



# THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 31 NO. 2

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2018



## Varsity hoops season underway

By Jackson Baird

The boys' and girls' high school teams hosted "Basketball Madness" for students and families in the Athletic Center on Friday, Nov. 2, after the football game. It was an exciting kickoff to the basketball season, with glow-in-the-dark performances from the Lady Bellas, cheerleaders, and BCS Drumline. The two teams showed off their skills by competing in several competitions and drills.

A few days later, the teams opened the season with home games on Nov. 6. The girls took an easy victory over New Braunfels Christian, while the boys struggled without

see **BASKETBALL**, page 7

## Students welcome new bus to BCS

By Natalie Hargrove

BCS added another bus to its fleet when it purchased a charter bus on Oct. 10 from a company in Nashville, Tenn.

School CFO Jeff Morris said Brentwood Christian needed an additional reliable vehicle for transportation, "especially with the growth in our secondary school and participation in extracurricular activities."

The 2004 MCI charter bus originally cost half a million dollars when it was new. Thanks to athletic director Stan Caffey's connection with the company, BCS received a good deal on the bus.

"This type of bus holds value better than a school bus, seats more people than either bus we have now, has storage for luggage and equipment, and more leg room for the older kids," Morris said.

The bus holds 56 passengers and has many special features such as phone chargers, TVs, a bathroom, and a large fuel tank. It also has overhead and underneath storage compartments.

The football team agrees it is better than the other buses Brentwood has.

"It's comfortable," senior Chase Blackman said. "I sleep every time I get on it."

Senior Christi Snow agreed that the charter bus is special.

"It's nice because there's a place for stuff. It's like an airplane. There's a lot more

see **NEW BUS**, page 4

photo: Waterboy Graphics

**Riding in style** BCS added a charter bus to its fleet last month, and students are giving it glowing reviews.

## Elementary students enjoy annual focus on reading

By Emma Ayers

Bringing blankets to class, writing your own book, dressing up as your favorite book character... These are some of the fondest memories secondary students have of their time in elementary classes. During the week of Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, Brentwood Christian's Book Week celebrated its 26th year of encouraging elementary students by showing how fun and exciting reading and writing can be.

Students' books for the Young Authors Contest were turned in to judges on Oct. 23. According to elementary librarian Tere Hager, 88 students wrote original stories for the competition.

On Halloween, when students were allowed to dress in costumes, all the young authors were recognized in an assembly in the auditorium. Different, unique awards were given to each student who submitted a book to the contest. These included Best Non-fiction, Best Travelogue, and Best Animal Story.

An overall excellence award was also given to one student in each grade. Winners were kindergartner Madison McGill, first-grader Riley Bills, second-grader Ella Hinds, third-grader Natalie Weed, fourth-grader Charlie

Osborn, and fifth-grader Luke Weed.

Throughout the week, book-ins were held in all of the elementary classrooms. Students were allowed to bring a soft item, like a blanket or pillow, and a flashlight. They could make blanket forts, get comfortable, and read.

"It is a wonderful week to celebrate the connection between reading and writing," Hager said. "Being able to express ourselves through words and pictures is a gift from God."

Author Janice Shefelman visited the fourth graders on the last day of the week. Shefelman has written several Texas-based historical fiction books, and the students have read several of them as a part of their Social Studies classes. Shefelman has shared her writing with Brentwood fourth graders for many years.

Tuesday, the kids who wrote stories for the Young Authors Contest got to have a party, where they celebrated the effort they had put into their stories. On Wednesday, students dressed up as their favorite story character for the entire day, and got to share a little about their character and book of choice in their classes.

"Book week was fun because we got to meet a famous author and we had a book-in," fourth-grader Levi Baron said.



photo: Brandy Gauthier

**He's Batman** Cale Rohlack, a student in Julie Ann Harper's kindergarten class, came dressed as Batman on Oct. 31. Book Week also featured book-ins with flashlights.

You Can Believe: Genevieve Graessle

# How should we be treating our Muslim neighbors?

On two different occasions in the month of September, the North Austin Muslim Community Center just south of Brentwood on Lamar was vandalized. During the dark hours of the morning on Sep. 2 and Sep. 13, different areas of their property were damaged. The first offense caused thousands of dollars in repairs for two broken doors and windows at the mosque. On Sep. 13, less than two months ago, all four tires were slashed on one of the center’s vans, and part of their fence was damaged. These random acts of violence can be classified as hate crimes toward this peaceful community down the road from us.

It should be very easy for us to sympathize with this community center. Brentwood has

held a peaceful relationship with them for the many years of being their neighbor. According to their website, they are the largest mosque in Central Texas, hosting many community events, like sports camps, robotics camps, and potlucks. These attacks toward them have a harsh effect on all of their members.

We can only imagine what it would feel like if our house of worship were being repeatedly vandalized and attacked in the same way. It is surely disheartening knowing that some people in the Austin community do not want them to continue worshipping, and they feel so angry about it to act on it in these aggressive ways.

When we proclaim Christ as our Lord, it is obvious that our religious stance will not agree with the beliefs of Muslims. We clearly disagree on the crucial declaration of our faiths: Christians believe that we are saved through the blood of Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus says, “No one comes to the Father except through me.” He is our way, our truth, and our life. It is plain to see that our proclamation of faith is not the same as that of our next-door neighbors. But how should this difference affect our behavior?

We, in our close Brentwood community, do not experience much persecution because of our faith. It is easy to forget how challenging life can be for others because of the way this world treats them. It is especially hard to remember that there are even Christians out there in danger every day. According to Open Door USA, 255 Christians are killed around the world every month. North Korea is the most

dangerous country for active Christians, and it has been for the last 17 consecutive years. Faithful believers in countries where Christianity is illegal face the constant struggle of choosing between their religious beliefs and loyalty to their nation or sometimes just staying alive. On the other hand, we go to a well-respected private Christian school in a free country.

Muslims in America have experienced religious-based persecution for many years. This persecution has increased since the stereotypes and conspiracies that arose after the 9/11 attacks. Other mosques around the nation have been experiencing even worse crimes targeted at them. Many other worship centers have been burned down in an effort to slow down the growth of the Islamic faith in our country. Certainly, it can be frustrating to see a faith that publicly denies Christ’s holiness continue to grow. However, it is immensely more important to remember our call to love. Christ came to this earth not to shut down and attack other religions, but to shower this broken world in love. Our Christian purpose in

this life is to imitate Him.

It can often be extremely hard to focus on our purpose of love toward everyone, when our situation is so strikingly different than theirs. However, it is even more important to love your neighbors, literally, when they do not agree with your beliefs. We live out God’s love every day, in hopes to bring others to it and that they see the hope of Christ through us. We primarily love because He loved us first, but because we know that truth, we should want to share it with others! The best way to spread the gospel is by living like Jesus and loving everyone, even those who could be perceived as enemies.

THE BEAR FACTS

Brentwood Christian School  
11908 North Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78753

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.

Editor-in-Chief  
Genevieve Graessle

Photo Editor  
Natalie Barry

Sports Editor  
Jackson Baird

Reporters  
Emma Ayers  
Quentin Fowler  
Natalie Hargrove  
Michael Milicia  
Sophie Orlikoski  
Hannah Womack

Adviser  
Jonathan Weed

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



photo: kvue.com

## Student’s efforts to capture bear prove toilsome

Day 2: The day began with Jitters and Vlad fighting over a bottle of soda. I happened to be reading “The Filthy American’s Guide To Mother Russia Vol. 2” Section 529 Paragraph C: “Do not try to punch a soda out of a Russian man’s hand. It will not end well.” Jitters couldn’t feel his face for an hour. Vlad finished his machine that he started working on when I last wrote and tested it out. He fired it at the cave wall and it shot out a bunch of lobsters. I said, “What could possibly be the use of that thing?” All he said was, “Lobster Cannon.” “Yeah, I know what it is,” I replied. “What is the point of it?” “It fires lobsters,” he said. He isn’t much of a social butterfly.

We decided to try to look for a bear once more. We went out into the cold wasteland of Northern Canada armed with the Lobster Cannon, Jitter’s maple syrup, my lighter I keep on

me at all times, and some other various hunting tools. Eventually, we encountered a bear futilely attempting to climb a tree. Vlad immediately took aim with his lobster cannon while Jitters frantically tried to come up with a plan. I pushed Vlad out of the way and forced Jitters to huddle up with us.

The plan we came up with was this: Vlad would sneak around to a hiding place and fire the lobster cannon to distract the bear while Jitters snuck up behind it and stuck it with a tranquilizer. If anything went wrong, I would use my lighter to scare the bear off. It was perfect. Vlad started his approach as did Jitters while I got a stick I could light on fire.

What I forgot to factor in was that the bear could still smell the lobsters before they were launched. The bear whipped its head around at the first sign of food and charged toward Vlad.

Jitters was so frightened he passed out. I frantically tried to light the stick on fire only to realize it wouldn’t light because of all the snow on it. Vlad fired the lobsters at the bear which gave him enough time to escape. I woke Jitters up and we snuck off back to camp. The day ended with Jitters and Vlad going to sleep early and me writing this letter while drinking some soda. We will catch that bear, no matter how long it takes.

Footnote: The process of sending these letters is very difficult. I use the radio to talk to Mr. Mulfur and relay the letter to him. He gets it wrong a lot because of the enormous snake-shaped cataract in his left eye and the muffle effect from the radio. Each letter takes about an hour for him to get it right.

Yours Truly,  
Clive Whale



# Students leave campus, serve

By Michael Milicia and Sophie Orlikoski

As students were hurriedly filing canned food into boxes, one group yelled to stop the conveyor belt. The group had run out of instant mashed potatoes.

Members of Brentwood’s junior class stopped making the emergency boxes at the Central Texas Food Bank just before finding out they helped pack more than 14,000 pounds of food for the flood victims in Llano.

All high school students performed acts of service in the Austin community last month for Spiritual Emphasis Day. Juniors and seniors had their day on Oct. 17, while freshmen and sophomores served the next day.

Accompanied by Kaleen Graessle, Summer Best, and other teachers, juniors helped set up boxes to be distributed, and many worked along a conveyor belt.

That same day, 14 seniors went to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store with Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, while the rest went to Community First!, a ministry of Mobile Loaves and Fishes, with several other teachers.

The group at the thrift store made supply packs for homeless people, cut egg cartons into smaller sizes for distribution of eggs, organized clothing and furniture in the store, and sorted stuffed animal donations.

The other groups at Community First! pulled weeds and shoveled mulch and gravel at a community farm, beautifying the place.

“It was nice to see that the people we were affecting were happy,” senior Mitchell Johnson said.

The two grades went to the Tech Ridge Shopping Center to eat at different places like Schlotzsky’s and Panda Express. They returned

to school at about 1:30 p.m. and eventually did group activities. The day closed with a worship assembly in the CSA, where students were encouraged by junior Daniel Kim and senior Jaclyn Wishard to look for the presence of God in their service.

The following day, freshmen also went to the Central Texas Food Bank, while the sophomores were divided into four groups to visit four Head Start locations.

Leaving campus at 7:30 a.m. for the food bank, the freshmen were buzzing with excitement. Fourteen adults, including class sponsors Julie Rivera and Denise Riley, accompanied and looked after all of the 68 freshmen.

The class arrived at 8 a.m. to be sorted into their jobs of packing boxes, sifting through cans, and various other tasks.

“I enjoyed spending time with my class and getting to know them better,” Kimberly Jolly said. “I learned a lot about myself and can’t wait to see what the future holds for this class.”

Afterwards, the freshmen were released to find where they wanted to eat lunch, choosing from among Panda Express, In-N-Out, MOD Pizza, and more.

While the freshmen were doing their part, sophomores at Head Start locations played tag and board games with the children, while others cleaned up classrooms and bathrooms.

After all the hard work, the various groups ate at places like Torchys Tacos, Cane’s, and Andy’s Frozen Custard. Then they headed back to campus to talk about what they did and share some interesting things from their jobs.

Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth, who plans the Spiritual Emphasis Days with help from Spiritual Life Committee, says that it is a “spiritual practice to spend a day focusing on God.”

# Jog-a-Fun to feature bubbles

By Emma Ayers

It’s almost that day of the year when students are lacing up their shoes, putting in their headphones, and getting ready to run. Wednesday, Nov. 14, will mark the 35th annual fundraising event known as Jog-a-fun. Students will enjoy a full day of fun activities and, most importantly, the run.

Like last year, the theme for the jog is “superheroes,” so students can come to the run in costumes, if they are so inclined.

Since September, incentives have been given to secondary and elementary students to reach out to their family and friends for potential sponsorship, to perform well in the run, and to raise as much money as they can. For high school winners, the top prize will be four season passes to Six Flags, while middle school winners will get a trip to Top Golf for up to six people. Upper elementary winners will receive tickets to an iFLY Austin experience for up to five people. One lower elementary winner will be given a Round Rock Express Party Package.

Rather than a color run this year, secondary students will participate in a bubble run during their 5K. Jog-a-fun T-shirts were given out weeks in advance, and students have been given the opportunity to wear those shirts with jeans to get more excitement going for the event.

Elementary students will again run laps within the baseball outfield, while middle and high school students will run a five-kilometer course near the edges of the Brentwood cam-

pus. After the race, students can cool off with a free snow cone, and some of the younger students will get to entertain themselves in a bouncy castle.

The fun doesn’t stop there, though, as throughout the day students will get to enjoy activities like watching movies, playing games, and enjoying the annual Buff Puff volleyball game.

For some, such as senior Max Cooper, this year’s jog will be their last.

“It’s hard to appreciate Jog-a-fun as a younger student,” Cooper said, “but as you get older you can see how important it is and how much it helps Brentwood.”

Jog coordinator Sarah Wilson credits the many parents who help out with Jog-a-fun and make it exciting and enjoyable. Brentwood legend Ronnie Green will be the DJ for the event, with Lisa Warner creating the playlist, and Kyle Wilkie will again provide all equipment and technology needed for timing and preparing for the races. Tracy Grooms will return for another year as field coordinator, helping out with almost everything that happens during the runs.

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

“Every dollar raised by Jog-a-Fun goes directly into the classroom, textbooks, utilities, and daily expenses of the school,” he wrote. “It is what allows our students to compete and win in the classroom, on the stage, on the courts, and on the fields of play.”

# New teacher comes back home

By Emma Ayers

After beloved theater teacher Michelle Alexander stepped down from her position at Brentwood a month ago, there were some pretty big shoes left to fill. Fortunately Joseph Clingan, a Brentwood alumnus himself, seems to be holding his own with ease.

“I remember what my high school career was like,” Clingan said, “and I want to give that opportunity back.”

Clingan graduated from Brentwood Christian in 2005, after attending the school since he was an infant in the Mothers’ Day Out program. So Clingan knows how BCS functions and what the expectations are, which he said helps

him immensely as a teacher.

A graduate from Abilene Christian University with a bachelor of fine arts in theater and a minor in English, Clingan and Alexander were actually friends in the theater department there. He is currently pursuing his teaching certificate from Texas Teachers.

Clingan is teaching middle and high school theater and theater production classes, and students are already showing a liking for their new teacher.

“He’s strict enough that we get lots done, but we still get to have fun,” eighth-grader Ocean Peterson said.

Classmate Lily Trueper agreed that Clingan is “awesome.”

“He’s low-key chill,” she said.



photo: Sky Barker

**Service with a smile** Sophomore Riley Banner made a friend at Head Start, where students played and read with children as part of Spiritual Emphasis Day on Oct. 18.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Blake Benton*  
*Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2019.*

# Resilient QB leads with hard work, maturity

By **Hannah Womack**

Many people would describe Blake Benton as a resilient guy and a quiet leader who is always eager to stand up to take on new challenges. He's done this in his high school career by leading the football team for two years as quarterback, and he plans to continue this ambitious legacy by later joining the military and becoming an officer after he graduates from high school.

"Blake has a toughness about him that really stands out," says head football coach Stan Caffey, who has known Blake since his freshman year. "He's both mentally and physically strong, and although he's pretty quiet, he's a great leader. When he says something, people really listen."

This toughness has been especially apparent in Blake's dedication to the BCS football team. He was eager to join the team four years ago when he first came to Brentwood and has been a key player ever since. With Blake running the offense, the team has grown accustomed to his gritty style of play and his refusal to back down. Benton has helped lead BCS to numerous victories on the field, including the recent game at St. Michael's, according to Caffey.

"Blake had a tremendous game managing the team, not only as quarterback, but also as outside linebacker, as he's a presence to deal with on defense," said Caffey. "I've coached a lot of kids over the years, and if I'm a predictor of success, I think Blake Benton will be very successful in every aspect of his life."

"He's determined and really cares about what he does," friend Chase Blackman says. "He may come off as serious sometimes, but people don't realize he can be really goofy."

Blake's friends all agree that he loves

to joke around, has a great sense of humor, and that his skills and interests go beyond his ability to lead a football team. Benton enjoys reading, drawing, and playing ping pong with friends.

Some would be surprised to hear that Blake's freshman year wasn't his first time attending BCS. In fact, Benton was raised in the neighborhood near BCS, attending Brentwood until after pre-K, when he moved to San Antonio. He grew up playing basketball, football, baseball, and track, and has fond memories of nights

spent at his grandparents' house watching John Wayne movies, eating lots of ice cream, and drawing planes and wild west scenes with his grandfather, who instilled the desire of hard work and dedication in him that eventually led to him wanting to join the naval forces.

Being a part of the military has been a goal of Blake's ever since fifth grade, when he and best-friend Reid Kelly decided they wanted to join together. They became friends in first grade and were always playing with planes and hanging out at each other's houses. But when Blake was in seventh grade, Reid tragically passed away, which Benton said caused him to mature a lot earlier than most people around him did.

After that experience he began to see the world differently, noticing what he had previously taken for granted and realizing that you're not guaranteed anything in this life. And although Blake won't be able to join the military with Reid, his friend's death has motivated Blake to carry on this dream, not only for himself but also for Reid.

Benton has applied to the Air Force Academy, Naval Academy, West Point, and the Corps of Cadets at A&M's graduate ROTC program, and wants to graduate as an officer. He said he plans to study international/foreign studies with an emphasis in Arabic/Middle-Eastern culture, and he thanks his dad and grandpa for the motivation to work hard and get in.

"Looking back now I can see a lot of my dad's characteristics in me," Blake says. "He's a very hard worker; that's something he's drilled into me. He plans ahead, he's organized, and doesn't settle for OK."

Blake credits his grandpa with helping push him to get his Eagle Scout achievement, which was especially challenging, and which has benefited the BCS baseball team. During his sophomore year, Blake built a

french drain under the Brentwood home dug-out in order to prevent it from flooding.

Blake's friends and family also play a tremendous role in his life. He has two siblings: Nancy is a senior at Texas A&M pursuing a degree in elementary education, and Sam is a freshman who also attends BCS. His father, Wade, works as an engineer, and his mother, Suzy, teaches first grade at BCS.

Blake says a big misconception people have about him and other football players is that they're just "dumb jocks" who only care about football, when in reality, Benton and some of his teammates have taken hard classes, and some have even maintained a high class ranking.

"There are a lot of smart guys who really care about their grades too," Blake says. "I have the saying 'work wins,' with Coach Caffey and Coach Washington. I really believe in that and hope I'll reap the benefits."

When Blake first moved to Austin, he wanted to attend Anderson High, and he never really thought about going to school at BCS until after his mother told him he was already enrolled.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say I resented it at first, but it was a good decision, and I'm thankful for Brentwood and what's its done to make me the man I am today," he said. "I know 10 to 15 years from now I may be somewhere looking back wishing that I was in all-school chapel where I could have that opportunity to praise God with my friends. It's a unique community, and I'm glad I got to be part of it."

## New bus

continued from page 1

room on the seats," she said.

Morris said the bus can go for 1.2 million miles and is in great condition. It was maintained by a professional charter company and has a Detroit Diesel Series 60 engine, which Morris said is known for being a very reliable and high mileage engine.

School officials said drivers must have a CDL (commercial driver's licence) with a passenger and air brakes endorsement, and that the entire school will be able to use the bus.

Thanks to regular donors Ron and Ali Knight, Brentwood had the bus wrapped with school colors and logos by a Georgetown company on Monday, Nov. 5. The Knights also paid for the wraps on the other two large buses.





# A story of three men, one team, many shoes

By Natalie Barry

“Let’s say, scaling everything down and bringing it to a roundabout figure, the score is 20-5,” Brian Fagbemi says as he tries to convince friends Brandon Greene and Correy Washington of his score on the basketball video game, NBA 2K.

“That’s selling myself short – I am at least 50-5,” Washington says laughing.

The conversation heats up as the coaches debate who has more skill and whether the score is accurate, but it quickly becomes lighthearted again as the coaches begin laughing.

“I guess Washington is the better gamer,” Fagbemi says, smiling.

Brandon Greene, Correy Washington, and Brian Fagbemi met when they began attending Westbury Christian School in Houston their freshman year of high school. The three coaches reunited at Brentwood years later.

“All the athletes would hang out together, and that is how we became friends,” Fagbemi says.

They bonded through sports, including basketball, football, and track, but also through their love of shoes. Fagbemi owns the most with 150 pairs, while Washington owns about 80, and Greene has the least with “only” about 70.

Among their favorite high school memories is an annual organized toilet papering event, as well as food fights in the cafeteria.

“There was never a Taco Tuesday after that,” Greene recalls.

Greene, who coaches varsity boys basketball, was born and raised in Houston. He played soccer, basketball, and baseball throughout high school. He earned a scholarship to play basketball for the University of Texas at Dallas, where he was a career scoring leader and was the Comets’ second-leading scorer for two seasons. Greene also obtained a bachelor’s degree in business and finance and a master’s degree in economics.

Greene began working at Brentwood in 2017 after being referred by Coach Washington, who had begun working at BCS two years earlier. BCS offered Greene a chance to teach and coach, an opportunity Greene said he had been looking for.

“The people who had the most influence in my life were my coaches,” Greene says. “I wanted to be a role model for my players and someone they could lean on.”

Greene, who teaches computer classes in addition to his role in athletics, is seen as a mentor to many of the athletes and students around campus. He can often be seen laughing with students in the hallways, encouraging athletes from the sidelines, or emceeding for pep rallies.

“It is easy to see that he cares about what he

does and that he knows what he is doing,” senior Chase Blackman says. “He really helped me by giving advice when I was going through my surgery.”

Greene said he enjoys working out, playing basketball, and worrying about his fantasy football team. He is absolutely terrified of heights and can not go on rollercoasters or in tall buildings.

Washington was born in Houston and began attending Westbury Christian School mid-freshman year. He competed in marching band and concert band competitions, and was actively involved in basketball, football, and track throughout his high school years.

Washington attended Abilene Christian University, where he was a receiver for their football team and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business management. Washington attends Westover Hills Church of Christ.

He began coaching at Brentwood in 2015 when head football coach Stan Caffey referred him.

Caffey taught senior Bible to all three guys at Westbury Christian and found them all to be good students and men of high character. He has a special relationship with Washington because of his leadership on the Westbury football team.

“All three have embraced the mission of Brentwood Christian, treat athletes with respect, and are passionate about helping others be the best that they can be,” Caffey says.

Washington was drawn to the spiritual aspect of Brentwood that he described as “very different from public schools.” He is the assistant head football coach, defensive coordinator, and head boys’ track coach. He has also taught middle school Bible.

While he never planned on coaching, he said he enjoys being able to impact youth, watch them grow spiritually and physically, and see where students are going to be rather than where they are now.

Students describe him as a motivator who implements hard work in all areas of life.

“Coach Washington always gives me confidence when I say that I can’t do something,”



photo: Natalie Barry

**Three amigos** Brentwood coaches Brian Fagbemi, Brandon Greene, and Correy Washington enjoy each other’s company at BCS much like they did back in high school, when they all attended Westbury Christian in Houston. Each man appreciates the opportunity to mentor students at Brentwood.

junior Coby Best says. “He always says that I have talents that he can see that I can’t yet.”

Washington describes himself as a well rounded person who enjoys working out, jazz music, and playing several percussion instruments.

“I am very musically inclined, which is a secret skill I have that many people don’t know about,” Washington says.

Fagbemi was born in Houston at one pound, eleven ounces, and was four months premature. He says the Hospital of Saint Luke paid all of Fagbemi’s medical bills because he was the first baby boy in 1987 to have survived being born at that weight.

He attended the University of Houston, where he graduated with a bachelor’s in kinesiology. He was referred to BCS by Washington when a position opened up for an athletic operations manager mid-year in 2017.

Fagbemi, known to students as “Coach B,” said he felt moved by the faith-based atmosphere. He attends Gateway Church in North Austin.

Many describe him as quiet, yet very funny when you get to know him.

“He has given me advice on how to stay tough and kept going when things are rough,”

senior Curtis Mack says. “He is one of the nicest, most respectful men I have ever met.”

Fagbemi appreciates the opportunity coaching gives to build a stronger relationship with athletes.

“I enjoy getting to watch them put their mind to a goal and work to accomplish it,” Fagbemi says.

He also enjoys working out and baking bread from scratch, a skill acquired from working with his sisters at his family’s Nigerian bakery in Houston. The bakery has been running for 21 years.

“I used to sell my bread in high school, and I called it “Bemi Bread,” Fagbemi says. “It helped me win the favor of my teachers.”

When asked about his inspiration, he said his mom laid the foundation for his family.

“She came to this country from Nigeria and put herself through school,” Fagbemi says. “She is the reason I strive for greatness.”

While all three coaches agree that they are happy to be able to work together, they ultimately acknowledge that it is the students who make their jobs worthwhile.

“It’s the relationships and the impact we have that makes it all worth it,” Greene says.



# Runners wrap season with hot state meet

By Michael Milicia

The Brentwood Christian varsity cross country teams finished their seasons with a slow, hot run at the state meet in Waco on Oct. 29, but they set many personal records throughout the season. The meet was run on the same course where TAPPS held last year's state meet, the Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

In the boys' race that started at 11 a.m, senior Riley Walker placed 36th (19:25), freshman Jack Leidlein came in 68th (20:09), and sophomore Minho Yoon finished 79th (20:21). The boys' team was 13th overall.

In the girls' race, freshman Emma Diaz placed 62nd (15:03), and senior Jade Wright placed 86th (15:30). The girls finished 19th overall.

"The runners definitely improved their performance, and we had a solid team throughout the year," head coach Katie Smith said. "We had to face many tough teams this season, but we had a good year."

The district meet was held at the Dell Diamond and hosted by Regents School of Austin on Oct. 12, consisting mostly of the trails around the park and ending on the parking lot in front of the entrance. The boys placed second in district out of four teams, and most finished with personal records.

Walker finished 8th (18:13), Leidlein was

14th (18:58), and junior Michael Milicia came right after him in 15th (18:59).

The girls also finished with personal records for most runners. Freshmen Diaz (14:00) and Sydney Cooper (14:48) placed 21st and 29th, respectively, while Wright finished after Cooper (15:11).

The team also had a practice meet on Oct. 19 to prepare for state. Running at Well's Park in the Cardinal Trails at Concordia High School, runners were under heavy downpour, and the trails became very muddy and slippery.

"It was so hard to run every step you took, and your foot went ankle-deep into mud," explained Yoon, who placed 24th.

This season introduced a new assistant coach, a 2012 graduate from BCS, Brittany Brunson. Owing a few school records in distance running, Brunson said she moved back to Austin and has had some coaching experience, so she decided to help out the cross country team.

Meanwhile, Smith is looking forward to next year.

"I hope our boys' team continues to stay strong; we are losing two great seniors and we need to get a couple more runners out here. Our girls are pretty young, and I expect those coming back to do really well. 5A is a tough division, but I think we'll become more competitive every year."



photo: Feather Wright

**Senior pride** Mitchell Johnson, Jade Wright, and Riley Walker concluded their BCS cross country careers at state.

# V-ball season ends too early

By Natalie Hargrove

The Lady Bears varsity volleyball team ended their season with a record of 0-6 in district, and will not make it to playoffs for the first time since 2011.

The girls played their final two games against Hyde Park and Regents on Oct. 11 and Oct. 16, losing both in four sets.

"I am sad that volleyball is over," senior Nyna Vazquez said. "This year I loved my team greatly, and for the past four years I have made some amazing memories."

Head coach Kiley Woods said that "one main goal over the offseason is to focus on speed and agility, which will also benefit in other sports."

Woods also said she was "pleased with the way the girls worked this season, while facing difficult injuries and small numbers during practice."

Senior Jaclyn Wishard ended the season with 310 kills, while sophomore Caroline Griffith led the team the season with 62 aces. Sophomore Brooklyn Allen had 451 assists, and Vazquez had 412 digs.

Wishard made first-team all district, while senior Kayla Mayo, junior Alyssa Mancias, and Griffith earned a spot on the second team. Allen and freshman Ava Alvarado made honorable mention.

# Girls play first soccer game; boys start next week



photo: Jeff Glenn

**Hustle** Rebecca Schmitz pursues the ball during the opener against John Paul II.

By Jackson Baird

As football and volleyball seasons draw to a close, the winter soccer seasons are starting up. Both teams are looking to make playoffs like they did last year, and the girls are hoping to do so under a new head coach.

The girls opened their season with a 5-1 loss to Schertz John Paul II on Nov. 6. The boys will open their season against the same school on Nov. 13.

Shelby Strong, who has been a Spanish teacher at Brentwood for a year, is taking over for long-time head coach Cash Miller. Strong played soccer for St. Edward's University, and although she has never been a head coach, she has done private lessons and coached summer camps.

"Soccer brought me so much joy growing up, and I believe that it taught me many valuable lessons on and off the field," Strong said. "I'm excited for the opportunity to help impart the knowledge of the game to others and be part of their soccer journey."

The Lady Bears finished last season with a overall record of 10-6 and a 8-3 record in dis-

trict. Their season ended with a 7-3 loss to St. Thomas in the area round of playoffs.

The team will be without last year's leading scorer, junior Kelli Tindel, after suffering a knee injury during the off-season.

Strong pointed out that the team has no seniors and only 12 players, which means only one sub.

District play begins in January.

With 21 players on their roster, the boys are entering their third season under head coach Jesse Jordan. Last year the Bears went 12-3 with a district record of 10-2, scoring 87 goals and only allowing nine. A promising season was cut short with a 2-1 loss to Flower Mound in the area round of playoffs.

"We hope to build on last year's success," said Jordan, who will be looking for scorers after losing last year's top two scoring leaders.

Their opening game next week will be their first of three non-district matches they will play before beginning district play on Jan. 15 against Hyde Park.

"Hopefully we will be able to continue the winning tradition that Brentwood has had in recent years," junior Daniel Kim said.

# Trevino coaches Bears to flag title

In his eighth year coaching flag football at Brentwood, BCS parent David Trevino has won another championship, this time with the fifth graders. The team finished a perfect 10-0, having defeated its last eight opponents by a combined score of 200-2. They defeated Holy Family 20-0 in the tournament championship game on Oct. 27.

For Trevino, it was his fourth undefeated team; his first was with the current seniors.

"This year's team was really well rounded," he said. "We had more weapons than we've had for a long time."

Trevino also complimented the boys' ability to catch on fast to his system, which includes calling audibles from the sideline before every play. He said the main lesson he wants to get across is those who put in the work "will succeed on and off the field."

"God put us here to bear good fruit and prosper, and that's how we bring him glory."



# Football boys lose twice, face intimidating playoff foe

By Jackson Baird

A promising 7-0 start to the season for the Bears has taken a disappointing twist as Brentwood finished district play with a 1-2 record. This comes after a hard fought 20-14 loss to Hyde Park on Nov. 2.

Finishing third in a district of four teams in TAPPS 5A, BCS will squeak into the playoffs as a wild card. Unfortunately, their first-round opponent will be defending champs Cedar Hill Trinity, widely considered the best team in the state. Due to injuries, the Bears will likely be playing without two key starters: senior Chase Blackman (finger) and junior Sam Orick (knee).

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

The Bears’ last regular season game is at home tonight against San Antonio Christian. The game is not only the team’s senior night, but the school is also recognizing veterans and first responders.

In a battle for second place in the district, 7-1 Brentwood hosted 5-3 Hyde Park in front of a packed crowd. The Panthers got on the board first taking a 7-0 lead. But the Bears responded quickly with a touchdown run from junior Sam Orick, tying the game.

Hyde Park regained the lead on a fourth-and-



photo: Darnell Mack

**Going down** Junior Phillip Mach makes a tackle in Brentwood’s district matchup with St. Michael’s on Oct. 19. The Bears stunned the Crusaders 41-7 on their homecoming.

one play when their quarterback found his receiver for a 30-yard touchdown pass. Again the Bears struck back, as senior quarterback Blake Benton evened the score with a short run before the half.

The second half was a defensive battle, but turnovers eventually cost the Bears, as the Panthers pushed ahead in the fourth quarter and held on despite a late drive by Brentwood.

“We made too many mistakes to win,” Caffey said. “We had two blocked kicks and four fumbles. I feel given another chance we would have a different outcome.”

As they approach an unfavorable matchup in the playoffs, most players prefer not to comment on their chances. But junior Phillip Mach, who missed the Hyde Park game with a knee injury, said he is not afraid.

“I can’t wait to see how I play against better competition,” he said.

In statistics compiled through all but the most recent game, Brentwood is led on offense by Orick, who has 879 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns. He is followed by Benton, who has rushed for 433 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Benton has passed for 548 yards, four touchdowns, and four interceptions through six games.

Sophomore Zack Billante leads the team with 15 receptions for 209 yards and a touchdown. Orick has 177 receiving yards and three TDs.

The defense is led by senior Curtis Mack, who has 102 total tackles, followed by Copeland with 62. Senior Zach Mack leads the team with four and a half sacks. Three players have two fumble recoveries: sophomore Ethan Rutt, Curtis Mack, and Copeland. In the secondary, junior Coby Best leads with two interceptions. The defense has totaled 568 tackles, 18 sacks, seven interceptions, and 12 fumble recoveries.

Following are the most recent game results:

**10/12: @Shiner St. Paul 31-21 W**

Looking to avenge one of their losses from last season, the Bears started with a 32-yard field goal by junior Jonah Connor before falling behind 7-3. Orick got BCS back on top with some crucial touchdown runs, and the Bears led at half 17-14. In the second half Orick continued his stellar performance with another

see **FOOTBALL**, page 8

## Basketball season underway with new girls’ coach

continued from page 1

their football teammates and lost to St. Dominic Savio.

The boys are going into their second season under head coach Brandon Greene. Last season the Bears finished with an overall record of 30-17 and a perfect 11-0 record in district, bringing home the district title, before falling 67-55 to Logos Prep in the regional round of playoffs.

This year, the Bears hope to improve on their stellar season and go deeper into the playoffs.

“First and foremost we want to win district,” Greene said. “Then from there we want to go on and compete for state.”

Brentwood will be without their leading scorer Aedan Acheson, who graduated last year after averaging 13.7 points per game. But the team has several returning all-district players, including senior Nathan Ging, who was named all-state honorable mention and first-team all-district, averaging 10.7 points per game. Senior Connor Troutman and junior Daniel Hickl also received all-district honors.

Since Brentwood moved up to TAPPS 5A

this year, this season will be Brentwood’s first in their new district, which has only three other teams. Greene is excited to face new opponents and challenges that await BCS this year.

“I’m looking forward to every game being packed with fans from both teams,” Greene said.

Ging said he expects a good season for the Bears.

“Winning district is always our goal, and having the same coach from last season makes it easier on us to learn the plays,” Ging said.

The girls are heading into their first season under new head coach Mike Milligan. Milligan comes to Brentwood from Freed-Hardeman, a Christian university in Tennessee where he was a volunteer assistant.

“My goal as a new coach is to build a team that has good fundamentals and concepts,” Milligan said.

Last season the Lady Bears finished with an overall record of 32-12 and a district record of 9-2. Their season ended with a 44-19 loss to Lake Country Christian in the state title game. This year BCS will be without four starters who

graduated: Emma Leidlein, Mallory Lesko, Hannah Lewis, and Grace McDaniel.

But the team has key returning all-district players: senior Jaclyn Wishard, who was named second-team all-state, first team all-district, and final four all-tournament; and senior Nyna Vazquez, who received all-state honorable mention and first-team all-district.

Coming to a program that has had a long line of success, it would be expected that a new coach would feel some pressure to perform. But Milligan said he is confident in his team and his system, which stresses two team rules: Do the right thing, and and do not let your teammates down.

“I do not feel pressure, and even if I did, pressure builds character,” Milligan said.

Milligan will lean on his senior leaders this season to help lead by example for underclassmen. He said senior Jane Hughes has been the obvious leader during practice so far this season, leading both on and off the court.

“Jane is a huge leader,” Milligan said. “She is very positive and encourages her teammates to work harder.”



photo: Mark Hickl

**Madness** Senior Micah Best was one of a few Bears throwing down dunks during the hoops event on Friday, Nov. 2.



Teacher asks big question, gets right reply



photo: Megan Ledbetter

First-year high school English teacher Taylor Mayfield returned to Harding University as an alumnus on homecoming weekend last month, and he came home having proposed to his girlfriend of two years. Mandy Clyde and Mayfield were friends throughout college and started dating their junior year.

Mayfield had been planning the proposal for nine months. He enlisted the help of some friends, including a photographer, and set up a picnic near campus, a tradition for the two. During the picnic, Mayfield got down on one knee, and Clyde said yes!

Fall Fest enjoyed by many

By Quentin Fowler

Children playing, groups of middle school students roaming, and moms trying their hardest to prevent inevitable sugar highs could be seen at Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Fall Fest gives different grade levels an opportunity to manage a booth in order to raise money for various activities. There are many booths which have been around for decades, such as the maze and the fishing pond. Then there are the new attractions, like the video game truck, where participants can choose from a selection of fun Wii and console games like Just Dance or FIFA.

The new additions to Fall Fest have expand-

ed its bases to cover as many different categories of fun as possible. There is soccer, football, and even boxing competitions for the athletes, a video game truck for the gamers, and laser tag for a good in-between. There's facepaint, food booths, and good old-fashioned candy reward games like Plinko.

Chick-fil-A chicken nuggets were available, along with their usual gift card booth. After eating, some people braved the swarms of bees surrounding the Kona Ice truck. Their efforts were rewarded by a yummy frozen treat.

Joshua and Feather Wright, who coordinated Fall Fest this year, said the event raised about \$7,500, with the third grade's cake walk and juniors' maze bringing in the most money.

Football

continued from page 7

touchdown. Benton added to the lead with a touchdown pass, and the defense held on.

**10/19: @St. Michael's 41-7 W**

In their first district game, the Bears traveled to face the Crusaders on their homecoming night. Under a slight drizzle, the game started slowly with both teams struggling to pass the ball efficiently. Brentwood got on the board first with a field goal by Connor. After a defensive stop, BCS drove down the field, and Orick capped off the drive with a 10-yard touchdown run. Coming out of halftime with a 20-0 lead, the Bears continued to pour it on to their

stunned opponents with two touchdown runs from Benton. After giving up their first score of the game, Brentwood responded with an 80-yard run by Orick to push the lead to 34 points.

**10/26: @Regents 34-7 L**

In a matchup between the two undefeated teams in district, Brentwood again headed to southwest Austin to face a perennial power. The first quarter was rough, as BCS went down 14-0. The Knights opened the second quarter with another score making it 21-0. Brentwood got on the board with a pass from Benton to sophomore Baley Cordes, but they went into the half down 24-7. In the second half Regents held the Bears at bay while adding to their total. Benton completed three of 11 passes for 29 yards, a touchdown, and an interception.

Retreat at soggy Camp Buckner brings smiles to students

By Quentin Fowler

With confident strides, seventh-grader Joy Wilson traversed the ropes course only to later show the instructors that her safety was as nonexistent as her cares when she held up a broken harness. But no harm was done, as the safety personnel rushed to correct the problem while Wilson grinned.

The seventh-grade retreat took place on Oct. 23 with their departure for Camp Buckner at 6:30 a.m. and their return at 5 p.m. The group included 50 seventh graders, seven seniors, and five adults.

After splitting into seven pre-arranged groups, each with a senior counselor, everyone took a tour of the grounds. Then the students were separated into four groups for the low ropes activities. These focused on team-building tasks, such as one in which students held hands in a circle and had to pass a hula hoop around without breaking the circle.

They ended low ropes with a prayer and proceeded to lunch, where the students got to enjoy burgers and cookies.

In the afternoon, the groups rotated through activities such as canoes and kayaking, kick-ball, rock wall climbing, and the new ropes course. This last activity was not part of the initial plan, but due to the 12 inches of rain Camp Buckner had received the previous week, it was too muddy to reach the zipline.

"I really wanted to do the zipline, but playing with my friends on the ropes course was a lot of fun too," Lena Cogburn said.

After the rotations, there was only enough time for a group photo and a prayer before boarding the buses for a sleepy trip home.

Seniors who volunteered were Madison Bailey, Max Cooper, Samantha Fowler, Corrie Hager, Jane Hughes, DeanAlan Wiginton, and Jaclyn Wishard. Travis Pollard was the retreat coordinator, and he was assisted by Carrie Hunter, Carol Neil, Leah Smith, and Jonathan Weed.



photo: Travis Pollard

**Ready to climb** Taylor Ragsdill, Lauren Rutt, and Abby Munoz enjoyed Camp Buckner's new high ropes course during the seventh-grade retreat on Oct. 23.