



THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Science dept. offers A&P for seniors

By Zoe Cooper

Nineteen seniors are part of the first-ever Anatomy and Physiology class offered at Brentwood Christian School.

Michelle Mallett, the A&P teacher, has been spearheading the campaign for more diversity in the high school science program for years. When she joined BCS for the 2012-13 school year, she was instrumental in adding Forensic Science, which she had taught at her previous school. Last year the science department also added Engineering to the ever-growing list of classes.

A&P is geared toward seniors who are pursuing a career in the medical field, and Mallett said it can be taken instead of Physics.

Mallett, who taught the class for 20 years at Oklahoma Christian Academy, expressed that she is "very excited to teach this class." This excitement seems to be shared by the students in her class.

"So far Anatomy has been wonderful," senior Adrie Gruis said. "I'm already learning concepts that I will definitely use in my career in medicine someday. I also love having Mrs. Mallett again!"

The main idea of the class is for the students to learn "the body's parts and how they function," Mallett said. The class, although mostly lecture at the beginning, will become mostly labs as the year progresses. Mallett said she believes that for this course, labs are really the only way to learn.

"We're gonna dissect a lot," she said. "From cow eyeballs, to the final project, a cat."

To practice dissecting on directional planes, the students used gummy bears. Soon they will swab their own cheeks and examine them under microscopes. When they do have a lab day, students are allowed the privilege of wearing scrubs all day.

"It's a hard class, but it's one of the most interesting classes I've ever taken," senior Savannah Jowers said.

New teachers bring fresh look

By Bear Facts Staff

BCS has a dozen new faces among its teachers and staff this fall. These 11 ladies and one man bring a variety of experience, a diversity of interests, and a common love of children.

Kaylin Mannon, a recent graduate of Harding University, is teaching Algebra II and Geometry this year. Although she and her husband Jared are from Searcy, Ark., she says they had hoped to settle down elsewhere. Jared had been looking into Austin Graduate School of Theology, and Mannon, who ran track in college, was already in Austin for the Texas Relays when her mom, Kelsie Turley, who had taught at Brentwood in the 1990s, suggested they come by and have a look at the school.

After chatting with Jimmie Harper, Mannon realized she had come at just the right time, since the school was looking for a math teacher to fill Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth's shoes. It wasn't long before she applied for the job, and the rest is history.

Mannon, who has played the piano since second grade, said she also enjoys the time she gets to spend outdoors, whether kayaking, running, playing with her parents' dog, or spending time with her family.

Her father, Ken Turley, has taught exercise



Mannon

science at Harding for 22 years. Her mother continues to teach at Harding Academy, where she was Mannon's high school track coach.

A portion of the enticement Mannon experienced from Austin was due to the fact that she and her family, who have always been very close, are big Texas Longhorn fans, as her father earned his doctorate from UT. Mannon also said she felt that being at BCS was a good way to be part of a Christian community away from her home.

"I love the tight knit community we have here at BCS," Mannon said. "Coming as a first-year teacher is a little intimidating, but there are so many teachers that make me feel involved and wanted."

—Hannah Womack

Kara Lee has joined the English department and is teaching sixth- and eighth-grade English, as well as a sixth-grade Reading class.

Lee was born in Oklahoma City, Okla., but has lived all over the country in places including Illinois; Orlando, Fla.; and Houston. She went to Oklahoma Christian University, where she majored in liberal studies with an emphasis on Bible, psychology, and business.

Lee was a career-changer, having worked five years at an insurance company in its education department. After working as a stay-at-home mom for six years, she taught at Westside Christian Preschool for one year and spent another year teaching first grade at Jubilee Wells Branch before coming to Brentwood.

Lee was introduced to the BCS community last year when her son Jayden, now a seventh grader, enrolled in the school. Since then, she has also enrolled her first-grader, Weston.

"I love Brentwood," Lee said. "It's a great

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Libraries now 'more sleek, more modern'

By Nick Weston

When the doors opened on the first day of school, students found that both the elementary and secondary libraries had been overhauled, fulfilling the promise school president Jay Burcham had made at the Partnership Dinner last March. The library renovations were designed to give the libraries a "more sleek, more modern" design for the years going forward, according to school CFO Jeff Morris, who revealed prototype sketches for the libraries at the spring fundraising event.

The renovated high school library comes with a plethora of updates and additions for Brentwood students to enjoy and use. Four collaboration stations were added to encourage and allow group work, with large computer monitors to allow for more direct

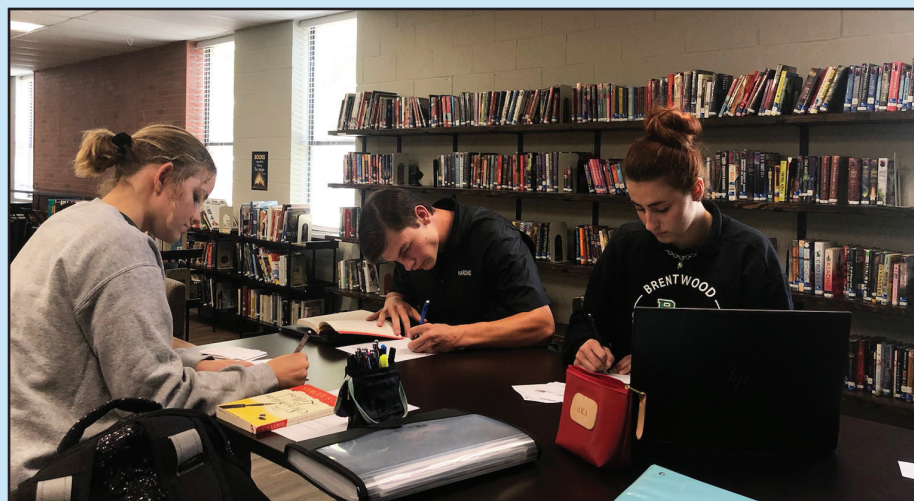


photo: Genevieve Graessle

Functional space The secondary library, here being used by seniors, has been redesigned to allow for more collaborative work, including online research.

see **LIBRARIES**, page 3

Editor’s sister shares experiences from Tanzania

Editor’s note: For our first issue of the year, I decided to give up my editorial space to my sister, who is having the adventure of a lifetime, and from whom we can all learn some important life lessons. —Genevieve Graessle

My name is Isabelle Graessle and I am the daughter Mrs. Graessle and the sister of Genevieve. I recently graduated from Harding University and joined the Peace Corps to volunteer as a secondary biology teacher in Tanzania for the next two years of my life.

When I was at Brentwood, trying to decide what to do for the rest of my life, I never even considered living in a different country for two years all by myself. Even so, I believe that my time at Brentwood and Harding have prepared me to completely commit myself to serve these people in the best way that I can. Without the incredible mentors that I have in Brentwood

teachers Mrs. Broadway, Mrs. Dargai, and so many others, I would not have been brave enough to take the leap and to actually apply.

The idea of joining the Peace Corps came from my parents around one week before I left for my last year at Harding. Ever since the idea had been brought up, it was the only thing I could think about every time I tried to imagine life after college. Even with these constant thoughts, I didn’t feel like I was good enough for something as challenging as this. I didn’t believe that I would ever be accepted. When I got the invite I was incredibly surprised and terrified. My parents pushed me to accept, and I could not be more grateful for that final shove. I feel like I am finally exactly where I am supposed to be.

Now, many people believe that the Peace Corps is just a government organization where they send people to go and “save” the people of other countries, but that is not the case. The Peace Corps mission is to create ambassadors of peace and friendship by accomplishing three goals: to serve the people of the community in meeting their need for trained men and women, to be ambassadors of American culture to those being served, and to promote a better understanding for Americans of the culture of the communities being served. We are merely learning from them and hopefully sharing our own knowledge at the same time.

Three months ago, I was thrust into a beautiful community with an incredibly intricate culture and welcomed with open arms and eager attitudes. The people here are so excited to teach me everything about their culture, from things like how to cook their food to how their education system works to how they celebrate different life events.

I went through training with 50 other volunteers who quickly became the best friends I could ever ask for. We all lived with different homestay families who welcomed us into their homes and their everyday lives for ten weeks. They taught us how to speak Swahili, how to cook Tanzanian foods, how to wash our clothes by hand, and many other aspects of their culture and daily lives.

During training, we watched a TED Talk called “The danger of a single story” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She talks about how, in literature and media, Africa is portrayed as one country that is full of poverty and lacks any technology. The single story of Africa that most of us have been fed our whole lives is “a single story of catastrophe.” People think of Africa as one thing, because that is what they have been told.

“So that is how to create a single story: show a people as one thing, as only one thing, over and over again, and that is what they become,” Adichie says.

My hope is that, while living here, I can share my stories of these beautiful people and this intricate culture and add to the single story you have been fed. So here is a list of things I have



experienced in my three short months here:

- The first week, we stayed in a super safi (nice) hotel that was on the coast and had a pool, hot showers, AC, and wifi.
- My host family consisted of a mom and dad, both retired and pretty well off. Their house had white marble floors so clean that I would eat off them, three extra bedrooms, a TV, and western toilets (which are rare here).
- I got to visit my site for a week during training, and on two of the five days that I was at my house, a little boy peed on my front porch. I didn’t know enough Swahili to get him to stop.
- My four friends and I attempted to teach an entire school of over 400 students how to dance to the Cotton-Eyed Joe.
- I went to a graduation ceremony at my friend’s school. It was an all day event with activities such as a fashion show, an eating contest, and a huge dance party.
- The house that I will be living in for the next two years is next door to my school and has an extra bedroom and electricity. My living room is bigger than my living room in America.
- A cat wandered into my house and won’t leave, so now I have a cat.
- Sometimes I find chickens in my courtyard that don’t belong to me.

I could go on and on, so if you are interested to know more, please feel free to ask. I know that what I am telling you here is not the single story of Africa or, more specifically, Tanzania, but I hope that this can be a part of many stories already out there and those yet to come.

Disclaimer: Everything in this article is mine alone and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Peace Corps, US government, or Tanzanian government.



THE BEAR FACTS

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Seniors make memories, relive old times at Buckner

By Zack Haswell

“YES!” senior John Choi yelled as he pulled the final spoon that allowed him to win the Class of 2020 Spoons championship at the senior retreat.

This year’s retreat took place on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 26-27, at Camp Buckner in the Texas Hill Country. Seniors arrived at the BCS campus at 7:30 a.m. to board the bus that kick-started their bonding and reflection.

After their arrival and unpacking, they started the retreat with a prayer hike, leaving some time afterward for fellowship and recreation. Then class sponsor Kaleen Graessle, coach Brandon Greene, and secondary principal Carol Johnson spoke to the seniors about how they can be leaders in life and in college.

“I thought it was informative because they were speaking from real experience,” Blake Juranek said.

After hearing personal experiences and examples of leadership provided by the faculty, students got to play for two hours. Activities included swimming, water volleyball, and human foosball. Then came an academic informational session led by counselor Leah Smith and Johnson. After a dinner of chicken fingers, the students got to apply what they learned in Bible class about types of personal worship, such as naturalist, sensate, and meditation.

The students and faculty experienced nostalgia by bringing back the “Lip Sync Battle,” in which four teams of students competed instead of the usual tradition of the teachers syncing.

“I loved when my team performed “Party In The USA,” because I got to bond with my classmates while having fun,” Elias Quassad said.

After the battle, the students would normally have had a devotion around the campfire. However, a burn ban was in effect for the area, so the students and faculty decided on devotion through each person choosing one word to summarize the year.

“I really enjoyed the process of choosing a word for the year because it gave me a chance to think about what I wanted to focus on, and be better at, as I finish my journey at Brentwood,” Natalie Barry said.

After worship and sleep, they woke to pack up, have breakfast, and do more activities. First was spoons, a classic card game that involves lightning-fast reflexes to grab the spoon first. Zip-lining and rock climbing were next for the seniors, and afterward they ate lunch and prepared to leave.

To bring the retreat to a close, the seniors crowded onto the bus in the hot summer sun, waiting for the refreshing air conditioning to cool them down. However, the bus became even more heated than before and the seniors were soon drenched in sweat, facing a 90-minute ride without air conditioning.

“It’s got to be at least 120 degrees in here,” Seth Ziegler said as he wiped away the sweat.

Despite the intense heat, they made it back to campus in time to cool off before the school day ended.



photo: Summer Best

Time flies During their retreat at Camp Buckner in August, these 16 seniors gathered to commemorate their status as those who have been at BCS since kindergarten.

Libraries gain functional space

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cooperation. Electronic books have become increasingly available for student checkout, giving students access to a surplus of books that would not be accessible otherwise.

According to secondary librarian Mary Lynn Galloway, an estimated 9,000 books were taken off the shelves and are no longer in the Brentwood system. Most of these titles were simply not used by students, who increasingly turn to online research. Fortunately, the books found homes with students both local and overseas, according to Galloway.

High school students have been accepting of the changes overall.

“It’s a great place for studying, and the new technology has been a great new addition to the school,” sophomore Sydney Cooper said.

Brentwood staff have also been open to the changes.

“It lends itself to good group collaboration,” Spanish teacher Paige Reagan said.

Other changes include laminate flooring, high tables, and a luxurious couch with built-in phone chargers, giving the room a fresh

and vibrant cafe style. A brick wall with stools completes the look.

“The goal was to create a commons area, update the look, and provide a functional space for our students,” Morris said.

The elementary library received a similar amount of updates. The most noticeable one is that the walls, which previously came up several feet short of the ceiling, have now been extended to fully enclose the room. But with windows, glass doors, and a luxurious carpet, the room actually has more of an open feel.

“All the kids think the library got bigger. It didn’t, but it feels that way,” librarian Tere Hager said.

Many new appliances – including a new librarian desk, storage cabinets, kids’ table, and a multimedia projector and touch board were also added, giving the elementary library some much needed functionality.

Some elementary students were more than excited to see their new library.

“It’s got a lot of things. It’s so cool!” kindergarten Rex Tran said, as nearby classmates agreed.

Freshmen enjoy day away

By Evelyn Lee

With bags packed and their hearts set on a good time, the class of 2023 left Brentwood Christian School on Sep. 8 for the annual freshman retreat at Camp Buckner to talk about the new responsibilities of high school and to get to know each other on new levels.

The 52 freshmen were accompanied by their sponsors, Taylor Mayfield and Russell Larson, and the school’s two Spanish teachers, Paige Reagan and Hannah Stewart.

On their retreat, the freshmen went on a nature hike, bonded with new students and caught up with old friends, and engaged in activities organized by class officers, such as the wildly popular scavenger hunt, in which students had to locate “Señorita Reagan.”

“I really enjoyed the scavenger hunt! The whole concept was great,” Kailey Willard said.

On the first day, the freshmen were taken on a hike around the grounds, where they stopped to read scripture and marvel at the world around them. After that they held a meeting in which the class was to vote on a scripture, song, motto, and cheer. The motto they chose was: “Today we follow, tomorrow we lead.”

There was an ample amount of free time between activities for students to talk with friends, play sports, and eat snacks. Many people hung out at the sports pavilion to play nine square, tether ball, and gaga ball.

Toward the end of the trip, school president Jay Burcham delivered a speech on the challenge of leadership, privilege, and faith.

“Mr. Burcham’s speech was a really special moment for all of us, I think,” Ashley Mondru said.

Overall the retreat seemed to be a success. The class officers were given a chance to prove their leadership, and the students a chance to work together and bond.

“Everything went very much according to plan, and I’m very thankful everyone seemed to enjoy it,” Mayfield said.

At the end of the day, the students filed onto the bus back to BCS with new memories, wisdom, and even new friends.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Cade Young

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2020.

Humble, prayerful leader, Cade makes lives better

By Natalie Barry

If you were to design the perfect student, you would probably want him to be studious, helpful, goal-oriented, and focused. But then you may be confused about how Cade Young is able to possess all these qualities while struggling with tasks like wearing shoes, ordering food, and showing up to places on time.

Cade is known for many things around campus. You may have seen him orchestrating events for the student body, cheering at sporting events, helping someone understand homework, or simply encouraging those around him.

Regardless of these things, you’ve probably seen his friendly face in the hallway as he is saying hello to everyone he sees and making everyone around him feel welcomed.

“Cade is an intelligent and loving guy who genuinely makes people’s lives better,” senior Blake Juranek says.

Cade enrolled in Brentwood Christian 13 years ago and is one of the 16 seniors who have been attending since kindergarten. He has participated in the time-honored Brentwood events like the kindergarten campout, second-grade swing dancing, and the Lexington and NASA trips. He is grateful to be a part of such a close-knit community and for all the valuable lessons that he has learned throughout the years.

“Being at Brentwood has given me the opportunity to form deep relationships and make life-long friends,” Cade says.

Some of his favorite moments include cheering at weekly Friday night football games, decorating the hallways for 36 hours at the StuCo homecoming lock-in, and participating in academic and theatre events at TCSIT. His participation has led to several first-place medals in newspaper events.

“The hours we spend laughing and studying on the bus rides to Abilene have been some of my favorite memories out of my whole high school experience,” Cade says.

Cade fills many leadership positions across the Brentwood campus, as he is Student Council president, captain of the cross country team, and “The Leash” on Claw Crew.

“I’ve made so many friends and memories being involved in StuCo the last four years,” Cade says. “It has really helped to shape my high school experience.”

Classmates describe Cade as a hard-working leader, caring friend, and humble servant.

“There is so much that I could say about him, but the one thing that has always been true about our friendship is he always makes

my day better,” best friend Alyssa Mancias says.

Cade’s impact goes beyond participating in events around campus or his academic achievements.

“He does everything he can to do what’s right,” best friend Adrie Gruis says. “I can trust him with everything, and he has been there for me through both my successes and failures.”

Some of his friends say that they are inspired by his work ethic and humility. Many are grateful for how kind and naturally good he is. Others say that even though he may be responsible, he

can be a klutz every now and then.

Best friend since kindergarten Elias Quassad recalls a time at his birthday party when a couple of friends were engaged in an intense Super Smash Bros tournament. It was down to the last round when Cade tripped over the game console wire and ended it before the round was over.

“He is the type of friend who is always there for you, and he is definitely the most responsible person I know, but he also can never get anywhere on time and is not the best driver,” friend Bru Hague says.



Classmates also point out how frequently Cade can be seen with his shoes either half on or missing, requiring him to borrow footwear from a friend at times.

Cade plans to apply to UT-Austin, Texas A&M, and Baylor. While not completely sure about his major, Cade says he plans to pursue a degree in psychology with a focus in pre-law and eventually go on to graduate school.

Cade won the Distinguished AP English award last year. English and Bible teacher Dr. Paul Robison describes him as an excellent student who is helpful and attentive, but he says it’s Cade’s Christian character that he admires the most.

“He takes a stand for truth and wants to honor God and serve others,” Robison says. “He’s respectful, appreciative, and keeps his eyes on things above.”

Senior class sponsor Kaleen Graessle states that the first thing that comes to mind when she thinks of Cade is graciousness.

“He is a great example of how to lead with humility and grace,” Graessle says.

Cade has been attending First United Methodist Church for 15 years and has enjoyed the opportunities it has given him to minister to the kids during VBS camps.

“My faith actually plays a huge role in my life,” Cade says. “I pray to and depend on God for almost everything I do.”

When Cade is not participating in school events or studying, he enjoys sleeping and writing. The latter is a skill that he was able to improve on this summer when he attended the School of The New York Times writing camp for two weeks in New York City. He stayed at Fordham University and attended camp activities from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During this time he and his campmates would be writing newspaper articles on varying topics, interviewing people on the streets of New York and receiving guidance and critiques from professors at Columbia University. When not learning, Cade was able to go out and explore the city. He visited art museums, attended a Broadway show, and explored Times Square, Chinatown, Little Italy, and the Brooklyn Bridge.

“This experience really opened my eyes to the world around me and made me feel more prepared for life in college next year,” Cade says.

Whatever college he ends up at and whatever he ends up pursuing, you know that he will remain firmly grounded in his faith, inspiring and touching the lives of those around him.

Oh, and forgetting to put his shoes on for many years to come.

New teachers find BCS community warm, welcoming

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environment.”

During the summertime for the past five years, Lee has run Vacation Bible Schools with her husband for the churches that they have attended. One of her hobbies is reading, and her favorite book is *1984*. Other hobbies include knitting and quilting, which she picked up from her grandmother.

—Riley Banner

Megan Burcham may be a familiar face around the campus, as she attended Brentwood for 13 years, graduating in 2015. However, she now has third graders in her own classroom as a teacher.

Following in the footsteps of her mother, a BCS first-grade teacher, Burcham has begun teaching at BCS straight out of college.

“My mom actually taught here when she was pregnant with me, so it feels like I have been here forever,” Burcham said.

She and her siblings have gone through BCS for their entire school careers. Her younger sister, Abbie, is a freshman.

Burcham attended the Honors College at Abilene Christian University, earning her major in early childhood and elementary education and minoring in Bible, missions, and ministry.

“Brentwood is always where I wanted to work,” she said. “The community and family that Brentwood represents is unique, and you cannot find it anywhere else.”

Burcham enjoys reading in her spare time and also loves supporting the sports teams at BCS.

“Go Bears!” she exclaimed, flashing an enthusiastic smile to show her excitement about the remainder of the school year.

—Aurora Tyson

Vanessa Maleare is the new theater teacher, covering everything from middle school drama classes to directing the high school’s upcoming

performance of *Beauty and the Beast*. She double majored in Bible and theater at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

Maleare, who is originally from Richmond, Va., said she heard about Brentwood through former theater teacher Deb Holloway, and also has many connections through Westover Hills. She is married and has two sons, two brothers, and five nephews.

“I am almost always surrounded by boys and farts,” Maleare said, laughing.

She and her husband have done mission work in New Zealand and also lived in Canada for two years.

“I love learning about other cultures and more about my place in the world and the larger Christian community,” Maleare said. “We are all connected, and I love that.”

—Natalie Hargrove

Madison Pamplin is the new Chemistry and Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) teacher. She graduated from Abilene Christian with a degree in elementary education, but she originally majored in biochemistry.

Pamplin said she heard about Brentwood through new teacher and former student Megan Burcham. They did their student teaching together, and Burcham always spoke highly of BCS.

“Everything I needed, God provided. Everything I was worried about, God provided an answer or a solution,” Pamplin said. “It quickly became clear to me that BCS is where God wanted me to be, and I am so happy to be here.”

Pamplin is originally from Abilene, and her dad is a chemistry professor at ACU. Both her siblings attend school there, and her mom is a stay-at-home childcare provider.

Pamplin visits Cuba every summer to teach at youth conferences and serve at the church in Matanzas.

When doing her student teaching in Abilene with a first-grade class, one of her kids said, “Bye, chicken nugget!” and the rest of her kids started calling her that. Now she has the quote hanging on a sign in her classroom.

—Natalie Hargrove

Lindsey Smith recently moved to Austin with her husband and filled the job positions for secondary art, graphic design, and year-book teacher.

Smith grew up in Tulsa, Okla., with her mother, father (a youth pastor), and six siblings. She attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., and earned her degree in the fine arts, with an emphasis on three-dimensional art, particularly clay ceramics and sculpture.

While attending NSU, Smith won first place two years in a row at the Northeastern Okla-



Pamplin

homa art show. Besides art, her hobbies include photography and traveling. She actually runs a small photography business on the side.

“I enjoy capturing the real, in-between, candid moments,” she said.

Smith said she has enjoyed teaching and being a part of the Brentwood community so far, and she looks forward to the rest of the school year.

—Aurora Tyson

Hannah Stewart, another Harding graduate, is teaching Elementary Spanish, Spanish II, and Spanish III.

Shortly after graduating from Harding, where she earned her degree in English with a minor in Spanish, Stewart spent nine months studying in Spain. After that, she expected to find a job as a children’s minister, and had never imagined herself teaching at a school. But Stewart was already quite familiar with BCS, having been a counselor at Camp Blue Haven, and two separate acquaintances had told her that they thought that she should apply to work at BCS. So, after much thought and prayer, she applied last fall.

“I do think that God has led me here,” Stewart said. “And I’ve never regretted it; I love that I’m able to have a spiritual focus in my classroom.”

Stewart said so far she has loved her time at BCS and greatly appreciates how willing the students are to learn, and how much love the faculty has for God.

Having taught at Kopperl High School before coming to Brentwood, Stewart joined a program through which she earned her teaching certificate while she taught.

She grew up in Cleburne, a city just south of Ft. Worth, with her three sisters and two brothers. Her older brothers and sisters are now married, and Stewart has a total of 18 nieces and nephews.

Stewart loves spending time with her sizable family, especially on Christmas, when they get

together and sing hymns and open presents. She also enjoys reading, spending time outside, cooking, and being with her friends.

—Hannah Womack

Coach **Rory Tyson** is the high school girls’ volleyball and softball coach, and a P.E. coach for elementary through high school. After spending the past few years coaching and teaching at Gateway College Preparatory School in Georgetown, Tyson said she believed God was calling her to transfer to BCS.

“We fell in love with the Christian family atmosphere and the positive learning environment that the school offers its students, parents, and staff,” Tyson said.

She said she is blessed to be coaching at the same school two of her children, eighth-grader Tabor and junior Aurora, are attending.

Tyson has a husband and three children; her oldest, Avery, is a freshman at Hawaii Pacific University. Tyson enjoys supporting her kids and cheering them on at their sporting events and other activities. One interesting fact about Coach Tyson is that she is obsessed with all things Disney and has been to Disney World a total of 25 times.

After majoring in English and kinesiology and earning her bachelor’s degree in science and secondary education from Angelo State University, Tyson worked as a high school and middle school coach for 11 years, taking several teams to regionals. She is devoted to making sure that her athletes honor the Lord both on and off the court.

“I am looking forward to coaching here and cannot wait to get to know more about the students, staff, and school,” Tyson added.

—Aurora Tyson

Kathy Wilson, mother of junior Noble and eighth-grader Joy, is teaching ninth-grade Biology and seventh-grade Life Science this year. She is a graduate of UT-Austin with a degree in chemical engineering.

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Smith



Tyson

Volleyball team fighting to survive in tough district

By Jackson Baird

The Lady Bear varsity volleyball team is 0-3 in district (13-11-2 overall) after losing to Hyde Park Tuesday night in straight sets.

Last Thursday, Sep. 26, the girls took a four-set loss to Regents. It was a disappointing game for BCS as they won the first set but lost the next three. Brentwood's next game is Tuesday against St. Michael's.

After a disappointing season with an 0-6 district record last year, the Lady Bears set a goal to make their return to playoffs this year. The road will be difficult after their rocky start in district, but the players are still optimistic.

"We still have a shot at making playoffs," junior Aurora Tyson said. "So splitting with the remaining teams will be our focus going forward."

Finding a sufficient amount of players to fill out a varsity and junior varsity team has been a problem for new head coach Rory Tyson, as there were only 15 girls who signed up to play volleyball this year.

"We're just building the program, but we're competitive," Tyson said.

Tyson, who coached at Gateway College Prep in Georgetown last year, came to Brentwood in June and took over a team without one dominant star.

"We're well rounded, not relying on one per-

son," she said. "All six or seven contribute in a big way."

Since Aug. 1 the Lady Bears have played nearly 30 games and taken part in three tournaments. They took third place in the gold bracket at Prince of Peace Christian School in the North Texas Invitational Aug. 30.

Senior Alyssa Mancias said she is proud of the team and how far they have come since the beginning of the season.

"With our tough schedule we have had a lot of time to prove ourselves," Mancias said. "Our opponents underestimate us because we are a smaller team, but we have proven that we can compete and beat anybody we play against if we play together."

Mancias also acknowledged several areas of needed improvement.

"We need to work on our unity as a team and our communication on and off the court," she said.

In their first district game of the season BCS traveled to St. Michael's and put up a good fight. After losing the first two sets, the Lady Bears won the next two, forcing a deciding fifth set in which they lost 15-11.

Despite the loss coach Tyson was quick to acknowledge how well the team has done so far this season.

"So far, only three teams have actually beaten us, as far as being better than us," she said.



photo: Michelle Anthony

Point, Brentwood The Lady Bears celebrate a point in their match against TSD on Aug. 22. First-year coach Rory Tyson says the girls are learning to play competitively.

"We're just learning how to play competitively and how to win."

Sophomore Ava Alvarado leads the team with 34 aces, and junior Caroline Griffith leads

with 220 kills. Alvarado is also the passing leader with 318 assists. Freshman Ashlynn Alvarado leads the team with 36 blocks, and Tyson leads with 377 digs.



photo: Jeff Glenn

Endurance Junior Julia Glenn keeps a quick pace at the ProFit Invitational in Temple on Aug. 30, where she was the top finisher among the BCS girls.

Runners keep busy schedule preparing for state

By Cade Young

Back when the school year had only just begun for most students, the Brentwood Christian School cross country teams had already been hard at work practicing, and even competing in races. The teams were forced to deal with the difficulties of both the intense summer heat, and a lack of female runners.

Now with seven boys and five girls, the teams have competed in a total of six meets so far. Three meets remain before the season comes to a close at the TAPPS state meet in Waco on Oct. 21.

Both teams are once again coached by longtime cross country and track coach Katie Smith. The teams also welcomed back a friendly face as alumna Morgan Vandygriff ('13) returned as an assistant coach.

Through the summer workouts, the girls team was faced with an obstacle as they dealt with a lack of runners, forcing them to compete in a few summer meets without a full team. While runners can still compete individually, a team must have five runners in order to compete as a full team. After Smith reached out to several girls, freshman Elisabeth Herring stepped forward to compete, enabling the girls to once

again have a full team.

"I am excited that we again have two teams to compete at state," Smith said. "Our girls team is mostly new, but has a lot of potential."

The season began for the Bears on Aug. 15 at the Temple Invitational. As always, girls ran a two-mile course, while boys competed in a five-kilometer race. The boys placed second in the 1A-4A JV division, and were led by junior Minho Yoon, with a time of 19:04, and sophomore Jack Leidlein (20:40). The girls were led by sophomore Sydney Cooper (17:46) and sophomore Ema Diaz (17:56).

On Saturday, Aug. 24, the teams competed at the Florence Invitational, where Yoon placed 17th overall with a time of 20:01, followed by Leidlein at 25th (20:35). The Lady Bears were led by first-time runner Julia Glenn, a junior, who ran a time of 14:32, and Diaz (15:12).

The following Friday, at the ProFit Invitational in Temple, the girls were still not able to compete as a team, while the boys finished sixth. The Bears were again led by Yoon in 14th (18:27) and Leidlein (20:09), while the girls were led by Glenn (14:50) and Diaz (15:42).

At the Pflugerville ISD meet on Sep. 6, the boys took first place and the girls finished second. The boys were led by Yoon with an im-

pressive time of 18:21, while Glenn led the girls (14:46).

On Sep. 14 the runners competed in their biggest meet of the year at the Cedar Park Invitational. The boys were led by Yoon (18:36) and Leidlein (19:28), while the girls were led by Glenn (14:26) and Diaz (15:33).

Tenroc Ranch was the site of the Salado Invitational on Sep. 19, providing the runners a change of scenery. The boys placed fifth out of 16 teams, led once again by Yoon (17:51) who came in 12th, and Leidlein (18:44). The impressive time was bittersweet for Yoon, as he was only four seconds from breaking the school record, set just last year by Riley Walker. The Lady Bears placed eighth, with Glenn leading the team with a new personal record of 13:25 and placing 20th.

This past weekend the runners enjoyed a rare week without a meet. Unlike in years past, the Bears will not compete in a district meet.

"The boys team has worked really hard this season, and we've been putting in a lot more work than in past years," Yoon said. "If we continue at this level, I think it's possible that we'll be able to beat Hyde Park, but we're going to need to work harder if we want to take St. Michael's."

Football piles up wins as district schedule draws near

By Jackson Baird

The Bears are off to a perfect 5-0 start after their 48-0 win over John Paul II on Sep. 27 in San Antonio. They travel to Yorktown to play the Wildcats today; district play begins for Brentwood on Oct. 18 against St. Michael’s.

Head coach Stan Caffey has high expectations for the team heading into district play.

“The goal is to win district,” Caffey said. “Right now we are the only undefeated team in the district heading into district play. I hope to continue our unbeaten streak till the Regents game so we can have momentum heading into that big matchup.”

Regents is the five-time defending district champions.

The Bears started their season off by defeating Mason, the defending UIL 2A state champions, in a scrimmage, before opening the regular season with three straight home games. In each game BCS pulled away for a dominant win.

“I think the season has gone great so far,” senior quarterback Sam Orick said. “We haven’t played a lot of tough opponents, but they are good matchups for us to get ready for the tough competition coming up.”

Last year, Brentwood finished with an 8-3 overall record and a 1-2 district record. This season BCS has had to fill some key positions left by the seniors who graduated last year. Quarterback Blake Benton, offensive and defensive linemen Zack Mack and Gavin Damra,

and leading tackler Curtis Mack are among the players who graduated.

Brentwood is led on offense by Orick, who has 587 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns. He is followed by sophomore Connor Rohlack, who has rushed for 242 yards and four TDs.

Orick has passed for 282 yards, five TDs, and one interception.

Junior Zack Billante leads the team with nine receptions for 133 yards and two TDs.

The defense is led by junior Aaron Lilya, who has 48 total tackles, followed by senior Isaac Copeland with 34. Copeland leads the team with five and a half sacks; junior Baley Cordes leads with two fumble recoveries. In the secondary, senior Coby Best leads with five interceptions. The defense has totaled 314 tackles, 14 sacks, nine interceptions, and eight fumble recoveries.

Following are the team’s results thus far:

8/30: Brazos Christian 40-6 W

Orick opened up the scoring in the season’s first game with a 40-yard quarterback keeper on the second play from scrimmage. After a few defensive stops by each team, the Eagles finally broke into the scoring column with a 45-yard touchdown pass. On the ensuing kickoff, senior Luke Jackson fielded the kick and took it 82 yards to the house. In the second quarter Orick punched in another touchdown run and senior Jonah Connor nailed a 40-yard field goal, giving BCS the 23-6 lead at the half.

In the second half Orick added another TD to his tally, and Connor made another field goal.



photo: Kevin McKinnerney

Second effort Junior Zack Billante pushes through the TSD defense to score the opening touchdown of the game on Sep. 6. The Bears pulled away late, winning 24-0.

This allowed the backups to get some playing time later in the game. Sophomore Keller Jackson wrapped up the game late in the fourth quarter with a touchdown run.

Orick had 10 carries for 134 yards and three TDs. Copeland had three sacks and eight tackles, and Best had an interception.

9/6: TSD 24-0 W

It was a tight game in the first half, as neither team could get their offense going. Following an interception from sophomore Cason Best, the Bears were set up with a first and goal opportunity. Brentwood got on the board with a 15-yard TD pass from Orick to Billante. Coming out of the half, the Brentwood offense found some rhythm and picked up three points on a field goal from Rohlack, following an injury to starting kicker Connor. Early in the fourth quarter Cason Best jumped an out route and intercepted another pass and returned this one to the house giving BCS the 17-0 lead. Orick wrapped up the game for the Bears with a 15-yard TD run.

Orick was 4-for-9 with one touchdown pass through the air and tallied 33 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Lilya led the team with 13 total tackles, and Copeland led with two sacks.

9/13: Poteet 31-12 W

Orick got the scoring going with a 30-yard TD run. On the following drive, Coby Best intercepted a pass, setting up another 38-yard scoring run from Orick. In the second quarter the Aggies got on the board with a 15-yard run by their quarterback, but Billante blocked the extra point attempt, making it a 14-6 lead for

BCS at halftime.

Brentwood grabbed hold of the game in the third quarter following scores on a screen pass to Billante and an explosive 50-yard touchdown run from Rohlack. The Bears’ defense stifled the Aggie offense as Coby Best picked up his third interception of the season. Connor nailed a 45-yard field goal to extend the lead, before the Aggies punched in a late consolation score.

“This was a big win for us because Poteet was a good football team,” Caffey said.

9/20: @ TMI 41-7 W

Brentwood dominated this game on the ground totaling five rushing touchdowns. The Bears scored 27 in the first quarter, as Orick got into the end zone twice with runs of 7 and 21 yards. Rohlack also go into the end zone with a three-yard TD run. In the second quarter Orick rushed for another TD, as did Coby Best, as the Bears led 41-0 at half. In the second half BCS allowed their backups some playing time as they cruised to the victory.

9/27: @ John Paul II 48-0 W

The Bears jumped out to an early lead with a 20-yard touchdown pass from Orick to senior Phillip Mach. BCS extended the lead with rushing TDs by Rohlack and Orick, and they led 35-0 at halftime. The defense shut down the Guardian offense, forcing three interceptions on the night: two by Coby Best and one by Billante. The big lead at the half allowed some time for the Bears’ backups to get some quality reps.



photo: Kevin McKinnerney

Down, set... Seniors Coby Best (22) and Phillip Mach (8) await the snap against Brazos Christian on Aug. 30. Brentwood’s defense has allowed only five points per game.

Athletic Center gets facelift; coaches' offices moved to FLC

By Cade Young

When students arrived back to school in August, many were pleasantly surprised to see that the Athletic Center, or AC as it's referred to by most students, had gone through some serious renovations. These began on May 28 and ended around Aug. 1, just in time for fall sports to begin using the new facilities in preparation for their upcoming seasons.

Carried out primarily by E.A.R. Construction, the improvements include the removal of the previous athletic director's office downstairs, which involved knocking down walls, removing the dropped ceiling, and expanding the rubber flooring in order to significantly increase the size of the weight room. This enabled several improvements to be added to the weight room, including mirrors, two new lifting stations, a new sound system, and windows looking in from the downstairs hallway.

Continuing on to the second floor, a number of changes were made to make the space appear nearly unrecognizable. The main focus of these renovations centered on the varsity boys' locker room, which was significantly increased in size. Both athletic offices upstairs had walls knocked down, and the upstairs hallway was closed off with the addition of a new wall mid-way through. These two areas now form large, additional sections of the locker room. Numerous showers and lockers were added, as well as mirrors and new countertops to the varsity girls' locker room. The laundry room was also expanded in order to provide room for storage and new washing machines.

These considerable expansions have received high praise from many athletes, as it has made changing and showering much easier than it has been in previous years. Because of how much larger the space is, the football players are now able to dress out in the AC, rather than

in the Family Life Center, which now serves as the home for all of the athletic offices that were removed in order to make room for these renovations. All coaches are now located in what was previously the football locker room in the FLC.

"The new locker room has been great," senior quarterback Sam Orick said. "We now have lots of space to fit our whole team, and our own lockers so that we can store extra clothes and different toiletries. The new washing machines are really helpful for having our football clothes ready for practice immediately."

Some of the more minor improvements include backpack hooks being placed next to the gym downstairs, repairing graphics throughout the building, and the addition of a new window opening up from the concessions stand into the gym, allowing fans to purchase snacks and drinks without having to miss part of the game.

These renovations cost the school \$150,000

in total. A Fitness Fundraiser event was held on Aug. 30 in an effort to raise money to go toward the cost, and according to school CFO Jeff Morris, \$76,198 in donations were received that night. Although no future fundraisers are currently planned, donations are still being accepted.

Besides library renovations, other improvements made around campus include new signs displaying directions and speed limits around campus, as well as an expansion of the north end of the football field that included getting rid of the dangerous steep slope.

The entrance of the upper elementary (B) building also received some renovations, adding a hard board stone wall to the front of the building, new benches, and rugs. Finally, the upper elementary playground had a new playscape installed just this week.

Back to School Bash



photo: Sydney Cooper

Gotcha! Freshman Andrew Landry fires paint at a friend at last month's Back to School Bash. The two Bashes took place on Thursday, Sep. 12, for high schoolers, and the following day for middle schoolers. Each day the event lasted one hour, and consisted of students playing Capture the Flag with water balloons and water guns filled with paint. Middle school enjoyed their paint war on the baseball field, while the high schoolers used the area behind the football bleachers. The events were both chaperoned by StuCo sponsor Jeff Morris and cost \$3 to register online, and \$5 to pay at the door. StuCo is currently busy planning this month's homecoming activities.

New teachers

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Years ago, Wilson taught at BCS in the Children's Ark preschool program. She grew up in Abilene and met her husband while serving a four-year stint in the Army. After graduating from college, Wilson worked in data science and air quality permitting as a chemical engineer before taking time off while Noble and Joy were young.

Enjoying all sorts of crafts, Wilson said she loves the creative aspect of making lesson plans for her classes. She also enjoys spending time with her family, and she has greatly enjoyed her time at BCS, both as a parent and as a teacher.

"I like how the school integrates the whole concept of students' spiritual and academic lives with their emotional lives and their identities," Wilson said. "I'm just so inspired by how well it's integrated here."

—Hannah Womack

Becky Caffey, a familiar face at Brentwood, has become the new athletics business manager. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary and physical education from Texas Tech. She also has a master's in school administration from Sul Ross State. She has been a part of 46 seasons with her husband, head football coach Stan Caffey, and she has taught "everything from driver's ed to AP English to Government, and everything in between."

Caffey enjoys baking, sewing, art, photography, and traveling. She has three grown children who are all teachers and coaches.

—Natalie Hargrove

Also new to Brentwood this year is admin-

istrative assistant **Scott Roach**, whose hobbies include reading and "driving fast," although he claims to only do the latter outside of school zones. Roach also claims to have a "no jokes policy," but anyone talking with him would quickly discover his good sense of humor.

Roach was born in North Texas, where he spent most of his life. He currently lives in Liberty Hill.

In high school, Roach worked as a camp counselor, and later he went into youth ministry. With all this experience under his belt, he decided to move on to teaching, so he majored in history at the University of North Texas before getting certified to teach at the University of Texas at Dallas. He then spent 14 years teaching Texas and U.S. History at schools in Wylie and Garland.

Roach's work as administrative assistant entails managing attendance, substitute teachers, and off-campus lunch privileges, among other things.

—Riley Banner

Nancy Sutton is the new elementary services and workroom coordinator. In addition to helping teachers and aides in the elementary office, Sutton helps in the cafeteria during elementary lunch.

Sutton attended Angelo State University and particularly enjoys riding horses, gardening, and playing board games and card games in her free time. She also likes to travel, and greatly enjoyed a trip she took to Port Aransas in the summer.

"Everyone here is really welcoming and genuine," said Sutton, whose son is a BCS fifth grader. "I can tell it when they talk."

—Hannah Womack