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THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MAY 2024



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Track has 2-podium finish

Girls team first in state, boys third

By Anu Oguntade

The 2024 Brentwood Christian School track and field teams started off the season with bigger teams than ever, a new boys head coach and the expectation of doing well in state.

Through hard work and consistency the Lady Bears exceeded that lofty expectation, narrowly defeating Cypress Christian at the TAPPS 4A state meet to earn the program's first girls state championship.

The Bears weren't far behind, finishing third as a team, capping one of the most exciting seasons in recent memory for both the boys and girls squad.

"I am so proud of how every single person competed, not only [at state], but all season," said girls head coach Katie Smith.

The girls finished with 92 points at state - the same number as Cypress. The tiebreaker went to overall first place medals, where the Lady Bears had three: sophomore Harper Counts (3,200m) and its 4x100m and 4x200m relays (seniors Lyla Kate Jackson, Juliet Booker, Emily Mulcahy

and freshman Ava Johnson in both races). Cypress finished with two golds, handing Brentwood the win.

BCS had contributions all over the meet, with medalists also coming in the form of senior Lucy Belcik (second, 3,200m), sophomore Hailyn Counts (third, 3,200m), Harper Counts (second, 1,600m) and senior Mattie Hannah (third, triple jump).

The girls also won the regional and district track and field meets earlier this season, the former of which also marked a program first. While the stats and numbers were amazing this year, the team itself will remember the collection of personalities and teamwork for years to come.

"Like any sport, track has its victories and disappointments, but my coaches and teammates have supported and cheered me on no matter what," said Jackson. "Our team has so much fun anytime we are together."

The boys came close to winning state as well, coming into the meet with high ex-

see **TRACK**, page 8



State champs The Brentwood Christian girls' track team took first in state after winning a tiebreaker with competitor Cypress Christian. The team took first in both the 4x100 and 4x200 relays and had an individual championship with 3,200 runner and sophomore Harper Counts, setting them ahead of their rival.

Twice is nice for Band

By Nico Napper

The 2023-24 Brentwood Christian School band had a successful year by winning the TAPPS state band competition. The triumph marked the second straight victory at the state level for BCS and third overall for the school.

"I think it's remarkable that Brentwood has had 3 band directors and won a championship with each," said director Jason Montier. "Mr. Mel Witcher in 2006, Mr. Travis Pollard in 2023 and mine in 2024."

Over the year, the band has performed its absolute best in order to prepare for state by racking up points in the field band competition and the solos and ensembles competition.

Brentwood received superior ratings for field band and solos and ensembles, and for the latter, all 5 soloists and 11 out of the 14 small ensembles also earned superior ratings.

After these competitions, Brentwood was sitting in first place with 315 points, Geneva School of Boerne in second place with 188 points, and Pantego Christian (Arlington) with

171 points.

All of these events culminated in the TAPPS 4A state competition on March 25, where the team scored enough points to secure repeat champion status.

The music that Brentwood played at state was, "Timepiece," "Marche Diabolique," and "Salvation is Created," with the Jazz band playing, "Jazz Police" and "Fly me to the Moon." Brentwood was also the first band to perform and excelled at setting a high bar for other schools to try and beat.

BCS finished with 600 total points to claim gold.

When Brentwood got the news that they had won again, despite excitement for number two, conversations quickly began about a threepeat. Along with getting first, Brentwood had received superior ratings for Concert band, Jazz band and sight-reading.

"The state competition was the best part of the year because it was so fun sharing the

see **BAND**, page 3



Come and see This year's Partnership Dinner featured numerous live and silent auction items, including a painting of Christ, as depicted in the popular TV show, "The Chosen," created live at the event by artist Maria Morris (above).

see **DINNER**, page 3

All the Right Questions with Lucy Belcik

Former advisor talks online journalism, paper's future

To commemorate former long-time advisor Jonathan Weed's second year away from the paper, the Bear Facts sat down with the middle school history and Bible teacher to recount his time with the paper and discuss his opinions and ideas for its future.

THE BEAR FACTS

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

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

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Lucy Belcik: Tell me about your history with the paper, both as a student reporter and as its long-time advisor.

Jonathan Weed: I was involved in the Bear Facts as a student, but not in the way you might expect. Junior year was my only year to do newspaper, under Marquita Moss, who was the future president and really ended up being a legend of BCS.

I learned a lot and I'm sure it laid a foundation for my future, but I would have no idea that I would be involved with the paper again as an advisor or even back at BCS.

Lucy Belcik: And where did you go from there?

Jonathan Weed: I went off to ACU and got a degree in history. I was still uncertain as to what to do for a career. I came back home and got another bachelor's in journalism from UT. I originally wanted to work for a paper, and started as a low-level writer at the Statesman, while substitute teaching at Brentwood. That was when I realized that what I really enjoyed was teaching. It worked out that the degrees I had earned worked out perfectly for what I taught at BCS.

Lucy Belcik: So obviously, teaching was your underlying interest during that entire time. But you went on to be a long-time advisor to the paper. What about the paper kept you coming back?

Jonathan Weed: After a while, I did want to move on, but I was always told I did it well, so I took that as a compliment. As a perfectionist when it comes to writing mechanics, I took a lot of time outside of school to work on it. I was proud of our final product nearly every time.

To me it was a satisfying feeling to know we had preserved another piece of Brentwood history. To hold it secure for the ages.

Most importantly, I knew I was helping students learn how to write and communicate ef-

fectively. To have students come to me and say, "I learned so much in your class" or parents email me and say, "Your class really helped my son or daughter." That was what encouraged me to keep going. It was okay if I had weak writers in the class: the nature of the paper was that it was a learning tool. I got to watch students use it to grow.

Lucy Belcik: Those are all personal reasons that you love the paper. What do you think is important in general about the paper and keeping it the way it is: a print publication written by students, for students?

Jonathan Weed: First of all, I think students are more likely to read articles written by their peers about their peers. I also notice that they are more likely to read something physical you put in their hands. So much is online these days, and there's so many emails to check.

We tried one year online during Covid, I don't know if it was really getting read.

Keeping it in print keeps the readership up.

At the same time, I can see the future and it makes sense that eventually we may move online completely. It saves money, it saves paper. I still expect to see that happen as we look for the best use of our resources. But we would lose something important I think.

Lucy Belcik: Print journalism as a medium is dying out. Do you see this as a natural evolution due to advancing technology, or as a sign of something lost from the art of journalism? (Or a combination of both?)

Jonathan Weed: Again, I think it's easy to understand from a financial position. Things are going that direction; however, there are obvious drawbacks and we are losing some of the finer points of good journalism, which should be grounded in solid facts and good writing.

What tends to happen online is that the most important thing becomes what gets the most clicks, so it becomes whatever is the most sensational.

the paper through a lot of years. How would you describe the original "spirit" of the Bear Facts, if it had one? What is the thing about the Bear Facts you most value?

Jonathan Weed: What the paper did in the beginning and what it continues to do now is to build independence in younger students. To not just rely on the grown-ups around them to deliver information but to learn how to consume and comprehend it for themselves. For writers of the paper, it helps them learn how to gather information, organize it, and distribute it in a readable way.

I think the most important thing that the Bear Facts does is preserve history. To be able to look back and say this is what happened in this year, in this month, at Brentwood. That's important in minor ways, like maybe keeping track of sports stats. But also in much bigger ways, I think. That's the spirit of the Bear Facts.

Lucy Belcik: Our staff has toyed with the idea of a hybrid print-online version. What do you see for the Bear Facts in the future? How do you believe the spirit of the paper can be preserved as technology progresses and student interests change?

Jonathan Weed: I think first and foremost it's most important to have an advisor who cares about the school, the students, and good writing. Someone who's aware of what's going on in journalism and who is younger (probably) than I was. Obviously, we have a good man in place right now.

I think as far as online content goes, it does tend to be harder to get students to read something that isn't placed right in front of them on their desk. But I'm still of the belief that if it remains content that is written by students, for students, people will continue to read and enjoy the Bear Facts for many years.

Lucy Belcik: Amazing. Thank you so much for your time!

Jonathan Weed: Thank you!

As technology advances at ever-quicken- ing speeds and objective truth online becomes harder and harder to find, it's hard to believe that "good, old-fashioned journalism" really has a future at all.

However, it is now more than ever that the world needs good journalists, to help us discern what is real and true in our increasingly polarized and noisy world.

For our (small) part here at the Bear Facts, we will continue to remain dedicated to printing "all that's fit" and preserving Brentwood history, while seeking to train the next generation in strong communication and writing skills.

And of course, doing our best to make sure you enjoy yourself during the brief time you spend with us!



photo: Wikipedia

Clickbait In an increasingly "noisy" world, it has become harder and harder to discern what is objectively true online.

So much of what you get online is not grounded in truth. And this is me too, I scan a lot of online headlines in my day to day life. For news in general, it's become a lot more polarized. You can go to where you're going to hear what you want to hear: which is not the objective, solid truth.

Lucy Belcik: Heading back in the direction of the Bear Facts: you've seen

Band, fine arts, academics shine

continued from page 1

win with such an amazing band,” freshman Skyla Jimenez said. “Even though next year it will be tough going up a division without our seniors, I expect exciting new things with our incoming freshmen.”

Although Montier was new this year, he and the students grew their relationship over the year. Coming in as a new teacher is difficult, but Montier managed to create great relationships and a culture of excellence quickly.

“I think the best part of band this year was getting to know a new group of kids,” Montier said. “We didn’t know much about each other at the beginning of the year, but I love how [the students] accepted me as a new director and responded so well to the crazy things I like to do.”

With the band winning state and the year coming to a close, many of the senior band members will be graduating. They leave hope and encouragement to their fellow band members.

This year’s senior band members are Chase Allen, Renne Cooper, Andrew Davis, Sarah

Esman, Dylan Hines, Andrew Kent, Nancy Kwak, Colton McClain, Catherine Pittner, Clayton Rackley, Isaac Ruiz, Nathan Thom, Joy Wilson, John Youngdale, and Roy Zou.

Each of these seniors have had many memories made this year and friendships with their fellow band members while also leaving words of encouragement for next year.

“Like every year, the band will have to adapt to the loss and gain of different people, but I believe the band can continue to improve despite facing tougher competition due to the realignment to 5A,” Pittner said.

Although many seniors are going to be gone next year, the returning band members believe and have faith the three-peat will happen.

“I think we’ll do very well next year even though we’re missing a lot of seniors,” said junior Jack Copeland. “We will continue to play very well and hopefully win state for a third time.”

Academics shines, art and choir 4th

In addition to band’s successes, Brentwood Christian is no stranger to the TAPPS

competitions in athletics, academics and fine arts each year. This year’s art and choir programs spent countless hours preparing for their opportunity to shine at the state level.

With new teachers, the stakes were high. Paula Trejos, the art teacher, and Yen-Ching Chiu, the choir teacher, were focused on the growth of their students throughout the year.

“The primary objective was to demonstrate improvement compared to the previous year,” Chiu said. “While everyone aims to claim the state championship, personally, I value the progress we’ve achieved.”

The students wildly improved for the performance and placed fourth in state in TAPPS, even while missing many of the choir students due to other obligations.

“The majority of our students showcased their best abilities,” Chiu said. “I’m exceedingly proud of their progress...there is still room for growth.”

While focusing on the students’ growth, Trejos was also a student of how competition works on the art side, wanting to prioritize learning the system in place and how to maximize BCS’ potential within that system.

“My mindset going to the state was to be the best student I could,” Trejos said. “I went there to observe what everyone else was doing and learn as much as I could about the process for next year’s competition.”

BCS plans to expand its art entry list to three per category and find more expansive partnerships with parents to help guide the creative process next year.

Elsewhere, the Brentwood speech and academics team finished second overall.

Academics, individually, was once again tops in TAPPS, with students such as senior Nancy Kwak (first, advanced math and calculator), senior Renne Cooper (first, number sense), senior Andrew Kent (first, spelling) and sophomore Joshua Gonzales (second, TAPPS math) paving the way.

Cooper, Gonzalez, and junior Tanner Clark all medaled (top three) in other categories at the event.

Alex Schehl, Levi Olewin, and Elli Harlan contributed to this story.

Partnership Dinner yet another success

By Ally Robertson

On March 2, Brentwood Christian’s largest fundraiser, the Partnership Dinner, was a huge success, with over 700 people attending. Dallas Jenkins, the director of “The Chosen” television series, was the keynote speaker, and Brentwood hosted many events beforehand to introduce the community to his work.

“This was one of the smoothest Partnership Dinners we’ve ever had,” BCS President Jay Burcham said. “The Partnership Dinner allows an ongoing promulgation of the mission of the school, coupled with the Partnership Dinner, using Christ as the connecting event.”

There were auction items that people could bid on, Jenkins attending as the speaker and primary figure, the Jazz Band there for music, and everyone being able to connect with each other.

Brentwood’s community is the mission of the Partnership Dinner and of the school, and what everyone was able to achieve this year. “The Chosen” being the centerpoint gave everyone the opportunity to discuss Jesus, and even though fundraising is the key function,

the Christ-centered goal reflects the speaker, and the values of Brentwood.

Partnership Dinner took a year’s planning and organizing; both current and recent Directors of Development, Jennifer Smeltzer and Sarah Wilson, along with many others, put in months of effort.

“You got to go back to Sarah and Jennifer, they are really good at what they do, and make sure all the bases are covered,” Burcham said. “Mrs. Smeltzer is fantastic, and Mrs. Wilson had been doing this for a very long time, so with her leaving in January, we were worried. But, Mrs. Smeltzer stepped in, picked it up, and did a fantastic job.”

In preparation for the Partnership Dinner, there were two movie nights that showed “The Chosen,” and multiple other functions. Many students will remember clips of “The Chosen” being shown during chapel. These helped younger students understand the meaning of the speakers and the story of Jesus being communicated.

The movie nights sold out, and combining every event, over 2,000 people came to support Brentwood and heard the good news of the Gospel through various avenues. .

The Student Council was also a huge contributing factor, spending time organizing and arranging everything. They set up paddles and auction items, as well as making sure all credit card information was ready to go. By keeping the event organized, StuCo made it possible for everyone there to have a great time.

Among the auction items sold, there was also a branch of the auction called Teacher Time. These were opportunities for parents to bid on time with teachers so their children could have quality time with them.

An example of this is fourth-grade teacher Brittney Rackley’s teacher time, which went for \$1,000. The parents are supporting Brentwood by showing their support in her work to create personal connections and taking time to get to know her students.

“To see all of our parents bid on Teacher Time, it showed their appreciation, and that they want their kids to have that one-on-one time,” Smeltzer said.

As well as the community aspect, the Partnership Dinner is used to raise money for the school to keep tuition low, and to help pay for any expenses that may accumulate over the year.

The gates, PA system, clocks in the hallways, and more have been funded by the money that was raised during past events. This year, the money is being put into a practice field behind our main athletic field. This will be able to be used by all grades and for all different activities.

Elementary recess, fifth and sixth grade flag football, and Lady Bellas practice space are just a few ways it will be used starting next year.

Without all the people that contribute and put in time and work, the Partnership Dinner would not be possible. For the first time in a few years, many school leaders and community partners feel we are getting back to where we were prior to 2020.

“Our community closed the door on all our past Covid issues at the Partnership Dinner,” Burcham said. “Everyone finally all came back together, and there was a huge turnout [with] lots of community representation.”

With a great event in the rearview, 2025 promises another wonderful Christ-centered night of fellowship for BCS and its mission to lead students to love God.

Spring musical sweetly enchants, entertains

By Ava Cavada

In a wonderful display of talent and creativity, the Brentwood Christian School theater department brought the magical world



A world of pure imagination Seniors Emily Mulcahy (Charlie) and Roy Zou (Willy Wonka) ushered audience members into Roald Dahl’s whimsical world of candy and magic during Brentwood’s spring musical, performed April 4 through April 6.

of Willy Wonka to life in the annual musical production.

The talented group of high school students, under the direction of theater teacher Corey Jennings, spent countless hours putting together an event that BCS family and friends were able to enjoy across four showings from April 4 through April 6.

Inspired by Roald Dahl’s classic tale, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” Willy Wonka was brought to life in the CSA in a production which even exceeded expectations by those among the cast and

crew.

Senior Emily Mulcahy, who starred as Charlie Bucket, as well as senior Roy Zou, who played the lead and title character, each enjoyed their stint bringing the popular novel and various Hollywood adaptations to the small stage.

“Getting to play the lead was an opportunity that I really treasured and enjoyed,” Zou said. “I’ve been part of the school musicals since my sophomore year, and of course, I was beyond excited to return to the stage and perform again.”

This author had the pleasure of seeing the amazing production on the night of Friday, April 5. In watching each scene play out, the musical’s infectious energy was evident from the jump as the actors brought the characters to life with much enthusiasm and skill. Characters spanning from the oompa loompas to Willy Wonka himself (Zou) brought excellence to the stage.

Additionally, the sharp choreography, colorful costumes, and immaculate set design enhanced the audience’s experience. The costumes worn by the characters were very bright, colorful and replicated the big screen productions viewers know and love.

Audience members were inspired by the show’s heartwarming message of kindness,

friendship, and the power of imagination. With a set design intricate and detailed, the production also captivated the audience’s imagination as it brought them through the wonders of Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory.

“Judging by all the incredible positive feedback from over 1,000 audience members, I think it’s safe to say Willy Wonka was a huge success,” Jennings said.

For many of those involved, this production was not only to showcase the incredible talents of BCS students, but also be a part of an experience they will never forget, making lifelong memories and friendships.

As he graduates in the coming days, Zou, for one, will remember his time on this year’s musical for a lifetime.

“One thing that I’ve always enjoyed is the way everyone comes together and encourages each other before shows,” Zou said. “One special memory I got to enjoy this year was that the day I turned 18 happened to also be closing night. Being able to celebrate my birthday with this cast and crew was very special.”

Congratulations to the entire cast, crew and theater department on a successful production; we at the Bear Facts anxiously await the announcement of next year’s musical.

Eclipse, MSED intersect for fun school day

Staff Report

Brentwood Christian School’s annual Masters of Science and Engineering Day, held this year on Monday, April 8, coinciding with one of the most highly anticipated solar eclipses in recent memory.

Students participated in various science-themed activities during the morning, in-

cluding building a rubber band foam rocket, a space lander and pinhole viewer for the eclipse.

BCS students later filled up the grass of the football field for the much anticipated eclipse, of which the full coverage lasted for two minutes.



photo: BCS Yearbook



photo: BCS Yearbook

photo: Connor Schehl

Class of 2024: Destinations

Abilene Christian University
Daniel Womack

Austin Community College
Micah Riley
Jael Rubin
Laynie Ruiz
Aaron Toodle
Andrew Kent
Jisoo Han
Zariah Williams

Baylor University
Keira Black

Clarks Summit University
James Naumann*
Giovanny Perez*

Freed Hardeman University
Clayton Rackley

Hampton University
Juliet Booker

Harding University
McKenna Counts
Mattie Hannah*
Joy Wilson

MIT
Renne Cooper*

Ohio State University
Nathan Thom

Oklahoma Christian
Zandria Davis*

Ottawa University
Jakob Megilligan*

Penn State Abington
McKinley Grimm*

Richland College
Parker Kimball*

Samford University
Lyla Kate Jackson

Schreiner University
Maeve Chamberlain

Tarleton University
Tori Koncaba
Alexander Jackson

Texas A&M University at College Station
Lucy Belcik
Carina Combs
Andrew Davis
Landon Hejl
Emily Mulcahy
Lara Pasternak

Texas A&M University at College Station
Kora Simon
Anh Truong
Roy Zou
Noah Prundeanu (ACC Engineering Program)
Nathan Prundeanu (ACC Engineering Program)

Texas A&M University at Galveston
Julian Jimenez

Texas State University
Taylor Cunningham
Gavin Garcia
Braden Darling
Giuseppina Nguyen
Lauren Rutt*
Yasmim Seibert

Texas Tech University
Colton McLain
Katie Pittner

University of Arkansas
Kai Nyby
Lauren Self

University of Kansas
Chase Allen

University of Texas at Arlington
Sarah Esman
Zachary Tran

University of Texas at Austin
Nancy Kwak
Elijah Catron
Macie Griswold
John Youngdale

University of Texas at Dallas
Lauren Petty*

Wheaton College
Bryson Best*

Other
Aubrey Acheson - mission work
Mark Caesar - electrical trade school
Dylan Hines - gap year

Undecided
Lillian Peterson
Isaac Ruiz
Ryder Shelton-Lamb
Kevin Shu

** Athletics commit or scholarship.
Information courtesy of the BCS Office of Academic Advancement.*

Senior recounts European memories

By John Youngdale

Senior John Youngdale and the Class of 2024 traveled abroad to France, Germany and the Swiss Alps for Brentwood’s annual senior trip. Youngdale’s travel log detailing the ten-day trip follows.

DAY ONE: Austin, TX to Paris, FR

At 10 a.m., we met at the airport and all went through security and boarded the first plane to Miami, Florida. There, we walked up and down the dingy airport, and had some questionable sushi. We then boarded our 227-ton Boeing 787, which was to take us all the way to Paris, France. The plane bounced up and down as I tried to eat my precooked chicken and rice, which I gave a mediocre 4/10. Then some melatonin (courtesy of Anh) knocked me out until we landed.

DAY TWO: Paris, FR

Day two began at about 1 a.m. in my internal clock. We landed in Paris, and while in the customs line, held in laughter as two English girls spoke in their foreign accents.

Our bus took us into the city and we saw two ancient churches, one as old as the 700s. We walked through a beautiful park before being coaxed into a mediocre Italian restaurant by a man smoking outside. We tried escargot for the first time and Micah almost puked.

DAY THREE: Paris, FR

After an impressive hotel breakfast we went to Versailles and made a quick stop at the Arc de Triomphe, as well as a bus tour of the city. At Versailles, we walked through the bedrooms of King Louis XVI, and made lots of decapitation jokes. The town of Versailles was also pretty, and at a small sandwich shop with a forgettable name, I ate the best sandwich I’ve ever had in my life. When we got back, we went on a walk up and down the Seine before going to bed.

DAY FOUR: Paris, FR

We got up and went straight to the Louvre. I have never been in a place more aestheti-

see **TRAVEL LOG**, page 11



Cold hands, warm hearts The author’s friends bundled up atop a snowy Swiss Alp: (L to R) seniors Anh Truong, Gavin Garcia, and Landon Hejl.

Shot on Pentax K1000. Kodak 400 film.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Landon Hejl*

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

BCS Lifer’s Faith, Encouragment Leaves Lasting Impact

By Katie Pittner

With his bright smile and laugh that can fill a room, senior Landon Hejl is one of the most spirited, involved, and universally loveable students in Brentwood Christian School history. Whether it be on the stage or on the soccer field, everyone agrees—Hejl’s positive and supportive nature always contributes to the betterment of those around him.

Attending Brentwood since preschool, Hejl started making an impact on the school before he knew his ABCs. Always willing to lend a helping hand, or give a smile to someone who needs it, Hejl’s charisma is known to all.

“No matter the occasion he’s always laughing or smiling,” senior Ike Ruiz said.

Involved in soccer, theatre, and student government, no one can say the second-team all-state soccer player gives less than his all in anything he participates in. In addition to his commitment to his activities, many students have stories of how Hejl has invited and encouraged them to join various activities.

“Landon introduced me and welcomed me to theater,” senior Roy Zou said. “It’s awesome having a friend to share both the interests of soccer and theater; he’s pushed me to better myself in both aspects and helped me when I needed guidance and encouragement.”

In addition to his extracurriculars, Hejl has a notable love for spending time outdoors. As someone who loves to swim, hike, and everything in between, it’s clear that Hejl’s happy place is not inside.

When asked about his favorite memory, he couldn’t choose, but instead clarified an outdoor location.

“I can’t think of just one, so just any time that I’ve gone to hang out with people at Barton Springs,” Hejl said. “It’s always so fun.”

Of course, one can’t talk about Landon without mentioning his partner in crime: fellow senior Andrew Davis. Best friends since the ripe age of two, everyone on campus knows of their friendship.

Having spent an incredible amount

of time together over the years, the best friends have made a lot of memories together, one of Davis’s being a beach trip they took.

“One of my favorite memories was going to the beach and buying matching pink pineapple shirts with him,” Davis said.

(If anyone wants to see these shirts, be

sure to check out the ‘senior superlatives’ page in the upcoming issue of the yearbook, where the pair wore them for their “best duo” picture.)

As Spiritual Life Director of the senior class, Hejl does a lot for the spiritual enrichment of the 2024 seniors, from leading worship to his day-to-day demeanor. From his kind-hearted nature to his willing attitude, Hejl spreads the love of Christ to his classmates.

“If I had one word to de-

scribe Landon it would be kind,” Davis said. “If anyone asks him to do anything he would do it for them even if he doesn’t want to do it.”

Hejl attends Westover Hills Church of Christ, and his positive experience with the youth group there has left him with the knowledge that a Christ-like community is one of the most important aspects of a faith life.

“Being involved in my youth group has really helped me in my walk with Christ,” Hejl said. “It’s so good to have a group of people like that who push you closer to God.”

After walking the stage on May 18, Landon plans to study geology at Texas A&M University, where he will no doubt use his many talents to continue improving upon his surroundings.

It is clear from Hejl’s spirited time at BCS and the high esteem his classmates hold him in that he has certainly succeeded in creating memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Ruiz accurately describes the how Landon has impacted the Class of 2024 while reflecting on Hejl’s personal influence on him:

“He’s always pushing me to be the best and to try harder,” Ruiz said. “I couldn’t thank him enough!”

Landon’s favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:15: “The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

Additionally, If Hejl has one piece of advice to give, it is this: “Don’t go home early, stay out with people as long as you can and enjoy every second of it.”



Endearing and Loved

Beloved English, Bible teacher “Bro Rob” recognized

By Alyssa Pennies, Noelle Shepard

Dr. Paul Robison, better known on campus as “Bro Rob,” has taught a variety of subjects at Brentwood Christian School for the past eleven years. During these years, through his dedication and love for his students and his subjects, Robison has cemented himself as one of BCS’ finest.

With classic Bro Rob humility, during his initial interview, Robison did not want this feature to be about him, and insisted rather that the story be about someone who had “been here for longer and is more important to Brentwood.”

It is that kind of indelible modesty that has left a lasting impression on Bro Rob’s students, both past and present.

“Bro Rob is one of the best teachers we have at BCS,” said senior Lara Pasternak. “He is completely dedicated to teaching and bettering every student’s understanding of the English language.”

Admiration for Bro Rob is evident all throughout the school. He has positively impacted many people in his time at BCS; the love for him is abundant and clear.

In addition to the good will he spreads, he’s recognized as an outstanding teacher, making sure to facilitate every student’s needs, as well as sharing his thoughtfulness with each person that he impacts. In Bro Rob’s time at Brentwood he has taught Bible and English, but he says that Bible is his favorite subject to teach.

Although Bro Rob’s humility shines brightest, a multitude of staff and students see God’s presence and other righteous characteristics overflowing from his character.

He’s also got jokes. Whether he’s rapping at chapel on any normal Wednesday or putting all of his might into lip syncing the final song at the back to school assembly, Bro Rob never fails to raise the spirits and get some laughs.

“I have seen him in a hula skirt, with button down and tie of course, dancing the hula at pep rallies,” said BCS president Jay Burcham. “I have seen him lip sync and at the semester ice-breaker. He knows how to teach with seriousness and have fun.

“That makes him endearing and loved.”

When Bro Rob was asked what was his favorite part about being a teacher here at BCS, he replied swiftly: “Watching students improve in

their language arts skills and hearing them think critically.”

As faith is an essential component in life, Bro Rob has made sure to make it a key factor in every lesson.

“We do try to stress the spiritual aspects and help you learn more than just the subject you’re learning; we want you to learn about the [most important] subject: God,” he said.

Bro Rob is so incredibly thankful for his long tenure at BCS, and while many years bring promises of things to come, for Robison, this one brings a goodbye.

With his eleventh year nearly coming to an end, Bro Rob has decided to retire from teaching at Brentwood at the conclusion of the year.

Although his immediate plans are still in flux, we might see Robison back soon - possibly as one of the most highly qualified tutors or substitute teachers BCS has ever seen.

As we wish him farewell, a look down memory lane reveals numerous blissful tales. One, however, stole the spotlight.

When having optical issues, Robison had to have an intense procedure done on his eye. Just as he came out of surgery, seeing simple caring

get well cards with all sorts of sweet messages from delightful students and teachers enlightened the experience.

The same could be said of his students’ and colleagues’ memories of him.

One of Bro Rob’s former students, who is now teaching and coaching here at Brentwood, coach Connor White, summed up how Bro Rob models humility and righteousness in a story from his time walking these same BCS halls.

“I will always remember what he told me when I first transferred to Brentwood as a sophomore in high school and asked what the name ‘Bro Rob’ stood for,” White said. “I asked why people didn’t call him ‘Dr. Robison,’ since I heard he had that credential.

“I will never forget what he said: ‘Well, Dr. is the title I earned. Brother is the title I didn’t’. If that doesn’t sum up the character of Bro Rob, I don’t know what does. He lives as if he has been given a great gift by Jesus, and I have been blessed to learn from his example of Christlikeness.”

Thank you, Dr. and Brother Robison, for sharing your gifts with BCS.

BCS Eagle Scouts serve communities, learn

By Drake Jackson and Brayden Jennings

Becoming an Eagle Scout can be a long, tedious process. Brentwood Christian junior Elliot Koncaba became a boy scout in 2012, and through long hours, dedication, and determination, he recently became an Eagle Scout, one of the marquee honors the organization bestows upon its members.

Each candidate must earn at least 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community, church, or synagogue-related service project to qualify. Elliot’s project was building United States flag retirement boxes, which will be used throughout the Hutto community.

Koncaba’s accomplishments, which also included a proclamation from the city of Hutto back in 2022, highlight over a decade of service and commitment to scouts, a common theme among several other BCS high schoolers who have prioritized the life lessons and discipline the program offers.

The oldest scouts on campus include senior John Youngdale and senior Nathan Thom.

Youngdale has been a boy scout since first grade. For his project, Youngdale built shelves to hold donated clothing at a foster care facility.

Scouting has been something that passes through the Youngdale family, as his brother and dad have both gone through the same rite of passage. Close to sharing that official bond with his blood, Youngdale expects to earn Eagle Scout status in the near future.

Another soon-to-be Eagle Scout is sophomore Parker Saxon, who has been in scouts for seven years. His favorite part of boy scouts is being able to hang out with his friends while enjoying a campfire.

“In the future, I would like to get my other friends to do scouting,” Saxon said.

One of Saxon’s classmates, sophomore Nico Napper, is also a scout. Napper is one rank away from Eagle Scout status and about halfway towards his goal of 21 merit badges.

“I love being able to make memories,” Napper said.

With loyalty, reverence and citizenship all values scouting organizations value, it’s no wonder some of Brentwood’s finest have sharpened these character skills both on campus and amongst their scouting brethren. Congratulations to all recently confirmed Eagle Scouts, and good luck to those still working toward the goal.



photo: Elliot Koncaba

Flying high Brentwood Christian junior Elliot Koncaba (third from left) was recently honored by the city of Hutto for his Eagle Scout service project, which was building boxes to hold United States flags.

Track finishes record-breaking season

continued from page 1

pectations after earning second at district and then winning the regional meet. The most notable performance came

from one of Brentwood’s most decorated athletes, senior Renne Cooper, who ended his high school career by winning three

gold medals (800m, 1,600m and 3,200m) and setting TAPPS all-time records in the mile and two-mile races.

Elsewhere, sophomore Joshua Gonzales, who qualified in four events, earned silver in the 300m hurdles. The 4x200m relay squad of sophomore Trey Campbell, senior Bryson Best, sophomore Brayden Jennings and junior Connor Schehl earned a bronze.

Senior Jakob Megilligan, who won the 100m dash and was a key piece on multiple relays for BCS, came up injured in the 4x100m relay and was unable to continue at the meet.

Still, it was a solid showing from the Bears, a program which has cemented itself as one of the best boys sports on campus over the past few years.

Some of the seniors plan to run track at the next level. Cooper is going to be running track at MIT, Megilligan is going to be competing at Ottawa University, and Hannah will be jumping at Harding University.

“I am looking forward to the high level competition and the freedom that comes

with it,” said Megilligan.

On the girls side, the program will be losing 9 seniors, including 200m dash district champion Booker and other important contributors such as Jackson, Hannah, Mulcahy and Belcik.

All of the seniors have been a crucial part of both teams this year, bringing encouragement and offering leadership to the underclassmen.

“I will miss everything about track,” said Jackson. “...From the practices to the meets, and most of all, the team.”

Both programs expect to face tough competition as BCS moves up in the TAPPS classification to 5A next season. No matter the opponent, the program will expect to remain strong and continue to compete for individual and state titles.



photo: BCS Yearbook

In sync Sophomore Trey Campbell (right) and junior Connor Schehl were two of the Bears’ stalwarts on various relays this season. The boys finished third in TAPPS 4A at the state meet in Waco.

Elementary garden benefits growing minds

By Jack Sutton, Elli Harlan

Brentwood Christian is home to many wonderful facilities, but two a majority individuals not might know about yet - a pair of gardens - might soon be a staple that future graduates remember and visit upon becoming alumni. Since the start of the school year, Enrichment Coordinator and EL-3 teacher Shemika Davis and numerous BCS elementary students have been cultivating gardens as they learn about God’s role in creation and nature - as well as enjoy some of the fruits of their labor. Davis was inspired to bring about the gardens through various student comments and feedback from one of their many school projects. “The kids got really excited over a project last year where they grew plants in a pot,” Davis said, “so I thought to myself - if the kids got excited about a mere pot, then what about a garden?” The smaller garden is located at the

back of the B building in the roundabout, and the big garden is located at the back of the A building and shared Brentwood Oaks Church campus in the elementary playground. Fruit trees, rain barrels and compost barrels are all present in the larger garden, which is a square pen that also features various beds in rows. Both gardens so far grow vegetables and fruit but Davis and her “kindergardeners” plan to make the smaller area strictly flowers moving forward. Students have taken turns watering and learning to care for the plants throughout the year. While the gardens will have to deal with the notorious Austin heat this summer while Brentwood students are on hiatus, Davis plans to continue to use the area to teach students about God’s love for us through nature and share the output with students and staff alike.



photo: Shemika Davis

Love and care Elementary students have enjoyed tending to the two new gardens on campus, learning about God’s creation and slowly seeing the growth of various plants as the year has gone by.

Bears dominate, fall one win shy of state

By Jack Henry Gonzalez, Everett Merrell

The Brentwood Christian School baseball team won its district with ease this year, earning a two-round playoff bye and a shot to book a spot in the TAPPS Division III state tournament.

The Bears played Bay Area Christian School



Step and fire Senior Jamie Naumann, above, led BCS in RBIs in 2024. He is one of several senior leaders the program will miss.

on Tuesday, May 7 at Weimar in the TAPPS 4A regional final. In heartbreaking fashion, the Bears fell, 2-1, in extra innings in one of the most hotly contested games of their season.

Prior to the playoffs, senior catcher Taylor Cunningham summed up the team’s mindset going into the win-or-go-home format.

“Our goal is to play our best no matter who we face, and to go into the game with a winning mindset,” Cunningham said.

“Why not us?” added senior Braden Darling.

After going 11-4 in the lead up to district play, the Bears dominated Division III District 3, going 8-1 and securing the number one spot. This marked the third district championship in a row for first-year coach Charles Bollinger and the Bears.

The team finished

20-6 overall prior to the playoffs.

Head coach Charles Bollinger lauded the contributions of his senior-heavy team, while also acknowledging the approach in the playoffs will be the same as the regular season.

“We play hard, play to win, and get better,” Bollinger said.

The team featured experience in key roles, with many upperclassmen with multiple years of varsity experience in the batting lineup most games.

With six of the nine starters being seniors, the team has relied on their leadership and performance for their success, senior Giovanni Perez being one of them. Perez led the team in hits and runs on the year. Perez also shined on the mound, carrying a sub-2.00 earned run average and double-digit wins into the postseason.

Other senior leaders were Darling, who led in slugging percentage and stolen bases, as well as Jamie Naumann, who led in runs batted in, and Andrew Davis, who was tops in batting average and on base percentage.

Naumann brought 3 years of experience to the team. Naumann would start during his first year at Brentwood as a freshman, and has continued that trend all four years on the diamond, helping to create a team with legitimate state

championship aspirations.

“My favorite thing about my time here has been the relationships with teammates and the experience that I’ve gained from playing these past four years,” Naumann said.

In addition to players like Naumann, the team has seen leadership in coaching. Bollinger, in his first year as the head coach for the Bears, brought several decades of coaching and playing experience to the table.

Additionally, new assistant coach Calvin Schiraldi, an eight year veteran of Major League Baseball, only strengthened the staff. As a former pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, Schiraldi knows his way around the field, and used his experience to help improve the team.

With the season in the books, the Bears will lose many starters to college, leaving the team with many spots and big shoes to fill. Perez and Naumann will team up at Clarks Summit University, while the contributions of the other class of 2024 graduates will be hard to replace.

Juniors Jack Copeland and Griffin Smith will look to lead the team in their senior season, as well as rising juniors Tanner Hunka and Jack Gonzalez.

Softball co-champs in Trees’ first season

By Ella Kennedy, Ally Robertson

Brentwood Christian’s softball team made the playoffs as the number two seed from their district this year, ultimately losing to The Brook Hill School for the second year in a row in the area round of the TAPPS playoffs.

Despite that result, it was an incredible year for the squad.

The Lady Bears softball team began its season with 18 softball players and two new coaches. These girls worked hard to go 7-1 in TAPPS Division III District 3, finishing as co-champions with Veritas Academy after splitting their two district games.

This year the team’s motto was “Strong Mind, Hard Grind.” Head coach Sydney Trees wanted to make sure that regardless of happenings in the game, the team had the right mental approach in all situations.

“I like that the words ‘strong mind’ are in our motto, because it reminds me that softball is a very mental sport, and we will not be successful if we don’t keep our heads up and remain positive no matter how our performance has been,” senior Keira Black said.

One of their biggest wins in district was

against Veritas, whom they lost to 15-1 the first time around. Facing them a second time on April 19 away from home, the Lady Bears won, 2-1, clinching a share of the district title.

Senior McKenna Counts pitched a wonderful game and drove both in runs at the plate, scoring Black both times.

“I think everyone would agree that Veritas was the biggest win,” Trees said. “That game really shows the growth of our team from beginning to end.”

All in all, BCS finished with a record of 16-14.

Sophomore Harper Counts led the team in stolen bases, with a whopping 28 on the season. Sophomore Jolie Shepherd led the team in on base percentage and batting average, as well as hits and runs batted in.

Sophomore Reese Hertel, senior Joy Wilson, Black, McKenna Counts, Shepard and sophomore Hailyn Counts all hit home runs on the season.

Wilson and McKenna Counts went back-to-back in the first inning of BCS’ 20-6 win over Hill Country Christian on April 15, with Hertel later adding a 3-run shot to cap off an impressive 9-run frame.

The softball program is growing, this year

having the largest roster in BCS history, with 1 junior, six sophomores and seven freshmen on board in addition to four seniors.

“It’s been really fun, because when you have so many girls, you have people that can step up when we have seniors leave,” Harper Counts said.

The team agrees that the seniors have been some of the greatest influences, trustworthy confidants and helping hands, and are sad to see them leave.

“I look up to Keira and McKenna because they have been playing for a very long time, and they show me that when you put in hard work it actually pays in the end,” Shepherd said.

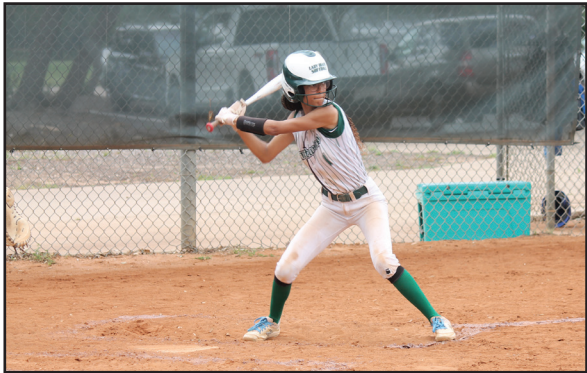
With Trees in her first year, she was grateful for the timing of inheriting key seniors who helped her learn the odds and ends of Brentwood and coaching.

“As a new coach, I didn’t know exactly what I was getting into,” Trees said. “But I have had four strong seniors that have helped with everything. They have just

made this first year wonderful.”

McKenna Counts pitched a majority of the games this year, earning a win in 13 of the team’s 16 total victories on the year. She, along with Black, Wilson and senior Jisoo Han, leave a huge void to fill for next year’s team.

The Lady Bears have put so much effort, time, love, and grit into this season, and as the team moves up to a higher district, plan to bring it there as well.



Up to Bat Senior Keira Black, one of three captains for this year’s softball team, batted close to .500 and was a first-team all district selection.

Golf teams wrap strong season

By Karlee Lawrence

Brentwood Christian School's golf team had a strong showing this year, performing well at the district tournament and sending an individual female golfer to state.

Junior Karlee Lawrence advanced past both the district and regional round, making it all the way to the TAPPS 4A state golf tournament.

Lawrence finished 27th overall at state out of 45 individuals shooting a 101 and 89 over two days of competition. While at regionals, Lawrence tied in 9th place to qualify, shooting a 103.

On the boys side, the Bears had a great season, improving steadily throughout the year. At the district tournament held at Olympia Hills in New Braunfels, the Bears season was sadly cut short after a fifth-place showing of 366 overall.

The team was led by junior Jack Fluitt, who narrowly missed an individual berth at state, finishing tied for 11th place with an 83, and

junior Gavin Phillips, who was tied for 13th at an 85. Phillips also holed out on a par 3 during the district tournament.

Senior Kai Nyby placed 22nd with a 91, while sophomore Liam McGaughy was in 38th with a 107. The Bears are a young team, only losing Nyby, and are hoping for a chance of competing in regionals next year with some additions to the squad.

On the girls side, the Lady Bears competed in district as three separate medalists.

The Lady Bears were led by Lawrence, who placed second at district with a 94, while junior Julia Sabin placed 11th with a 106 and freshman Ella Dannhaus placed 19th, shooting a 113.

With many underclassmen and returners back next year, Brentwood will look to make the leap to TAPPS 5A and advance multiple individuals and teams to regionals and state in 2025.



photo: BCS Yearbook

Middle fairway Junior Karlee Lawrence, pictured above at a tournament on March 3, was BCS' lone state golf qualifier this season. Lawrence finished 27th overall at state.

Tennis paves the way

Even though the first year for tennis at Brentwood Christian School didn't finish at a state tournament, everyone who participated in the sport improved and helped move the team forward.

"Everyone who attended all the practices and matches improved tremendously," said head coach Terry Osborne.

After a preseason schedule which included local tournaments to help improve the relatively young team, the district tournament was held at Geneva School of Boerne

in early April. No one from the squad of seniors Clayton Rackley and Jael Rubin, sophomore Lily Wright and freshman Ames Peterson advanced to regionals, but next year holds great promise of improvement for those who remain.

"For the first year of competition we made progress with the short time we had to prepare for competition," Osborne said. "[Our] goals for next season will be more players and more practice matches."

"People should sign up for tennis because it's an opportunity to grow in a new skill and make more memories," Rubin said. "... [It] was one hundred percent worth the memories I made."

The squad stuck together and learned some valuable life lessons and skills, and particularly applauded its own freshman member for being a light throughout.

"Tennis is a sport that's very separated because you had partners but as a team, there was a lot of team spirit," Wright said. "Ames particularly brought the team together."



Honored duo Seniors Clayton Rackley (left) and Jael Rubin helped start the tennis program at BCS this season, paving the way for future athletes.

TAPPS Henderson Cup Standings as of May 10, 2024

Team	Total Points
Brentwood Christian School	86
Geneva School of Boerne	77.5
Cypress Christian	73
Lubbock Trinity	67
Brook Hill School	62

**Baseball and softball results are the last TAPPS categories not yet complete and will be added/tallied at the conclusion of each sport's state tournament.*

Senior reviews...off-campus!

By John Youngdale

Once again our newspaper presents popular off-campus lunch locations and the opinions that BCS students have of them. In this issue, we are covering Mod Pizza, Chick-Fil-A, and Popeye's.

Serving fresh, custom-made pizzas, Mod sits in the parking lot of the H-E-B on the east side of IH-35. The trek across the interstate can prove lengthy, rarely dared to be taken on a shortened, Wednesday schedule. Mod received a stress rating of 10/10 and a food rating of 8/10.

"Mod Pizza? More like mid pizza," freshman Houston Hogan said.

"It's good," junior Lucas Kusano said.

Mixed opinions aside, BCS students have been known to play chicken with the bell for a tasty slice.

Next, Popeye's. Known for their amazing fried chicken, you can find Popeye's south of BCS on Lamar Blvd. They serve fried chicken pieces, tenders and sandwiches.

"They batter it up, season it, and put it in the fryer, and that makes my tummy rumble," Hogan said.

"It's the best; it reminds me of home," sophomore Gabe Washington said longingly.

"Spicy... chicken... sandwich..." freshman Joey Luu uttered.

Popeye's received a varied food rating, averaging around 7.5/10, and a stress level of 5/10. If you want some good chicken, head to Popeye's.

Speaking of chicken, last but not least is Chick-Fil-A, located on Mopac and Parmer Ln. They serve chicken nuggets, strips and sandwiches, as well as waffle fries. By far the most popular restaurant covered in this column, Chick-Fil-A received a food rating of 10/10.

Certain menu items sparked a hot debate.

"I love the sweet and spicy sriracha sauce, but everybody hates it," senior Macie Griswold said.

"Chick-Fil-A sauce is overrated," freshman science teacher Isabelle Graessle said.

"I like the salad," senior Nancy Kwak said.

With its distance from the school, Chick-Fil-A received a stress rating of 8/10; however, it remains one of the most popular off-campus locations by BCS students.

Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey and gave their opinions for this column. Until next time, stay hungry BCS!

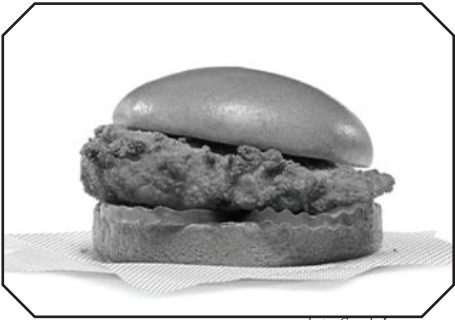


photo: Google Images



CHICK-FIL-A
Overall: 10/10
Stress Rating: 8/10



photo: Google Images

MOD PIZZA
Overall: 8/10
Stress Rating: 10/10
"It's good." - Lucas Kusano, junior



photo: Google Images

POPEYE'S
Overall: 7.5/10
Stress Rating: 5/10

*survey results from BCS Class of 2024

BCL brings festival fun

By Rachael Nguyen, Brian Wu

Brentwood Christian School recently hosted its annual Brentwood City Limits festival, providing attendees with a fun afternoon of music and activities for the whole family.

The event was hosted on March 22 by BCS Director of Development Jennifer Smeltzer, along with the Student Council. Smeltzer noted that despite some anxiety over last-minute details, the event still turned out nicely.

BCL offered many booth events such as the 9-square, face painting, flower crown making, watermelons, and bouncy houses.

"The slide entertained our bear cubs for hours and parents were able to watch them enjoy fellowship with their classmates," said Smeltzer. "Watermelon and popsicles were a huge hit with the students."

"Who knew 9 squares was such a thing? So many kids played in that area the entire

event."

Senior Jael Rubin, who made it a priority to attend, said that she enjoyed a fun evening with friends.

"It was a ton of fun," Rubin said. "With as crazy as school life can get, it's nice to have a time to set aside to hang out with friends."

"Also shout out to John and Micah - [the] music was fire."

Rubin is referring to seniors John Youngdale and Micah Riley, who, along with David Wood, saved the day by forming a last-minute trio.

They managed to pull off an amazing performance despite the little time they had for practice.

"I had a lot of fun," Youngdale said. "I know we didn't sound the best but everyone was smiling at us, so I know it was still fun."

Senior trip travel log

continued from page 5

cally overwhelming than the Louvre. Ancient, beautiful art covered every wall floor to ceiling. It wasn't just the art. The entire building was intricately designed to compliment the pieces. That afternoon we walked around the city and shopped at the endless tables of street vendors (where I bought a new camera lens) while others went to the soccer game between PSG and Reims. That night we went on a river cruise and saw the Eiffel Tower sparkle.

DAY FIVE: Paris, FR to Basel, CH

We got up very early and went to the train station, where I spilled an entire cup of chocolate coffee on myself right before boarding the train. It sped along at 300 kph through southern France into Switzerland. When we arrived, we walked around the quiet town of Basel, and I tried Swiss milk (recommended to me by coach Jake Hale).

DAY SIX: Lucerne, CH

After breakfast, we went to the town of Lucerne, which was by far our most beautiful destination. We spent most of our day walking around the town, shopping and trying new foods. I bought some new film before we met for our boat tour of Lake Lucerne. After the freezing boat trip, we went up a small train to the top of one of the mountains. We wrestled and fought in the snow and had extensive

snowball battles. Then we had dinner at a place on the mountain and watched a comedic alpmhorn concert.

DAY SEVEN: Zurich, CH to Munich, DE

The next day we traveled into Germany, making a quick stop in Liechtenstein. After lunch at Germany's poor re-creation of Buccees, we went to Dachau concentration camp. There we walked around the camp alone, reading all the information about the atrocities that happened there. We then had a time of reflection before heading to an old Bavarian beer hall for dinner.

DAY EIGHT: Munich, DE

We started this day with a bus tour of Munich, where we stopped at a palace to use the restroom. We walked around the city and I had a real German bratwurst. At the end of the day, we stood in the square and watched an old cuckoo clock go off.

DAY NINE: Munich, DE to Austin, TX

We made our way to the airport and said a sad goodbye to our tour guide. Elijah left his passport in the hotel room, but thankfully got it back just in time. Our first flight took us to Charlotte, North Carolina, where we had cheeseburgers and free restrooms for the first time in a week. Then we went on to Austin, seeing a beautiful sunset out of the plane window, and wrapped up our senior trip.

Middle school trips educate, amuse

By Grey Nyby, Gavin Edmondson

Middle school is a formative time for students, and that's true of the middle schoolers at Brentwood Christian School, who have had the opportunity to expand their horizons on various class trips this year.

The sixth grade trip to Space Center Houston was a huge highlight of the year for the first-year middle schoolers. The trip's chaperones consisted of Summer Best, Lindsey Stow, Debra Thornton, and Carrie Hunter.

The central idea of the trip was to help the sixth grade students learn about space and our solar system, as well as learn about the history of flight and space travel. The trip featured a tram tour of NASA's facilities, including a tour through an astronaut training facility and the Saturn V rocket.

The seventh grade participated in a retreat to Reunion Ranch, led by Jonathan Weed. The trip was a fun experience for the entire class

of 2029, with students connecting with classmates and having a fun time in a relaxed environment. The retreat benefitted from the presence of several senior counselors, who volunteered for the event in order to lead team-builders, organize games, and connect with the younger students.

There were plenty of activities at Reunion Ranch, located in Georgetown, that got the competitive juices flowing as well, from horseback riding to swimming. Weed recommends the venue not only for large gatherings of students, but for anyone looking to get away from the hustle and bustle without straying too far from home.

The eldest, eighth grade, visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. The exhibit, open since 2000, was an experience many students won't soon forget.

"It was an incredible experience to learn

about the survivors' past," said eighth grader Kathryn Morgan.

"I thought the place had cool and interesting artifacts," added eighth grader Jake Johnson.

Organized by sponsor Suzy Benton, the students' tour through the museum helped shed light on the experience of Holocaust victims, even as it approaches nearly a century since such evil occurred.

Overall, the middle school's variety of trips and adventures were life changing for the knowledge, fellowship and historical perspective gained. Many high school readers might remember these very trips, while BCS elementary readers now have something to look forward to as they enter the middle school ranks in the years to come.



Throwback BCS seventh graders smile for the camera at their retreat on October 24.

Crossword

By Alex Schehl, Levi Olewin

- Across
1. Memories planted here

6. Baseball with your feet

7. MS daily grammar tips

8. World of books

12. Right side of the CSA

14. Repairs typewriters or your injuries

15. Statue by the AC

17. Biggest sport before Brentwood added football

18. Loves penguins

19. The best teacher

20. Proper name for the walkway between the CSA and FLC

21. All Community Chapel location

24. A bridge lover or a ramen lover's last name

25. Where the baby doll is located

29. Famous on TikTok

31. Takes care of Benzene

32. Always stuck in the rafters

33. She's not word smart she's number smart

34. 7/11 should sponsor him because of all the big gulps he buys
36. Old golf clubhouse

37. Despite the name you, can't lock it
- Down

2. Toy found on the B building roof

3. Rocky theater

4. What the school used to be

5. There are 3 on campus but highschool can't use them

9. Where the golf cart stays

10. Class where everyone meets during lunch

11. Danny Devito's favorite class

13. Elementary sport in a "pit"

16. Always has a pet gerbil

20. Legendary P.E. item in elementary [Red, Blue, Yellow, Green]

22. ♪ Who can make the sun rise? ♪

23. Willy Wonka director

26. Unknown name at lunch

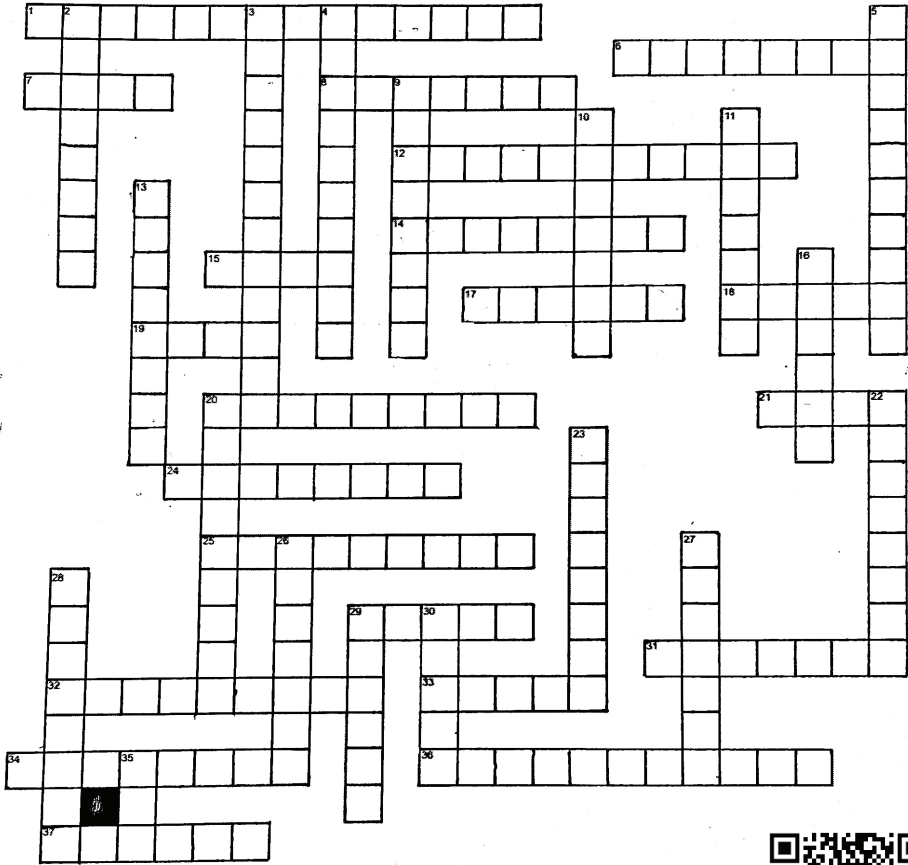
27. A light run for enjoyment

28. Musical hallway

29. Loves monkeys

30. Put your phone in the _____

35. Used to be a carpeted basketball court



Scan here for answer key