



THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2017



BCS to launch new engineering program in 2018

By Benjamin Helyer

The BCS science department was notified on Oct. 16 of their selection for a grant from the University of Texas at Austin. These funds are intended to defray the expenses of an engineering program which Brentwood will launch next year.

"This is a serious accomplishment by our science department," president Jay Burcham wrote in an email to the BCS community on Oct. 16. "Congratulations to our faculty as STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) continues to improve and excel at BCS!"

The course *Engineer Your World I: Engineering Design and Analysis* will be taught by Dr. Diann Sloan next school year and will be offered to one class of 24 students. Science department chair Michelle Mallett said she is thrilled to have the course offered at Brentwood.

"It's going to be an amazing class," she said. "I want to take it!"

Mallett said it had been a goal of the science department to have more opportunities for students to engage with the the "E" in "STEM." At the end of last school year, social studies teacher Mel Witcher informed her of a conference offered by the *Engineer Your World* program. At the conference, Sloan and Mallett were able to see the training for the teachers of the 2017-2018 course which involved building a drone. After seeing that the design of a drone would be part of the course, Mallett was hooked.

This summer, Mallett and Dr. Sloan worked alongside secondary principal Carol Johnson to apply to the program. Alongside the funds, the program includes curriculum, lab costs offset, and training for continuing education units for teachers.

The program, which has been implemented at schools nationwide, is associated with UT Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering, ranked #9 in the nation for engineering schools by *U.S. News & World Report*. Also sponsoring the program are the National Science Foundation and the College of Education at UT Austin.

Girls win district, fall short of state

By Natalie Barry

The Lady Bears lost their regional playoff game against Cypress Christian in three sets on Nov. 4 in Bryan, ending their season one win short of making the state tournament.

Brentwood finished the season as district champions with a perfect 14-0 record and an overall record of 25-16.

"An amazing run through district at 14-0 is not an easy task," head coach Russell Larson said. "The team was focused on this goal and when they needed to, stepped up to the challenge."

Earlier that week at BCS, Brentwood defeated Logos Prep Academy on Oct. 31 in three sets (25-16, 25-17, 25-20). Bear fans were especially noisy – particularly students, many of whom came dressed in Halloween costumes, which added a fun and energetic element to the game.

"If they're cheering, that helps us keep our energy up, and if we have our energy up, we play better and have more fun," senior Trinity Ragsdill said.

Larson agreed that the game atmosphere was "awesome," and was proud of his players.

"The 3-0 win was a complete team effort," he said. "We were able to keep Sugar Land out of any game plan. We pretty much controlled the flow of the game."

The loss on Saturday, however, was a different story.

"We just didn't have a good game," senior Emma Leidlein said. "There were a lot of mistakes on our side."

After losing five seniors from last year, Larson said that the team had to get over the initial shock of being young and had to become more of a team. He said that Ragsdill, juniors Jaclyn Wishard and Nyna Vazquez, and sophomore Alyssa Mancias really stepped up this year.

"They came into the season not really knowing where they would stand, but after winning district they felt as though they had something to prove," Larson said, noting also that the whole team "played for each other and for Christ."

Ragsdill said that overall it was a great season, and she attributes much of the success to the way teammates treated each other.

"We were real close with each other, and that helped us connect well on the court," she said.

Leidlein said she thinks the season went "better than anyone expected," and she agrees



photo: Mere Rowlett

Intimidating Junior Jaclyn Wishard goes high to block as freshman Brooklyn Allen looks on during Brentwood's playoff victory over Logos Prep Academy on Oct. 31.

with Ragsdill's assessment.

"I think we all just got along better (than last year), and that made it easier for us to play better," Leidlein said.

Vazquez led the team with 604 digs and 92 aces, while Wishard was tops with 418 kills,

and Ragsdill led with 985 assists.

"Next year we can expect to be a similar team and to have the same team unity," Wishard said. "The competition should be tougher next year, but as long as we play our best, we will have a good season."



photo: MaeAnne Herring

Animal farm A dozen seniors wearing strange creature onesies left campus with the rest of the National Honor Society seniors on the morning of Oct. 27 to continue a tradition of joining the Rosedale students in their Halloween festival.

Thus Spoke Ben Helyer

Korean students address their nation’s conflict

With neither Donald Trump nor Kim Jong-un backing down and little progress being made to alleviate the tensions, possibilities for a solution to the North Korean issue are frequently painted vaguely. Most Americans don’t appear to have strong views on what action our nation should take in this conflict, but with millions of lives at stake in the case of another war with Korea, a vision for American policy in North Korea is needed.

I contend that the best policy going forward is one of deterrence. Let me explain this term: “deterrence” is the policy which America utilized in the Cold War to prevent conflict with a nuclear Soviet Union. An assumption of such a stance is that military engagement should be avoided, but at the same time, military strength must not falter in order to deter an enemy from attacking. With nuclear missiles, this involves keeping a number of warheads at one’s disposal to be ready to attack if another power strikes first. This ability to retaliate will deter the rival from striking due to the devastation that a nuclear response would cause their nation.

This strategy is suitable for the Korean situation for a few reasons, the most important of which is that we are almost in the midst of a “Korean missile crisis.” North Korea already has the capability of striking South Korea with a nuclear weapon, and will soon have nuclear warheads capable of reaching the continental United States: this is an unavoidable fact.

In short, a nuclear North Korea means that any military engagement with them has the potential to cost many lives on both Korean and American soil. This should be avoided, and thus a strategy of deterrence is optimal for the current situation.

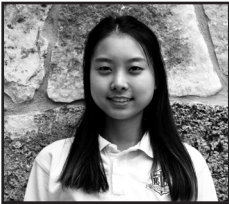
In hopes to give more insight to what can seem an abstract matter of policy, following are two guest writers’ thoughts about this issue. Both of them are students from Korea, and

each brings a variety of personal experiences to the table. So without further ado, I will hand over the column to senior Kiryang Kwon and junior Esther Shin.

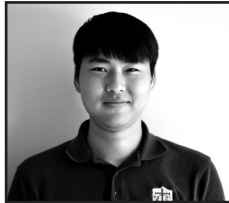
Esther Shin:
Regarding North Korea’s missile tests, I think North Korea has no intention of starting a war but wants to be acknowledged as a potent nation, which they think impossible without their nuclear capability. And I assume that it is why Kim Jong-un, the supreme leader of North Korea, refuses any inter-Korean dialogue and panics the world with missile launches.

Since my family lives in the United States, we do not perceive North Korea as a real threat. However, it is inevitable that any news about North Korean aggression give us worries, because Korea is where we were born and raised and where the rest of our family lives. My mom says that she would rather go back to South Korea to stay with her family if a war actually breaks out. I think that even if a Korean lives outside of Korea or becomes used to hearing about the North Korean aggression, it is true that he or she gets anxiety from this issue, especially when thinking about his or her family.

Offensive responses to North Korea from foreign countries, especially the United States, could increase provocations of North Korea and tension on the peninsula. Rather than forceful responses, South Korea needs to maintain a channel of communication with North Korea through peace talks, as well as to keep sharing information with other countries. Lastly, for rapid resumption of peace talks between the North and South, it is important for South Korea to let North Korea know that they will al-



Esther Shin



Kiryang Kwon

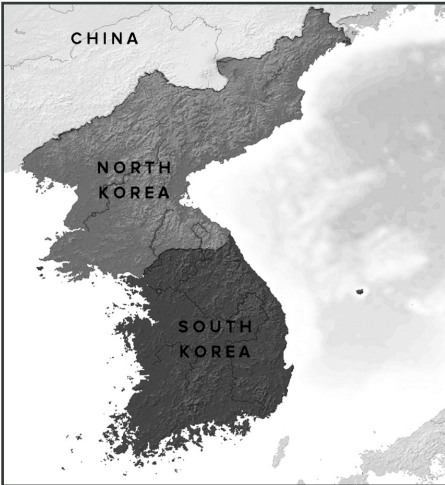
ways be looking for ways to move forward on the peace process.

Kiryang Kwon:
It has been 67 years since the Korean war took place. In Korean, it is often called the “6.25 war between Koreans”: At dawn on June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded the South in the purpose of unifying the Korean peninsula.

Because of this terrifying incident, my grandfather lost four of his brothers.

In the peaceful town of Jin-ju, my grandfather’s family was the most affluent, but respected highly by the villagers. Unfortunately, the “Lee” family – who felt extreme jealousy towards our family – came up with a plan to falsely report our family of being communist spies. At this time, spies were instantly shot to death, which led to the shooting of three of my grandfather’s brothers. In addition, one of my grandfather’s older brothers was missing after the incident.

Ten years ago, we received a written letter from the North Korean government saying that he is still alive and well, but I really can’t believe them. My grandfather is 84 years old, and he still becomes very emotional when we talk about his brothers. Sixty-seven years have passed since the Korean war, yet we Koreans are still in silent war, getting tired of the situation day by day. My only hope is for God to come up with a peaceful plan to unite my nation.



Looking at policies regarding this conflict, I think the South Korean government has to stop the unnecessary food to help the North. In reality, the money and food we are sending is not going to the people, but is used to strengthen their army. We can’t react to every provocation of North Korea, but at the same time, we can’t just leave them shooting missiles everywhere. Military engagement might be the fastest way to destroy the North and unite our country, but it is a double-edged sword.

Since the North’s provocation is a behavior based on the need of monetary trade and attention, I think we should completely stop every trade related with North Korea and set a high penalty for breaking the law and trading with North Korea. This way, the North will eventually surrender.

THE DEAR EDNA COLUMN

by the lovely Ms. Edna

READER: What do colorblind people call an orange?

EDNA: An orange. Making fun of others’ disabilities is not OK.

READER: I just won a goat in an arcade. How should I take care of it?

EDNA: Change its soil and water it daily.

READER: Should I make an ostrich or turkey for Thanksgiving?

EDNA: Please, no personal questions.

READER: How can I be the life of the party?

EDNA: Have it at your local cemetery.

READER: What should you do if there’s an owl in your pantry?

EDNA: Protect your snacks and make menacing noises to scare it away.

READER: Is your refrigerator running?

EDNA: What is this, the 90s?

READER: What is your spirit animal?

EDNA: Leptodactylus fallax, commonly known as the mountain chicken or giant ditch frog. Is it a chicken, or a frog? Only Google holds such knowledge.

Seasonal Drinks

Hot Chocolate Apple Cider The drink that shall not be named

Shhhhhhh If you say its name its followers will come!

Isn't it just a pumpkin spice latte?

NOOOOOO!!!!

WE LOVE PUMPKIN SPICE!

School set for ‘super’ Jog

By Alex Pittner

It’s almost that day of the year again when students are lacing up their shoes, strapping on their head bands, and getting ready to run. Wednesday, Nov. 15, will mark the 34th annual fundraising event playfully called Jog-a-fun. Students will enjoy a fun day of community filled with activities and, most importantly, the run.

This year’s Jog will have a superhero theme in which students can come to school and, should they be bold enough, accomplish the run dressed up as their favorite superheroes.

Secondary and elementary students are given incentives each year to reach out to potential sponsors, to perform well in the run, and to raise money for the school. For high school winners, the top prize will be four season passes to Six Flags. Middle school winners will be able to take five friends to Topgolf for a day. Upper elementary winners will get to experience indoor skydiving at iFly. One lower elementary student will be awarded a Grand Slam Party at the Round Rock Express facilities.

Once again, secondary students will be bombarded during their run with heaping handfuls of colored powder, transforming each runner into a moving amalgamation of bright colors. White Jog-a-fun shirts were made available to those with the desire to get completely coated with various neons, causing their shirts to be stained with unique designs and color schemes.

Elementary students will again run laps on

the baseball outfield, while middle and high school students will run a 5K route that stretches to the edges of the vast campus. After the race students will enjoy a free snowcone, and smaller ones will experience unlimited thrills in a bouncy castle.

The fun doesn’t stop there, though, as throughout the day students will enjoy special activities such as games and movies.

For some, such as senior Shaun Amann, it will be the last experience in a long string of Jog-a-fun memories.

“When I was in elementary I didn’t really know what it was about. I thought it was just a second field day,” Amann said. “But as I’ve gotten older I’ve come to understand what Jog-a-fun is all about and why it’s so important.”

Jog coordinator Sarah Wilson credits the many Brentwood parents who help out each year to make Jog-a-fun as amazing as it can be. Ryan Guthrie will be returning as the official D.J., and Kyle Wilkie will again provide all the equipment and technology needed for the timing of the races. Tracy Grooms and Laurie Weston will return as field coordinators as well.

In an email to the Brentwood community last month, school president Jay Burcham pointed out how important Jog-a-fun is for the school.

“It is a mechanism that allows us to keep the cost low,” he wrote, “which means that middle-income families can continue to participate in private education, and their children can receive the benefits of this wonderful Christ-centered environment.”



photo: Katie Griffith

Congratulations Sophomore Cade Young is welcomed into the National Honor Society by school president Jay Burcham and NHS sponsor Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth at the induction ceremony on Oct. 17 at Grace Covenant Church. Wearing formal attire, students enjoyed a chicken dinner and listened as Dr. Rachel Montesdeoca spoke. NJHS held their induction ceremony at BCS on Oct. 26.

Students celebrate reading, writing in Book Week

By Molly Stewart

Cozy book-ins, writing your own book, and a day of dressing up like your favorite character... During the week of Oct. 23-27, Book Week celebrated its 25th year of teaching BCS elementary students that reading and writing are fun and exciting.

Books for the Young Authors Competition were turned in to judges a week earlier. According to elementary librarian Tere Hager, 112 students wrote stories for the competition.

On Friday, all the authors were recognized in an assembly in the auditorium. Unique awards were given to each student in every grade, including outstanding fairytale, outstanding sports story, outstanding adventure story, outstanding original art, and several others.

An overall excellence award was also given to one student in each grade. Winners were kindergartner Rowan McMillen, first-grader Olivia Montemayor, second-grader Elizabeth McKinnerney, third-grader Charlie Osborn,

fourth-grader Arden Choi, and fifth-grader Griffin Smith.

Some students’ stories were chosen to be read at special events. First-grader Aiden Clapp and fourth-grader Michael Kolagani read to the

administration on the Thursday of that week, while second-grader Ava Bills and fifth-grader Natalie Fogle read at the President’s Breakfast on Friday.

Throughout the week, book-ins were held

in each classroom. Students were allowed to bring a comfort item like a blanket and a flashlight, make forts, and cuddle up and read. Older students also went to lower grades and read to students.

“I love the emphasis on reading and writing books,” Hager said. “We have big kids and young kids sharing books, and big kids reading to little kids.”

On Tuesday, a local author named Carmen Oliver, who wrote Bears Make the Best Reading Buddies, visited the third through fifth grades and presented a slideshow on writing books.

Thursday, the kids who wrote and turned in a book for the Young Authors Competition got to celebrate with cookies, juice, and a magician for entertainment. Finally, on Friday all the students got to dress up as their favorite book character for the entire day.

“Book week is awesome because you get to dress up as your favorite character,” third-grader Bryce O’Sullivan said.



photo: Summer Best

I am Batman Hudson Sanders excitedly talks to his fourth-grade classmates about his character on Oct. 27, the final day of Book Week, known as Character Day.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Katie Griffith*

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

Queen of hearts: joyful, loving, and a bit wacky

By Kaitlyn Baird

If Katie Griffith were in a deck of cards, she'd be the queen of hearts. Not only was she crowned homecoming queen of BCS, but she has also captured the hearts of everyone at Brentwood with her unparalleled compassion and goofy personality.

After just one conversation with her, anyone can get a glimpse of Katie's exuberant nature. Wherever she is, Katie always has a smile on her face.

"Katie is an incredibly bubbly and magical person. She's always happy and positive, and people are just drawn to her," senior Tara Whitaker says.

Senior Lauren Weilemann agrees.

"My favorite part about Katie is her sunny and super-inclusive personality. It's impossible to feel left out when Katie's around," she says.

Her vibrant personality shines through not only in her everyday actions, but also onstage. Katie began acting in eighth grade when she decided to drop study hall and take theater instead. Since then, she has competed in multiple TC-SIT and TAPPS acting competitions and brought home many awards. In eighth grade, Katie and senior Merideth Mallett won third place at TCSIT for middle school duet acting. The two of them also made it into finals in humorous duet acting in freshman, sophomore, and junior years.

Merideth says one of her favorite memories with Katie was practicing their duet together because instead of practicing, they would end up having "weird and fun conversations."

Theater teacher Michelle Alexander says she loves Katie's energy, especially in her acting.

"She always brings what she's doing to life, and that's fun to watch," Alexander says.

Katie has participated in the two most recent school musicals, *Cinderella* and *The Little Mermaid*. She was an understudy for a stepsister and an ensemble member in *Cinderella*. In *The Little Mermaid*, which opened last month, Katie played the singing seagull named Scuttle.

"I love playing Scuttle. Scuttle's a lot like me, actually: a little wacky," Katie says.

Wacky and goofy are two adjectives many

people use to describe Katie. Others also characterize her as creative, driven, enthusiastic, and kind. Senior Alex Sass says Katie is as sweet as a piece of dessert.

"Katie is like a red velvet cupcake," Alex says. "The cake itself is rich like her personality. Then, like the frosting, she surprises you at first and you come to love her."

Katie's optimistic and lighthearted personality has illuminated the Brentwood hallways for 15 years. Her family began attending church at Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ when she was two, and she started going to Children's Ark preschool when she was three. Katie says going to Brentwood has positively impacted her life over the years.

"Brentwood is a safe place," she says. "I have been able to develop a strong Christian faith and worldview before I eventually leave the 'Brentwood bubble' and have it tested."

However, others say Katie has impacted BCS just as much as it has impacted her. As class president, Katie has the opportunity to use her boundless joy and kindness to serve and lead others.

"She is a living example to me that it's OK to be as weird and as goofy as you want and to be yourself," senior Elijah Cunningham says.

Katie credits her friends and family for helping shape her into the person she is today. She says her friends are always there for her, and they help her step outside of her comfort zone. Her "super close" relationship with her family allows them to joke around at home and talk to each other about everything. Her sister Caroline agrees.

"Our relationship is very trusting. I know I can tell her everything without judgment from her," she says.

Katie's closest friends agree that she is always accepting of them and makes them feel loved.

"She has really shaped me into the person I am today, because she has shown me the love of Christ through her actions toward me even when I didn't deserve them," Alex says.

Katie's kind and cheery disposition is not the only thing that she is known for. She spends her free time enjoying a multitude of unique hobbies, including solving logic puzzles, writing in different fonts, watching *Napoleon Dynamite*, and playing Nancy Drew computer games. In fact, Katie has collected

30 out of 32 of the Nancy Drew games, and she says she is excited for a new game coming out soon.

Katie says that going to Brentwood has allowed her to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities. In addition to theater, she has played several sports. In her high school career Katie has played volleyball, basketball, and soccer, and she continues to play soccer in her senior year.

"I really like that we can be involved in a lot of different things, because people in large schools don't get that opportunity," she says.

Among Katie's list of talents, other than quoting most of *Napoleon Dynamite*, solving an endless amount of puzzles, and kicking a soccer ball, is her knack for all things graphic design. When she was younger, she played around in Illustrator on her mom's computer and learned how to use all the tools. Since then, Katie has designed multiple class T-shirts, art projects, and yearbook pages. She even opened up her own decal business in 2016.

Art teacher Mere Rowlett describes Katie as hard-working, organized, talented when it comes to art and design, a great yearbook editor, and willing to help others.

"She'll stop everything to go help them, which is super cool," Rowlett says.

Rowlett also describes a time when Katie's diligent nature was on display. She says there was a yearbook workshop before school started, and Katie was supposed to use that time to start planning and working on the yearbook. However, Rowlett says Katie had already finished everything before the workshop even started.

Katie's love for graphic design brought her to the decision to major in visualization at Texas A&M. Katie hopes to eventually be a graphic designer, and either work for herself or work for a company like Disney or Pixar.

Whatever Katie's future holds, she knows God will be with her every step of the way.

"Throughout the years God has blessed me so much," she says.

"There are multiple times in my life when I had to come to God asking for his help, and he has always come through. Maybe not in my timing but in his timing."

It's clear that no matter what cards Katie is dealt in life, with her perpetual positivity she will always come out a winner.



From ‘Joy Bus’ to BCS, Ellis can connect

By Austin Biegert

From California to Texas, third grade to fifth, elementary teacher Evelyn Ellis has been shaping the hearts, minds, and faiths of young students for years. The California native has been teaching at BCS for fourteen years, during which she has been able to watch her students grow up and take her instruction with them as they mature into adults.

Her love of teaching is only matched by her love of Christ, both of which she has been cultivating since an early age.

“I remember I was fourteen years old and I wanted to teach,” Ellis says.

Around this time in her life she began working as a camp counselor, teaching kids Bible classes on the “Joy Bus” in her hometown of Redlands, Calif. This early exposure to teaching ingrained in her a passion that led her to follow her dream and become a full-time teacher.

She trekked from California to ACU for college before returning to her hometown with her high school sweetheart David, to whom she has now been happily married for 32 years. They have had two children, Ashley and Zachary, who are both now in their twenties. Both of them still live in the Austin area and try to see their parents at least once a week, or as often as they can.

Years before, after much thought and prayer, the couple had to decide where they wanted to live and continue raising their children. They were quickly drawn back to Texas, where Ellis began teaching third grade at BCS.

“My favorite part of working here is that I can infuse everything I teach with God’s word,” Ellis says. “All my colleagues have the same goal and focus – we’re all on the same page.”

Fellow teachers have praised Ellis for her qualities as a teacher, coworker, and friend.

“She’s always thinking of everything in the frame of how she can make it easier and more relatable to the kids, especially those who struggle with learning,” third-grade teacher Carolyn B’Smith says. “She will always find a way to connect to them individually. Even with her own two kids, she would make educational aspects within all of their trips, always looking for opportunities to teach and learn.”

She has spent the majority of her time at Brentwood within the third-grade classroom. This year, she took up the opportunity to teach fifth grade, just as she had when she taught at a small school back in California. There, she worked in positions ranging from preschool teacher up through principal, sometimes at the same time. She said that she feels, however, that her greatest gift is in teaching fifth grade.

Because of this change, Ellis has been able to



photo: Jenna Timmerman

Loves to teach Evelyn Ellis, who came to Texas from California 14 years ago, has been teaching third grade at BCS ever since then. This year she has moved to fifth grade, which she has taught before and believes is where her greatest teaching gifts are.

see the effects of her teaching, and she watches the seeds that she planted in third grade grow and mature in the students’ minds.

“They have all matured and show a huge amount of compassion,” she says. “It is really very touching.”

The shift from third to fifth grade has still allowed Ellis to teach all the subjects and tie each topic into one another. She says her love for all subjects, and the opportunity to intertwine them all, keeps both the class and herself invested.

Feeling as though she would get bored with only one subject, Ellis chose a path that allows her to teach them all, while utilizing her talent for connecting with upper elementary students.

This kind of impact has had a lasting effect on senior students such as Benjamin Helyer, who once sat in her class and felt her guiding presence throughout that year and beyond.

“She did a great job in that transition from lower to upper elementary,” Helyer says. “That transition can be hard, but she made it as easy as possible. That’s a very good quality of hers.”

Once she retires, Ellis still plans on retaining a passion for education. She hopes to be able to either volunteer or get a part-time job as a museum educator, organizing field trips that she so loves going on with her own students.

Beyond this, she hopes to be able to explore her growing love for travel. She has many fond memories of her family trips to Glacier Na-

tional Park, Southern California, and Montana. Despite her passion for exploration, she has never been out of the country, but she hopes to change that with trips to the British Isles that are already brewing in her mind.

Regardless of where life takes her, Ellis remains certain that her life will always be linked hand in hand with a love and passion for education. She endeavors to learn and grow herself just as much as she strives to teach and impact those around her, both in and out of the classroom.

Each classroom’s purple barrel is filling up, but there is plenty of room for more food donations before all the items are collected and taken to the Round Rock Area Serving Center on **Nov. 15**. All gifts will be used to serve needy families in the Central Texas area.

Any non-perishable food items are accepted in every classroom, but there is a special need for the following items: **canned fruit and veggies, soup, pasta, beans, rice, cereal, peanut butter, and baby food**. Those willing to donate sturdy boxes or bags are encouraged to bring these to any classroom.

The goal is to average about six food items per student, although more than that would be welcomed, accepted, and put to great use.

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published monthly 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.



Thanksgiving food drive



Bears likely to host football playoff game next week

By Ethan Rutt

After a 52-8 victory over San Marcos Academy on Nov. 3, the varsity football team is now third in district with a 3-2 record (7-2 overall). With a win tonight against St. Gerard, the Bears will likely finish in second and host a playoff game a week later, on Nov. 17, against TSD.

Junior linebacker Curtis Mack leads the Bears with 108 tackles, and sophomore Isaac Copeland leads with four sacks.

On offense, senior running back Hunter Bur-

cham is leading with 722 rushing yards. Senior running back Ben Ogbodiegwu has 587 rushing yards, including an impressive 11.1 yards per carry. Ogbodiegwu also leads the team with 11 touchdowns.

Junior quarterback Blake Benton has 47 completions for 813 yards and eight touchdowns. Sophomore receiver Phillip Mach has 207 receiving yards and four touchdowns.

Head coach Stan Caffey underwent a triple heart bypass surgery on Oct. 30 and will most likely not be able to return to coaching this season. Defensive coordinator Correy Wash-

ington, who is filling in as head coach while Caffey is recovering, said he visited Caffey the day after the surgery, and Caffey said that it is "killing him to not be out there" with the team.

Washington says that how often the team practices and what they do in practice is essential to installing and executing the game plan. The coaches also spend a lot of time breaking down film and preparing plays for the upcoming week. On top of preparation, practices are also used for working on their fundamentals, like strength and conditioning.

On the Bears' chances for playoffs and future games, Washington says that he expects success and to compete at a high level every week.

"I am positive that we will be 8-2 by the start of playoffs," he said.

Throughout the three seasons of football Brentwood has experienced, Washington says they have improved tremendously in the weight room, which has helped them on the field. He says the kids have really applied themselves and bought into the program. Also, Washington says that because the team is a year older and has more experience, their games have been better.

"There is a huge difference between a freshman and a sophomore," he said.

Benton said that Brentwood matches up well with their opponents during playoffs. They will play TSD in the first round, and if they beat them, then Cypress in the second round. Benton says it will be even.

Copeland, a defensive lineman, said the team has a good chance of doing well in playoffs this year. He says they will get farther than they did last year, when they lost in the first round.

Brentwood has been moved into a different division for football next year. The Bears will play in TAPPS 5A, competing against schools such as Hyde Park, Regents, and St. Michael's.

Following are recaps of the most recent

games:

10/20: @ Boerne Geneva 42-24 L

The Bears started with the ball but weren't able to gain momentum early on due to mistakes, including a fumble inside their own 10-yard line and a fumble on a kick return, as well as defense not being as good as it could have been. After early mistakes by Brentwood, they mostly pulled it together and outscored their opponent in the second half. But the 28-7 halftime deficit was too big to overcome.

Mach scored the first Brentwood touchdown of the game by receiving a pass from Benton in double coverage to the back right of the end zone. Benton threw two more touchdowns, including one to freshman Zack Billante and another to junior Micah Best. Sophomore kicker Jonah Connor did not miss a single kick throughout the game, scoring a field goal and three PATs.

10/27: @ John Paul II 14-7 W

The Guardians started with the ball, but they were quickly stopped by the Bears' defense. Both teams played very good defense, but in the second quarter Benton broke through to score the first touchdown of the game on a quarterback run play, running for 20 yards and trucking through a Guardians defender. The Guardians eventually moved the ball and tied the game in the third quarter with a four-yard touchdown run. Finally, in the fourth quarter, Ogbodiegwu ran for the final touchdown on a 40-yard run.

11/3: San Marcos Academy 52-8 W

San Marcos started with the ball and almost immediately lost it on an interception by Mack. Brentwood controlled the game and led 49-0 at the half. Burcham scored three rushing touchdowns, sophomore Luke Jackson rushed for two more, and Ogbodiegwu and Benton rushed for the other two scores. In the second half, Washington used second-string players.



photo: Darnell Mack

Blowout win Junior quarterback Blake Benton picks up yards while junior receiver Micah Best looks for a block during the Bears' 52-8 win over San Marcos on Nov. 3.

Hoops: Lady Bears open with win; varsity boys have first game Nov. 16

By Jackson Baird and Blake Benton

Basketball season has already begun for the Lady Bears, who opened the season with a 38-24 victory over the Taylor Ducks on Nov. 3.

They boys begin their schedule next week, as they are set to take on Katy Falls in a tournament on Nov. 16.

The Bears go into the season under first-year head coach Brandon Greene, who grew up in Houston and played ball at UT-Dallas. Athletic director Stan Caffey contacted Greene about the coaching position, having taught Greene in high school at Westbury Christian. Greene was previously the head coach at Cambridge School of Dallas.

Greene comes into the season confident in his team's ability to win and compete.

"The goal this season is to take it step by step starting with winning district, then making it to state, and then finishing off the season by winning state," Greene said.

Senior Aedan Acheson said that with all the hard work that has been put in over the off-season, he expects Brentwood to succeed under the new head coach.

"I really like coach Greene, and I think he can help us accomplish our goals," Acheson said.

Last year the Bears finished 19-13 overall and third in district. Their season ended with a heartbreaking loss to Woodlands Christian 51-50 on Feb. 14 in the first round of the playoffs.

The top returning scorer is sophomore Daniel Hickl, who averaged 5.8 points and 7.5 rebounds per game last season. Along with Hickl, Acheson is expected to help out the Bears' offense this year after transferring from Round Rock High School during his junior year.

Acheson and his fellow seniors set the goal for the team this season of making it further into the playoffs than in previous seasons.

"We seniors told the team that we expect us to make it to regionals, and we need to put in all the work needed to make it there," Acheson said.

The Bears face several challenges going into the season. Since football season will run through at least late November, the team is

currently practicing with only 10 guys, five of whom are freshmen. Plus there is a new system to learn under a new head coach before the season begins.

"If it is not hard enough installing a new system under a first-year head coach, try doing it with only half a basketball team," Greene said.

The Lady Bears, under head coach Devan Loftis in his 18th year with the program, are optimistic as the new basketball season begins.

Brentwood is led by this year's seniors: Emma Leidlein, Mallory Lesko, Hannah Lewis, and Grace McDaniel. All four of them played in every game last year. This young

see **BASKETBALL**, page 8

Cross country season ends with four all-district runners

By Michael Milicia

Senior Diego Escobedo and junior Jade Klafhen were the Bears' top runners at the TAPPS cross country state meet in Waco on Oct. 30. The boys' team placed 19th out of 22 schools, and the girls placed 9th out of 16.

Escobedo came in 37th place (19:31), junior Mitchell Johnson came in 56th (20:09), and freshman Isaac Stanglin finished 59th (20:15).

"I wasn't expecting to get first on the team, but it feels really good," Escobedo said. "It's relieving that I didn't let underclass teammates beat me, although I am confident that they will do way better than me in the future."

Escobedo said he should have started running when he was younger, and that he could have pushed the team to do better. But several runners simply were not healthy enough to achieve their goals.

"This meet was not timed well for us because most of us were sick," said sophomore Michael Milicia, unsatisfied with his time for the state meet.

Junior Jade Klafhen came in 24th among the girls and accomplished her best time, 14:13. Senior MaeAnne Herring, also struggling with illness, was 34th (14:29), and freshman Hannah Womack finished 41st (14:42).

"I was glad that Jade won, actually," Herring said. "We've been fighting it out all season and she worked so hard, I'm just really glad that she got the win."

The state meet course was an open hilly golf course. The weather was very cool but the sun shined bright to warm up the runners. Head coach Katie Smith said she was proud of the effort of her runners.

"Sickness affected us some at state, but that was beyond our control," Smith said. "Really, I feel that we did all we could during the season to be prepared."

On Oct. 14, the teams competed at their district meet in Marble Falls. Led by Herring (fourth place) and Klafhen (ninth), the girls finished fourth. Finishing in the top 10 earned Herring and Klafhen all-district status.

The boys' team came in third place, led by Escobedo (ninth place) and Milicia (10th), who were also all-district.

The Bears also had a 'practice meet' before state on Oct. 19 at Grace Academy in George-



photo: David Crooks

Steady Senior MaeAnne Herring came in fourth at the district meet in Marble Falls on Oct. 14.

town. The boys achieved second place overall, while the girls came in first.

"I felt we all did pretty good for the whole season," Klafhen said. "We pushed ourselves and each other to the limit while having fun."

Smith was also pleased with the way the season unfolded.

"I think we practiced harder and better this year than in past years and really took our season seriously," she said.

Smith added that she will miss Herring, who has been a "great senior leader" and the girls' top runner for most of her high school career.

Varsity soccer teams practicing; girls open season next week

By Sky Barker and Andrew Geevarghese

As football and volleyball seasons come to a close, it is now time for the varsity soccer teams to gleam in the spotlight.

For the varsity girls, the season will begin on Nov. 16 against St. Michael's, while Brentwood's first district game is not until Jan. 4 against John Paul II. In total, the team has five non-district games and 12 district games.

The varsity boys play their first game on Nov. 27 against Hyde Park.

Last year the boys were 11-3 overall, winning district and finishing with a seven-game winning streak before their loss in regionals to Dallas Covenant in Waco.

Head coach Jesse Jordan said they are looking to play the same tactics as last year and be a solid positioning, possession, and pressure team.

"It's hard to make any predictions at this point, but hopefully we can build on last year's success," he said, before adding that he hopes to "ultimately capture the state title."

Last year's district MVP Brandon Patterson, with 18 goals and 14 assists, has graduated, which provides a new challenge for the team. However, sophomore Zach Myers, who scored 16 goals last season and was the district 3A Newcomer of the Year, will attempt to fill the void.

Along with Myers, current seniors Preston Glenn, Patrick Hanrahan, and David Reich were first team all-district last year. Junior Riley Walker and sophomore Jonah Connor were second team all-district, and senior Luke Tilley earned honorable mention.

While Jordan is focused on helping the team play as well as they can, he has even bigger goals.

"More important than any soccer goals or

championships, my prayer for this season is to lead this group of young men to know, love, and obey God," Jordan said. "My challenge for these guys is for them to strive each day to be the best versions of themselves on and off the field."

Girls' head coach Cash Miller has high hopes for success in the upcoming season, as he has been impressed with the girls' work ethic and expects to make playoffs this year.

"I have seen the team put in more work this off-season than ever before," he said. "They committed and put in the work to be a better team than they have ever before."

Last year the team had an overall record of 7-6 and placed fourth in district. Senior Rebekah Connor and junior Madison Moseley led the team in goals with 18 each. Senior Avery Miller led the team in assists last year with 14.

"I hope to score more this year, and definitely keep the assists up," Miller said. "Overall, I want the team to get better in postseason play than we have been previously."

Coach Miller said part of his plan for the year is to improve on the girls' defense, as he wants the team "to improve in an area they did not master the year before."

Practice during the season is Monday through Friday, consisting of ball work and conditioning. Miller has also stated that there is a lot more senior leadership this year, as well as a lot of dedication from certain girls sacrificing time outside of practice to improve their game.

Miller said his mission as a coach is to make the girls work as hard as they can, so that when they graduate, they have no regrets as an athlete.

"Really I'm asking for 100 percent every day," he said. "If the team can do that, then what the scoreboard says at the end of the game is irrelevant."



photo: Cash Miller

Tough Senior Avery Miller and the varsity girls play their first game on Nov. 16.

Students zip, kick, paddle in return to Camp Buckner

By Noah Islas

While the rest of Brentwood students were getting ready for school, 49 seventh graders departed for Camp Buckner at 6:50 a.m. on Oct. 23 for a day of hiking, rock climbing, team building, and lots of fun.

When they got there, the students were split up into groups led by seniors Mallory Lesko, Grace McDaniel, Grace Rogge, Alex Sass, Alec Shelby, Dillon Smith, and Lauren Weilemann. Their first activity was a nature walk through some trails. The weather started out in the low 50s, and several people were under-dressed. But eventually it warmed up and was a pleasant day.

After the walk, students participated in team building exercises. Then for lunch, the students ate pizza and chicken wings.

Throughout the rest of the day the students engaged in many different activities including ziplining, rock climbing, kickball, and kayaking.

“Ziplining was really scary, but once you jumped off it was fun,” Nathan Esche said.

Some students didn’t know what to expect and were pleasantly surprised.

“I like how it was more carefree with not many strict rules coming down from teachers,” Clive Whaley said.

Alongside the students at the retreat were Travis Pollard, who is the retreat coordinator, and three sponsors: principal Carol Johnson, Coreen Pesco, and Jonathan Weed.

Similar to last year the retreat was not over-night. Other than that there were some major differences. For one, the number of students was 49 this year instead of the record-number 71 students in last year’s class. Also, this year the retreat was back at Camp Buckner instead of Reunion Ranch.

Despite these differences, Pollard said that the retreat was nice and helped get the kids to motivate each other and bond.

“This retreat was successful, and most of the kids were motivated by each other,” he said.



photo: Travis Pollard

Peaceful Seventh graders Evan Gruis, Ben Gatlin, and Keira McCormick navigate the waters of the Camp Buckner pond in kayaks during their day-long retreat on Oct. 23.

Basketball season underway

continued from page 6

team will rely on these seniors’ game-time experience to lead the way.

The team graduated Alicia Dixon, Addy Hardin, Kayleigh Lawrence, and Abby White, all four of whom made all-district; Dixon and Hardin also made all-state. Dixon led the Bears in points per game with 15.3 followed by Lawrence with 8.4. Dixon also led in rebounds per game with 7.2. However, the Bears are changing up their game a bit to compensate for this loss.

“We are going to have to play a lot faster pace offense,” Leidlein said.

The Lady Bears finished 23-12 on the

season and 8-2 in district play. Brentwood fell to Lutheran North 53-38 in the second round of the TAPPS 4A playoffs.

“We are going to take advantage of our depth this year,” Loftis said, explaining the change in game plan.

Loftis says he thinks the positive outlook of this year’s team is that they are more balanced out skill wise. The starting roster is not set in stone, and it will be open to change throughout the season.

“I am excited to see how we function with this quicker style this season,” junior Samantha Fowler said.

Brentwood’s first district game will be Jan. 5 against Concordia.



photo: Lisa Lee

You got pied Third-grader Levi Baron endured a barrage of “pies” in the face at Brentwood’s annual Fall Festival on Oct. 28. A cold front made things a little chilly for a while, but the fundraiser still brought in \$10,000 and plenty of smiles.

Fall Fest raises spirits, funds

By Emily Walker

“Fall fest is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and have a great time,” fifth-grade teacher Evelyn Ellis said.

The annual festival was on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 11 a.m to 3 p.m. Booths ranged from second grade’s laser tag to the freshmen’s Pie-in-the-Face. New events included facepaint and balloon twister.

The weather was uncharacteristically cold, at 64 degrees as the high and 46 as the low. However, volunteers and guests soldiered the cold and managed to have a fantastic time.

High school students got the chance to run the booths, and in return earn money for their senior trip. Teachers also participated in the fundraiser. Coach Russell Larson was one who volunteered for the dunking booth.

“It was a complete hoot, and I loved trash talking the students,” he jokingly said.

The fundraiser is PTA’s biggest money earner, raking in more than \$10,000 in ticket sales this year. According to Fall Fest coordinator Tiffany Hague, presale tickets brought in \$6,600, and day-of sales accounted for \$3,500.

The most successful booths included the cake walk, which brought in \$640, and the petting zoo, which earned \$556. Not only do grade levels do booths, but also extracurricular groups participate in the activities. National Junior Honor Society offered popcorn, and Lady Bellas ran the cotton candy booth in the cafeteria.

This year, school cafeteria vendor Taher catered the event. Lunch included chopped beef sandwiches and Chick-Fil-A, which were paid for with tickets.

“We were overwhelmed with all the donations and helping hands,” Hague said. “We cleaned up in record time, thanks to National Honor Society!”