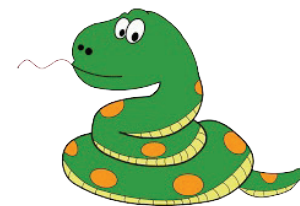


THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 30 NO. 4

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2018



Safety patrol seeks new chief as Taylor to step down

By Molly Stewart

Many people might think that Safety Patrol is simply about having hot chocolate on cold mornings, wearing an orange vest, and getting to tell people to stop running or use the crosswalk, but for 10 years this organization has been developing young leaders and keeping Brentwood's roads a safe place for parents and students alike.

Middle school teacher Kay Taylor has been the director of Safety Patrol for the entirety of its 10-year existence, and at the end of this school year she will be stepping down.

"I have mixed feelings about stepping down, because it is like leaving my baby," said Taylor, who is deeply invested in the process of finding her replacement.

Taylor emphasized that the Lord has always been the true head of Safety Patrol.

"It's our hope that the next director will allow the Lord to continue leading the way," she said.

Taylor said there are two components to the program: leadership training and spiritual growth. Before the patrols go out in the morning, an appointed chaplain reads a devotion,

takes prayer requests, and prays. The patrols then head out to their posts, rain or shine.

"What blows my mind is that the kids don't complain, they just go for it," Taylor said.

Before Safety Patrol began in 2008, Taylor says there were daily reports of students nearly hit by a moving vehicle and of parents being nearly knocked over by running students. Cars had difficulty driving through campus because high school students were randomly crossing the road at any given location without looking to see if cars were coming. Elementary students playing ball in front of a building constantly had to chase it into the campus road.

"With well over 700 students on campus, the challenge in the mornings is getting traffic pushed through the campus so that no one is tardy," Taylor said.

Students on the patrol learn to view the flow of traffic like a river flowing through campus, Taylor said. They manage pedestrian flow at crosswalks and doors before and after school, and they also must announce corrective actions to parents and students who are engaged in potentially hazardous behavior such as running, crossing without using crosswalks, and playing in the parking lots.



photo: Kay Taylor

Cross now In this photo from last spring, Brinton Loftis, now a sixth grader, allows pedestrians to cross. Safety Patrol has been helping keep BCS safe since 2008.

Every year there has been an Austin Police Department officer who works with the program. For years this was Sergeant Jeff Crawford, the father of two BCS daughters. Since 2011, it has been Detective Larry Biegert, the father of two BCS sons.

Parent volunteers are also a big part of the Safety Patrol program. They include Laurie Weston and Michelle Anthony. Their job is to monitor and assist in training student pa-

see **PATROL**, page 3

New teachers lead school Spanish program

By Kaitlyn Baird and Andrew Geevarghese

Two new teachers are heading up the BCS Spanish program this semester, as the school recently hired Robert Carrillo to teach Spanish I and II, and Shelby Strong to cover elementary and middle school Spanish, as well as Spanish III.

Spanish teacher Rachel Montesdeoca, who was a part of the Brentwood community for more than four years, said farewell to BCS on Jan. 25 and moved to Abilene with her family. Her husband Vini, who began the school year teaching high school Spanish at Brentwood, is the new bilingual minister at University Church of Christ in Abilene.

Rachel Montesdeoca taught elementary Spanish and middle school Spanish. She also taught Spanish I for two years and Spanish III for three years. Montesdeoca said the community at BCS has become a family to her.

"I would say that what I will miss the most

are my students," Montesdeoca said. "I have loved watching them grow in their love of the Spanish culture and language."

Taking Montesdeoca's place is new teach-

er Shelby Strong. Strong graduated from St. Edward's University and double majored in

see **SPANISH**, page 8



photo: Jenna Timmerman

Maestros nuevos Recently hired teachers Shelby Strong and Robert Carrillo have filled the Spanish teaching positions formerly held by Mr. and Mrs. Montesdeoca.

Playoffs beginning for varsity teams

Brentwood's four varsity soccer and basketball teams were a combined 33-6 in district play this season, all headed for playoffs next week. The basketball teams are wrapping up district tournaments, while soccer teams open playoffs in the next few days. See stories, pages 6-7.

Middle school performs one act plays tonight

Middle school drama students present *A Night of One Acts* this weekend, on Feb. 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. in the school theater. Plays include "Frankenstein vs. the Horrendous Goo," "Apostrophe's," "Snow White and the Seven Dudes," and "Rap-Punzel."

Thus Spoke Ben Helyer

To cheat or not to cheat? It really does matter

A few weeks ago, my English class wrote about a time when we went against our principles. After five or six minutes of vigorous writing, we shared our situations with the class. The hand of a high-achieving student went up. “I don’t frequently do this, but something we can all relate to is glancing over to someone else’s paper to see their answer,” he said. “It’s really minor in the long run, though. I just wanted to point it out.”

Chuckling from myself and others followed the light tone of the statement. In an attempt to make a larger point, I raised my hand for a reply.

“Sometimes, I think we understate the importance of this,” I commented. “I think we can all agree that cheating is a serious issue, and even ‘minor’ cases of cheating are major moral issues.”

Apparently, I was wrong in saying “we can all agree” in my statement, because in the backlash that followed, it became clear that the majority of the class did not share my strong feelings on the moral boundaries against cheating.

“Sometimes you have to cheat to succeed,” one said.

“Cheating for grades really doesn’t undermine your understanding,” another contended.

The list of objections to my comment went on. The comments in our discussion were apparently so impactful that the issue was brought up again in another class. After a few periods of spontaneous discussion, I think I can say that everyone agreed cheating was immoral,

but it seemed apparent to me that I should clarify what I see as the strong boundaries regarding cheating.

To be clear, I’m not trying to claim moral superiority over anyone on this issue. I simply think that it’s good for us to remind ourselves why we don’t do certain things, and cheating is one which we can all consider as we move forward through this semester. Below are some common reasons given for cheating, and my response to these objections.

“Cheating on minor assignments doesn’t really matter.”

I’ll grant this: cheating on the small things is unlikely to directly demolish your understanding, annihilate your relationships, or ruin your future career goals. These things are minor blips in a life which will be filled with 80 or so years of other adventures. With that said, the same goes for tests, for research papers, for job interviews, for sales pitches and corporate talks, and for conversations with family and friends. If cheating on the minor daily activities doesn’t matter because of their unimportance in the long run, then why does honesty in each of these areas matter?

Perhaps it’s a cliché, but I’m going to say this anyway because I think it’s true: how you live every day is how you live your life. If you cheat every day, or even just some days, on the small assignments, you aren’t living your life with honesty. While individual incidents of dishonesty may be of little consequence, it is the mindset which can ruin your eventual knowl-

edge, be the cause of fractured families, and force a future boss to fire you.

“To succeed, you sometimes have to cheat.”

First, this is simply not true. It is difficult, if not impossible, to be a successful brain surgeon and have cheated your way through medical school, at least if you measure success by the number of patients who survive your operations. In the same way, faked credentials alone will provide little success for a variety of professional fields, such as engineering or science. Thus, in the long run, cheating your way through a program is unlikely to lead to success.

Let’s acknowledge, however, that for some fields, cheating to get your credentials may be less of an intrinsic detriment. In this case, the issue at hand is how one defines “success.” If you define success as having the most money or prestige, then cheating might help you achieve these ends. Most of us, however, think of success more broadly, usually incorporating some idea of satisfaction, enjoyment, or even honor.

To this end, cheating will likely detriment your perceived success. Cheating rarely leaves you satisfied, is likely unenjoyable, and has been shown to undermine happiness in the long term. (see study cited in Forbes by Amy Morin: Study Says Cheating May Help You Get Ahead, But You’ll Lose More In The End) With this in mind, it seems fairly clear that true success is rarely earned through cheating.

“I don’t have time to do all my assignments and and study for tests without cheating.”

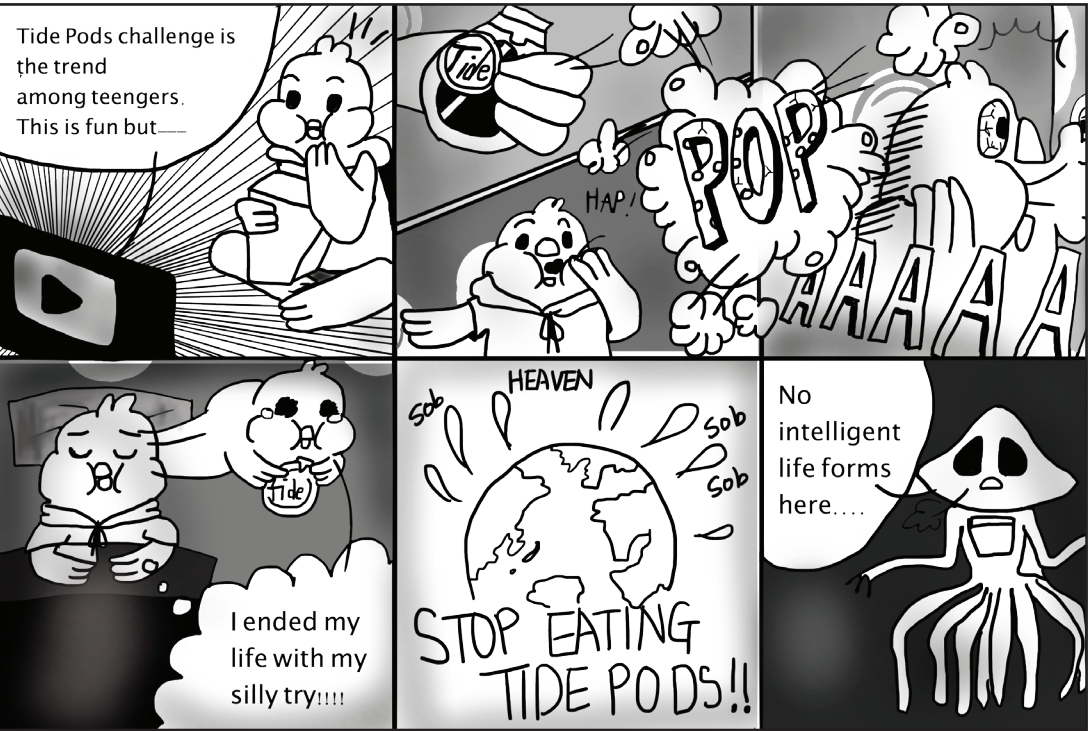
I can sympathize with this one. Many of you balance some combination of band, choir, theater, athletics, and other great activities. Looking into the upcoming TCSIT and TAPPS season, I am genuinely surprised at how we keep functioning as an academic institution with the truckload of competition activities going on. The sheer number of commitments one has can make it a tempting option to drop the ball on schoolwork and fake it instead.

However, instead of jumping to dishonest actions, take a look at your honest options. First, working harder is of course a great option, and many people should consider it more seriously. At the same time, you might not need to work “harder” if you structured your activities correctly. Try spending five minutes each day making a schedule. Turn off your phone while doing schoolwork. Find out how you learn best, so you can study more effectively and use less time.

If you implement just one of these, you could find yourself with an hour more than usual at the end of each day. With this hour, you can pursue a hobby, strengthen relationships with your friends, or just relax and enjoy living. However you decide to spend it, you’ll be able to know one thing: you’ve earned whatever you have with integrity.

With that in mind, let me leave you with the following verse:

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.” –Proverbs 10:9



THE DEAR EDNA COLUMN

by the lovely Ms. Edna

READER: Why do cats always land on their feet when they fall?

EDNA: Well, why would they land on their heads?

READER: Why can’t I breathe underwater?

EDNA: You can ... until the water fills your lungs.

READER: Would you kiss a ghost?

EDNA: Only if they’re boo-tiful.

READER: Why does everyone look different?

EDNA: We all have different pairs of eyes.

READER: When is it a good time to buy a cat?

EDNA: The purrrfect time to buy a cat is when you are 28. I’m just kitten ... whenever you think you are responsible.

With ‘mullet,’ Fluitt beats 24 others, wins Spelling Bee



photo: Anna Skupin

Well said Sixth-grader Renne Cooper, who was given the Best Pronunciation award, was one of 25 contestants in the school spelling bee. Seventh-grader Mia Fluitt took first place, outlasting fourth-grader Michael Kolagani and eighth-grader Emma Ayers.

By Michael Milicia

There were three contestants left. Fourth-grader Michael Kolagani missed his word, and eighth-grader Emma Ayers missed hers, but seventh-grader Mia Fluitt got hers right, meaning she would have to spell one more word correctly to be the champion.

A hush fell over the auditorium, and all eyes were on Fluitt. She spelled the word “mullet,” and as bee pronouncer Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth said “correct,” the crowd burst with excitement, celebrating her win in the BCS Spelling Bee on Jan. 11.

Afterward, Fluitt said her confidence grew as people were eliminated from the bee.

“I thought (winning) was possible, especially after the kid got out,” Fluitt said, referring to Kolagani, who was last year’s champion.

Fluitt said she was unsure about a few of the words she spelled during the competition, adding that she only studied the words given to the contestants for practice.

Held in the church auditorium, the annual

bee lasted 10 rounds and consisted of 25 contestants from grades one through eight. There were two contestants from every grade through fifth; then there were four from sixth, five from seventh, and six from eighth.

Everyone passed the first round, and only one was eliminated in round two. Slowly the field diminished until rounds six and seven, when nine people were eliminated. With three students left in round nine, Fluitt spelled “radical” correctly before spelling her winning word in round 10. Kolagani and Ayers tied for second.

Four awards were given to the contestants at the end of the bee. Eighth-grader Zoe Roetter received the Best Sportsmanship award, third-grader Bryce O’Sullivan got the Poise award, third-grader Tucker Smith received the Spirit award, and sixth-grader Renne Cooper achieved the Best Pronunciation award.

Fluitt took an online test this week to determine if she advances to the final Austin Spelling Bee on Mar. 25. The winner of that bee will move on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, D.C., in May.

Patrol

continued from page 1

trols and supervisors. They also respond to alerts called out by Safety Patrol members and communicate with other adults using the walkie-talkies.

Adults also intervene when drivers are observed using cell phones or driving in an unsafe manner on campus. The director, adult guards, and patrols control and maintain traffic cones, Patrol Pete, stop signs, and flags, and they determine their placement to enhance safety and traffic flow.

“The adult guards are the eyes and ears for any suspicious vehicles or pedestrians on campus during arrival and dismissal times,” Taylor said.

Many current high school students who have served on the patrol can look back with fondness on their time spent serving the school.

“Safety Patrol taught me not to be afraid to use my voice in situations, and it also taught me how to be responsible,” senior Preston Glenn said.

But if the program is to continue to have such a positive effect on young lives and campus safety, there will need to be a person who is willing to step in and fill the post next year.

“Because I am stepping down, we need a staff member to step up,” Taylor said. “I am praying that someone feels called to lead this program.”

Whitaker wins National Geographic Bee

By Jackson Baird

Eighth-grader Tessa Whitaker won Brentwood Christian’s annual National Geographic Bee on Jan. 17 in the CSA theater, defeating eighth-grader Conner Rohlack in the championship round.

“I’m happy that I won, and I’m super excited for state,” Whitaker said.

Whitaker took an online test to see if she qualifies for the state bee on April 6. Bee officials will contact BCS in the coming weeks to reveal whether Whitaker will advance.

After both students missed the first question in the championship round, they both answered the second question correctly. For the third and final question they were asked to name the Japanese island with which the Seikan Tunnel connects the island of Hokkaido. With the correct answer of “Honshu,” Whitaker was declared the winner after Rohlack could not come up with an answer.

“I was surprised I won but I am happy that I did,” Whitaker said.

In contrast to last year’s bee, this one lasted only four rounds and was not interrupted by a yellow jacket in the audience. Carrie Hunter, the bee coordinator and scorekeeper, opened the event by referencing Job chapter 12, which explains how God is in control over every creature and is the breath of all mankind. Then Jonathan Weed, the moderator, came onstage and began asking the questions.

The first round consisted of questions about the U.S. states, and only two of the eight students answered correctly.

In the second round, each contestant was given the same question and had to write their

answer on paper. Six of the eight students got it right, while the two who missed it were eliminated. In the third round, two more students

see **GEOGRAPHY**, page 4

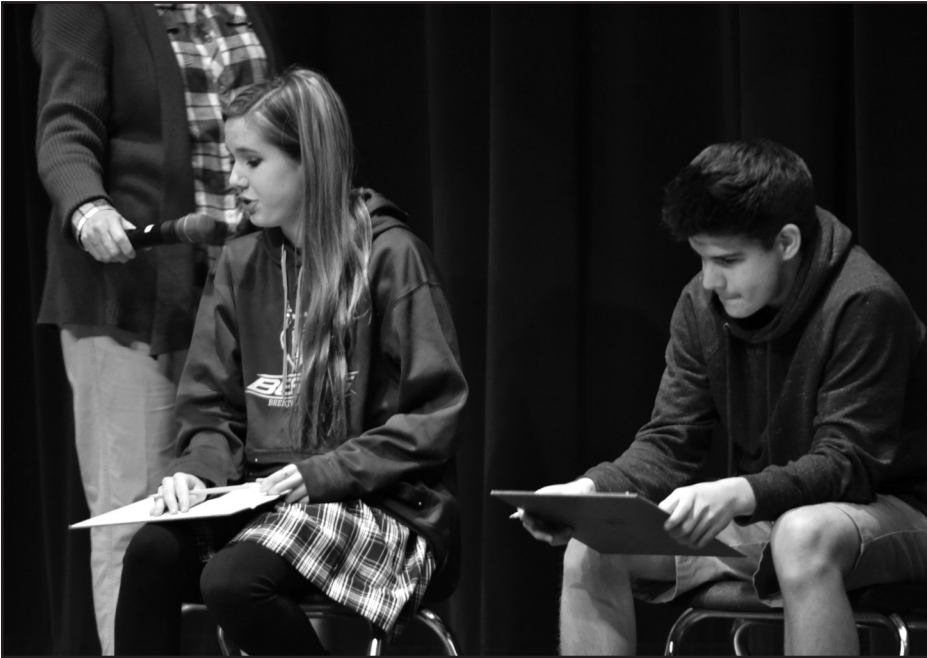


photo: McKenzie Gatlin

‘Honshu’ By correctly naming a Japanese island, eighth-grader Tessa Whitaker defeated classmate Conner Rohlack on the third question of the championship round.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: JD Bailey

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2018.

‘Prophet’ Bailey pours passion into serving God, others

By Alex Pittner

A circle containing the entire senior class sits quietly as grade-level chapel begins. All of their eyes collectively migrate toward the man who has lovingly been nicknamed the class “prophet.” He stands and confidently walks to the center of the circle with a black Bible in his hands.

“Today we’re going to talk about the Armor of God,” he says, marking the beginning of chapel.

JD Bailey is known around campus for many things. Whether he is excelling in athletics, ministering as senior class spiritual director, participating in Spiritual Life Committee, or just generally being a fun and funny guy, JD always exudes kindness and a Christ-like attitude that inspire all those around him.

When JD enrolled at Brentwood Christian to begin his junior year, it was not his first experience with the school. He was already somewhat familiar with Brentwood because one of his previous soccer teams had practiced on the Brentwood athletic fields. After attending Anderson High School for two years, JD says he’s happy he made the switch.

“I feel that Brentwood is a better place for me,” says JD. “It’s better academically and spiritually.”

Many of his classmates have experienced encouragement from JD as he constantly strives to reflect the love of Christ. But it’s not just his character that others admire. JD is known for his “luscious hair” and “classically handsome good looks.” He has been called “the sunshine to a rainy day” by several classmates. He is always willing to lend a helping hand, give spiritual guidance, or just simply be a friend to anyone.

“He has helped me a lot through difficult times,” friend Alex Sass says. “This summer I really struggled with myself, and he was always there supporting and talking through things with me.”

The word “humility” has been used many times to describe JD.

“He is the most amazing person I know; he always tries to put others ahead of himself,” says girlfriend Carolanne Perimon.

JD is admired by all of his classmates for his very outspoken faith that he lives out. For example, he has continually made and brought breakfast daily for students who can’t or don’t eat at home. He has been described as loving, joyful, kind, and many other “fruit of the Spirit.”

“He’s a Godly man, possibly the most God-

ly man I’ve ever known,” classmate Shaun Amann says. “He’s a strong Christian and a great friend.”

As class spiritual director, JD has become a minister and faith leader for his class. Often when people are put in a place of leadership they crumble under pressure, but JD has not.

“During his election people were so serious when they spoke up for him,” teacher Jimmie Harper says. “He has loyal friends that saw something in him. That speaks to his character because it shows he is living his life in a way that makes his friends positive that he could be a spiritual leader.”

The lifestyle of servanthood reveals itself in JD’s will to help those who are in need.

JD has been consistently volunteering and going on mission trips since he was 11 years old. He has gone on

at least one mission trip annually for several years and recently volunteered to help out with the restoration of Port Arthur after it was heavily damaged by Hurricane Harvey last August.

“I like helping people. I want people to know that I’m always here if they need me,” JD says, before crediting others who stand beside him as he serves and plans activities.

As an outside linebacker on the Bears’ football team, JD stands out for his speed and agility. But even while he was delivering big hits on the field, he always helped other players to their feet, whether teammates or

opponents.

“I saw him work through Christ in the way he talked and acted with younger classmen,” teammate Hunter Burcham said. “He leads them with the strong Christian faith and tells them to persevere through all because God is by their side.”

JD is also well known for his humor. Carolanne says that “all times with JD are fun and funny,” and many agree.

“He can turn any situation from serious to humorous in a flash,” Alex says. “He’s an amazing guy. Anyone would be lucky to be his friend.”

Behind JD is a loving family of five. He has a six-year-old baby sister in the first grade and another sister named Christlyn who arrived at Brentwood at the beginning of the current semester. His father is a pastor at Austin Christian Fellowship, and his mother is a dermatologist.

JD says he plans on attending ACC for two years and then transferring to Dallas Baptist University for their Bible program. Afterwards, if he feels God is calling him to it, he will attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

JD has an intense passion for Christ and spreading His message. He says he feels compelled by God to continue spreading the Good News through becoming a pastor.

“It’s really the only thing I’m passionate about,” JD says. “Before I felt called, I didn’t really feel passionate about anything. I feel like it is the only thing I would like doing with my life.”



Geography bee

continued from page 3

were eliminated, leaving Whitaker and Rholack along with eighth-graders Ben Copeland and Will Hughes.

After correctly answering a question about rainforests, Whitaker and Rholack advanced to the final while Copeland and Hughes were eliminated.

This year’s contest included fourth-grader Rylee Johnson, the youngest final-round qualifier since BCS has held a combined bee for grades four through eight.

Other contestants of the bee were sixth-grader Joy Wilson, seventh-grader Aden Mann, and eighth-grader Jesse Brothers.

‘Amazing’ Clark in fourth decade at BCS

By Natalie Barry

She’s the warm and welcoming voice you hear on the call button at the door, the smiling face you see when you enter the elementary office, and the longest serving Brentwood employee.

Mary Kay Clark began working at Brentwood Christian as the receptionist in 1984. The mother of a junior high student, she was asked to aide by answering the phone and running errands for the office. Throughout the 34 years she has been working at BCS, she has completed many jobs like removing splinters and teeth, being the unofficial nurse, giving tours for future students, handling admissions, buying a dishwasher for former elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed, and answering the phone and intercom.

Weed, who retired nearly four years ago, says she learned she could count on Clark for anything.

“She was right there with whatever assistance was needed. I will never forget when she went to bid on a dishwasher at a live auction for the school cafeteria when I couldn’t because of an important appointment,” Weed says. “We sometimes joked that in heaven we’d like to have a little corner with a desk and some tasks we could work on together.”

Clark and Weed forged a very strong bond throughout the 30 years they worked together. Weed still visits Clark every Friday where they share food from Wendy’s and catch up on family, activities, and sports. Clark says that some of her favorite memories at Brentwood were laughing with Weed.

“I enjoyed working with Mrs. Weed because of her ability to make everyone laugh. She is so hilarious,” Clark says.

Clark planned to retire along with Weed, but she ended up staying, and she is very happy with that decision.

“Although I do miss being with Mrs. Weed, I got the chance to meet (elementary principal) Mara Ashley and (administrative assistant)



photo: Jenna Timmerman

Versatile Since 1984, Mary Kay Clark has been a friendly face in the elementary office. As she has witnessed the school’s growth, she has carried out many tasks.

Cynthia Marks,” Clark says.

Both Ashley and Marks have expressed their fondness for Clark as well.

“I love her – she is so amazing,” Marks says. “She is my sister in Christ. I feel so blessed to have a colleague like Mrs. Clark. The amazing thing is that she doesn’t know how amazing she is.”

Clark grew up in Terrell, a town just east of Dallas. She graduated from Terrell High School and then graduated from business school. She then married and started her family. Now she has three grown children and five grandchildren, with whom she spends as much time as she can.

Clark says she has enjoyed many moments over the years, including being able to mentor students. She was assigned to lead a mentor group of seventh-grade boys in 2001 with

whom she surprisingly had a lot in common. She enjoyed being able to watch them mature and graduate. In fact, several of them would stop by and visit with her even after they graduated in 2007.

“I have seen Brentwood grow from a school that only went through the eighth grade to the great school it is today,” Clark says.

She remembers a time where there was no Athletic Center, CSA, Building B, or even Building C. She explained that not only has the school grown, but the curriculum has as well. And all the while, the students and their families are not the only ones who have benefited.

“This school has blessed me in many ways,” Clark says. “Over the 34 years, I have gotten to know many students, parents, faculty, and staff, and have made many lifelong friends.”

THE BEAR FACTS

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

One-act earns big awards in Abilene, falls short of first

By Kaitlyn Baird

After competing in the TCSIT one-act play competition on Jan. 13 in Abilene, high school students performed the one-act play “Trifles” on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. in the CSA.

Theater director Michelle Alexander said there was a “really good turnout” at the performance on Jan. 23.

Out of eight schools, Brentwood and three

other schools earned a “one” in the TCSIT competition, which is the highest possible score. Five out of six “Trifles” cast members won individual awards: sophomore Adrie Gruis was awarded Best Actress, and senior Lauren Weilemann and sophomore Isaac Copeland were named All-Star Cast. Junior Corrie Hager and sophomore Luke Jackson received honorable mention.

Alexander left for Abilene Christian University with six cast members and four crew

members on the morning of Jan. 12. Because more schools competed this year, four schools had to perform on Friday, while the remaining four performed on Saturday. After rehearsing at 12:30 p.m. on the second day, Brentwood was the last school to perform, taking the stage at 6 p.m.

“It was nice to see all our competition beforehand,” Weilemann said. “It kind of calmed my nerves.”

In past years, the first-place winner was announced at the TCSIT competition in April. However, this year the grand champion was announced earlier. Alexander received the news on Jan. 17 that Dallas Christian won first place. She said Brentwood did not receive any negative feedback from the judge, and there were very few notes from her.

“I think we did awesome,” Alexander said. “We should’ve won.”

Boys outscore district foes 86-7, open playoffs next week

By Blake Benton

With playoffs set to begin on Tuesday in Dallas, the boys' soccer team has finished the regular season second in district with a 10-2 record, including an eight-game winning streak after losing their opening game on Dec. 11.

The Bears have outscored their opponents 86-7, shutting out 10 teams on the season.

"Ultimately, it's the adversity and battles in sports and life that define us and can give us the strength and confidence to endure," head coach Jesse Jordan said about the Bears' two losses.

As Brentwood has cruised through their district with few teams who can compete with them, they know that the playoffs will be a different story.

"We've got to be more organized to succeed in the playoffs," sophomore Zach Myers said.

Coach Jordan said the team is doing great defensively as well as keeping up the intensity throughout the game. He does see room for improvement against more competitive teams.

"We mainly need to improve on our attacking and finishing against the tougher opponents in state," Jordan said.

Myers leads the Bears with 26 goals and also has 9 assists. Other team leaders include junior Riley Walker (11 goals/12 assists), senior Preston Glenn (10 goals/10 assists), and sophomore Jackson Baird (7 goals/5 assists).

Goalkeeper Patrick Hanrahan, a senior, has

56 saves.

Following are recaps of recent games:

1/4: Hill Country 2-0 W

After a scoreless first half, the Bears scored goals by Guerrero and junior Adrian Battle in the first 10 minutes of the second half.

1/6: @Regents 2-0 W

Brentwood shut out the long-time rival Knights on the road. BCS scored twice in the first half, with goals by Myers and Baird.

1/8: @Waco Vanguard 15-0 W

BCS scored five quick first-half goals and then a season-record 10 goals in the second half. Leading the Bears in scoring were Myers and Walker, who had three goals each.

1/11: @Temple Holy Trinity 11-0 W

Brentwood scored six goals in the first half and five in the second. Glenn had three goals; Myers and Walker each had two.

1/15: San Juan Diego 7-0 W

Up only 1-0 at half, the Bears struck for three goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half. Myers led the team with four goals.

1/18: @Veritas 2-1 W

The game was 0-0 at halftime, but senior Luke Tilley scored five minutes into the second half. Veritas equalized, but Brentwood responded with 17 minutes left on a breakaway goal by Myers to seal the victory and avenge their season-opening loss.

1/22: Waco Reicher Catholic 8-0 W

The Bears dominated the undefeated Guard-



photo: submitted

Control Senior David Reich shields a Waco Reicher player from the ball as he looks to make a play in the Bears' 8-0 victory on Jan. 22. Brentwood finished second in district.

ians in a 8-0 shutout on senior night. Myers led the Bears with four goals, and freshman Andrew Geevarghese scored three.

1/25: @Hill Country 2-0 L

The Bears were shut out on the road in a tough loss after they shut out Hill Country by the same score earlier in the season.

1/27: Waco Vanguard 12-0 W

BCS took another easy win against the Vikings at home. Nine different Bears scored.

1/29: Temple Holy Trinity W 16-0

Brentwood finished with a season high in goals after taking 57 shots. Myers scored four; Walker had three.

2/3: @Waco Reicher W 4-0

Goals by Myers and Glenn gave BCS a 2-0 lead at the half. Myers scored two more.

2/5: San Juan Diego W 2-0

In a closer game this time, Myers had one goal in each half.



photo: Mere Rowlett

Rebound Sophomore Daniel Hickl (left) and senior Connor White vie for the ball in an easy win over Concordia on Jan. 5.

Bears enter tourney as undefeated top seed

By Ethan Rutt

The varsity boys' basketball team is first in district with an 8-0 record going into this week's district tournament, which they opened with a 73-24 win Tuesday over Concordia.

Victory over Boerne Geneva in a close game on Feb. 2 concluded the regular season. If they win it all this weekend, Brentwood will earn a first-round bye in the playoffs.

The leading scorer for the Bears is senior Aedan Acheson with 14 points per game. Other key scorers are junior Connor Troutman with 10 points per game, and junior Nathan Ging with 9 points per game.

Head coach Brandon Greene said the boys have put themselves in the position he thought they could be in when the season started. He knew the team had plenty of scorers, and now he's pleased to see the defense is also performing well.

"The big thing for us is not turning the ball over," Greene said. "We've got to put up shots."

A lot of practice and analysis goes in before, during, and after each game. Greene said he watches a lot of film and runs through scouting

practices the day before each game. He watches for player tendencies, reoccurring plays, and defensive schemes.

Greene said the team likes each other, and that is one of the keys to their great teamwork on the court. Six different people have led scoring at different points, and they share the ball well.

Following are the team's recent results:

1/9: @Faith Academy 63-44 W

The Bears used a fast start to get an early lead and never looked back. Junior Micah Best scored 11 of his 13 points in the first quarter, and the Bears led 17-6. Ging took over the second half, scoring 15 of his 24 points. Acheson also had 13 points.

1/12: Giddings State 65-48 W

Trailing 21-18 at the end of the first quarter, BCS had a better defensive second quarter and pulled away to lead for the rest of the game. Best scored 14 of his 16 points in the first half, and Acheson picked up the scoring in the second half with 11 of his 16. Troutman added 14 points, hitting four 3-pointers.

1/18: Texas School for the Deaf 64-50 W

After a bad first quarter that saw the Bears down 8-7 after a Ging buzzer-beater from 35

feet, the Bears rallied for a 22-point second quarter. The Bears were led by Ging, Acheson, and Hickl, who scored 16 points each.

1/23: @San Marcos Academy 60-45 W

The BCS Bears beat San Marcos Academy after being ahead for the whole game. Troutman paced the Bears with 24 points on eight 3-pointers, tying the BCS boys record for most threes in a game. Acheson also scored 10 points.

1/27: @John Paul II 52-49 W

In a battle of the top two teams in the district, BCS clutched a big road win. Acheson was the top scorer with 20 points, and Hickl was next with 11 points. Ging, who also scored 11 points, hit a game-winning 3-pointer.

1/30: @San Juan Diego 59-15 W

The Bears won their seventh game in a row. Freshman John Murphree led all scorers with 8 points on a night when all active players scored. This win secured the top seed in the district tournament.

2/2: Geneva 51-40 W

Down at halftime 23-21, the Bears clamped down defensively to allow only 17 points in the second half. Ging led with 13 points, as BCS wrapped up an undefeated district season.

Soccer girls beat Veritas, head to playoffs second in district

By Austin Biegert

The BCS girls' soccer team finished second in district with a 9-3 record and is set to host a playoff game in the coming days.

The greatest emotional victory for the team was an early win against Veritas, who has won the last three state titles. The game finished 1-0, much to the team's relief and elation.

"After that game I think all the seniors had a moment where we felt like we were on top of the world," senior goalie Alexandria Sass said.

Coach Cash Miller credited the team's veterans with keeping the team on the right track.

"Mostly the upperclassmen keep the team motivated because they have been there and know these are their last opportunities to leave their mark on the program," he said.

In addition to the already intense games and practices this year, the team has had to endure an uncharacteristically cold winter.

"Most sane people don't want to get out in that weather, but the girls have done a great job at staying positive and focused during an unusually cold winter," Miller said.

Sophomore Kelli Tindel leads the team with 20 goals, followed by junior Madison Moseley with 11. Senior Bekah Connor has 9 goals and

8 assists, and senior Avery Miller has 6 goals and 6 assists.

Following are the team's district results:

1/4: @John Paul II 9-0 W

The Lady Bears jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first 10 minutes and never looked back. Four different players scored multiple goals.

1/6: @Regents 6-2 W

Brentwood led 1-0 at half but opened up a second-half scoring barrage. Tindel led with two goals.

1/9: Boerne Geneva 5-4 W

Tied 2-2 at halftime, the Bears scored three straight before Geneva scored two more. Moseley scored three goals, and senior Katie Griffith had her first career goal.

1/11: Veritas 1-0 W

Tindel scored the only goal of the contest early in the first half. The Lady Bears used superior ball movement and control to frustrate the three-time defending state champs. It was the first time the Bears have beaten Veritas.

1/15: San Juan Diego 6-1 W

Tindel scored three goals to lead BCS, who took their time working the ball around a team that kept 10 defenders back in the penalty box.

1/19: @Kerrville OLH 4-2 L

OLH took an early lead before a penalty

kick by senior Avery Miller evened it up. But BCS went down 3-1 at halftime and could not mount a comeback.

1/22: John Paul II 7-0 W

The Bears again used ball movement and possession to find the net against a team focused on defense. Connor and Tindel each had three goals.

1/25: @Boerne Geneva 8-2 W

Falling behind 1-0 early, Brentwood answered almost immediately with a goal of their own. Coach Miller called this the team's most impressive game to date.

"It was as close to a perfect game as I have seen in my 15 years of coaching," Miller said.

1/29: @Veritas 4-2 L

The Lady Bears failed to score in the first half for the first time all season and were behind 2-0. With halftime adjustments, Brentwood tied the score. But a corner kick conversion and a late fluke goal ended the scoring. With many players recovering from the flu, the girls showed class in a hostile environment.

2/5: Kerrville OLH 2-0 L

After taking two victories over San Marcos by forfeit, the girls got one more shot at the undefeated district leaders but were unable to punch in a goal.



photo: Cash Miller

GOOOOAAAL!! Sophomore Kelli Tindel scores the Bears' only goal in a historic 1-0 victory over Veritas on Jan. 11.

Lady Bears second in district, ready to start playoffs

By Sky Barker

The Lady Bears finished the regular season second in district with a record of 6-1 (21-10 overall). They opened the district tournament on Tuesday with a 53-13 win over San Juan Diego and will finish the tourney this weekend. Playoffs begin on Feb. 20.

Head coach Devan Loftis said he has no huge concerns for playoffs as he hopes to finish out strong and is glad to have everyone back from sickness.

"We are finally healthy from the flu epidemic," Loftis said. "We need to continue to practice hard to build consistency. Our depth should be a key asset down the stretch."

Freshman guard Abi Walker pointed out another team strength.

"We are all super close and always have the best time together," she said. "What has stood out to me is how everyone on the team always wants what's best for everyone."

Junior Jaclyn Wishard leads the team in scoring with 8 points per game; junior Nyna Vazquez, Walker, and senior Hannah Lewis are close behind.

Following are the team's recent results:

12/28-29: Kerrville Tournament LWWW

BCS opened with a 41-30 loss to Blanco, as Walker led the way with 13 points. Walker

again led all scorers with 24 in the next game, a 54-10 victory over Our Lady of the Hills. The next two games were just as easy: a 64-19 win over Seguin Lifegate and a 59-7 win over Living Rock. Walker was selected to the all-

tournament team.

1/5: Concordia 69-18 W

BCS used balanced scoring as Wishard scored 12 points with 4 blocks; senior Emma Leidlein scored 10, and Vazquez had 6 assists.



photo: Mere Rowlett

Fast break Junior Samantha Fowler heads for the basket as junior Jane Hughes is ready to help in the Lady Bears' 61-18 victory over Concordia on Jan. 5.

1/9: @Marble Falls Faith 37-23 L

While the Lady Bears' defense fought a hard game, the offense struggled against an equally tough defense. Loftis called it a hard fought game and said he looked forward to playing them again in the tournament.

1/11: St. Stephens 57-24 W

After a slow first half, the score was 22-12. Then Walker picked up the pace with 14 of her 16 points. Wishard added 14 points, and Vazquez had 11.

1/16: @John Paul III 27-25 W

The start of the game was slow but physical. The Lady Bears were down 20-14 at the half, but sophomore Addie McDaniel scored 5 points in the fourth, and senior Grace made a 3-point play with 10 seconds left.

1/18: TSD 37-34 W

Against a tough opponent, Wishard scored 14 points, and sophomore Kelli Tindel had 10. The Bears played solid zone defense and benefited from timely 3-pointers by Vazquez, Tindel, Walker, and Leidlein.

1/23: @San Marcos Academy 65-4 W

Though several players were out with the flu, BCS led 28-0 after the first quarter. Grace McDaniel scored 19 points, and Wishard had 16.

2/2: Boerne Geneva 48-31 W

On senior night, the Bears were up 17-4 early. Walker and Lewis each had 10 points.

Animal show features porcupine, roaches

By Emily Walker

The kids from K4 through first grade could barely contain themselves as they walked to the chapel, exploding with excitement. Brentwood Christian’s annual zoo show on Jan. 22 featured six different species of animals this year, led by adored “Zoo Man” Michael Hicks. Hicks, who has been bringing animals to BCS for nearly two decades, did separate shows for three age groups, from the youngest Brentwood students through the fifth grade.

The first guest, Annabelle, was feathery and shy, and even after several nudges the parrot would not talk. This did not dampen the mood, and the kids were excited to see the next crawly creature.

From the crate emerged a reptile couple named Dinosaur and Mrs. Dinosaur; Hicks explained the name was appropriate because lizards have Jurassic ancestors.

Next he showed a raccoon-like creature called a coati, who had a love for McDonald’s french fries. After he was put away, the zoo man pulled out a small box.

“I’ll give you a hint what’s in here: the biggest one is six inches,” Hicks said, before revealing two gigantic cockroaches.

Squeals and sounds of disgust quickly filled the room, but brave children stomachached the infamous insect and petted it.

Afterwards, Hicks showed off a less cuddly but more likeable animal: Quilly, an African porcupine, which was instantly an obvious fan favorite.

For the finale, Hicks displayed a jaw-drop-

pungly long snake named Goldie. Hicks assured everyone the five-year-old was not poisonous, but rather friendly and kind. As the zoo man put up the beloved reptile, various “awws” left from the mouths of the elementary students.

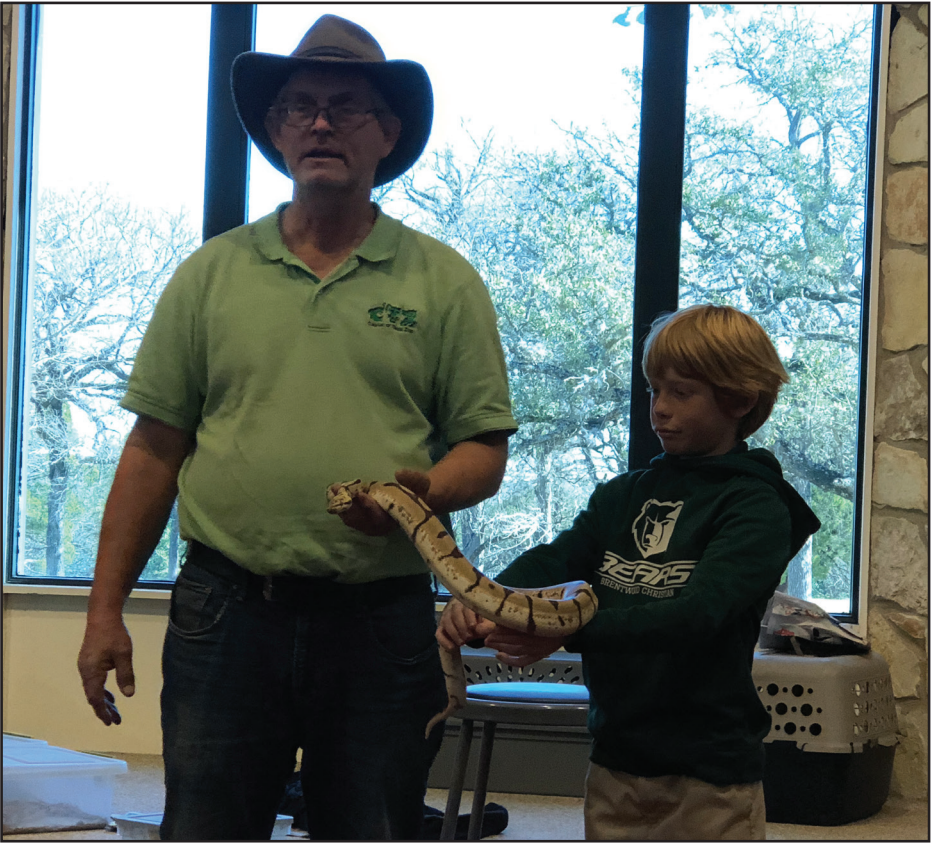


photo: Summer Best

Yikes! Fourth-grader Hunter Wright was selected to come on stage and hold Goldie the snake when Michael Hicks made his annual visit to BCS on Jan. 22.

Spanish

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Spanish and English writing. Before joining BCS, she taught at a Spanish immersion school called Olas, and she was also a graduate assistant at Texas State.

Strong said she is looking forward to “seeing how much the kids learn.”

“As a non-native speaker, my favorite part is to help kids go through the same process I went through in learning the language,” Strong said.

Beginning a few weeks before Strong, Carrillo replaced long-term substitute Elizabeth Stoneburner as the new Spanish I and II teacher. Carrillo has taught Spanish in Del Valle, Hays, and several other schools. His previous job was at Amazon.

Before he became a teacher, Carrillo worked in manufacturing. He has worked as a machine operator and also as a quality control inspector in assembly lines.

Carrillo was born and raised in New Braunfels and moved to San Marcos when he attended college at Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State).

Carrillo has three sons. The eldest works for Apple, the next works in marketing, and the youngest is a junior at Texas State.

“God willing, I plan on being here at Brentwood Christian School for a long time,” he said. “I enjoy teaching Spanish and helping students be successful.”

In his free time, Carrillo enjoys carpentry, landscaping, and fixing cars, as well as watching programs on the Discovery Channel, specifically about astronomy.

Seventh graders visit Capitol, tour Supreme Court



photo: Randy Tillotson

Cold day BCS seventh graders clown around in front of the Capitol on Jan. 18.

By Seth Ziegler

What better way to learn history than to see it in person? That’s exactly what the seventh-grade class did on Jan. 18 at the Texas State Capitol, including tours through the Visitors Center and Supreme Court.

The students left the school by bus at 8:15 a.m. Before going into the Capitol, students toured the Capitol Visitors Center. At the southeast corner of the Capitol grounds, this old building has information and hands-on activities for students to learn about the Capitol’s history and the history of Texas settlers.

Students watched a video about the Capitol, its history, and remodeling. Through a telescope, they got to look at the Goddess of Liberty that made the Texas Capitol a bit taller than the U.S. Capitol.

After this, students who brought money

looked in the gift shop for some souvenirs. Next they got together to take a class photo in front of the Capitol. Soon they were met by their tour guides who brought them through the Capitol. They proceeded through both chambers of the Legislature before eventually leaving the building.

Then the class got a look “behind the scenes” at the Supreme Court, which is something few people get to see. Justice Jeff Boyd gave a brief interactive government lesson, answered questions, and took everyone back to the gown room.

“It was cool see where the judges bring breakfast tacos before court,” Hayden Hutson said.

It was a cold day at the Capitol, hanging around the mid-30s throughout the day. They had a picnic in the chilly weather, but all the running and games warmed up the students.