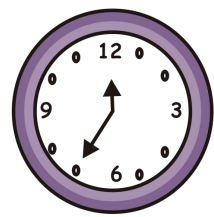


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THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 31 NO. 3 BRANTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DECEMBER 2018

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'Tis the season for singing, serving

By Emma Ayers

The halls and classrooms of Brentwood Christian are showing the products of Christmas cheer. Students' artwork, Santa hats, and Christmas trees can be seen across campus.

The fourth-grade classes went to see a production of *The Nutcracker*, the fifth graders sang to and visited those at Village Christian Apartments, and students donated their hard-earned money to the Angel Tree program. Elementary students performed in the annual Christmas pageant, and first graders went out to select a tree from a nearby tree farm.

As soon as Thanksgiving break was over and classes resumed, teachers and students began to participate in Angel Tree, a program that helps to support children whose parents are incarcerated and makes sure they feel loved on Christmas.

"It's so incredibly heartwarming to see how eager they are to be the hands and feet of Jesus by spreading the joy and spirit of Christmas," fourth-grade teacher April Jones said.

Many elementary students do extra chores and look around their houses to gather money.

On Nov. 29, the first-grade classes visited the Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm, where they got to enjoy many fun activities before setting out to look at the selection of trees. They came

back to Brentwood with beautiful evergreens to decorate in their classrooms.

"The students enjoyed an afternoon of running through mazes, sliding down a really unique slide, and lots of free-play," first grade teacher Suzy Benton said. "It was a beautiful

day, and we had a fantastic time."

Santa Claus made an appearance at the Don Irwin concert on Tuesday, Dec. 4, taking pictures with children and even talking with them

see **CHRISTMAS**, page 3



photo: Brandy Gauthier

O Christmas tree! Suzy Benton's first graders cozy up to their new tree at the Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm on Nov. 29. The tree is now decorated in their classroom.

Young actors, new director, present plays

By Quentin Fowler

Seventh and eighth graders of the middle school drama classes performed the plays *Miss Nelson is Missing!* and *Charlotte's Web* on Friday, Nov. 30, in the Iva Lea Worley Barton theater.

New drama teacher Joseph Clingan, who was hired in October after students had already begun rehearsing, said he was impressed with his young performers.

"Both groups were incredibly creative and were very free with their ideas, making the process of creating and directing both shows quite easy," Clingan said.

Miss Nelson is Missing! was first a book written by Harry Allard in 1997, and was later adapted into a play by Jeffrey Hatcher. The play features Miss Nelson, a teacher who is too nice to reprimand her out-of-control classroom, going missing. In her stead is a detention-loving, homework-overloading substitute named Miss Viola

see **MIDDLE**, page 8

Take two: Jog-a-fun brings smiles, needed funds

By Emma Ayers

Students put in headphones and clip on their numbers, then just like that, they're off to the races. The annual Jog-a-fun run is a source of excitement for many students, as are the games, movies, and prizes that surround the day. Students enjoy a day of exciting activities and movies, as well as the annual Jog-a-fun races.

High school and middle school students ran in the annual cross-campus 5K, while elementary students ran laps around the baseball outfield.

The race was originally scheduled for Nov. 14, but because of complications with the weather, it was moved to Nov. 28.

Through Dec. 12, the fundraiser has brought

in a total of \$98,334.52.

Elementary students ran before lunch, with parents and older siblings joining them for a few laps at a time. Ronnie Green was the DJ for the event, and many students expressed excitement at the familiar face.

The route for secondary joggers began on the baseball field and took them behind the field and across the upper elementary playground. They then ran the marked path through the parking lot, around the A Building and the north playground, and back around to the baseball field. The course had to be run five times to complete the full 5K.

StuCo's idea of having bubbles at the beginning of the track came to fruition, and foam bubbles were available for students to run through for a fun change of pace, inevitably

resulting in some slipping and muddy clothes.

The overall fastest runner of the 5K was senior Riley Walker, the star of the cross country team, who everyone was counting on coming in with a great time, while the top girl was seventh-grader Lyla Kate Jackson.

"I was out of shape, so I had to walk some of the fourth lap," Walker said, "but it was fun and nice to win again."

Sophomore Hailey Reich was the top female runner in high school, and seventh-grader Renne Cooper came in just behind Walker as top middle school runner and the second finisher overall.

Rounding out the top five finishers were eighth-grader Brecken Lee, seventh-grader

see **STUDENTS**, page 8



photo: Alyssa Mancias

Runner's high Senior Curtis Mack and classmate Nyna Vazquez cross the baseball bridge during Jog-a-fun on Nov. 28.

Guest editorial: Adrie Gruis

Tragedy brings reminder to appreciate each moment

What is something that can't be seen, heard, or touched, yet we all have? What is something that moves so fast, yet so slow, but never changes pace? Something that is completely free, yet no one seems to get enough of it? Something that is wasted, and something that is cherished? Something that hurts, and something that heals?

Most of us spend our time the same way almost every day. In the morning, we begin putting our time into all the things we deem necessary – waking up, getting ready, going to school, maybe working on a hobby, doing some homework, and then going to bed. Among the daily routine, there is time that we all hopefully put into the precious things in life, like our families, friends, laughter, excitement, and accomplishments. Occasionally, there will be times that we wish would just move faster, or go away completely. There will be times when we wish time could stop forever. Stress-

ful schedules, conflicts, and to-do lists work their way in there as well. Time passes every single day, and most of us take it for granted. Some of us do not even notice it at all. Life goes on, the same as it did the day before – until time runs out.

On Monday, Dec. 3, Myles Hutcheson from Vista Ridge High School passed away in a car accident at around 5:45 a.m. on his way to basketball practice. Family, friends, and the entire community was absolutely shocked; how could such a young, healthy boy of 17 lose his life so quickly? There was so much he wanted to do, so much he desired to accomplish. It was so unexpected, and not in the least bit fair.

Driving home that day, I realized how similar my life is to the life of Myles Hutcheson. I was a young, happy girl, very involved in activities that I loved, with many places to go and dreams to live. I had good days and bad days, just as Myles had. There were times when I was unkind, or missed an opportunity, or procrastinated on something that I absolutely did not want to do. But for some reason, I believed that I had all the time in the world. I kept pushing on, not stressing about the past, and focusing on the future, hoping that one day all of it would count for something.

But when I heard of the tragic end of the young, successful, and beautiful life of Myles

Hutcheson, I finally realized that time is not an entitlement – it is a precious, fleeting gift.

And so I began to consider this concept of time, and what I was doing with mine. I came to the unfortunate understanding of the hard truth – most of my time was spent stressing about not having enough of it. When I wasn't worried about a shortage of time, I was worried about what I was going to do with it later. Every day I woke up and ran through a long list of

Time is not an entitlement – it is a precious, fleeting gift.

requirements that I pushed myself to achieve to make that one grade, or to be in that one meeting, or to practice that one part, all so I could make it into that one college to get that one job, so I could finally spend my time doing what I want. Every day I woke up and forgot how quickly my life could change, and how quickly I could run out of time.

I see this issue in myself, but also in others, and in society. It's always one thing after another, never stopping, never resting. The world seems to scream at us, "Do whatever you have to do to get what you want!" Does

this mean missing the enjoyment of the little things? Does this mean walking past a friend you haven't seen in a while, and hurrying to your next task? Does this mean missing a meal with your family to catch up on a show that everyone's talking about, or missing a sibling's game to get a few extra points on that assignment? Does this mean checking the latest posts on social media instead of having a meaningful conversation with a loved one?

We must strive to stop looking toward the future, which will always be there, and start taking a hard look at the current moment. Once this moment passes, it will never be seen again.

Take just one second to look at everyone in the hallways as you walk past. Notice when your mom does her hair differently, and compliment her. Notice when your dad trims the hedges, and thank him. Look up from the phone and away from the screen. Play with your dog, and tell your brother or sister you love them.

The time has come to appreciate every miracle of a second we have been given, and be aware of the current situation we are all in. KXAN reports that Myles' youth pastor said about him, "He just had an appreciation for life that was very genuine and very rare for that age." Now is the time to model Myles' view of life. Now is the time to have an appreciation for life that is genuine. Now is the time. #LLM

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of BCS. 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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Student triumphant in pursuit of wild bear

Day 3: I awoke to find Vlad and Jitters, the two expert hunters I brought with me to Canada, sitting by the two-way radio, perplexed. I wandered over to see what was going on. Out of the radio came the cragly voice of Mr. Mulfur, the benefactor of this operation, blaring instructions.

"We need the bear soon. Heeeeeehhhhhh, There's a pep rally coming up and we need the Bear for that," said Mr. Mulfur.

Vlad replied in his thick Russian accent, "We can get bear for you. Where should we deliver?"

Mr. Mulfur stayed silent for a second, ruffled some papers, and then replied. "Heeeeeehhhhhh, I have a friend named Chuck. Heeeeeeeeeee runs a Blood and Breakfast..."

I immediately jumped in the conversation out of fear for my health. "A what?!"

Mr. Mulfur quickly replied. "Heeeeeehhhhhh. Sorry, I have a speech impediment that makes lood sound like lood." Silence. "He runs a Bed and Breakfast."

Vlad turned off the radio. We packed our supplies and ventured out into the freezing wilderness of Canada. Jitters was fully convinced he had hypothermia, but I told him that he was fine. He probably did have hypothermia,

though, because he only packed jogging shorts and exercise shirts.

Eventually we spotted a bear engaging in bear-like activities, so we set up a temporary camp and discussed the plan. We came up with the most infallible plan ever, not just for catching bears, but for anything at all. First, Vlad would mimic the cry of the Southern Australian Werewolf Pig to get the bear's attention. Next, Jitters would leap onto the bear and try to steer it into the makeshift cage we set up. Then I would give it a taste of some Northern Australian Werewolf Pig meat, said to have a pacifying effect on anything that eats it. Then, we would carry the bear to Chuck's Bed and Breakfast and go home.

Vlad began his advance into the woods as he let loose a haunting cry. It sounded sort of like, "OooOAaAAArrRGTz!" The bear ran toward Vlad while Jitters steeled himself for what was to come, while whispering, "It'll all be over soon. It'll all be over soon..." Jitters leaped onto the bear. He was successful. Unfortunately, none of us actually thought of what to do when Jitters was on the bear. He was hollering and holding on for dear life while Vlad collided with the bear in an attempt to steer it into the

cage. He accidentally made the bear more angry, so Vlad started running toward the cage.

Being the large Russian man that Vlad is, he was easily caught by the bear, who prepared to take a bite out of him. I picked up the meat and threw it, hoping something good would happen. Alas, it reached the bear's mouth, causing our future mascot to eat the meat before it ate Vlad. It took a big chomp into the Northern Australian Werewolf Pig, and the sedation effects were quite apparent. It worked! The bear stumbled and fell into the cage. Jitters, now scarred for life, got off the bear and quickly closed the cage.

Jitters and I went back to the camp to get the Bear Collection System, or BCS for short. We transported the bear to Chuck's Bed and Breakfast and had a good night's sleep, not in a cave this time. We awoke to the sound of a helicopter landing. Mr. Mulfur came out and stared at me. "Heeeeehhh, Good job, kid. Let's go back to Brentwood now." On the way back I wrote this letter and realized I would have to get my dopelgänger expelled before I returned to class.

Yours Truly, Clive Whaley
P.S.: I tried some of the Northern Australian Werewolf Pig meat on the way back. Mistake.

BCS choirs, bands among holiday concert performers

From staff reports

The month of December brings music to the campus of BCS, and this year was no different. First it was the annual Don Irwin piano concert on Dec. 4, which was followed by the middle and high school choir concert on Dec. 6, and finally the middle and high school band concert a week later.

The day before his concert, Irwin played two small concerts for BCS students. His songs ranged from a rendition of “Chopsticks” in which he used the style of various famous composers, to his own piece called “Snow.” He also told about how his love for playing piano started at six years old, how he started his career, and how his career has flourished, allowing him to travel all around the world.

The following night was the sixth annual concert, which featured an opportunity for children to take pictures with Santa Claus. The concert began with songs by the Brentwood church choir, followed by a group of elementary students, who sang “A Gift To You,” accompanied by Irwin. Afterward, Santa came to the stage and spoke to all the little boys and girls who wanted to see him.

Eventually Irwin began his concert, playing Christmas songs and other various medleys for more than an hour.

Two days later, the BCS choirs entertained the theater audience with a variety of songs, beginning with Encore singing “Great Are You Lord.” The sixth-grade choir was next, featur-

ing solos by Cristian Soto and Asia Anderson.

After Encore sang “Just As I Am,” featuring a solo by senior Emma Dowell, the middle school boys sang four songs, including “Don’t Be Cruel.” Senior Whit Allee had a solo in Encore’s next piece, before the middle school girls came up for their four songs.

The high school choir concluded the concert with several pieces, including one by Brahms and a Zambian prayer.

First-year director Emily Dick said she thought the concert went very well.

“It’s always interesting, because performing in front of a crowd can make a huge difference in the way a group sings,” said Dick, who is getting married this weekend and will soon be known to students as Mrs. Borbon. “However, each of the groups sang beautifully, and it was exciting to get to share what we’ve been working on with family and friends.”

On Dec. 13, the BCS bands played a variety of songs, including several holiday favorites. The jazz band opened with three songs, including “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.” After that



photo: Brandy Gauthier

Charming Elementary music teacher Amanda Stanglin leads a group of elementary students in a song while guest pianist Don Irwin accompanies at Irwin’s concert in the theater on Dec. 4.

was the sixth-grade band, whose tunes included “Jolly Old St. Nicholas.” The seventh- and eighth-grade band came next, and their songs included “Do You Hear What I Hear” and “African Bell Carol.”

The high school band came next, and they concluded the concert with songs like “Sleigh Ride” and the traditional “Greensleeves.”

The concert was notable for its use of the school’s new vibraphone, which director Travis Pollard was eager to show off.

‘Our Town’ casting done

By Quentin Fowler

As the middle school plays come to a close, the curtains are just beginning rise for the high school’s performance of *Our Town*, which will be performed in the school theater in early February.

New director Joseph Clingan held auditions on Dec. 6-7 and has used this week for callbacks, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 13, with the final casting decision to be posted afterward. Practices will begin right away and continue throughout January.

Clingan said his students will be approaching this classic show with a “very creative, artistic, and modern approach.”

“I’m very excited to have the chance to create this specific piece,” Clingan said. “The last time this play was on stage at Brentwood was my senior year, in 2005. I’m hoping

to bring the audience with us on a journey through the past to tell a story that has some very real things to say about our present, and possibly our future,” he said.

Our Town, by Thornton Wilder, is a 1938 three-act play. It tells the story of the fictional American small town of Grover’s Corners between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens, following the families of George Gibbs and Emily Webb. The audience watches the pair meet, fall in love, and experience all the joy and sorrow that life has to offer. The play is also partially narrated by a “stage manager,” who acts as a semi-omniscient character throughout the play.

Clingan shared that he plans to have the stage set up in a special way so that some of the audience will actually be sitting onstage on risers along with the cast.

Christmas at BCS filled with fun

continued from page 1

on stage.

At the winter pep rally on Dec. 7, the Lady Bellas and the cheer team both presented a Christmas-themed dance, the secondary winter sports athletes were introduced, and a Christmas spirit filled the air.

On Dec. 11, fourth graders headed to the Long Center to see a performance of *The Nutcracker*. They then headed back to Brentwood to participate in a fancy dinner and show off the manners they had learned in class and practiced at home. The students who demonstrated the best manners were awarded the Silver Spoon award.

All-community chapel this week featured Encore leading the student body in some Christmas carols, while members of the administration read portions of the story of Christ’s birth. Then, of course, was the annual rendition

of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” which is known to excite everyone in the crowd.

Fifth graders got to experience the annual trip to Village Christian Apartments on Dec. 13. The students brought refreshments and shared the Christmas spirit with the elderly residents. Students were in charge of different roles like reading scripture and leading songs.

K-4 through third-grade students collaborated for a night of entertainment on Dec. 14. The annual Christmas pageant, which has been going on since 1963, included singing Christmas songs on risers and enjoying cookies and hot chocolate with family. The playing of ukuleles once again accompanied some of the festive caroling, displaying the students’ hard work over the last few months.

“Brentwood helps me remember the true spirit of Christmas,” freshman Tessa Whitaker said. “It’s great to see everyone coming together for the holidays.”

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Jaclyn Wishard*

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2019.

Multi-sport star cares most about faith, helping people

By Genevieve Graessle

You may have seen her masterfully spiking on the opposing team during volleyball season. Maybe you saw her just this week crossing up the defenders on the basketball court. Perhaps you have listened to her make announcements for Claw Crew during secondary chapel. It could be that you have seen her promenading the halls of BCS, regularly making a friend or two chuckle.

Jaclyn Wishard makes a big impact on Brentwood Christian’s athletic program during all seasons. She is an all-state volleyball player, an all-state basketball player, and a record-holding, all-state high jumper. However, that is still not all that she does for her community.

Before Jaclyn’s third-grade year, her family was moving, and they needed to find a new elementary school for their youngest daughter. One of her closest friends was, and still is, Corrie Hager, a student at Brentwood. Jaclyn told her parents that she did not want to go to a school where she did not know anyone, so her parents enrolled her at Brentwood. The school has been blessed to have her ever since.

Corrie and Jaclyn have been best friends since the Hagers began attending Westover Hills Church of Christ when both girls were in kindergarten. Jaclyn has been a member there with her family since she was born. Both girls regularly participate in their church community and have been able to grow extremely close throughout the years.

Corrie, who stands almost a foot shorter than her friend, remembers when Jaclyn would come over to her house, even while Corrie was not there, so she could eat the Hagers’ pop-sicles. She recalls the time when Jaclyn wore lip gloss as eyeshadow for the camp talent show when the girls were in mid-

dle school. She also recalls that Jaclyn used to be a “horse girl” in elementary and middle school, and was even a counselor at “horse

camp.” Jaclyn says she is still a horse girl at heart, and when she gets older she wants to have her own horse and be a “cool horse grandma.”

The two girls push each other to stand up for their beliefs with confidence, and they have been able to stay friends for so long because of their similar sense of humor, Corrie says.

Their steady friendship has helped Jaclyn become who she is today. Jaclyn says she is proud of who she is today and who she has become, and she owes much of that to good friends like Corrie. However, she also adds that it is all God working in her and the people around her working with her.

Someone else Jaclyn is grateful to for helping her grow is one of her youth ministers at Westover, Katherine Pimentel. Jaclyn describes her as “just really cool and really good at her job.” She continuously encourages Jaclyn through struggles in her faith.

“She has pushed me to become the best woman of Christ that I can be,” Jaclyn says.

Jaclyn is so inspired through her time in the youth group that her ideal job is something in the mission field or doing some kind of nonprofit work. She says she wants her future to involve mainly working with people and for people, hopefully outside of an office setting. She is really passionate about helping people, and she says she is thinking about interning at Westover Hills.

While she is unsure about her college plans, Jaclyn says she is thinking about attending Pepperdine University. This past summer she went to Crossways, a Christian youth leadership camp there.

Since then, she says she has really seen a lot of things coming together because of God’s work in her life. She has been able to talk with and help other people because of the experiences she has had in the past year.

“I’ve started to see a lot of purpose in random things,” she says.

Another longtime friend and classmate, Riley Walker, concurred that she is extremely strong in her faith, and she always strives to help other people in theirs.

“She’s always willing to be outgoing, whether that be to lead others or to go show a kid that feels left out that they are welcome and accepted,” Riley says.

Not only does Jaclyn strive to help others and grow in faith, but she also works hard to better herself in all of her activities, especially sports.

“Something I admire about Jaclyn is the way she recognizes her faults and actively works to make herself better,” Corrie says. “She has grown so much in her faith and has become such an amazing person.”

Last spring in high jump, she beat her personal record by four inches. She has been participating in BCS track and field since fifth grade, and she wanted to quit in recent years, but she says she is glad that Coach Katie Smith encouraged her to keep at it. Jaclyn received the honor of second-team all-state for track last year. She gives a shout-out to her trainer Anthony who worked with her this year; she says she never could have done it without him.

Jaclyn is also a first-team all-state player for volleyball. Her beginning was at Town & Country Sports, and she played club volleyball for many years. Jaclyn enjoys playing volleyball for BCS and with her friends, but she reminisces about going to volleyball tournaments in Orlando, Fla., with her club team.

The Wishards kept a basketball hoop in front of their house, and Jaclyn remembers always playing with her dad as a little girl. Again, she started at Town & Country Sports, then began playing for Brentwood in the fifth grade. She has been awarded second-team all state and first-team all district for basketball.

Her favorite classes this year are Quantitative Reasoning and Humanities. She says she loves that they apply to real life and the reasoning of things. However, thinking about her future, she is most excited for the academic freedom that she will have in college to take classes that she is really interested in.

Freedom is something she is thankful for now. She says the thing that she is most grateful for is the freedom that she has to live life to the fullest with no fear of death through the power of Christ. She is also grateful to her parents for the way they raised her, and says she wants to be exactly like them.

Jaclyn may never win an award for all-district servant or all-state sister in Christ, but it is evident to those who know her that she consistently aspires to show love to everyone.



Versatile, friendly CFO sees work as ministry

By Michael Milicia

Twenty years ago, a nerdy yet active homeschooled boy read books and played video games and grew up learning about God, math, and science. In college he studied biochemistry, and after that he studied business. When he started working at BCS, he combined his vast experience and his love of mission work to become a loving and active member of the administration.

Jeff Morris, the chief financial officer of Brentwood Christian, is given the task of managing the budget and overseeing finance and accounting functions. To say it more clearly, he makes sure the school is smart with its money and that their “accounting books are accurate.”

“I make sure we are setting our fees appropriately and being good stewards of our money,” Morris says.

Morris has been working at Brentwood since he was hired on Sep. 4, 2013, and enjoys the chance to “give coaches and teachers and extracurricular programs the resources to make them the best in Austin.” To do this, though, Morris needs to manage the costs and resource allocations, and he seeks to do this every day. A current focus is on directing more funds towards investments and growing the endowment for BCS.

Morris was born in Houston in 1988 and grew up going to First Colony Church of Christ. As a kid, he was very inquisitive and “by the books” on how things should be done.

“I was probably academically nerdy,” he says.

He was homeschooled with his only sibling, a younger sister who now lives in Austin. Outside of the rigorous academic work they did, the two played together a lot, enjoying things like living room baseball and climbing pecan trees using ropes. But chores still had to be done. To make them more bearable, the kids were allowed to be as “annoying as we wanted as long as we were working,” and they even made games out of the tasks to finish faster. Home was a fun but well-disciplined place, and academics were a big part of life there too.

“I had to read twice as long as I played video games, but we still had fun,” Morris says.

In high school, Morris was in

choir and played golf and tennis through his club in his freshman and sophomore years. In his junior and senior years, he went to Mexico and Uganda for mission trips and participated in a program called Youth and Government. In the program, he and other students competed in mock trials at Austin’s Renaissance Hotel as well as the Capitol with the goal of learning about the judicial system and what it is like to be a real attorney.

He met his wife, Karyn, at Abilene Christian University while leading a freshman group during Welcome Week. They got to know each other more on a double date with friends and eventually married in 2014. She owns a retail shop in Taylor that has donated to Partnership Dinner, and she even worked at BCS for a year as a counselor and coach.

Morris has always enjoyed science and mathematics, so he decided to choose biochemistry as his major when he started at ACU “because it seemed more versatile, and I had interest in the medical fields.” He worked in a science lab for three summers through college and worked toward an “overarching goal to help people.”

After graduating, he decided to pursue a master of business administration degree at Texas A&M. After he completed his MBA and was working for a biotech company in College Station, a spot at Brentwood came open. Morris says he felt as if he were being called by God to the ministry.

“I think the route that I took laid a solid technical and analytical foundation for my role in finance, but also helps me appreciate the need for Christian education and graduating students with a vocational approach to their future careers,” Morris explains.

At Brentwood, Morris didn’t want to just sit back in an office and crunch numbers. He chose to be a mentor group leader and StuCo sponsor so that he could “help direct and encourage” students.

“It is a great way to stay connected with the heartbeat of the school and to continue to keep the ministry mindset at the forefront of my administrative work,” he says.

According to students, he seems to be doing a very good job at this, because any student who’s asked has all good things to say about him.

Junior Daniel Kim says that in the mentor groups, Morris connects with the students, and his group is a relaxing period away from school.

“He tries to do activities that we would like and tries to listen to the voice of the students. I can tell he’s trying to make the school a better place not only academically but environmentally,” Kim says.

Morris says that his dream job would be to “be in a band touring around.” When he was in college at A&M, he made a music video with a good friend of his. It was a One Direction song, and the video has been played for students in the theater.

Brentwood’s director of admissions Kimberly McLain says Morris is incredibly smart and a lot of fun to work with.

“His ability to manage school finances is impeccable, but he is not afraid to crack jokes and tell some self-deprecating humor,” she says. “He is incredibly good at what he does and can accomplish (a variety of things), from managing a six-million dollar business to running across campus to fix a clogged toilet.”

Chief technology and security officer Wayne Marks recalls a funny moment he had with Morris last year in the “bloodmobile.” Morris had given blood and felt queasy, so Marks spent “a few hours babysitting” him. In all seriousness, Marks says he has great respect for his colleague.

“He is a very bright young man who is very conscientious and diligent about his work, and who cares about Brentwood. Not just the financial things, but about the kids and staff,” Marks says.

Morris now worships at Westover Hills and is the leader of a senior huddle group on Wednesdays. In his free time, he meets up with friends to play cards, golf, or ping pong.

“I could beat anyone here in ping pong,” he says, smiling.

Even though his job may seem serious, Morris cares a lot about the people at Brentwood and likes to have fun with others.

“He always talks about how we can follow and worship God and reminds us how we already are doing it,” junior Junyeong Park says.



Good steward Brentwood’s CFO Jeff Morris, who oversees the school’s finance and accounting, is also involved with students as Student Council sponsor and a mentor group leader. Morris, who grew up in Houston, was homeschooled before getting degrees from both Abilene Christian and Texas A&M.

photo: Natalie Barry

Football falls to ‘Goliath’

By Jackson Baird

The BCS football team’s season ended on Nov. 16 with a 57-0 loss to Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, who would go on to defeat district-champion Regents 49-24 in the state final.

This game was a mismatch from the beginning for Brentwood, who was up against a team ranked number 14 in Texas and 140 nationally. The Tigers were led by their quarterback Shedeur Sanders, and coached by his father, two-time Super Bowl champion Deion Sanders. The younger Sanders torched the Bears through the air for 289 yards and five touchdowns in the first half.

“I liked the competition in this game,” junior Phillip Mach said. “It made me want to work harder during the offseason.”

Other players were not as enthusiastic to play the Tigers.

“It was definitely an experience,” junior Isaac Copeland said. “The first half was just awful. But in the second half we had some fun and began making some plays.”

Going into the game head coach Stan Caffey was looking forward to the matchup against the tough competition and said his team would not back down.

“We are looking forward to playing Cedar Hill Trinity,” Caffey said. “I think our team is mentally strong and we won’t be intimidated, much like David didn’t fear Goliath.”

While David was in good health, however, the Bears were missing some key players including leading rusher junior Sam Orick, junior punter/kicker Jonah Connor, and senior receiver and running back Chase Blackman.

“We have gone from six-man football in our first year to eleven-man the second year, to nine wins in the third year,” Caffey said. “This year the Bears responded to the move from 4A to 5A by winning eight games with great class

and dignity.”.

In their last regular season game on Nov. 9, Brentwood hosted San Antonio Christian in a non-district matchup. It was a close game throughout, and BCS went into the half with only a 7-0 lead on a touchdown run from senior quarterback Blake Benton.

In the second half the Lions took the lead following two costly fumbles by the Bears. Down 21-14 with less than two minutes left, BCS drove down the field with Benton finding sophomore Zack Billante in corner of the endzone for a 10-yard touchdown pass which forced overtime.

Following similar rules used for overtime in the NCAA, the Lions elected to play offense first, and the Bears held them, forcing a turnover on downs. This set the stage for a game-winning drive. With the ball on the 25-yard line, freshman Conner Rohlack broke free and ran the ball down to the four-yard line. Benton then bulled his way into the endzone for the win on the following play. It was the first overtime game in Brentwood’s football history.

After Connor went down in the first half with a concussion, BCS had to rely on some inexperienced players to handle his kicking and punting duties. Rohlack stepped up and made the game-tying extra point, while senior linebacker Curtis Mack had a 55-yard punt.

“The play of the Bear football team was nothing less than heroic,” Caffey said. “I talked of the story of Gideon earlier in the week and reminded them that the reason God had Gideon reduce his numbers in his army was so God’s power could be recognized.”

Brentwood was led on offense this year by Orick, who had 1,011 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns. He was followed by Benton, who rushed for 621 yards and 14 touchdowns.

see **FOOTBALL**, page 8



photo: Jeff Glenn

Taking the shot Junior Genevieve Graessle aims for the goal against John Paul II on Nov. 13. Graessle’s experience and leadership are key for the inexperienced Bears.

Soccer girls face challenges

By Natalie Hargrove

The varsity girls’ soccer team has started out with an 0-2-1 record as they prepare for the start of district play on Jan. 15 under first-year coach Shelby Strong.

Unfortunately, the team’s difficulties will likely continue. Not only are they playing without substitutes, but they lack experience at every position.

On Dec. 3, the girls played San Juan Diego, a team they beat 14-2 last year, and escaped with a 1-1 tie. Their goal came off the foot of junior Genevieve Graessle.

“The other team’s goalie got a handball right outside the box, so I went ahead and took the free kick while nobody was ready,” Graessle said. “It was pretty easy because I was really relaxed in the moment.”

Notably, the Bears played the second half with only 10 players.

Brentwood played two games before the Thanksgiving break, losing 5-1 to John Paul II and 8-0 to Veritas. Sophomore Julia Glenn scored the team’s only goal of those games.

Strong said she is really proud and impressed with the girls’ willingness to work hard and eagerness to learn.

“We are working on maintaining position of the ball – defending, and moving to be a good option to receive the ball,” Strong said.

The rest of the season is expected to be tough, but the girls are hopeful and continuing to improve and work really hard.

“We have a really good chemistry as a group, so hopefully we can use that to connect on the field better,” Graessle said.

Soccer boys learn early lessons

By Jackson Baird

The Brentwood Christian boys’ varsity soccer team was 1-2 heading into their game on Dec. 13 against Veritas. With a lot of new pieces added to the roster this year, BCS has gotten off to a slow start, allowing eight goals in three games while they only allowed nine goals all last season.

The team will practice over the Christmas break to prepare for their last non-district game on Jan. 11 against San Antonio TMI before they begin district play on Jan. 13 against Hyde Park.

“Life is like a boxing match,” head coach Jesse Jordan said. “Getting knocked down in life is a given. Getting up and moving forward is a choice. We got knocked down in our first

two games, but we learned nothing is given; everything is earned.”

Senior Adrian Battle leads the team with six goals, followed by senior Riley Walker, who has three. Junior Jackson Baird leads the team in assists with three, followed by Battle with two. Sophomore goalkeeper Asher Gentry has made 17 saves.

Following are recaps of the team’s games:

11/27: @ San Antonio Christian 3-2 L

After giving up a penalty in the first half, the Bears trailed 2-0 at halftime. In the second half, Battle got Brentwood back in the game with an early goal. But the Lions responded with a free kick goal minutes later. Fighting hard, the Bears got the ball in the net one more time, but

see **SOCCER**, page 8



photo: Darnell Mack

In the trenches Brentwood’s offensive line, led by all-district senior Zach Mack (left) and junior Austin Balogh, had its hands full in the playoff loss to Cedar Hill Trinity.

Lady Bears focus on teamwork

By Natalie Hargrove

The Lady Bears have come through four tournaments during their pre-district season with a record of 11-8 and lots of experience as they prepare for the start of district play on Jan. 22 under first-year coach Mike Milligan.

Brentwood lost to TSD on Tuesday night. Their next game is not until Jan. 8 against Lago Vista.

Milligan said the team has come together over the last couple of tournaments and has faced some adversity but has overcome it.

“We’ve had multiple players step up at different times. For us to be successful, it takes everybody,” he explained. “We have to collectively be good.”

Senior Jaclyn Wishard leads the team in scoring with 13 points per game, followed by senior Nyna Vazquez with 10.

Wishard said the team has the potential to play really well and succeed in district.

“Right now our team is really strong in individual scoring, and we have a lot of potential to make good basketball plays,” Wishard said.

Following are the team’s most recent results:

11/9-10: @ Rosehill Tourn. W W L L

Opening against Bay Area Christian, the girls led by five at the half and continued to pull away, winning 55-40. After a slow start in game two against Woodlands John Cooper, the Lady Bears got a spark from their bench and went on a 15-2 run, leading to a 43-21 win.

The next day, Brentwood played Colleyville Covenant and struggled to find a rhythm both on offense and defense, which led to a 48-34 loss. BCS had a strong start in their next game

against Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, but they fell short and lost 45-42.

11/13: @ Lanier 47-41 W

Playing one of their neighboring public schools, Brentwood was led in scoring by seniors Wishard, Vazquez, and Kayla Mayo. BCS was ahead the entire game and survived a late push by Lanier.

11/15-17: Bestpack Invitational L W W

The Lady Bears opened up against Texas School for the Deaf with a difficult time finding offensive rhythm, which led them to lose 38-36. The Bears played Cypress Christian in their second game with a strong first quarter led by McLain’s five three-pointers. McLain finished with 19 points, and Wishard had a double-double, as the girls pulled away to win 51-21.

In the Lady Bears’ third and final against the Legacy Rams, senior Nyna Vazquez led the team in scoring with 23 points, including seven three-pointers, to help them win.

11/19-20: @ Lake Country Tourn. W L L L

Without their full team in this holiday tournament, the Lady Bears started with an easy win over Canterbury Episcopal. Wishard scored 19 points, and the girls won 53-12. Playing Tyler All Saints next, the girls finished with a total of 28 turnovers, which led them to lose 47-37.

Turnover struggles continued in the next game against Anna High, and Brentwood trailed by eight at halftime. Although they cut the lead to four in the third quarter, they ended up with 23 turnovers and lost 47-32.

In their fourth and final game against Houston Lutheran North, BCS got into foul trouble, which kept them from pulling away. Brentwood came up one free throw short of forcing



photo: Brandy Gauthier

Easy bucket Junior Jenna Riley goes in for the score against TSD during Brentwood’s annual Bestpack Invitational on Nov. 15. The Lady Bears lost the game 38-36.

overtime and lost 40-39.

11/27: Faith Academy 56-31 W

The Lady Bears came out with a strong lead and a defensive intensity that helped them win. Mayo and Wishard led the charge on the boards with both posting a double-double.

11/29-12/1 @ All Saints Tourn. W L W

The Lady Bears opened up winning 50-18 against Ovilla Christian. Playing Tyler All Saints next, the girls’ execution was off and

they lost 31-26. In their final game BCS took on Lindale High, and they struggled to find a rhythm before pulling out the win, 57-46.

12/4: @ New Braunfels Christian 44-40 W

The Lady Bears had more turnover issues in the first half, but Vazquez’s 13 points kept them within two points. BCS trailed by five to start the fourth quarter, but clutch free throws and a late three-pointer by McLain sealed the win.

Missing players factor into slow start for basketball

By Jackson Baird

Coming off their best season in 20 years, in which they finished district play undefeated at 11-0 and swept the district tournament, the Brentwood Christian boys’ varsity basketball team has gotten off to a 5-7 start following their 65-47 victory over TSD Tuesday night.

Missing key players and injuries have hurt Brentwood early on but they have found a way to keep their offense balanced with multiple players averaging double digits in scoring.

Their next game is tonight against Reagan in a non-district matchup.

The team started the season with only eight players on varsity, as several key players were still playing football.

“One of the things we’ve had to learn through the first several games is how to play through adversity,” head coach Brandon Greene said.

“Between football and injuries, we are yet to put our full roster on the floor.”

The Bears played five games without their football teammates.

“The silver lining to that is that guys are getting more playing time and playing in different situations, which will aid our versatility when everyone is healthy,” Greene said.

Beginning Nov. 17, the team added senior Zack Mack along with juniors Coby Best and Isaac Copeland. Senior Chase Blackman will return to action during the Christmas break.

With statistics compiled through only the first eight games, junior Daniel Hickl leads the team with 13.6 points per game, followed by senior Connor Troutman at 10.8 and senior Nathan Ging at 8.7. Hickl also leads the team in rebounds with 4.9 per game, followed by senior Micah Best at 4.4. Ging leads in assists per game with 2.6, followed by Troutman at 2.3.

As the season progresses, Greene said the Bears will look to focus on their three team rules to win games: Take care of the ball, rebound, and help your teammates.

“The games we’ve done those well are the games we’ve won. The games we don’t do those well we lose,” Greene explained. “We’re a team that has a lot of weapons offensively, so if we can do those three things consistently we’ll give ourselves a chance to win every game.”

Following are the team’s most recent results:

11/13: @ Glenn 65-44 L

BCS came out very slow and made many mistakes that ended up being costly. The game was close most of the way before the Bears let the score get out of hand late. They shot well but committed 22 turnovers.

11/15-17: Bestpack Invitational L W L W

In their first game of their annual Bestpack tournament, the Bears hosted Savio. Brent-

wood fought to keep it close and was down only seven late in the game. But BCS was forced to foul to keep the game alive, pushing the score out of hand, resulting in a 73-54 loss. They bounced back to defeat Boerne Geneva 68-49 in the second game, led by Troutman’s 22 points, including six three-pointers. The Bears followed this with a 56-32 loss to San Antonio Legacy, and then a 62-49 win over Cypress Christian. In this game BCS knocked down nine three-pointers, and Hickl led the way with 21 points and 10 boards.

11/20: @ San Antonio St. Mary’s 86-52 L

Up against last year’s 5A state finalists, the Bears had a rough game. Fatigue also played a major role, as this was Brentwood’s sixth game in eight days. Brentwood was sloppy on offense, committing a season high 29 turnovers.

Students win Jog prizes

continued from page 1

Colton McLain, and senior Samuel Dixon. Leading the faculty and staff were Jonathan Weed and his sister, Susan Womack, who topped all female runners. The top lap runner among the elementary boys was fourth-grader Levi Baron, with 36 laps. Leading the way for girls with 35 laps was fifth-grader Harper Counts. Students who turned in at least 20 sponsors and raised a minimum of \$150 had their names in a drawing for special prizes. The lower elementary winner was kindergartner Cale Rohlack, who won a Round Rock Express party package. The upper elementary drawing winner was fifth-grader Zoie Rackley, who received tickets to an iFLY Austin experience for

up to five people. The middle school drawing winner, eighth-grader Dakota Johnson, was given a trip to Top Golf for up to six people. Lastly, high school drawing winners Jack Leidlein, Adrie Gruis, Will Hughes, and Isaac Olewin each received four season passes to Six Flags. The secondary run was after lunch, so students got to enjoy a morning of fun activities while they were not out participating in the race. The secondary classes all had chapel at the beginning of the day and then played a mass game of Kahoot in the CSA. High school had the buff-puff volleyball game between the junior and senior boys, which was won by the seniors. Some classes watched movies such as *Miracle on 34th Street* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*.



photo: Max Cooper

Story time Eighth-grader Kennedy Drennon, as Miss Nelson, talks with her students about how an “ugly creature” becomes a butterfly in *Miss Nelson is Missing*, performed in the school theater on Nov. 30. *Charlotte’s Web* was also performed.

Middle school actors entertain on stage

continued from page 1

Swamp. With a big test coming up, the students get their acts together and go to extreme lengths to find their missing teacher. Clingan had special praise for eighth-grader Kennedy Drennon, who played Miss Nelson, and seventh-grader Micah Riley, who played the part of Raymond, an intelligent kid with knack for investigating. “Kennedy was an amazing leader for her group, and did a wonderful job playing two completely different characters at once,” Clingan said. “Micah was also quite the scene stealer, doing a great job bringing his character to life, and giving the crowd a lot of laughs.”

Charlotte’s Web is a children’s classic book written by E. B. White in 1952, and it was adapted for the stage by Joseph Robinette. The play is based on the life of a young pig named Wilbur that desperately wants to avoid the butcher and stay with his many friends and companions. He is assisted by Charlotte, a spider that spells words in her web to save Wilbur. Clingan specifically recognized the skill of students Carina Combs and Ocean Peterson. *Miss Nelson is Missing!* will be competing in the middle school TCSIT group acting competition in Abilene on April 12-13. *Charlotte’s Web* will compete in the PSIA one-act competition on Feb. 15-16 at BCS.



photo: Alyssa Mancias

Bubble bath Sixth-graders Coleston Allen, Jack Fluitt, Zack Bolden, and Gavin Martinez enjoy the foamy bubbles after running the Jog-a-fun 5K on Nov. 28.

Sports stories continued

continued from pages 6 and 7

Soccer, varsity boys

it was too little too late as the Lions held on for the win. Gentry totaled 10 saves. **11/29: John Paul II 3-2 L** The Bears trailed early before junior Jonah Connor, in his first game back from football, evened the score. But another defensive mistake put BCS down 2-1 at halftime. Brentwood controlled most of the play in the second half and tied the score again with a goal from sophomore Andrew Geevarghese. Late in the game the Bears got caught on a counter attack and the ball was played over the heads of the center backs, allowing the Crusaders’ forward to score. **12/3: Hill Country 10-2 W** Hosting their former district rivals in a non-district friendly, the Bears jumped on the Knights early with two goals in the first eight minutes, including a 60-yard goal from Geevarghese. BCS led at the half 5-2. In the second half the Bears continued to pile on the goals before allowing some younger players to get some playing time. Batlle led Brentwood with four goals and two assists, while Walker scored three. Gentry also made five saves. “It was fun to get back to playing the Brentwood soccer I remember and smacking teams,” Batlle said.

Hoops, varsity boys

11/27: Marble Falls 63-40 W Although Brentwood was forced to play this game without senior starting point guard Nathan Ging, who was out with an injury, other players stepped up in new roles and helped lead the Bears to a victory. Troutman led with 17 points and three assists. **11/29-12/1: @ All Saints Tournament L L** Playing in Tyler on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, BCS had a rough few games, as they were without leading scorer Hickl due to a concussion.

Football, varsity

Benton passed for 738 yards and six touchdowns. Sophomore Zack Billante led the team with 26 receptions for 295 yards and two touchdowns. The defense was led by Curtis Mack, who had 134 total tackles, followed by Copeland with 80. Brentwood had five first-team all-district players this season, including senior Zach Mack, who achieved the honor on both offensive and defensive line. Orick also made first-team offense, while the other defenders were Curtis Mack at linebacker and junior Luke Jackson at defensive back. A total of 12 Bears made the all-district teams.