nico Napper

This year's 2023 BCS cross country team had a great season, possibly the best ever in the history of the program.

With both teams doing so well over the season, competing in multiple races with tough competition and doing well at each meet, the Bears and Lady Bears had a good chance of winning state headed into the Oct. 30 meet in Waco.

Both teams ended up placing second overall in the team rankings in TAPPS 4A, the highest ever finish for both teams combined.

Dallas Covenant took first on the boys side by 50 points. Senior Renne Cooper, who is the leading boys runner, achieved first individually, followed by junior Hollis Harlan, sophomore Nico Napper and senior Anh Truong.

"The boys team competed really well this season, as I expected them to, and I am really proud of them," said Cooper. "If they can dedicate more time to running, then maybe next year they can win a bigger plaque and get rings on their fingers."

The girls also were confident with

four senior runners and entering state as the defending champions. A majority of the Lady Bears placed at every meet, but Legacy Preparatory Christian Academy proved too strong, winning by 9 points.

Individually, sophomore Harper Counts won the silver medal as the second-place finisher. Her sister, sophomore Hailyn Counts, and senior Lucy Belcik both finished inside the top 20.

The team, lead by head coach Katie Smith, prepared all season for the toughest competition and has much to be proud of.

"I am so proud of both teams for finishing as state runner-ups this season," Smith said. "I know both teams had their sights set on state champions but this is the best finish for both teams together in school history."

In addition to the second-place team finish, cross country racked up 16 points toward the Henderson Cup for this year, important as BCS looks to defend its position as the top overall TAPPS 4A school.

see **CROSS COUNTRY**, page 10



**Second in state** The girls' and boys' cross country teams smile after October 30th's state meet, bundled up against wind and temps in the 40s and 30s.

## Jog-a-Fun raises funds, spirits

see also **JOG-A-FUN BY THE NUMBERS**, page 12



photo: BCS Yearbook

**Sprayed silly** Seniors Gavin Garcia and Lauren Rutt brave a silly string attack while finishing a lap of Brentwood's annual 5K fun-run, which raises vital funds for BCS and its surrounding community through donations to joggers.

## Volleyball second in state

By Karlee Lawrence

The BCS volleyball team capped another amazing year with plenty of accolades: TAPPS District 3-4A champions, a 37-11-1 record and appearance in the state tournament. The district title is the school's fourth in a row in volleyball, continuing a string of dominance that Brentwood has come to expect from the squad.

The Lady Bears lost a hard fought game against Grace Prep in the TAPPS 4A state title game, capping their season similar to the way it ended a season ago.

The team advanced to the state tournament in a breeze but matched up with the talented Bay Area Christian Broncos in the semifinals. The Bears pulled through with a close win, 3-2, with a final set score of 15-10. Sadly, when



photo: Kevin McKinney

**Maintaining the standard** The BCS volleyball team (above) poses at the state tournament. The team finished second in state for the second straight season.

matched with Grace Prep, the team fell just short of the state title with a final score of 3-1.

see **VB**, page 10

# Editor examines radical environmental philosophies

## What can they mean for Christians today?

Humanity has been harming our home since we were first created. But our reactions to this abuse have been slightly delayed. The negative effects of industrialization and effects of the modern lifestyle on the environment is a rela-

tively new worry for the mainstream American public. “Thinking green” as a concept emerged as recently as the 60s, as waves of new technology and futuristic aspirations swept the optimistic nation, while also washing up more pessimistic concerns of humanity’s growing impact on Mother Nature.

Similarly, radical philosophies like green anarchism and biocentrism did not begin to appear until the 1940s, as the dawn of the Atomic Age revealed, to those watching, just how capable we were of destroying our only home. Despite the terrifying possibility of nuclear war, these more radical (or at least countercultural) theories of environmentalism were not fleshed out as actual solutions to issues until the 1960s, when “tree-hugging” became mainstream and counterculture was embraced by younger generations.

These new ideas were eventually instrumental in the founding of prominent eco-terrorist groups such as the Earth Liberation Front and Earth First! The latter was formed in the 1980s, influenced by recent eco-focused novels of the time, including Edward Abbey’s 1975 novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and Rachel Carson’s 1962 *Silent Spring*. Abbey, whose book detailed the exploits of a rag-tag team of eco-terrorists in the American West, often spoke at early meetings of the group.

While Earth First! could have at first been described as a slightly radical environmental protection group, as its membership and goals progressed, Earth First! drew more and more from philosophies like green anarchism and deep ecology, becoming more destructive in their methods and demonstrations.

In 1992, a similarly radical offshoot group known as the Earth Liberation Front was formed with the blessing of elder members of Earth First! In recent years, ELF has become strongly associated with their multiple acts of arson, mainly burning cars, as well as targets ranging from ski resorts to logging company headquarters.

Famously, domestic terrorist Ted Kaczynski wrote a 35,000 word manifesto strongly influenced, as ELF and Earth First! were, by philosophies of nature-centered anarchism, entitled *Industrial Society and its Future*. While Kaczynski’s actions were far beyond any that either of these groups have accomplished or planned, it shows how destructive their actions could become when fueled by the right ingredients.

Groups like ELF and Earth First!, because of their strong ideologies of anarchism and anti-institutionalism, have never truly become mainstream, despite their best efforts to do so. Although we do live in a world that is increasingly affected by climate change, bombing an SUV is not normally an action we would seek to take against climate change.

Ecoterrorists are certainly determined in their goals, (more so than us plebeian recyclers and Tesla drivers), but there are certainly strong arguments to be made against effectiveness of the actions they take. While burning down a Ford dealership is pretty flashy, at the end of the day it accomplishes nothing but inciting anger and causing those affected to more closely equate anyone for environmental change with the actions of these radical groups.

However, I don’t mean to explain the rather simple rationale behind the destructive, rather than productive, effects of ecoterrorism. I’m fairly certain none reading have “bombing a major retention dam” written on their to-do list. But while we can acknowledge the futility of such actions, I think there is merit in examining the reasoning behind them through a Christian lens, and deciding what components may be useful as we move forward in our warming world.

The least radical of the theories fueling these groups was biocentrism. Simply put, biocentrism is the ethical stance that views humanity as one among many species, with no inherent

superiority over flora or fauna. This philosophy, then and now, is directly opposed to a Christian’s ethics, which holds that man is set apart from nature and destined to rule over it. While biocentrism acknowledges that there can be no true equality within the kingdom of living things, it views humanity as an animal, and one that is increasingly harmful to our fellows. To a true biocentrist, the moral decency which we normally only extend to fellow humans should include all living things.

Which elements of this philosophy, if any, can we accept as Christians? Seeing that, at its core, biocentrism is explicit in its invalidation of a Christian worldview, there aren’t many. But certain parts, taken in the context of a follower of Christ, can be useful to us as we move forward in our ever quickening world.

For instance, biocentrism holds that humans are not inherently superior to the living things around us. Christians know, from reading the very first chapters of the Bible, that we are promised the Earth and all that lives on it as ours to “rule over” and “subdue”. (Genesis 1:28) We are decidedly set apart from animals, per a Biblical worldview.

However, biocentrism also says that we are members of Earth’s community. Why can’t this be true for Christians too? We were created

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### THE BEAR FACTS

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

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The Bear Facts is available online at  
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photo: Ansel Adams

**A gifted creation** How are we as Christians responsible for the creation God has gifted us? Are we required to simply be indifferent rulers or caring benefactors?

# Student reflects on how to live out verse of the year

By Ally Robertson

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another with love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one Baptism.”

The verse of the year for the 2023-24 school year is Ephesians 4:2-5. There are posters hung up all around the hallways that keep it fresh in our minds and remind us that God is constantly in our lives.

Being able to have a verse to look to and remind us every day that God is with us shows what Brentwood Christian School stands for.

“This verse means that no matter what we are going through, we are all part of it together in Jesus Christ,”

freshman Ella Kennedy said.

“More specifically to me though, it means that when you are on a sports team or part of a team in general, even for something that is just like a group project, you need to know that y’all all are working together for the betterment of yourselves, but more importantly for the glory of God.”

A way that the Brentwood community can tie this verse into their everyday lives is by making sure that we are living how Ephesians 4:2-5 tells us to. As Christians, the world is constantly telling us how to live our life, which in a lot of circumstances, is conflict with Christ.

Having a focus and a goal to what we strive to be, as well as sharing that with other people, shows how to implement Jesus to the people around us, not just

ourselves.

We can start with simple things like having patience during a sport, or giving grace to someone that wronged you. Both of these are acknowledging the “one body” of Christ and effectively implementing Him and His commands into your life.

To me, Ephesians 4:2-5 gives people an example to look up to in words that

shows us how we respond to Christ. It is difficult to interpret and translate the meaning of scripture, so thinking about what we already understand and asking our peers about their thoughts help everyone get the whole picture.

“Jesus speaks about truth, while Paul speaks about unity,” English teacher Paul Robison said. “The outcome of truth is freedom, and the outcome of unity is peace. Jesus is the one Lord, and that truth is the foundation for the one body, whose members who care deeply for one another.”

Brother Rob paints a beautiful picture of how Jesus is the centerpiece, the cornerstone, and the epicenter of everything

*“Having a focus and a goal to what we strive to be...shows us how to implement Jesus to the people around us, not just ourselves.”*

are easier to understand. There are so many things in life that distract people from what really should be important, and so it’s crucial to have a verse that will tell us directly that we need to be patient, loving, and gentle.

In an interview with Brentwood sixth grade teacher Carrie Hunter, she said: “Our society is currently very divided, but this is not the way of Jesus. This passage reminds us that the love we have for Christ transcends everything else.”

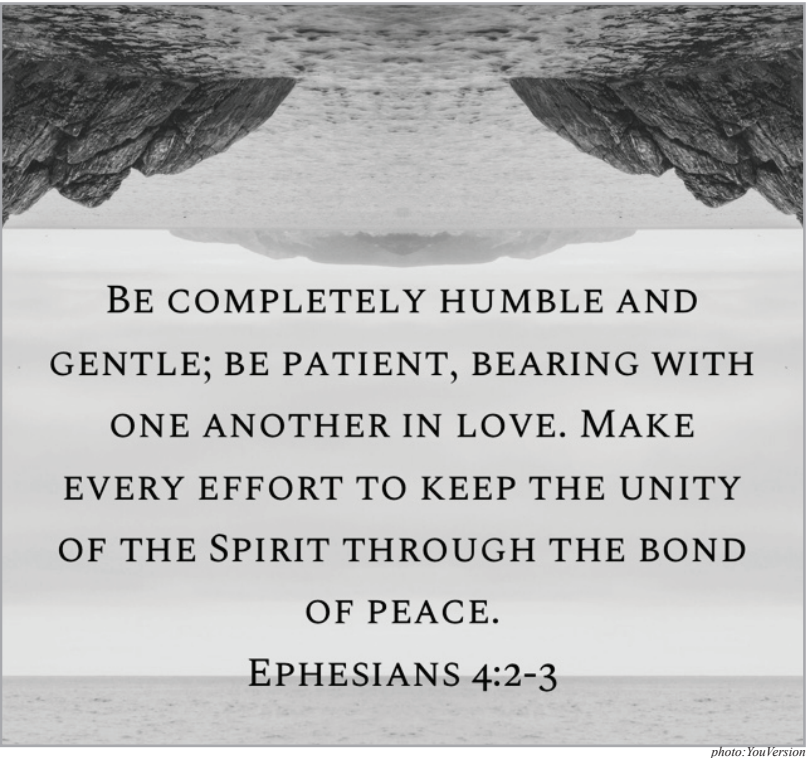
Following last year’s verse, John 8:32, Ephesians 4:2-5 gives us something we need to strive towards and

we believe in and are tethered to. This can help remind us that we are unified in the body of Christ first - regardless of our struggles, our backgrounds, our interests, our faults.

Everyone is walking through life in a different way, experiencing different things, but the one thing everyone has in common is Christ, who loves you, no matter who you are or where you come from.

Ephesians 4:2-5 says that there is one body, and we are all called to Jesus.

Jesus is all: patient, gentle, humble, and full of love for us, his beautiful creation.



**The greatest command** We are called by Christ to live in peace with our fellows, extending His great love to all around us, regardless of background or status. How can we live out this calling in our daily lives, and what is holding us back?

## Editorial: Earth is God’s gift

continued from page 2

to exist in the greatest example of ecological paradise - the Garden of Eden, living in harmony with the plants and animals around us and subsisting off of the fruit of the trees around us. In today’s post-fall world, this kind of perfect cooperation between man and nature can no longer be achieved. But we can acknowledge that this initial harmony humanity had in the Garden is very close to the biocentric idea that we should live in community with nature and all living things.

We were created to be in community with

our fellow humans. But we were also created to live closely to nature, to be attuned to its nuances and needs, to care for it and rule over it. We are meant to rule over nature not in an domineering, removed manner, but in the way that a loving parent rules over their child because they know what is best for them.

It goes without saying that nature and the Earth is one of our greatest gifts from God, second only to that of His Son’s sacrifice. We are responsible for its well-being. It is up to us to decide whether or not we will live up to that great responsibility.

# Brentwood sees big technology updates

By Mason Foster, Jack Sutton, and Lukas Fenske

There have been numerous changes to the Brentwood Christian School campus over the past few years, with education, technology, and student quality of experience at the top of the list each time around.



photo: Ethan Grant

**Investments** Brentwood purchased 425 new chromebooks this school year, meaning that there are now enough on campus for every high school student.

Some of the upgraded items on campus this year include Chromebooks, routers, cameras, and other types of technology. Additionally, the school has upgraded the internet by way of a stronger network to help improve staff and student wifi regardless of which building might need to use it.

While we might not have noticed this every day, the effort to strengthen the network has allowed more devices to connect to the internet with fewer drops in performance.

Paired with the network boost, there are now enough Chromebooks on campus for every student - and more. Recognizing the digital age which we are living in, BCS invested heavily in this part of the campus improvement.

"BCS has invested over \$300,000 in technology upgrades this school year,"

said Jay Burcham, BCS president. "This investment includes 425 Chromebooks, 60 iPads, and 50 laptops."

The investment has paid off, with teachers aiming to utilize the Chromebooks for various activities and assignments, including popular review sites featuring games such as Kahoot and Gimkit.

Elsewhere, both the elementary school and secondary school computer labs have received a facelift, while additional tech resources can be found in various buildings on campus.

There are eight new 90-inch touch screen TVs, 20 high-resolution document cameras for teachers, 40 graphing calculators, and IXL licenses for the entire student body.

With technology expanding at a rapid rate throughout the world, BCS has also made use of software to assist teachers and students by way of equitable learning in an age of artificial intelligence.

"The infrastructure of the school has been upgraded to provide the necessary bandwidth for mass usage," Burcham said, "and AI detector software has been

purchased to identify AI in work."

Other changes students and families might not have noticed include new desks for the elementary classrooms, metal picnic tables to replace the wood tables, and in the classroom, four full-time tutors and/or interventionists to assist in student learning.

Down near the Athletic Center and field, BCS also extended the gravel walkway for full access to all entry points of the bleachers and stands.

Updates and improvements are a game that will never be final: just see Interstate 35 for evidence. Much like our pursuit of perfection in life, it is nearly impossible to get ahead of the eight-ball in all things.

However, with the generosity of BCS benefactors, fundraisers and through the God's abundance and guidance, all Bears are in a great spot moving forward.

There are many things planned for the future, according to Burcham, but as he always says: It is a great day to be a Brentwood Bear, specifically thanks to an investment in the continued improvement of our campus and facilities.

# New take on old tradition

By Alex Schehl, Gavin Edmondson

Chapel families is a new system implemented by Brentwood Christian School this year, intent on enhancing the long-standing tradition of pairing various grade levels together for worship and fellowship.

Jeremy Thornton, BCS' elementary principal, had the initial idea of chapel families and wanted to unify more students while expanding inclusion.

Thornton believes that growing up with a family group will make the transition from elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school, easier with mentors already in place.

Thornton met with the other principals and teachers on campus for the past few years to discuss flaws and improve the chapel family system. He still believes that improvements could be made and works tirelessly to ensure that no one gets overlooked.

"I love the potential that chapel families have," Thornton said. "I am hopeful the new system will work out."

Thornton hopes to bring in students after Christmas for feedback and discussion on the move from buddies to families. Although he's not sure how it's going to develop or how kids will react toward chapel families, Thornton wants to build understanding about the cohorts.

Students are still getting used to chapel families and warming up to their new buddies. The transition won't be immediate; however, students around campus are starting to see the benefits of a larger community.

Freshman Joshua Howe likes how the system allows for more connection. Howe also likes how sticking with more fellow students allows for actually "growing up" with them like a family.

Freshmen Levi Olewin and Cameron

Hudson's initial thoughts leaned chapel buddies being their favorite, mainly due to the ease of chatting in a one-on-one setting. However, with time, they believe chapel families will improve.

Freshman Ella Kennedy likes chapel families and how specific buddies combined with younger and older classmates makes for the best of both worlds.

"I like having someone older to look up to," said Kennedy.

Students may not be used to chapel families yet, but hope prevails toward the long-term, positive effect Thornton believes will make the new

system something BCS enjoys for years to come - even after graduation.



photo: Jackson Hager

**A family affair** While chapel families are a big change from Brentwood's traditional chapel buddies, elementary principal Jeremy Thornton hopes that they will have a positive impact for years to come on BCS students.

# One act play courts laughter from audience

By Levi Olewin, Cam Hudson

The Brentwood Christian School's One Act Play, "Check, Please", was a well received comedy that brought its actors together. It took a lot of work from the cast and crew, but was well worth the effort they put in.

"I think both performances turned out very, very good. Everybody seemed to enjoy it," said Trevon Jackson, first-year theater teacher and director of the play.

"I always love a good comedy that can make everyone laugh, and that's exactly what happened," said senior Roy Zou.

Per the lead of the play, freshman Carolina Aranda, the play placed third at the TAPPS One Act Play competition. A few of the cast members even got awards: Aranda, for example, earned the All Star Cast award. The weight of this award means that if the show were to hit Broadway, she would be the lead on Broadway as well. Zou was honored as runner up for the All Star Cast award.

"... for a comedy, we took this play as far as we could," Zou said.

The comedy was a series of vignettes about relatable dating problems. It followed a man and a woman who each went on a series of dates with various people. Each person they met had progressively worse "personality issues." The comedy was an exaggeration of the normal problems people run into while dating.

Despite having to work hard, the

cast enjoyed the preparation and became good friends with each other.

"It was a good bonding experience. I got to make a lot of friends through it," said Aranda. "We even have a group chat."

"I am confident to say that those who share a stage together have some of the coarsest bonds in any program on campus," added Zou.

Aranda also recommended trying out for the upcoming play to others.

"High school is a great time to join," she said. "Even if you get a small role, keep trying. By the end of the year you'll feel like you are a part of a family that you will love for years to come."

"We come from different grades, have different walks of life, but theater never fails to put us together as a big family," Zou said.



**Splash!** Freshman Carolina Aranda ("Girl") politely lets senior Landon Heijl ("Brandon") know she's ready for the check.

## NHS New Members 2023-2024

### 10th Grade

Evan Cardenas  
Hailyn Counts  
Harper Counts  
Jack Henry Gonzalez  
Hannah Hanrahan  
Emma Reese Hertel  
Tanner Hunka  
Rylee Johnson  
Abigail Lee  
Jay Marwill  
Everett Merrell  
Claire Montgomery  
Claire Morris  
Nico Napper  
Abby Rackley  
Luke Sheth  
Dylan Sloan  
Gabe Washington  
Luke Weed  
Caitlin Welsh

### 11th Grade

Caitlin Bennett  
Madison Easterling  
Jenna Fleming  
Abigail Kampman  
Quinn Kirchoff  
Lucas Kusano  
Eden Peterson  
Phillip Blake Petty  
Mia Robertson  
Cameron Shockey  
Zaniah Williams

### 12th Grade

Mark Caesar  
Braden Darling  
Parker Kimball  
Kai Nyby  
Clayton Rackley  
Zachary Tran  
Zariah Williams

New members were inducted into the Brentwood Chapter of the National Honor Society in a ceremony held on October 6, 2023 in the BOCC Auditorium. The ceremony was followed by a dessert reception held outside on the CSA promenade.

# BCS athletics signs contract with Under Armour

By Elli Harlan

If you have played sports for Brentwood Christian School this 2023-24 season, then you might have received new Under Armour uniforms.

If not, expect to wear them soon.

Before the 2022-23 school year, BCS had no contract with any apparel vendor. Brentwood recently signed a five-year contract with Under Armour, consisting of the athletic clothing giant providing athletic uniforms and equipment for our student-athletes and funding towards athletic apparel for the Brentwood coaching staff for years to come.

The decision was one made with the

goal of aligning all athletic programs under the same apparel banner. Familiarity amongst the coaches made it an easy choice.

"BCS football coach Kyle Maxfield just came from a school that was Under Armour," said Julie Walker, Brentwood athletic director, "and I just came from a school that was Under Armour two years ago."

When looking at the athletic suppliers, the athletic department had to look for a supplier that would be able to supply material and uniforms for all the sports.

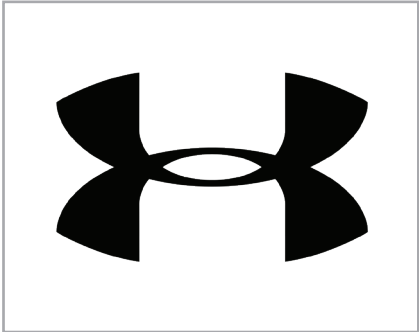
"I don't believe that like Adidas or re-

ally any other brand is up to the same level to be able to offer across all sports," Walker said.

The coaches wanted enough "bang for their buck" when it came to these contracts. They looked for uniforms for all the sports and a better price when it came to materials and looks.

"Historically, or in more recent years, Under Armour has done a better job of delivering their products to us in a timely fashion," Walker said.

The famous "UA" logo should pair nicely with the Brentwood Bear logo for years to come.



**Branded** The Brentwood athletics department recently signed a five-year contract with notable sporting apparel brand Under Armour.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Micah Riley

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

# Lively senior brings humor, charisma

By Katie Pittner

If you see a senior lunch table doubled over in laughter, it is a safe bet that Micah Riley is sitting at that table. Micah is known for always bringing leisure and hilarity to any situation as he leads the class of 2024 with a loud voice and unabashed spirit.

Micah has been a Brentwood Bear ever since preschool and has been a key personality of the senior class, always willing to go the extra mile to cheer up his classmates or win the spirit stick.

“Micah is an icon at BCS; one of the funniest people I know,” senior Gavin Garcia said.

Around campus, Riley is best known for his ability to make others smile, and his willingness to encourage others. With his quick-witted personality, Riley doesn’t hesitate to fill a room with laughter; he often puts his classmates before himself.

“Micah is someone who never fails to bring smiles to other people’s faces, regardless of his personal situation,” Brentwood alum Keller Jackson said.

One of the senior leaders of the football team, Micah is seen by his teammates and spectators to always be encouraging others.

“I love to support my friends and hype up my teammates,” Riley said. “Being a captain on the football team makes it easier to hype them up.”

Due to his outgoing personality, charisma, and humor, it is no surprise why Riley was voted Homecoming King by all of secondary. Micah acts as a role model to his peers and teammates, radiating positivity.

“He’s enthusiastic, everyone’s biggest cheerleader, and always happy,” Homecoming court counterpart and senior Lyla Kate Jackson said.

On the field this year, Riley

earned all-district honorable mention at offensive line.

In addition to being well known at Brentwood, Riley is well known on social media as well. He has amassed over 100,000 followers on TikTok since the summer of 2022, and has had many of his videos go viral. On the

day Riley posted his first viral TikTok, a video of himself eating rotisserie chicken, he had ten thousand followers by the end of the day.

Riley says one of the reasons he posts on TikTok is because he loves to

make other people laugh. “I just get so much joy making other people happy,” Riley said.

Besides playing football and making TikToks, some of Micah’s other hobbies include video games, playing bass guitar, and spending time with his cat, Maverick.

In addition, outside of school Riley attends church at Bethel Austin and works at Reale’s Italian Cafe.

As for the future, Riley plans to play football at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, joining his brother and Brentwood alum, Caleb Riley.

Micah aspires to pursue a degree in sports management to either become a sports broadcaster or a football coach.

Regardless of path, Riley is sure to make an impact.

“Ever since I’ve known Micah he has always worked hard, and I believe he will achieve whatever he sets his mind to because of the natural leader he is,” Keller Jackson said.

Without Riley, the senior class would look very different, as he has been so influential to their growth over the years.

It is hard to encapsulate Micah in just a few words, but one of his closest friends, senior Isaac Ruiz, tried his best to do so.

“Micah is funny and never gives up, even when things seem hopeless,” Ruiz said.

“He is a big man with a big heart... he’s always smiling and being the best man he can be,” Keller Jackson added.



photo: Pat

# New theater teacher brings unique experience

By Rachael Nguyen

Trevon Jackson is the new theater director at Brentwood Christian School. He teaches all of the high school and middle school theater classes on campus, as well as Speech.

While students are still getting to know Jackson, his penchant for the arts and personal history as an actor make him one of the most interesting people at Brentwood.

Jackson has led an exciting and eventful life. He starred as Jackie Robinson, of Brooklyn Dodger fame, in college and in high school, he was an extra in the movie “Man In the House.” The film is about a lonesome Texas Ranger who goes undercover as an assistant coach while protecting a group of college cheerleaders who have witnessed a murder. Most of the film was filmed at the University of Texas here in Austin.

Jackson is originally from Austin, attending River Oaks Elementary. In middle school, he started marching band and continued this path throughout half of his high school years at Pflugerville Connally High School.

He then switched to theater performance, where he began to discover his talent in acting.

His talents in acting led him to winning many awards for best actor in high school. Jackson did theater performance for the rest of his time at Connally and continued

with it throughout college.

During Jackson’s time in college, he did many professional theater performances and short films. One of the plays he did was “Into the Woods Musical,” where he played the part of the narrator.

“[It] was a lot of lines to memorize, but a lot of fun as well,” Jackson said.

While performing professionally was a hobby and a passion, Jackson doubled up with collegiate acting credits, as well.

Jackson spent most of his time in theater at Baylor University. One of the plays he performed in was William Shakespeare’s “Hamlet.” His character was Ronaldo, Polonius’s servant who is sent to France to check up on and spy on laertes.

He obtained a bachelor’s degree in theater performance from Baylor before earning a master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin.

At Wisconsin, Jackson played the lead character, Robinson, the first African American baseball player to make it to Major League Baseball. His story has been chronicled in various forms of media and history, including the movie “42” and the retirement of the number among all MLB teams. The role is one Jackson’s family is still talking about to this day.

“We are most proud of his starring role as Jackie Robinson while at the University of Wisconsin and are extremely proud

of his overall accomplishments in Theater Arts,” said Gwendolyn Jackson, Trevon Jackson’s mother.

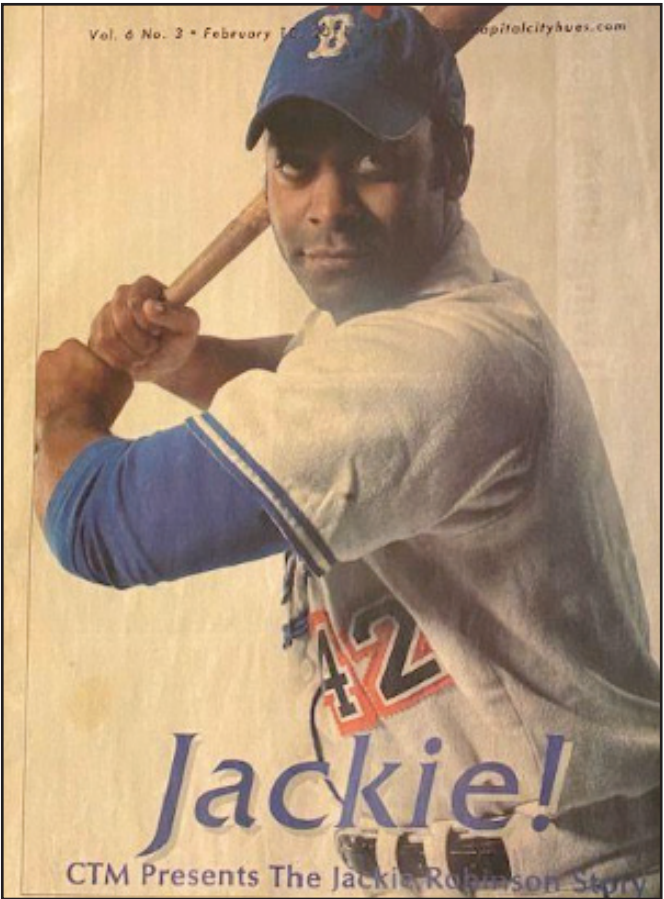
Eventually, Jackson decided to go into teaching to help younger actors. Thus far, his students are soaking up his years of prowess.

“I think that Mr. Jackson is a great teacher,” said Cameron Cunningham, BCS freshman.

“I like how he takes into consideration what the students think and their opinions,” added Valeria Sandoval, BCS freshman.

For his part, Jackson is enjoying his new gig.

“It’s really fun to engage and interact with the students here,” Jackson said.



**MVP** New theater teacher Trevon Jackson played baseball’s first African American major league player, Jackie Robinson, while attending the University of Wisconsin.

# StuCo sponsors successful events

The past few months have been busy ones for Brentwood’s student council. November saw Jog-a-Fun, Buff Puff, and the annual Thanksgiving food drive, all assisted and planned by StuCo.



Thanksgiving Food Drive



Jog-a-Fun



Buff-Puff



photos: BCS Yearbook

# Boys basketball pushing early for late run

By Ava Cavada

Brentwood Christian's varsity boys' basketball team is now well into their season and are excited to continue play. The squad has an outstanding lineup of ath-



**Ranked and ready** Junior Jake Elvin (0) and the boys basketball team began their season ranked inside the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' top 10 for TAPPS 4A.

letes this year and have already secured major wins against the likes of both private and public school teams.

Some highlights from the first month of competition include wins over TAPPS 6A Central Catholic School, scoring 100 points in a win over St. Dominic Savio and finishing in the top four at a very competitive Waco ISD tournament.

Though the tough schedule has been challenging, the program is confident facing adversity early in the season will help its players both on the court and down the road.

"Basketball is a microcosm of life and is a great opportunity to learn how to work hard, play together, and deal with both success and adversity," said head coach Dustin Karrer.

This season, the team consists of young and talented team members that bring high energy to the court. Returning this year is junior Blake Petty, a first-team all-district and honorable mention all-state player.

Senior Colton McLain and juniors Coleston Allen and Gavin Martinez are also back for the Bears. Newcomers include sophomore transfer Marcus Zelee and junior Jake Elvin.

"A goal for the team this season is to win district and make it to the state championship," Karrer said.

## Varsity Bears

2023



2024

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #3 Bryson Best (Sr.)      | #5 Gavin Martinez (Jr.)     |
| #13 Colton McLain (Sr.)   | #4 Blake Petty (Jr.)        |
| #0 Jake Elvin (Jr.)       | #11 Caleb Catron (Soph.)    |
| #10 Coleston Allen (Jr.)  | #15 Zach Czerlinsky (Soph.) |
| #23 Bolu Bayo-Ajayi (Jr.) | #2 Marcus Zelee (Soph.)     |
| #24 Victor Koncaba (Jr.)  | #12 Evan Berger (Fr.)       |

# Lady Bears take court

By Anu Oguntade, Ella Kennedy

The Lady Bears Basketball team began its season with four new freshmen, a new assistant coach, and a team of nine varsity players.

Their motto for the year is UBUNTU, which roughly translated means, "I am because we are."

The program's new assistant coach, Ethan Grant, said that this is very important to the team's success this year, and he even takes it a step further in describing the Biblical approach the team is taking to build chemistry and character.

"I am because we are, but we are because He (Jesus) is," Grant said. "We need to work hard because we know that the people to our right and left are doing the same."

BCS girls basketball has four returning players, seniors Yasmim Seibert and Lauren Self, and the Williams sisters, senior Zariah and junior Zaniah. They are two of the three team captains, along with sophomore Sophia Tolliver, who transferred to Brentwood in the spring of 2023.

The team made it through the first round of the playoffs

last year after winning third in district TAPPS 3-4A.

"Our team has a healthy mix of Veterans and incoming freshmen," said head coach Julie Walker. "We have the ability to repeat what we did last year and maybe even go further into the playoffs."

Brentwood's girls have played in two tournaments thus far, including the second annual Cen Tex Invitational on campus. In the last game of the tournament, the Lady Bears defeated rival St. Michael's Academy, 44-43, in a thrilling contest.

The squad was 7-6 overall after beat-

ing Marble Falls Faith Academy, 57-53, on Dec. 5. Through the first 13 games, Tolliver is leading the team in scoring, averaging over 17 points per contest, including 33 against Faith.

Zaniah Williams is the next leading scorer at over 12 per game, while Self is averaging seven points per contest.

The Lady Bears hosted their first district game on Tuesday, Dec. 12, against defending district champions Geneva School of Boerne, and will look to be playing their best in January in the thick of the rest of the season.

## Varsity Lady Bears

2023



2024

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| #25 Zariah Williams* (Sr.)   | #20 Ella Dannhaus (Fr.) |
| #23 Yasmim Seibert (Sr.)     | #15 Ella Kennedy (Fr.)  |
| #3 Lauren Self (Sr.)         | #30 Rihanna Lopez (Fr.) |
| #5 Zaniah Williams* (Jr.)    | #21 Anu Oguntade (Fr.)  |
| #24 Sophia Tolliver* (Soph.) |                         |

\*team captain



**D-Up!** Freshman Rihanna Lopez (30) defends the passing lane while teammates and seniors Zariah Williams (25) and Yasmim Seibert (23) anchor inside.

# Girls' soccer larger, hopeful

By Katie Pittner

A 7-0 win in their first game against St. Anthony's on Nov. 16 left the Lady Bears' soccer team hopeful for another successful season. Making it all the way to the area game of the playoffs last year, this year's team is working hard to make it closer to the

state tournament in the 2023-24 season. Losing only two seniors to graduation, the Lady Bears gained six freshmen to bring their numbers to 17. After having only 13 girls on the roster last year, which led to many games being played with no subs, the girls are excited to have more players to work towards playoffs. Staying fresh could be huge

toward a playoff push. "Ending off last season as district champs, our team is more experienced than ever before," said senior Macie Griswold, a

team captain. "We have more subs this year and with a solid win under our belt, I already think we can go far." Even more than winning games however, coaches and players hope to grow closer to each other and to the Lord. "My main hope for the season this year is not measured in wins or losses, but in effort, and playing selflessly, playing for the others on the team, in a way that gives all glory to God," said Emma Hinson, head coach and third grade teacher. A tough loss to Geneva School of Boerne, 5-1 on Nov. 28, didn't deter the squad for too long; the girls picked up a close, 3-2 victory over Hyde Park School on Dec. 5. Some key matches once district play begins include Veritas Academy and Bishop Reicher Catholic School of Waco.



photo: Pat McCord

**Home side** With a slew of new freshmen additions to the program, the Lady Bears soccer team has its sights set on defending last year's district championship.

## Varsity Lady Bears

2023 2024

- #5 Carina Combs (Sr.)
- #3 Macie Griswold (Sr.)
- #8 Mattie Hannah (Sr.)
- #12 Tori Koncaba (Sr.)
- #9 Katie Pittner (Sr.)
- #13 Maeryn McCormick (Jr.)
- #10 Charis McGaughy (Jr.)
- #11 Eden Peterson (Jr.)
- #2 Mia Robertson (Jr.)
- #15 Ally Robertson (Soph.)
- #7 Ava Cavada (Fr.)
- #14 Hannah Hanrahan (Soph.)
- #6 Skyla Jimenez (Fr.)
- #24 Rihanna Lopez (Fr.)
- #23 Alyssa Pennies (Fr.)
- #16 Haven Peterson (Fr.)
- #18 Kali Whitmire (Fr.)

# Boys soccer kicks off

By Karlee Lawrence, Elli Harlan

The Brentwood Christian boys soccer team started their 2023-24 season with a tie against St Anthony's with a score of 1-1. With nearly 30 players in the entire high school program, Brentwood has more than enough to field both a varsity and a JV team. The JV team also won their season

opener against St. Anthony's, 9-0. The Bears finished their previous season first in TAPPS Division III - District 3 with a record of 8-1 in competition. A loss in their first playoff game and final game of last year against Pantego Christian Academy, 2-1, sets the stage for plenty of motivation for this year's squad come playoff time. "This tie [against St. Anthony's] should be

a motivator for the varsity team, showing that success does not guarantee future success," said Cash Miller, head coach. In the previous year, the Bears lost many seniors, but they

will be bolstered by returning key players like seniors Renne Cooper, Landon Hejl, Ike Ruiz, Ryder Shelton-Lamb, as well as sophomore Jacob Valladares. "This is a talented team," Miller said, "but our strengths are in our returning players who understand the system." The team officially started practice on Oct. 16th, but has been working hard in summer and offseason workouts to prepare for the grind ahead. Miller returns as head coach once again and has big plans for the 23-24 season. "Each successful season must be followed up with even harder work the next season to stay on top," he said. The boys picked up their first win of the year, 3-1, over Geneva School of Boerne on Nov. 28, and look to make it two in a row on Tuesday, Dec. 12 in the first district match versus Holy Trinity Catholic School of Temple.



photo: Pat McCord

**The squad** This year's BCS boys soccer team will look to make it past the first round of the playoffs with a talented returning cast of athletes.

## Varsity Bears

2023 2024

- Chase Allen (Sr.)
- Andrew Davis (Sr.)
- Gavin Garcia (Sr.)
- Landon Hejl (Sr.)
- Ryder Shelton-Lamb (Sr.)
- Nathan Thom (Sr.)
- Ike Ruiz (Sr.)
- Laine Pittman (Jr.)
- Jack Weston (Jr.)
- Gavin Phillips (Jr.)
- Gino Burke (Jr.)
- Kale Anderson (Soph.)
- Rylee Johnson (Soph.)
- Liam McGaughy (Soph.)
- Jensen Nehrig (Soph.)
- Jacob Valladares (Soph.)
- Ali Dadashazar (Fr.)

# Cross country digs deep

continued from page 1

For the seniors, the end of the road is both satisfying and rewarding, particularly when reminiscing about their time in the program.

“Coach Smith has been coaching me since 5th grade and she has made a big impact on my XC journey,” senior Lauren Self said. “She has given me great motivation and support when I needed it and is always there to push you to your limits because she believes in you. She has been an excellent coach over the years.”

Seven senior runners depart, including Cooper, Truong, John Youngdale, Belcik, Katie Pittner, Self, and Macie Griswold.

“This group is special because I have so many seniors and many of them I have coached since fifth or sixth grade,” Smith said. “I will miss them as individuals and their commitment and leadership. They have truly made a big impact on this cross country program.”

2023 4A CROSS COUNTRY STATE RESULTS		
BOYS individual		
Name	Time	Place
Renne Cooper (Sr.)	16:09	1
Hollis Harlan (Jr.)	18:14	12
Nico Napper (So.)	18:32	22
Anh Truong (Sr.)	19:01	32
Gino Burke (Jr.)	19:15	38
John Youngdale (Sr.)	20:41	79
Xavier Parra (Fr.)	21:00	91 (x/176)
GIRLS individual		
Name	Time	Place
Harper Counts (So.)	12:47	2
Hailyn Counts (So.)	13:52	16
Lucy Belcik (Sr.)	13:53	18
Katie Pittner (Sr.)	14:33	27
Lynden Worley (Fr.)	14:42	31
Lauren Self (Sr.)	15:12	50
Macie Griswold (Sr.)	16:03	77 (x/143)

# VB proud of finish

continued from page 1

“I am proud of the team as a whole; they have set a high standard for themselves and the generations to come,” said head coach Paula Trejos. “Of course, we fell short of accomplishing our primary goal of being a state champion, but we took the challenge to pause, reflect, recharge, and go after it again.”

With a difficult preseason and extra conditioning in practices, the Lady Bears were able to strengthen their flaws and show both individual and team growth.

The team was promised the district title when matched against Incarnate Word Academy of Corpus Christi on Oct. 24th. The team had an easy 3-0 sweep with sophomore Claire Montgomery notching 12 kills and senior Aubrey Acheson humming four aces.

After the conclusion of district play, the Bears swept through the first two rounds of the playoffs with a 3-0 sweep of Geneva School of Boerne followed up with a contest-

ed, five-set triumph (3-2) over Legacy Preparatory Academy in round two.

The Lady Bears had an extraordinary season overall, despite the injury of senior Lauren Petty, giving their school and classmates something to be extremely proud of.

“The team showed resilience and grit everytime we competed,” Trejos said.

Next season the passionate volleyball team will be moving up in district ranks to TAPPS 5A. Similar squads, such as Bay Area and defending state champs Grace Prep, will also be moved up. With the change in district, the Lady Bears will be matched with more competitive teams and will have to play up, forcing themselves to excel in a more challenging district.

The switch in pace and competition next season will be a thrilling ride as the Lady Bears fight for the state title once again.

see also **STATE RESULTS**, page 12

# Football finishes much improved with 6-5 record

By Jack Gonzalez, Brayden Jennings

The Bears’ football season came to an end in the first round of the TAPPS Division III playoffs with an unfortunate 31-14 loss to Geneva School of Boerne. After securing a spot in the playoffs with a 34-27 win against Legacy Preparatory Academy in the final game of the regular season, the Bears’

playoff run would end after the first round.

Still, the Bears ended the season with a 6-5 record, achieving a massive improvement from the previous season under first-year head coach Kyle Maxfield.

“Pretty amazing what we were able to accomplish with a whole new staff. We reached our main goal of having a winning season and making the playoffs,” said Maxfield.

Some of the stat leaders for the 2023 season on offense were senior Bryson Best with 49 receiving yards per game, junior Connor Schehl with 122.9 rushing yards per game, and sophomore Brayden Jennings with 13 passing and 18 rushing

touchdowns for a total of 31 touchdowns on the season.

“Our offense grew from week to week. We played a lot of tougher defenses once we were in district but the thing I was most proud of was that the lineman got a lot better and seeing skill players like Brayden (Jennings) who were inexperienced being able to spread the ball and that was our exact goal,” said Maxfield concerning this year’s offense.

On the defensive end, senior Taylor Cunningham led the team with 3.5 sacks; senior linebacker Mark Caesar added 7.4 tackles per game, and sophomore Zach Czerlinsky nabbed 6 interceptions.

When asked about the team’s defense this season, Maxfield said, “We did a great job of being versatile, since we were playing many different offenses from week to week we had to come up with new plans. Our defense made a lot of really good plays, especially the way they caused turnovers which led to a lot of success.”

While the team was heartbroken about

their most recent loss, their season was nothing to be ashamed of, and they still had many great things to say about the team as well as their season.

“This football season was like a roller coaster,” Best said, “...still it was very fun and looking back it was the best ride ever.”

The season was very important to the players, especially the seniors.

“I loved this season because getting to play with my teammates for the last time was a memory that I will never forget,” said Cunningham.

While the Bears’ 23-24 season is officially over, there was no shortage of memories, achievements, and accomplishments for the team, coaches, and the school, as well as much to look forward to for next year.

When asked about next year, Maxfield said, “Our goal for next year is to win a playoff game in the new division. We’re going to miss the seniors but we have a lot of guys coming back and I’m excited to see the younger kids step up and grow.”

**VARSITY FOOTBALL**  
**TAPPS DIII RESULTS**

**TAPPS Division III District 4 Results**  
Oct. 20: Bay Area Christian 35, BCS 27  
Oct. 27: Cypress Christian 48, BCS 0  
Nov. 3: BCS 34, Legacy Prep 27

**TAPPS Division III Playoff Results**  
Nov. 10: Geneva School 31, BCS 14

# Christmas in Austin full of festive fun

By Alyssa Pennies, Kali Whitmire

As the fall season comes to an end the Christmas festivities are just around the corner. Here in Austin and surrounding cities, there's plenty to do and see. Whether you're looking for something to do with friends or family, here are 10 merrymaking ideas for the jolly season.

- 1. Gingerbread Village at Four Seasons** Whether you're staying at the Four Seasons hotel, located at 98 San Jacinto Boulevard, or just going for a day visit you can make a stop at the Seasonal Gingerbread Village, which has a different unique and festive theme each year, with many gingerbread houses throughout the whole hotel.
- 2. Ice skating on the roof of Whole Foods** At the downtown Whole Foods location during the Christmas season, you can go ice skating on the roof from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. any day with a fee of \$10 per person. This is a fun way to soak up the holiday season with your loved ones.
- 3. Take a stroll in downtown Round Rock.** For those wishing to skip the trek downtown (and the parking fees!) a visit to Round Rock's downtown square is a festive alternative. Enjoy shopping, live music, streets of light-strung live oaks, and the Christmas tree in front of City Hall.
- 4. See Santa on the Terrace at the Long Center** Kids will have the chance to listen to a story read by Mrs. Claus, ride the kiddie express train and listen to popular live music. Although this event is mainly directed for younger audiences, the expressions on the young ones' faces will bring everyone delight. This is located at 701 West Riverside Drive.
- 5. Ride the North Pole Flyer** This is a two-hour trip on Austin's non-profit rail-road operations; the timings vary depending on your ticket which can cost anywhere from \$36.75-\$55. It departs from the historical 1912 Bertram Depot and entails a hug from Santa and a view of many balloon twisters.
- 6. Build a gingerbread house at the Thinkery** The Thinkery workers use this event as an opportunity to

- teach what beginner engineering is like but with a festive pop. Everyone will have exciting and different art ideas with this amusing activity. The Thinkery is located at 1830 Simond Avenue.
- 7. See the Nutcracker** "The Nutcracker" play/ballet is being performed on different dates in the late fall season and early winter season. More information and tickets can be found on the Ballet Austin website. This is a great opportunity to watch an annual classic with family and friends.
  - 8. See a free live concert in downtown Round Rock.** The city of Round Rock's Hometown Holidays concert series takes place in various locations throughout downtown Round Rock between November 28 and December 23. Visit the City of Round Rock website for site and time details.
  - 9. Walk through the Austin Trail of Lights** On Dec. 8th through the 23rd, feel the magic of the Austin Trail of Lights. Tickets fluctuating on certain nights and times can range up to the price of \$8.
  - 10. Austin Trail of Lights Fun Run** Walk, jog, or run through the yearly presented Austin Trail of Lights on December 2nd, 3rd and 8th from 5:45 p.m. to 10 a.m. Patrons will see over 2 million lights no matter your preferred pacing.
- All of these events listed are great ways students can spend the holiday together without all the hassle or worry of traveling out of Austin. Be sure to celebrate and spend time with your loved ones throughout this year's Christmas season.



photo: Google Images

**The frozen aisle** As a novel way to enjoy the grocery store, ice-skating on the roof of Austin's downtown Whole Foods is a notably festive Christmas activity.

# Senior reviews...off-campus!

By John Youngdale

Do you like to go off-campus for lunch? Many Brentwood Christian School students do as well, and take their seventh period to flee campus to find somewhere to eat every day. If this sounds like you, then you may be interested to know where your peers are going, and what their opinions are about different destinations. In this review, we'll be looking at Culver's, Wendy's, and Wiener-schnitzel.

First, **Culver's**. A staple off-campus location, arguably the most frequented by BCS students. Located at the northeast corner of Braker Lane and Kramer Lane, Culver's serves burgers, fries, sandwiches, and frozen custard. BCS students gave it a rating of 7/10, with a stress level of 4/10.

"I love the aesthetic that Culver's has," junior Josiah Kampman said.

"They have really good fries," senior Lauren Self said.

Some students have strong feelings about the place.

"I would go through war for Culver's," senior Mattie Hannah said.

Next, **Wendy's**. Wendy's is situated on Braker Lane next to that post office and that one CVS. With a rating of 4/10 and a stress level of 1/10, it is a solid option for those seeking low-risk mediocrity.

"It's okay," senior Roy Zou said.

"As far as fast food goes, it's solid," senior Elijah Catron said.

Due to their generic food options, Wendy's menu was found to have low memorability.

"I like Wendy's! I like their spicy ketchup. Oh wait, that's Whataburger," senior Macie Griswold said.

Next, **Wienerschnitzel**, located on Braker Lane, across from the Q2 stadium. Known for its odd name and food variety, Wienerschnitzel serves hot dogs, drinks, and perhaps ice cream (nobody knows for sure). Wienerschnitzel received an unfortunate score of 1/10 food, and 1/10 stress level. When asked about the restaurant, BCS students were confused.

"Wienerschnitzel? Even the name sounds gross," sophomore Hailyn Counts said.

"Do people actually go there?" said senior and state champion cross country runner Renne Cooper said.

Despite its lack of popularity, some students are secretly big fans of the infamous hot dog place.

"I love Wienerschnitzel," freshman Cam Hudson said. "I honestly would die for it. Don't tell anybody I said that though."

If you enjoyed these reviews, see the Bear Facts' next issue to hear what BCS students have to say about **H-E-B**, **Chipotle**, and **P-Terry's**.



photo: Google Images



**CULVER'S**  
Overall: 7/10  
Stress Rating: 4/10



photo: Google Images

**WENDY'S**  
Overall: 4/10  
Stress Rating: 1/10  
"A solid option." - Elijah Catron, senior



photo: Google Images

And last...and maybe also least...  
**WIENERSCHNITZEL**  
Overall: 1/10  
Stress Rating: 1/10

\*survey results from BCS Class of 2024

**VARSITY VOLLEYBALL**  
**2023 4A STATE RESULTS**

**TAPPS District 3-4A Volleyball Tournament**

*Round 1:* Defeated Texas School for the Deaf, 3-0

*Round 2:* Defeated Veritas, 3-0

*Round 3:* BYE to Championship Game

*Round 4:* Defeated Incarnate Word, 3-0

**TAPPS 4A Volleyball Playoffs**

*Area Round:* Defeated Geneva School, 3-0

*Regional Final:* Defeated Legacy Prep, 3-2

*State Semifinal:* Defeated Bay Area Christian, 3-2

*State Championship:* Lost to Grace Prep, 3-1

**FOOTBALL ALL-DISTRICT**

**Newcomer of the Year**

Brayden Jennings, QB (Soph.)

**First Team**

Connor Schehl, RB (Jr.)

Bryson Best, WR/DB (Sr.)

Victor Koncaba, OL (Jr.)

Taylor Cunningham, LB (Sr.)

Mark Caesar, LB (Sr.)

**Second Team**

Jakob Megilligan, ATH (Sr.)

Nathan Czerlinsky, OL (Jr.)

Zach Czerlinsky, LB/WR (Soph.)

Taylor Cunningham, FB (Sr.)

Victor Koncaba, DL (Jr.)

**Honorable Mention**

Ike Ruiz, K (Sr.)

Micah Riley, OL (Sr.)

Jack Copeland, DL (Jr.)

Griffin Smith, DB (Jr.)

Caden Shockey, DL (Jr.)

Jack Hansen, DB (Soph.)

Josiah Kampman, DL (Jr.)

**VOLLEYBALL ALL-DISTRICT**

**First Team**

Aubrey Acheson (Sr.)

Abigail Kampman (Jr.)

Rayen Flandes (Jr.)

Claire Montgomery (Soph.)

**Second Team**

Parker Kimball (Sr.)

Maeve Chamberlain (Sr.)

**Honorable Mention**

Addison Everline (Soph.)

*Upcoming Sporting Events*

*Boys' Basketball*

Dec. 16	St. Thomas	Away	2 p.m.
Dec. 19	NBCA	Away	2 p.m.
Dec. 29	Westwood	Away	12 p.m.
Jan. 2	JPII - Corpus	Away	5 p.m.

*Boys' Soccer*

Jan. 4	Holy Trinity	Away	TBD
Jan. 8	San Juan Diego	Home	7 p.m.
Jan. 11	Live Oak	Home	5 p.m.
Jan. 15	Waco Vanguard	Away	4 p.m.

*Girls' Basketball*

Dec. 19	NBCA	Away	12:30 p.m.
Dec. 28-30	Geneva Tourney	Away	TBD
Jan. 2	JPII - Corpus	Away	3:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	Hill Country	Away	5 p.m.

*Girls' Soccer*

Jan. 4	Holy Trinity	Away	TBD
Jan. 8	San Juan Diego	Home	5 p.m.
Jan. 11	Live Oak	Home	7 p.m.
Jan. 18	Waco Reicher	Home	7 p.m.

*Lady Bellas*

Jan. 13	TAPPS State Competition
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**JOG-A-FUN**  *by the numbers*

**\$106,000** *raised to date (\$110,000 goal)*

**300** *volunteer hours donated*

**4,536** *elementary laps run*

**504** *total miles run*

*- 2023 marked the 40th anniversary of Jog-a-Fun -*