



THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. 31 NO. 1

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2018



Disney-themed week ends in crowns, victory

By Emma Ayers

Princesses roam the halls as superheroes and villains pass each other on the way to class. The week leading up to homecoming was filled with Disney-themed spirit.

On a rain-drenched field after the football game on Friday, Sep. 28, Adam Murphree and Jane Hughes were named Homecoming King and Queen.

During the previous football game on Sep. 21, officials announced the majority of the Homecoming Court, which was voted on by secondary students earlier in the week: Lord and Lady Cason Best and Olivia Wofford; Duke and Duchess Lupin Cai and Nghi Ho; Prince and Princess Sam Orick and Natalie Barry; king nominees Whit Allee, Brayden George, and Murphree; and queen nominees Max Cooper, Hughes, and Christine Jo.

Homecoming festivities came to a close Sep. 28, as students dressed up in all green for an all-school pep rally and geared themselves for the evening's football game against John Paul II, which the Bears won 45-0. Parents and teachers

served up food during pre-game tailgating, and an estimated 2,000 people attended the game.

Sadly, it began raining right before halftime, so performances were cancelled and the presentation of the court was delayed until after the game. That's when secondary principal Carol Johnson stepped out onto the field and began by honoring last year's king and queen, Aedan Acheson and Katie Griffith. The freshman, sophomore, and junior duos all walked out together before it was time to announce king and queen.

"It was an honor to be nominated by my class. Winning was super exciting, and I am blessed with supportive friends," Hughes said.

Alumni shirts were handed out at the gate for graduates who attended the game. Word was spread about the game in a closed Facebook group that approximately 400 BCS alumni are in. According to events manager Sarah Wilson, many returning students were asked to record alumni shoutouts before the game.

Student Council's planning for the big week

see **HOMECOMING**, page 8



photo: Kristen Smith

Almost royalty Jane Hughes is walked across the field by her parents Louis and Ann shortly before being crowned Homecoming Queen after the football game on Sep. 28.

Football team undefeated as district begins

By Jackson Baird

Students came out in droves to cheer on their Bears to a dominating 36-0 win against St. Dominic Savio on Oct. 5 at Westwood High School. The win moved Brentwood Christian to 5-0 for the season. Their next game will be tonight against St. Paul in Shiner.

Junior Sam Orick started off the game against Savio with two long touchdown runs, giving the Bears an early 14-0 lead. In the second quarter, senior quarterback Blake Benton found junior Phillip Mach on a long fade route to the back of the end zone for a 40-yard touchdown pass, extending the Bears' lead.

Adding to his already stellar night, Orick found the end zone again, giving the Bears a 27-0 lead. Before the half a bad snap by the Eagles led to a safety, and the lead was 29-0 going into the half. In the second half Brentwood went into cruise control and allowed some younger guys to get minutes. A quar-

terback keeper from Orick ended the scoring.

Brentwood has handled the transition to 5A well so far but will get into the tougher part of their schedule as they begin district play Oct. 19 on the road against St. Michael's. With only three teams in their district this season, every win is important for Brentwood, who will have to finish in the top two to advance to playoffs.

"With a new season I expected early mistakes, but we have an experienced team this season, and so far I am very pleased with their performances," head coach Stan Caffey said.

The Bears will likely face their biggest test of the season on the road on Oct. 26 at highly ranked Regents. The Knights are favored to win the district again this year and have won a total of five TAPPS state championships, their last one coming in 2010.

"I think it will be good competition for us. If we play our game, we have a shot at winning the game," junior Isaac Copeland said.

Through the first five games the Bears are led on offense by Orick, who has 480 rushing yards and six touchdowns. He is followed by

Benton, who has rushed for 323 yards and seven touchdowns.

While the run game is looking strong for the Bears, the passing game is an area that needs improvement. Benton has only passed for 333 yards, with four touchdowns and four interceptions through five games.

"You can't win playoff games if you can't pass the ball efficiently," Caffey said.

Sophomore Zack Billante leads the team with nine receptions for 147 yards and a touchdown.

The defense is led by senior Curtis Mack, who has 55 total tackles, followed by Copeland with 35. Senior Zack Mack and Copeland lead the team with three and a half sacks each.

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 to-

see **FOOTBALL**, page 6



photo: Joslyn Hoffmeyer-Gay

School spirit Students decked out in Hawaiian attire enjoy a BCS volleyball game with friends. Claw Crew's themed dress up nights and Student Council's point system competition have given students all the more reason to attend games, support their classmates, and make lasting memories.

You Can Believe: Genevieve Graessle

Jean's death a time for careful reflection, change

"Let the spirit of the Lord rise among us. Let the praises of our king rise among us. Oh, let it rise."

Botham Shem Jean led this praise song during his last Sunday of worship with the Dallas West Church of Christ before he was shot and killed in his own apartment on the night of Thursday, Sep. 6.

Off-duty Dallas police officer Amber Guyger claimed she mistakenly entered Jean's apartment, thinking it was hers and that he was an intruder. It was not until after she shot and turned on the light that she realized she was in the wrong apartment. Guyger lived in the same apartment complex as Jean in the unit one floor below his.

Allison Jean, the mother of the victim, has stated that she wishes we would put aside the fact that Guyger is a police officer. This fact

does not in any way change or lessen the gruesome crime she committed. Guyger was not convicted until three days after the shooting, and at that point she was only charged with manslaughter. The Dallas Police Department did not fire her until Sep. 24, almost three weeks after the shooting.

Many Dallas citizens are protesting this charge, saying that the grand jury should have Guyger convicted of murder. Texans joined Jean's girlfriend Cynthia Johnson on the streets leading up to the Dallas criminal courthouse. Johnson, with the help of many campaigns in the area including Color of Change and Texas Organizing Project, created a petition asking defense attorney Faith Johnson to give Guyger the murder charge. Her petition was signed by 170,000 people.

The African American community in Dallas is crying out for justice for their brother. It should alarm everyone to think that someone could come into your home and commit murder, and then not be charged with murder.

"We want greater transparency surrounding police officers as they relate to people of color," the director of the Texas Organizing Project stated.

Thinking about how race enters this situation, we might consider how this case would be handled if their roles were switched. Anyone, regardless of color, would be fired from their job and arrested immediately.

On the other hand, many are saying that it cannot possibly be murder, because Guyger is claiming that it was an accident. She did not purposefully target Jean because he was black; she entered the wrong apartment and assumed that he was an intruder in her home. An inter-

esting explanation of this position can be found in the article "The killing of Botham Jean was not murder if it was an accident," from *The Dallas Observer*.

"If Guyger fired her weapon under circumstances and for reasons that would have caused her to shoot at a white person in the same place and time, then this was not a human rights atrocity," the writer explains.

I am passionate about advocating for all people. I think, if the roles in this case were switched, not many people would be supporting the black man who entered the white woman's apartment. He would be immediately charged with murder, and his case would not be handled similarly to Guyger's at all. Would he have been let out on bond three days after the incident? This country is still learning how these unique cases should be handled and is still struggling to create racial equality.

Reading all of these news stories about the tragedy of Jean's death, I have noticed something that they all have in common. Amazingly, almost all of these national news publications talk in detail about his faith and his church life.

I know I call myself a Christian, I go to church regularly, and I do my best to show Christian characteristics in my lifestyle, but I do not know that articles about my life would be this centered on the way I show God's love. It is interesting to think about how bold we are really being with our faith.

"A powerful singer and always a spirit of joy that flowed from him," was how a preacher who knew Jean described him.

Am I always showing a spirit of joy flowing through me to the people around me? Anyone who is asked about Jean seems to describe him



photo: CBS Local

this way. It is striking how much he is living out his faith in the public eye, even after death.

One of Jean's fellow members at Dallas West, Jessica Berry, who also attended Harding University with him, described him as passionate.

"He was all about action. He didn't settle for mediocrity at all," Berry told NPR News.

Many Dallas citizens and Christians all around America have been taking to the streets or to social media to celebrate his life. Congregations across the nation posted videos singing "Let It Rise" to celebrate his birthday.

After a horrible incident like this happens in our society, we should notice ways we can change. I think we can continue celebrating Jean's life everyday by letting the spirit of the Lord rise inside us. We can be all about action, and we should never settle for mediocrity in the way we share our faith.

THE BEAR FACTS

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

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

Student gives update on journey to capture wild bear

Day 1: Dear eighth graders,

Unbeknownst to you, I have been sent away by Mr. Mulfur, this weird guy who walked up to me in the hallway one day wearing a monocle, a top hat, and a shirt that said "I'm a Teacher" (presumably to inform me that he is, in fact, a teacher), to Northern Canada. My mission is to capture a live grizzly bear to use as a mascot.

I've set up camp in a cave I found. With me are two expert hunters, Vlad and Jitters. We brought with us some tranquilizers, a stockpile of instant noodles, Vlad's favorite music album "Pluto - I Wish I Were Still A Planet" by The Mildly Upset Lobsters, and maple syrup. Jitters said Canadian bears like maple syrup. I'm not entirely sure if that's true, but when I looked at his history on Wikipedia it said that he "caught a kraken (citation needed)" so I won't doubt him.

We went out looking for a bear in the woods.

A squirrel fell out of a tree and Jitters fainted. Vlad woke him up and we continued on. Eventually, we saw a bear teaching some cubs how to do bear stuff, so we huddled up, planning our next move. Vlad identified the bear as a mother. Jitters said we should scare off its children because "The mother would appreciate the alone time." Vlad trounced this idea with one of his own. He said that he should wrestle the bear alone to try and "tame" it. I said that we should just put some anesthetics in some meat and wait for the bear to eat it and fall asleep. They both agreed that this was the correct course of action.

Jitters took up the tranquilizer rifle while Vlad covered my approach to place the meat. Jitters, being the excellent companion he is, accidentally fired the rifle and missed. This spooked the bear, who began to charge wildly

at Vlad. Vlad took the meat out of my hand and chucked it as far as possible to "distract" the bear. The bear didn't even bat an eye at the meat, and we just had to run all the way back to the camp. Vlad started to build some kind of machine while Jitters drank a little maple syrup in the corner. I had some Dr. Pepper and wrote this letter. The bear may have evaded us this time, but we will succeed.

Footnote: You may still see me at school. That is not me. That is my doppelgänger, known as Munchkin "I'm Totally Clive Whaley" McHaggenshire the -478th. Please do not mention this to him. He honestly believes that he is me, and that I am the doppelgänger, even though that is his birth given name.

Yours truly,
Clive Whaley

BCS offering Engineering, Worship Music

By Sophie Orlikoski

On opposite ends of the Center for Science and the Arts are two new classes that have come to Brentwood Christian High School: Worship Music and STEM Engineering.

Worship Music, taught by new teacher Emily Dick, was created to teach students what happens behind the scenes of worship and music. This class teaches its six current students the theology of worship, worship in different situations, and a little music theory.

"I think this class is good because it's different, and there's not a lot of us so we can share our opinions," freshman Gigi Gutierrez said.

Dick said she really enjoys the class too.

"There are no guidelines, so there is a lot of freedom in planning," she said. "I am definitely learning a lot from it."

Engineering is taught by Dr. Diann Sloan. She took a two-week training course from the University of Texas over this summer where she and her colleagues went through the projects students would do over the year and were put in a similar setting as what the students will experience.

In this class, there are nine students in one class period and 11 in the other, and Dr. Sloan teaches them the different types of engineering, encouraging teamwork among the different personalities of her students.

So far, they don't have much homework other than coming to class with all of their supplies. Instead of having written tests, they spend their class time working on projects. Recently they have been working hard on pinhole cameras.

"This is one of my favorite classes," senior Esther Shin said.

Secondary principal Carol Johnson said she excited about the opportunities these classes provide the students.

"We try to increase our class selections because we want to meet the needs of students," she said.

Flores Commended

Senior Clarice Flores, who scored in the 99th percentile on her PSAT last year, was recognized in chapel on Sep. 26 for achieving the status of Commended Scholar. BCS has had 43 students earn this honor, along with 11 who have been National Merit.

Freshmen swim, eat, hike, meet at retreat



photo: Russell Larson

Splish splash Parker Combs assumes the cannonball position on the freshman retreat at Camp Buckner on Sep. 9.

By Quentin Fowler

"Brentwood Class of '22! We've got spirit, yes we do!"

That was the chant that rang out at the 2018 freshman class retreat.

The annual BCS freshman retreat began at 1:30 p.m. on Sep. 9 when freshmen piled into the assorted Brentwood vehicles on their way to Camp Buckner near Marble Falls for two half-days of fun team-building activities.

Within earshot of his principal, student Davin Ha said, "If the time we spend here is even half as fun as the ride was, we're in for a treat!"

After unloading themselves and their luggage, the freshmen got changed and headed out on a tour of the grounds. After returning to their bunks to change into swimming attire they made their way over to the infamous blob, where students launched each other into the air off of an inflated blob into the water. After spending an hour there, it was time to swim in the regular pool, where events such as volleyball and diving contests took place.

The rest of the day was spent doing various activities led by class officers which included

a scavenger hunt in which the students had to search for their missing teacher, Taylor Mayfield, who was hiding in the shadows of the meeting room.

The night concluded with a classic camp fire-side devo, which was accompanied by a short recreational free period before showers and lights out. Thankfully the burn ban had been lifted since the senior retreat, so there was an actual fire.

The next morning everyone packed up their stuff and loaded it up so they would be ready to go after the day's activities. After breakfast the freshmen went on a prayer hike led by one of the camp directors.

Later, the freshmen held a meeting to determine what their class song, chant, and verse would be, which was followed by more recreational freetime and the traditional gathering for a class photo.

Staff members who joined the freshmen were Johnson, Russell Larson, Mayfield, and class sponsors Denise Riley and Julie Rivera.

Everyone loaded up and started the drive back to campus, arriving at about 3:30 p.m.

Seniors reflect, bond, launch friends into lake

By Quentin Fowler

"Here comes the blob hero ... Here he comes, here he comes ... Here comes the blob hero ... Pa-pa-pa-POW!"

As his friends chanted, burly senior Zack Mack leaped onto the blob, launching his poor classmate high into the air and then into the lake.

This year's annual senior retreat took place on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 26-27, at Camp Buckner. The seniors arrived at BCS campus at 7:30 a.m. and set off for their time of reflection and bonding.

After they arrived and unpacked, they started their stay with a prayer hike and some time for fellowship and recreation. Following lunch, they all met with coach Brandon Greene so that they could talk as a class. He discussed ways in which they could all be leaders.

Next they did activities such as swimming, ziplining, basketball, and sand volleyball until it was time for a talk with principal Carol Johnson and academic adviser Leah Smith. After dinner the senior class officers and spiritual life director Brayden George led their class in a fireside devo. However, students said it was more of a pile-of-woodside worship due to a burn ban in the area.

This was followed by an activity in which



photo: Brandon Greene

Stellar seniors The Class of 2019 headed to Camp Buckner at the beginning of the school year, where they spent time planning, encouraging each other, and having fun.

every student selected a word for the year and then explained to everyone why they chose the word.

To bring the day to an end they had some free time to hang out and play anything from basketball to nine square with friends before

preparing for bed and lights out.

The next morning started off with packing, breakfast, and the blob/slide. After lunch, the seniors took a class picture and loaded up for the ride home. They arrived back at school safe and sound just before the final bell on Monday.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Chase Blackman

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

Selfless, hard-working Chase ‘not just athletic genius’

By Natalie Barry

Intelligent, diligent, hard-working and mature, Chase Blackman is seen as one of the primary leaders among Brentwood Christian students. He is known as one who aims for success in every aspect, whether it is excelling in academics, scoring touchdowns on the football field, or leading the senior class as vice president.

“Chase is more than an athletic genius,” says friend Jane Hughes. “He is a caring, patient friend who puts other before himself.”

Chase describes himself as someone who leads by example.

“I consider myself a very self-driven individual,” Chase says. “I am only happy when I meet my expectations.”

His skill and determination in sports shine through in every area, according to varsity basketball coach Brandon Greene.

“He never cuts corners and is always willing to do whatever is necessary to make sure the job is done right and to the best of his ability,” Greene says.

Greene says this was especially evident when Chase played in a basketball game which was his first full-speed game played after he tore his MCL.

“He played with no limitations, and with a reckless abandon that coaches admire in players,” Greene says.

Chase has been attending Brentwood since the third grade and has been actively involved around campus throughout the years. He has participated in basketball and track since the fifth grade, and has been playing football since Brentwood’s inaugural team his freshman year.

“Chase is the hardest working guy I know in all fields,” friend and classmate Blake Benton says. “He does not except ‘OK’ grades or an ‘OK’ performance athletically; he strives to be the best at everything he does.”

He began playing football at 120 pounds and has increased to about 190 pounds throughout the years. He claims this was due to a natural increase in appetite and putting in a lot of work in the gym.

Chase is currently applying to several colleges including Duke University and Stanford. He said he would like to major in sports medicine and physical therapy, which was a decision heavily influenced by his experience going through therapy after suffering an injury his junior year. The injury, which was a torn medial collateral ligament, required surgery, and Chase had to attend physical therapy for two months.

“It was a really difficult time for me because I was unable to participate in the things I want-

ed to do,” Chase says.

The loss was challenging for the football team, as Chase was described as a stabilizing force in the defensive backfield. A wide receiver and safety, Chase was cleared to begin playing after four months, which was seen as an early recovery.

“Chase is the type of player you can count on,” head football coach Stan Caffey says. “We are pleased that he was able to make a strong recovery.”

While Chase doesn’t have a favorite sport, basketball trips stick out to him as memorable.

“I really enjoy them,” says Chase. “We can get kind of crazy after we play.”

He is excited to return to running track after missing two seasons due to injuries. He plans to run the 200 and 400 meters, and the 4 x 200 relay.

Chase is described by many teachers as a quiet leader whose persistence has allowed him to excel in various areas.

“He is not content to just get by; he works to fully understand concepts,” math teacher Kaleen Graessle says.

Currently, Chase is involved in National Honor Society and AP classes, and is a class officer.

Senior class sponsor Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth describes Chase as an ideal student who is both athletically and academically gifted, and who inspires students to work hard.

“He is an effective leader of his class because he shows up and does the work all while being kind, polite, and funny,” Hollingsworth says.

Recently he made the choice to begin

attending Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, which impressed youth minister James Henley as highly admirable. Chase was invited to a Bible study and has faithfully attended with his family since then.

Attending Brentwood Oaks brought additional opportunities such as volunteering at Camp Agape in the summer, where Chase says he saw Christ through the children he led and worked beside.

“He has been devoted to God and is an outstanding young man who uses his tremendous talents for God’s glory,” Henley says.

Chase is an only child who insists that he has not grown up being spoiled.

“My parents didn’t grow up with a lot, so I was raised to be self-sufficient,” he says.

Both of Chase’s parents are very active, and they enjoy going to the gym on Saturdays as a family and then going to eat afterward. They even tried going pescatarian (no meat besides seafood) as a family, but Chase opted out after several months.

“We are a super healthy family and we eat pretty healthy, which can get kind of annoying,” Chase says.

When asked about what motivates him to strive to work his hardest in every area, Chase replied that he tries to have the mindset inspired by Houston Texans football player J.J. Watt: “Success isn’t owned, it’s leased, and rent is due every day.”



New teachers bring diverse talent, experience to BCS

By Hannah Womack

There are many new faces among the teachers, coaches, and office staff this year, so here is some information the BCS community might be interested to know about these individuals who are new to Brentwood.

Paige Reagan, a recent graduate of Harding University, has joined Shelby Strong in the Spanish department, teaching middle and high school classes. She describes herself as a small-town girl who grew up in Neosho, Missouri. Her father was in the Navy, and she was born on the Micronesian island of Guam while he was stationed there.

Halfway through her sophomore year at Harding, she went to Chile, where she fell in love with the culture, people, and language. The wonderful experience she had there helped her realize she wanted to teach Spanish.

Reagan's hobbies include journaling, traveling, making scrapbooks, and running.

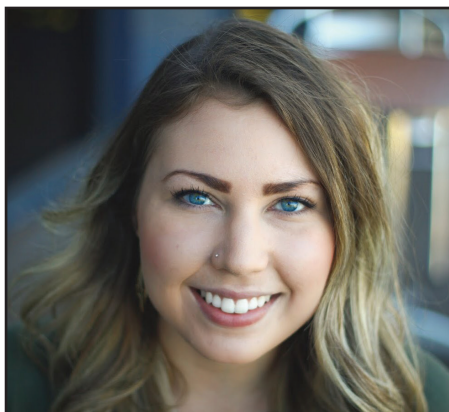
Teaching sixth-grade science and seventh-grade math is **Carol Neil**, a familiar face at BCS. Neil graduated from Abilene Christian University with a bachelor of science in education with an emphasis in math and business administration. She has taught in many different arenas, including as a substitute at Brentwood.

Neil also enjoys music and loves playing the piano and flute, and is part of an 80-piece concert band. She has four grown children.

While she was in college, she said she felt God was calling her to be a teacher when she saw a positive example through her mother, who had just begun to teach. In fact, her mother, Dr. Wanda O'Connor, taught math for several years at Brentwood in the early 2000s.

"(When I came to Brentwood) I could feel the care and Christ-like attitude in each and every classroom," Neil said.

Kiley Woods is coaching high school and middle school volleyball, as well as teaching IPC and Chemistry. Woods received her bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science from



Dick

Oregon State University, and then moved and began teaching and coaching at a high school in California. Later she received her master's in kinesiology from Fresno Pacific University.

Woods attended elementary school in Abilene, middle school in Dallas, and high school in Oregon. She grew up with two younger sisters, and they are all very close.

Ever since she was little, Woods has been playing volleyball. She is passionate about the sport and hopes eventually to be one of the top high school coaches in the nation. She also loves anything that is active or outdoors, including paddle boarding, lifting weights, working out, and hiking.

Emily Dick is the new choir teacher, and she is a familiar face to many BCS students. She originally counseled at Camp Blue Haven, where she made really close connections with girls who attended Brentwood. She also interned with the Brentwood Oaks youth group in the summer of 2017.

"I really fell in love with this community," Dick said. "When I saw that the position was open I got really excited to become a part of the community."

Dick has a degree in vocal music and vocational ministry from Oklahoma Christian University. She has taught at an international school in East Africa and says that she has learned a lot about teaching music and working in a different culture.

She said she is really into yoga and would like to teach yoga part time. She also belongs to a women's acapella group called the Austonets.

Taylor Mayfield, another recent graduate of Harding University, is teaching freshman English and a Bible class.

He heard about Brentwood from fourth-grade teacher and friend April Jones, who called BCS "a phenomenal place to work." So he interviewed at a career fair last spring, and soon he was offered the job.

"Looking back, I can see God's hand all over the situation," Mayfield said.

Mayfield is originally from West Monroe,

Louisiana, and enjoys reading, traveling, and cooking. He said his experience working as assistant director at a summer camp has served to sharpen his teaching and leading abilities.

"I always tell my students that I want them to be successful – not just in the classroom, but in their social and spiritual lives as well," he said. "My prayer is that God can use me to strengthen the hearts, souls, and minds of my students."

Jeffrey Doege will be coaching high school baseball, teaching science, and working alongside athletic director Stan Caffey as the point of contact for fifth- to eighth-grade sports.

Doege grew up in La Vernia playing baseball and football. After he graduated from high school in 1990, he began playing semi-pro baseball for many years, usually as a pitcher or third baseman. He went to Texas State, where he majored in exercise and sports science.

Doege has spent most of the past seven years as an athletic director, head football coach, and head baseball coach. Most recently, he worked in Palacios, where he met his wife, Jessica Cordes, whom he married on Aug. 11.

Doege said he felt he needed more time for his family, and he sensed a big calling to have God as the main focus. Although he sent out applications to many other schools, he felt that God kept pulling him to come to Brentwood.

"Sometimes with life changes you do what's in the best interest of yourself and your kids," he said.

Mike Milligan is joining the BCS faculty as a Bible teacher and the head coach for varsity girls' basketball. He recently worked for seven years at a Tennessee children's home. Although he was hired as a nightstaff supervisor, Milligan said he basically did every job there at one point or another, including being a house parent, working at the school, and helping the kids build confidence.

Milligan was born in Chicago but raised in Glenn, Mississippi, by his great aunt and uncle, who taught him to be a good man and a good person. As a teenager, he was put into foster



Milligan

care and considered a ward of the state, which changed and molded him in a way that many people don't experience.

"But I wouldn't change anything I've ever had to go through in life, because it's made me into the man I am today," Milligan said.

Ariana Marks has returned to the school where she graduated four years ago. Also a graduate of Concordia University with a degree in psychology, Marks will be coaching both high school and middle school girls' basketball, in addition to teaching P.E. and monitoring study halls.

She grew up in the Austin/Pflugerville area and attended BCS as a junior and senior. Her younger brother Graham is also a Brentwood graduate ('17).

Marks attended Henderson State University for a year on a basketball scholarship before transferring to Concordia, where she is currently enrolled in a master's of sports administration program.

"Coaching high school and middle school girls has given me a better understanding of my purpose and made a lot of things come full circle for me," she said.

Cassie Segerson, a graduate of Denver Seminary with a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling, took on the part-time role of Christian counselor this year.

She received her bachelor of science in sociology from Texas A&M University, and is a national certified counselor.

Segerson grew up in Waco as one of three sisters who were given boy nicknames by their mother, since they were more interested in doing things boys are known to like.

Segerson said it's a privilege to be able to sit across from someone and be told about things they wouldn't usually tell others.

Almost one year ago, **Jessica Cordes**, the executive assistant to secondary principal Carol Johnson, drove a jet ski on a two-and-a-half-hour ride from Miami to the Bahamas with a



Segerson



Mayfield

Football team led by solid defense

continued from page 1

taled 345 tackles, 11.5 sacks, six interceptions, and 10 fumble recoveries.

“Our defense is obviously our strong point,” Caffey said.

Following are recaps of each game:

8/31: @ Brazos Christian 21-0 W

The Bears traveled to College Station to face a highly-regarded Brazos team. Brentwood slowed down and controlled the game on the ground, gaining 344 yards rushing with two touchdowns. Benton completed four of ten passes with one touchdown.

Billante brought down a catch in triple coverage to give the Bears the early lead. From there on the defense played solid and held their opponent to no points. Copeland had three and a half sacks for Brentwood.

9/7: @ TSD 29-14 W

This game was a rematch of last year’s physical playoff matchup which resulted in a 28-27 win for Brentwood. The game started off rough for BCS, who found themselves trailing early after a TSD strip and score to open up a 7-0

lead for Brentwood.

In this game the Bears relied heavily on their run game due to their inability to pass the ball against the Rangers’ defense. The pace of the game was slowed down by many penalties throughout. Brentwood rushed the ball 33 times for 224 yards and three touchdowns. The defense came up big once again, producing two interceptions by Best and two fumble recoveries by other defenders.

9/21: San Antonio TMI 45-13 W

Torrential rain and safari prints covered the stands as students came out in their favorite safari themed outfits to support their Bears. Senior Chase Blackman started the game off with a bang, intercepting the Panthers’ first pass and taking it back to the five yard line. On the following play Orick punched in the first score of the game on a five-yard run.

Late in the second half the rain started to pour but the fans stayed late to cheer on their Bears as Blackman broke a 70-yard touchdown run. Brentwood rushed 43 times for 329 yards and six touchdowns. Benton completed six of his ten passes for 74 yards.

9/28: J Paul II 45-0 W

Alumni, parents, and students decked out in green came out to support Brentwood for their homecoming game against an undermatched Cardinal team. Orick had a big first half for the Bears, scoring two long touchdowns to give BCS a big lead early. One of the scores came on a fourth and long situation in the red zone, and Brentwood took a 38-0 lead into halftime. In the second half Orick topped off his great game with a 90-yard pick-six to finish off the scoring for the game. The big lead allowed some of the underclassmen to play more. Due to rain at halftime, the homecoming court activities were moved to the end of the game.



photo: Darnell Mack

Run like the wind Junior Phillip Mach runs toward the end zone in Brentwood’s 21-0 victory over Brazos Christian.

Walker sets cross country record; district meet today



photo: Karla Roberson

Fabulous Four Junior Michael Milicia, senior Riley Walker, senior Jade Wright, and freshman Emma Diaz celebrate after a successful first meet on Aug. 31.

By Michael Milicia

Senior Riley Walker broke the school cross country record by one second at the Pflugerville ISD Invitational on Sep. 7, running the 5K race in 17:47 and placing third in the race. The record was previously set by Evan Herring in 2014.

“I didn’t expect to beat it that soon, but I was hoping to beat it by the end of the season,” said Walker, who is in his first season running cross country. “So hopefully I can get better after not being able to practice much,” Walker said.

Unfortunately Walker injured his right shin, making him unable to run since his record-setting performance until district, which will be at the Dell Diamond on Oct. 12.

With two weeks left before the state meet on Oct. 29 in Waco, the BCS cross country teams have competed in

six meets and are expecting strong times and good placements for district. Head coach Katie Smith said she believes it will be challenging for both teams to take on St. Michael’s.

“Going up against St. Michael’s, Regents, and Hyde Park is going to be tough competition, but we are up for the challenge,” she said. “We are in a new division (5A), and the standings will be tough.”

Smith has been especially encouraged by the performance of Walker, who has shown exceptional ability.

“Riley competed much better than I expected, and if his leg heals, he can run again and get faster times,” Smith said.

Athletes began training Aug. 6, with early morning workouts every weekday.

On Aug. 31, the team had their first official meet at the Pro-Fit Invitational, and the boys were happy with their times. Walker placed 13th on the hilly course with a time of 18:24. The girls were not happy with their times but learned from the experience.

At the Pflugerville meet the following week, where Walker set the school record, junior Michael Milicia placed 15th (19:38), while the girls were led by senior Jade Wright, who placed 10th in the two-mile run (14:17), and freshman Emma Diaz, who was 13th (14:41).

At the muddiest meet of the season, the Ce-

dar Park Invitational on Sep. 15, everyone ran slower times due to the mud and the number of runners. Without Walker, Milicia led the boys with a time of 19:52, and Wright finished her race in 15:18.

On a humid Thursday morning, the team ran in Salado on Sep. 21. Milicia was the top runner for the boys, finishing in 20:21. Wright ran her race in 14:32, and freshman Sydney Cooper achieved her personal record (15:40).

At the McNeil Invitational a week later on Sep. 29, the girls were able to get their race in, but the boys were not. As they lined up to run, an announcement was made that lightning was detected, so they eventually cancelled the meet. Diaz placed 228th out of 613 runners (15:12) and Cooper placed 257th (15:27). Wright was unable to run at this meet. The McNeil invitational was the largest meet of the season, averaging more than 500 runners in each race that ran before the rain.

On Oct. 6, at the last meet before district, the Bears ran in Leander at the Founders Classical Invitational. All the boys on the team got new personal records or were very close to their best times. Milicia placed eighth (19:28), while sophomore Minh Yoon placed ninth (19:37), sophomore Isaac Stanglin was 12th (20:05), and freshman Jack Leidlein was 13th (20:06). All the boys in the top 15 received medals.

Volleyball struggling in tough district

By Natalie Hargrove

After losing to St. Michael's Tuesday night at home, the varsity volleyball team fell to 0-4 in district and will not make playoffs in their first season competing at the TAPPS 5A level.

In spite of their district record, the girls had a pretty impressive resume of wins during the long pre-district season, which they finished with 18 wins and 12 losses. After losing to 6A powerhouse St. Dominic Savio 3-0 at the start of the season, they met them again in the championship game of Savio's own tournament and won, taking the trophy. Soon they were ranked number one in the TAPPS 5A coaches poll.

But the team has faced multiple injuries including a broken foot, sprained knee, and back injuries. All this has been difficult for a team that entered the season with high hopes.

"We focus on what we can control and try not to get frustrated with other stuff going on," new head coach Kiley Woods said.

The team lost two seniors from last year's

team, which won district with a perfect 14-0 record. But since then, Brentwood has not only moved up to TAPPS 5A, but they are also doing so with a new head coach.

This has been a new experience for Woods, who was the head coach at Monte Vista Christian in California for seven years. She ran three middle school and three high school teams, and in the spring she ran a boys' program and a beach program. She has always had a freshman, junior varsity, and varsity team. Without enough girls for a JV team this year, it has made practice difficult.

"Having one team limits what you're able to do, but the girls have been working hard with what they've been given," Woods said.

Woods also pointed out that the other school's in Brentwood's district have JV and freshman teams, as well as varsities with 16 players.

"I cannot tell you how proud I am of these girls competing with these bigger schools," she said. "Despite the size and number differences, the girls worked hard in practice and came to

the matches to compete."

Woods said she has been especially impressed with the leadership of the team's three seniors. She praised Jaelyn Wishard's ability as a "mini coach on the court," as well as Kayla Mayo's incredible athleticism. She also mentioned the huge impact Nyna Vazquez has had, on and off the court.

"Every sports team would benefit from a 'Nyna' on their team," she said.

Vazquez had kind words for her teammates.

"This team amazes me," she said. "Every time we play we give it our all."

Wishard leads the team in kills (286) and blocks (74), while sophomore Caroline Griffith leads with 62 aces and also has 226 kills. Vazquez has 365 digs, and junior Alyssa Mancias has 337.

With all the adversity, Woods remains confident that she's where she is supposed to be.

"There's no doubt in my mind, God wanted me to come here (to BCS). God opened the door for this year," she said.



photo: Joslyn Hoffmeyer-Gay

Soft touch Sophomore Brooklyn Allen tips one over while senior Nyna Vazquez backs her up in a recent home game.

Exclusive Interview: Bear answers questions



photo: Darnell Mack

Big paws, bigger heart This year's bear mascot has brought peppy entertainment along with questions and fruitless efforts to identify the wearer of the fur.

Q: Many people are interested to know who you are. Are you a BCS student?

A: I identify as a Gryffindor, padawan, and lifelong learner.

Q: What's your name?

A: What's in a name?

Q: Describe your childhood.

A: I spent most of my childhood being a bossy, know-it-all big sister, playing M*A*S*H and somehow always managing to get garbage man for my job, and signing Taylor Swift songs in front of my mirror for hours. Some words that come to mind immediately: Floam, Moon Sand, Fairly Odd Parents, Harry Potter, Nintendo DS, and RipStiks.

Q: How did you get the job as the bear?

A: Connections, an impressive resume, and relevant past experience.

Q: Why did you want this job?

A: I love making people laugh and adding joy to people's lives, and I love getting to be crazy and take on a different persona. Rather, I get to be myself more. I think I'm always afraid people will make fun of me if I act silly, but when I'm in

the bear costume I'm not afraid of being laughed at because that's, ya know, the point.

Q: That was an impressive performance at the pep rally. How did you get so good at dancing?

A: YouTube and Dance Dance Revolution

Q: Where did you get the inspiration for your routine?

A: My senior year of high school, I was running for student body president, and I thought it would be funny if I did the Napoleon Dynamite dance instead of a speech or whatever at the assembly. The teachers said I had to give a real speech though. But, I still hadn't come up with a skit for that Friday's pep rally, so I figured I'd just do it as a skit instead. It is now a skit that every mascot does each year at my high school, so I figured it would go over well here.

Q: What is your favorite dance move?

A: The Chicken Dance. Duh.

Q: Favorite snack?

A: BCS rivals, fresh trout, and hot Cheetos.

New teachers

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group of 28 other people from Houston.

Cordes has two kids: one is sophomore Baley, and the other sixth-grader Valeree. After marrying Coach Doege, she now has two stepsons, Brody (sixth grade), and Dayton (fourth grade).

"Really, our life revolves around sports and kids," Cordes said.

Back again this year to teach elementary and middle school computer science is **Dorothy Walters**, who is also pursuing her masters in educational technology at Texas A&M and will be graduating this December. Walters said it's her desire to teach students to love computer science and "all things techie" that made her want to pursue her masters.

"Sharing my passion for technology with students from K4 all the way up to eighth grade is truly where God wants me to be," Walters said.

Joining Brentwood as executive assistant in the elementary office is **Tiffany Sanders**, who attended Lamar University and majored in marine biology. She grew up in Lumberton, a small town in southeast Texas, and met her husband in high school at her church's youth group.

Sanders said she loves being outdoors, and also the joy she gets from seeing the littlest of BCS Bears each day. She has two sons who have attended BCS for the last three years: sophomore Hayden and fifth-grader Hudson.

Molly Stewart contributed to this story.

7th grader: 5 teeth, 4 days, same period

By Emma Ayers

Being a little kid and losing a tooth is always exciting, with money from the Tooth Fairy and plenty of attention sent your way. As you get older, some of the excitement can start to fade, but that was not the case for seventh-grader Micah Riley.

In Texas History class beginning on Sep. 24, Riley began losing an alarming amount of teeth. As his teacher was talking about Spanish missions that Monday, he began checking to see which of his teeth were loose.

“One wasn’t as loose as the others, but it just popped out,” Micah said.

He raised his hand and told his teacher, and the class met this announcement with applause. About 10 minutes later, Riley raised his hand yet again, explaining that he had lost another tooth.

“It was a day that would go down in Texas History history,” teacher Jonathan Weed said. “But that was only the beginning.”

Tuesday, in the same class, Riley raised his hand again, saying that he had lost another tooth, which he most certainly had. The bloody Kleenex on his desk told the story. Later that day his mom, Denise Riley, who works in bookkeeping, advised him to just wait until he’s home to pull out more teeth, but that didn’t happen.

Wednesday, again in Texas History, Riley began “just messing with” a tooth that wasn’t all that loose. He pulled harder, it became loose, and “started to hurt really bad.”

“I mean, I didn’t want to lose it then because it’s super hard to eat,” Riley explained, “but ... it just hurt really bad so I had to get it out.”

He had lost his fourth tooth in three days.

Weed texted Riley’s dad, who is a good friend of his, about his son’s “dental anomalies,” jokingly threatening that the school is “investigating possible abuse.” Mr. Riley joked about it with Micah at home.

Thursday in Texas History, Riley raised his hand again. He had another bloody tissue, and, yes, he had yet another lost tooth. That made five teeth in four days, all in the same class period. Riley confessed that it wasn’t a complete coincidence that it kept happening at the same time of day.

“Another tooth was super wiggly (Wednesday) night,” he said, “so I decided to wait until Texas History.”

Homecoming traditions continue

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started over the summer. Announcing the dress-up days with a video during all-community chapel, StuCo declared that Disney would be the homecoming theme. Students started off the week with *Monsters University*, donning college shirts, Vineyard Vines, and monster-themed costumes. Tuesday, everyone either came to school in PJs or full glam, with a *Sleeping Beauty* theme.

On Wednesday, the school took a trip to the movie *Inside Out*, and each grade was assigned a color to base their outfits on. Thursday, students dressed up as their favorite superheroes or villains, with an *Incredibles*-themed day. Finally, on Friday, everyone showed off their

Bear spirit, some with green face paint or even hair dye.

At the pep rally on Friday, students yelled and cheered as the drill team, StuCo, and many other students and teachers got together for a dance set to a medley of Disney songs.

StuCo worked for nearly the entire weekend before the homecoming week preparing the hallways and setting up for all the different themes. They spent almost 30 hours decorating hallways before school on Monday.

“Decorating for homecoming is one of the craziest experiences in StuCo, but it was all worth it,” said StuCo president Nyna Vazquez. “It was fun, stressful, and we really bonded together all within 24 hours.”



photo: Christine Jo

Heroic Seventh-graders Darin Fowler, Joy Wilson, Lena Cogburn, and McKenna Counts show off their costumes.

Sullivan new leader of Safety Patrol

By Emma Ayers

BCS “computer guy” Ben Sullivan has taken charge of Safety Patrol this year, filling the role held by Kay Taylor for the past 10 years.

Until now, Sullivan said he was mostly limited to interacting with teachers and administrators, and he wanted to be able to have more involvement in the community of Brentwood. The 25 students who are in Safety Patrol this year seemed like a good way to begin spend-

ing more time with BCS students.

“I knew from seeing Safety Patrol handle traffic every morning and afternoon that they were disciplined, and would be able to help me along the way,” Sullivan said.

Taylor said she will forever be grateful for the help of volunteer parents Larry Biegert, Laurie Weston, and Michelle Anthony.

Sullivan acknowledged he has big shoes to fill, adding that he is very grateful for those who have helped him adjust to the new post.



photo: Christine Jo

We made it! Sophomores Brooklyn Allen, Molly Allen, and Christlyn Bailey enjoy the festivities on Tuesday, Oct. 2, when they were inducted into National Honor Society. Along with all the NHS members, new inductees took a short bus ride down Lamar Boulevard to the Frank Fickett Scout Center for the induction ceremony. Coach Brandon Greene spoke at the luncheon, while the students and their parents dined on delicious chicken, grilled vegetables, and potatoes.

BCS students say farewell to Alexander

By Emma Ayers

Teacher Michelle Alexander will teach her last day at Brentwood Christian on Friday, Oct. 12.

Alexander began her BCS career in 2015 and has taught theater to middle and high school students as well as theater production classes. She has also been the director for the past three school musicals and one-act plays.

“What I’ll miss most is the kids,” Alexander said. “They’re what made me show up every day.”

Many students have a close relationship with Alexander, and she said that she has had many unexpected, deep conversations with those in her classes.

After graduating from ACU in 2009, Alexander spent a few months in New York acting in three off-Broadway shows. Coming back home, she has won several B. Iden Payne awards, which are “like the Tonys of Austin.”

Alexander recently received an opportunity to join the Actors’ Equity Association, which will help her pursue her aspirations in theater. She plans on moving to New York City next year, where her union membership should benefit her greatly.

“I’ve got a lot of learning to do in life,” Alexander said. “This is the biggest, scariest decision I’ve made in a long time, but this is like the ultimate opportunity to test my faith.”