



THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2019



‘Beauty’ enchants, draws big crowds

By Hayden Hutson

You’re sitting in your seat, waiting for the curtains to open as the orchestra plays; then it begins. Familiar faces and friends dance across the smoky set, captivating your attention for

hours as they tell the age-old story of love and forgiveness.

More than 70 hard-working BCS students performed *Beauty and the Beast* a total of four times on Oct. 19 and 26 in the school theater. The musical starred senior Adrie Gruis as

Belle, senior Isaac Copeland as the Beast, and senior Elias Qussad as Gaston.

There was a positive reaction by those who came to see it. Both of the evening performances sold out, and there were standing ovations at all of the shows. A total of 1,268 tickets were sold, and the average attendance per show was 317. According to production manager Travis Pollard, this exceeds the averages for *Little Mermaid*, *Cinderella*, and *Seussical*, the most recent musicals.

Office assistant Scott Roach said he specifically liked how the cast remained in control, even when things didn’t go exactly as planned.

“I was really impressed, and they did a great job,” he said.

First-year director Vanessa Maleare was working hard at practices almost every day of the week to make sure her first musical at Brentwood would be a success, and she is very happy with the result.

Even though she did not choose the musical, she said that she was happy with the kids involved and would not have chosen different students. However, had she been around for casting, she may have made a few different decisions on the roles.

Maleare said she thoroughly enjoyed the

see **MUSICAL**, page 8

photo: Dorothy Walters

Storybook ending Belle and the Beast, played by seniors Adrie Gruis and Isaac Copeland, find true love during the fall musical, presented in the theater on Oct. 19 and 26.

Joggers to take new trail

By Mollie Walters

The day of sweaty kids, snow cones, and socializing is just around the corner. Jog-a-fun brings distant happy memories back to new life for some students and curious excitement in others.

The 36th annual fundraiser will take place next Wednesday, Nov. 13, and will feature a new jogging route for secondary students. Staff and students alike are preparing for the day packed with activities and, most importantly, the run. This year the 5K jog for secondary will start at 8:30 a.m., the first activity of the day. Students will travel the course used by BCS cross country runners and other athletes in Brentwood’s first invitational cross country meet last month.

According to Jog-a-fun coordinator Sarah Wilson, the three laps will allow students to see

an unusually large amount of campus.

“These changes from previous years make the Jog-a-fun course more interesting,” Wilson said. “The timing helps with traffic. It is also before the heat of the day and lunch.”

Cross country runners are quite familiar with the course.

“The loop is unique to BCS. There is pavement, grass, dirt, even turf and gravel that definitely makes the course challenging and interesting,” freshman Elisabeth Herring said.

Elementary students keep to their traditional laps on the baseball outfield, starting at 9 a.m.

After the race concludes, students

see **JOG-A-FUN**, page 7

photo: Brandy Gauthier

BCS spirit Fifth-graders Ava Cavada and Skyla Jimenez enjoy homecoming. See story, pg. 8.

Winter means roundball teams ready to begin

By Natalie Hargrove

Both the Lady Bears and the Bears started after-school basketball practice on Tuesday, Oct. 15, and are preparing for their opening games on Nov. 12. The girls will play Thorndale at home, while the boys will play Texas Military Institute in San Antonio.

The Lady Bears are going into their first season under new head coach Ariana Marks. Coach Marks was assistant coach last season and is a familiar face at Brentwood, where she also was an all-state player before graduating in 2014.

“My goal for the team this season is to cultivate a positive, competitive, and successful culture for the Lady Bears basketball program,” Marks said.

Last season the girls finished with an overall record of 16-13 and a district record of 2-4. This year’s team will be without four starters who graduated: Jaclyn Wishard, Nyna Vazquez, Jane Hughes, and Samantha Fowler. Marks said that the team will miss their upperclassman poise on the court, but she pointed out that they now have two talented seniors – Kelli Tindel and Jenna Riley – and a strong group of underclassmen, too.

Tindel said there is more unity between the team and coach, and everyone wants to play for each other. Riley has been impressed with the team’s approach to practice.

“Our team this year is pretty inexperienced, but we have put a lot of work in so far, and we are hoping to see it pay off as the season starts,” Riley said.

Marks has been working with the girls in practice and has created a very organized and calculated schedule.

“It can be rigorous at times; however, the girls have bought into the principles and have already made much progress,” Marks said.

The boys are going into their third season under head coach Brandon Greene. Last

see **VARSITY**, page 5

You Can Believe: Genevieve Graessle

Concept of ‘privilege’ deserves thought, action

What does it mean to be privileged? The Oxford Dictionary defines privilege as “a special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group.” The term can mean many different things – privilege can either be earned or unearned. “I have earned the privilege of being an Encore member,” or “By default, I have the privilege of not experiencing racial discrimination in this country because I am white.” I want to focus on this second type of privilege and how deeply ingrained it is in our lives.

On the surface, it might not really sound like I have the most privileged life. I have always known that I am extremely blessed; I will be eternally grateful for the family that I have at Brentwood and the Christian education that I have grown up in. However, it has taken me a long time to really form the words to say that I am undeservedly privileged.

Privilege is something that people who benefit from it don’t typically like to talk about. Simply because something isn’t talked about does not mean that it goes away. Many people easily ignore their own privilege, because they think that the definition cannot possibly apply to them. Using my own life as an example, I face challenges all the time – there’s no way I have been given better opportunities than other people, right? However, benefiting from privilege does not mean that one is immune to life’s hardships, “but it does mean having an unearned benefit or advantage one receives in society by nature of their identity,” according to GlobalCitizen.org. So even though I do experience gender discrimination and live in a single-parent household, I still have an enormous amount of privilege due to my placement in society as an upper-class white person.

In the past year or two of my life, I have consciously tried to correct this undeserved privilege that I have received. I did not grow up learning about this concept, except for in history classes, but it is obvious to me that it is still so prevalent today. Going into the outside world next year, I want to be able to treat everyone the same way, just as we are called to as Christians.

Without the people around me talking about privilege directly, I had to start thinking about it on my own. I wish this topic were discussed more frequently, so let me give you some easy examples to get the conversation started.

Socio-economic privilege is one that we can all relate to at Brentwood. I know that we are seemingly not all on the same class level, but we do all go to a private school, which is a privilege in itself. Because of the education that we have been given here – some of us for our entire lives – we are already at an advantage when we go into the outside world. We not only are gifted a higher-level education, but we

also do not live in fear that we might not get enough food for the day. We often do not even think about the fact that some people do not have that advantage in life.

Gender privilege can be a really hard conversation to have. I talked a little bit about this topic in my “Feminist and Christian” editorial last year; most women just want to be regarded on the same level and with the same respect as men. From the beginning of the Old Testament, to the founding of this country, to the low numbers of women in positions of authority today, the world seems as though it has always been a place for men.

To give you a few examples, our Declaration of Independence states that “all men are created equal.” Americans know today that this refers to all citizens, but when it was written it really only meant men (white, landowning men at that). Women in this country have had to work from that state up to now, slowly trying to earn respect from men. Not to mention that out of 45 presidents, there has not yet been a female, and very few prominent female candidates. Men have been given the advantage just because they are men. This undeserved privilege is embedded in our history.

Perhaps the most significant area of our lives where privilege is still very relevant is race. Because white privilege is still so prevalent in America today, it can also be the hardest to talk about. Basically since America’s founding, whites have claimed that they are a superior race. All other races in the U.S. undeservedly start at a disadvantage.

It can be very challenging for beneficiaries of privilege to identify its presence in our lives. This is where the saying “we don’t know what we don’t know” applies.

It might seem like there is nothing that can be done about the issue of privilege, because we simply cannot help the life situation that we have each been born into. Even though we cannot change the privilege that we all inherently receive, we are able to change how we use that privilege and how it affects the people around us – especially those of less privilege.

Here are three things that we can actively do to correct our

undeserved privilege:

1. Be aware. Acknowledging that you are privileged is the first step in creating justice and fairness in our society today. I think that many people’s biggest problem in talking about privilege is that nobody ever wants to start those conversations. Recognize the areas in your life where you benefit from factors beyond your control – and the areas where you don’t. Maybe ask the people in your life how they have benefited from privilege. Be aware of the way that privilege makes your life different than other people’s.

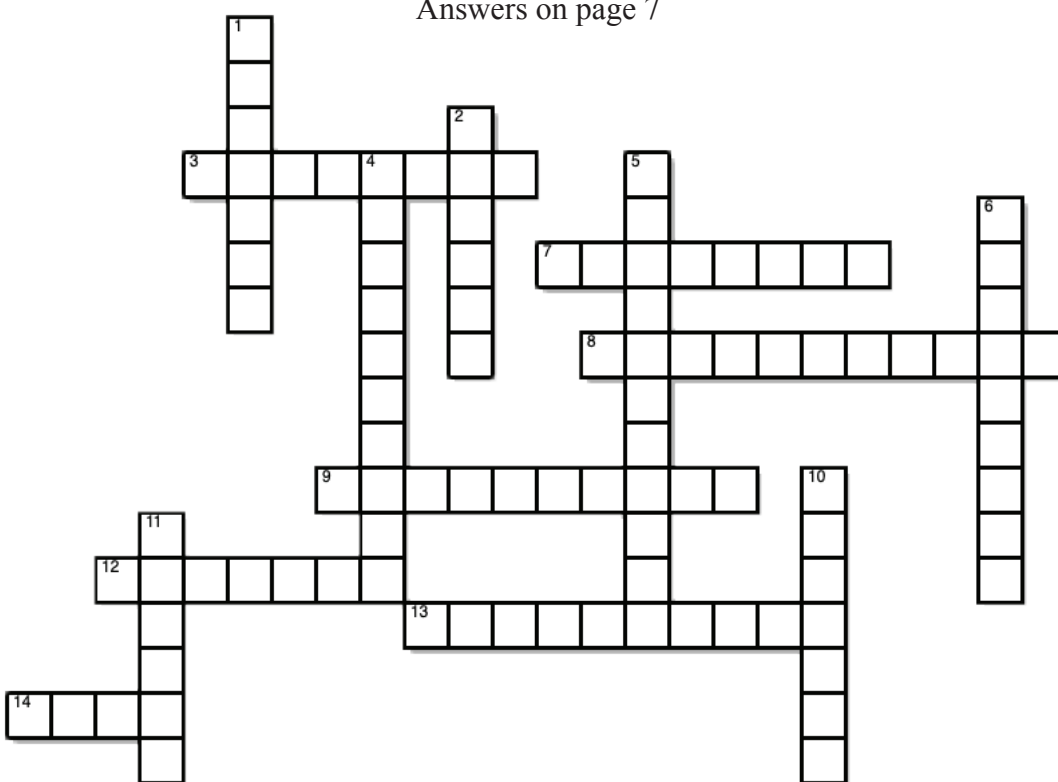
2. Be compassionate. This goes in two directions. Colossians 3 tells us that we are all defined by and included in Christ. No label the world could place on us matters; what matters is how we are called to love everyone despite those labels. First, compassion is required toward those of less privilege. However, compassion is also necessary for those just discovering

their own privilege. I think activism today has gained a reputation of yelling and aggression, but really this requires patience and forgiveness. Be compassionate toward those who disagree with you, and be patient with those still helping work toward social equality.

3. Be an advocate. Because of the undeserved privilege most of us are granted, we also have better opportunities in life. The honest truth is that because I am a white person, the world works in my favor most of the time. Now I shouldn’t just sit back and feel guilty about the way that privilege gives me an upper hand; people who benefit from this should use their advantages to help those who don’t! This is where being an advocate – someone who pleads on someone else’s behalf – is so important. If we are undeservedly given more opportunities, we should use those opportunities to advocate for people who are not able to put their voice into those circumstances.

November News Crossword

Answers on page 7



ACROSS

3 Football team that the Bears beat 51-20

7 New (and returning) NHS adviser

8 Senior who played Gaston

9 Date of first varsity boys’ soccer game

12 Largest BCS chapter of National Honor _____

13 State Dr. Sloan was born in

14 Where state cross country meet took place

DOWN

1 State Natalie Barry was born in

2 Varsity boys’ basketball coach

4 Featured senior’s planned major

5 Sophomore homecoming duchess

6 Party held in Athletic Center after homecoming

10 Run happening on campus on Nov. 13

11 Second-grade winner of Young Authors Award

Record numbers inducted into NHS

By Riley Banner

Brentwood Christian set a record for National Honor Society inductees this year with 54 new members, who joined 60 returning members to make up the largest body of students in Brentwood’s NHS chapter ever.

“I really, truly am excited to be working with NHS again and to focus on the service of these dedicated students,” said teacher Kaleen Graessle, who has reassumed her position as NHS adviser in Dr. Brooke Hollingsworth’s absence.

New and returning members were inducted in a ceremony on Oct. 8 that took place at the Westside Church of Christ in Round Rock. Parents of these members also attended, and all who were there enjoyed a lunch of brisket and green beans.

At the start of the induction, NHS officers performed the traditional candle lighting ceremony. Officers included president Travis

Whitaker, a senior; vice president Grant Martinez, a junior; treasurer Daniel Hickl, a senior; secretary Jenna Riley, a senior; and historian Jillian Hamilton, a senior.

The featured speaker at this year’s event was Marquita Moss, who was the school president up until 2016. Moss used the stories of Samwise Gamgee from *The Lord of the Rings* series and Puddleglum from *The Chronicles of Narnia* to inspire students, showing that even unlikely candidates can become heroes in their own rights and can accomplish something bigger than themselves.

Since the induction, NHS officers have met regularly with Graessle to plan more service projects that can involve this year’s large amount of NHS members.

Just as the event was coming to a close, a student was injured when he fell over a railing and onto his head. Thankfully, the student sustained no serious injuries, and he has since healed.

NJHS also held an induction ceremony on

Oct. 24 in the school theater, where Whitaker spoke to the students.

At the induction, 24 returning members were welcomed, and 37 new members, including 27 seventh-graders and 10 eighth-graders, were inducted.

Cynthia Davis, the adviser for Brentwood’s NJHS chapter, said that members will serve their community by tutoring elementary students in Brentwood’s extended care. These members will also volunteer their time later this year to bag M&Ms and to count donations for the annual Money for Medicines campaign.



photo: Brandy Gauthier
You’re in! Emma Ayers is welcomed into NHS by officers Daniel Hickl, Jenna Riley, and Grant Martinez on Oct. 8.

Students read, write during week of books

By Clive Whaley

For one week, elementary students are transformed into authors and esteemed writers, culminating in a full-on transformation into their favorite book characters.

Elementary students indulged in their annual week of literature and writing over the week of Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, otherwise known as Book Week, participating in a number of activities such as the Young Authors Contest, Favorite Character Day, and more.

The Young Authors books were turned over to the judges on Oct. 22. According to elementary librarian Tere Hager, 88 elementary students wrote stories for the competition. On Oct. 29, the young authors enjoyed a special Rubik’s Cube themed party.

On Halloween, students dressed up as their favorite book characters, and there was an assembly recognizing all the young authors. Overall excellence awards were given out to one student per grade level. These students were kindergartner Clara Gonzalez Pierce, first-grader Madilyn Sampayo, second-grader London Pimentel, third-grader Malory Henley, fourth-grader Tobi Olasode, and fifth-grader Ileri Babalola.

On Nov. 1, author Janice Shefelman visited



photo: Brandy Gauthier
Motley crew Elementary students who participated in the Young Authors contest were honored in an assembly on Oct. 31. They also enjoyed a party two days earlier.

the elementary classes and answered questions about writing and life as an author. Shefelman is the author of several Texas history books, including *Paradise Called Texas*.

Throughout the week, several elementary classes participated in book-ins. The students brought their own blankets and pillows to school, the lights were switched off, and students would engage in a time of reading and relaxation, many with flashlights in hand.

Several young authors also had the opportunity to share their stories with their class. They read them aloud, and watched as their classmates enjoyed a new kind of storytelling.

“I always look forward to seeing the creativity of the kids,” Hager said. “I would say the purpose of Book Week is to celebrate reading and writing, and to encourage the kids to write their own stories.”

THE BEAR FACTS

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

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Natalie Barry*

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

Class president leads with grace, joyful smile

By **Cade Young**

If you're not a fan of friendly people with genuine smiles who fill those around them with positive energy, then you definitely won't like Natalie Barry.

Natalie was born in the Bronx, N.Y., in 2001, before her family moved to Texas two years later. She attended public school until the second grade, when she moved to Brentwood Christian. Since enrolling in Sandy Patterson's class 10 years ago, Natalie has immensely enjoyed her time at Brentwood. She fondly recalls some of Brentwood's most classic experiences, like spending the night on the U.S.S. Lexington in fifth grade, or participating in the second-grade square dancing routine on Grandparents' Day.

Growing up at Brentwood, she became an active member and an uplifting leader of the Class of 2020, where she has been a role model to younger students.

"This may sound sappy, but Natalie is the type of friend that makes the hard times easier, and the best times better," sophomore friend Sarah Orick says. "Through everything that we do together, she teaches me to be a better person."

Natalie has been involved in a number of different activities on campus throughout her time at BCS, including being president of her class every year of high school, and she has been a member of the Lady Bellas drill team since freshman year, where she is now the second lieutenant for the second year in a row. Natalie has also been the photo editor of the Bear Facts for the last two years, an active participant in theater both backstage and on stage, a member of the homecoming court for the last four years, a member of the National Honor Society, and a participant in academic competitions, such as TC-SIT, since the seventh grade.

Despite her many accomplishments and leadership positions, Natalie is known as someone who is consistently humble and servant-minded in all that she does, especially in her friendships.

"Natalie is always such a positive light in my life," senior Alyssa Mancias says. "No matter what, she's always smiling, caring, and so willing to put others above herself. She thinks of everyone first before she ever even thinks about herself."

While most students now see

Natalie as a skilled dancer who performs week after week at football games without error, this hasn't always been the case. Before joining the Lady Bellas during her first year of high school, Natalie previously had no dance experience at all. Drill team coach and trusted mentor Lisa Warner remembers Natalie's first experience with dance, and how much she initially struggled with it.

"I recall the second day of tryouts for the Lady Bellas when Natalie was an eighth grader. She walked up to me and said, 'I'm going to quit; this is just too difficult for me.' I remember telling

her, 'No, you're not,' and that was it," Warner recalls. "She has been one of my top dancers ever since then."

A few other of Natalie's many major responsibilities include planning, organizing, and managing a number of different events for the Class of 2020. She has been in charge of Fall Festival booths, a sophomore lock-in, grade-level chapels, and last year's Junior/Senior Formal. Throughout all of these events, Natalie leads with an abundance of grace, humility, and kindness that is apparent to everyone she encounters. She is often

praised by teachers and students alike for her warm smile and infectious laughter that she seems to spread wherever she goes.

"Natalie is the type of girl you want for a friend, the student every teacher wants to teach, and the girl you want your son to bring home," Warner says. "She glorifies God in everything she does. I'm honored to have coached her; she is like a daughter to me, and I love her dearly."

Even though Natalie keeps herself fairly busy with her many leadership roles and extra-curriculars, she finds time to remain an active member of her church, Destiny Austin, where she takes photos and runs all of the social media accounts. She has also been a member of the youth group for the last 10 years. The friends and families she has met there have played a big role in her life, as has her faith. She looks to God for almost every decision in her life, and many people know Natalie for her strong passion to represent Christ in all that she does.

"Natalie is an outstanding woman of God. She practices humility, kindness, and sympathy in everything that she does," best friend and classmate Adrie Gruis says.

Next year, Natalie plans on attending either Texas A&M, Baylor, or NYU while majoring in psychology on a pre-med track. Keeping in nature with her desire to always help others, she eventually plans to open up her own practice as a psychiatrist.

Natalie says that after her faith, her family has been her biggest rock and supporter throughout her life. She is extremely close with both her immediate and extended family, many of whom also attend Brentwood. While family gatherings can be somewhat chaotic at times because of all the people – and the three dogs and two cats that Natalie owns – Natalie says that she is immensely grateful for all of the laughs, memories, and support that they have provided for her over the years.

Being involved in such a wide variety of activities and responsibilities might be overwhelming to most people, but Natalie handles them all with an abundance of ease and grace. She has been characterized as someone who continuously shines the joyful light of God in everything that she does, whether it's through her bright smile she gives as she dances across the field at halftime, taking time out of her busy day to help others, or smoothly and efficiently pulling off class events. Her kind and loving impact on both the senior class and the entire school as a leader after God's own heart is one that will not soon be forgotten.



Brilliant, humble scientist ‘invested’ in students

By Natalie Barry

Some like the way she brings science to life through engaging experiments. Others say she is always willing to put in extra time to help them catch on to concepts. Still others believe her best quality is her love of science and her ability to make difficult concepts understandable.

But they all agree that Dr. Diann Sloan is an incredibly intelligent and humble teacher who wants every student who walks through her door to succeed not only in science, but in life as well.

Dr. Sloan began teaching at Brentwood Christian in January of 2013. Her connection to the school began many years before this, as she volunteered in the cafeteria and coordinated Fall Festival as a mom. Her days went from playing with young kids as a stay-at-home mom to trying to explain the intricacies of tangential velocities and centripetal acceleration

to high school students, and spending about 60 hours a week on the BCS campus.

When not participating in Brentwood events or working, Sloan enjoys baking, cooking, quilting, and scrapbooking. Another one of Sloan’s talents outside of science is singing. She sang with the Sweet Expressions for 20 years before stepping down in 2012. She went on two mission trips to Trinidad with the group. She now sings with the Brentwood Oaks Chorus.

Before starting a family, Sloan worked at 3M, a Fortune 500 company specializing in applying science to life through industries like health care, transportation, manufacturing, and design. She worked in research having to do with fiber optics, in the manufacturing of fiber Bragg gratings, and in reliability testing of each product.

In the six years she has been working at Brentwood, Sloan has taught Life Science, Chemistry, Physics and AP Physics, and Engi-

neering. She has been a sponsor for the Class of 2017 and has coordinated the Science and Engineering Fair.

While Sloan enjoys all of her classes, the addition of an engineering class to Brentwood last year allowed her love of the application of science to be shared with students.

“I really enjoy being able to integrate science, building, and design,” Sloan says.

Born in Anaheim, Calif., Sloan enjoyed frequent visits to Disneyland, as she lived about 15 minutes away. This is a tradition that continues on, as she takes her family to visit almost every year. Sloan also loves traveling to Hawaii, where her parents are from, and where her family has participated in helicopter tours, swam with sharks and sea lions, and snorkeled in the waters around Kauai.

In high school, Sloan was involved in NHS and color guard. She attended the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she earned her bachelor’s in chemistry, and later attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned her Ph.D. in chemistry. She entered college undeclared and had planned on earning a biology degree until she began taking organic chemistry and fell in love with it.

“I loved learning about the way God put things together and how molecules work and how they influence everything,” Sloan says.

Sloan met her husband Derrell while working in a research group at the graduate school at UT. They have been married for 24 years and have two children together: sophomore Makana and sixth-grader Dylan. She says she enjoys cheering on Dylan at flag football games and watching Makana participate in speech events.

Sloan’s favorite memory at Brentwood was the year she was able to attend TCSIT and see both middle school and high school win first place.

“I feel like I am invested in each student,” Sloan says. “It is so fun being able to see how much talent God has blessed every student at Brentwood with.”

She enjoys cheering on her students at sporting events, attending band and choir concerts, and supporting stu-

dents in the classroom. Many students have expressed gratitude for her dedication to teaching and the “countless” hours spent reviewing with them and teaching them new things.

“She is always willing to put in extra hours and come early or stay late in order to help us understand concepts,” senior Cade Young says. “She genuinely wants us to grasp the concepts so that we can succeed, and it shows through all the time and hard work she puts in on a daily basis.”

Close friend Dorothy Walters describes Sloan as a “dedicated educator” who works hard to make difficult classes engaging and exciting for students.

“You couldn’t ask for a more humble, kind, thoughtful teacher and friend than Dr. Sloan,” Walters says. “I love her to pieces.”

So whether you are confused on how to find the coefficient of friction, want to know how to make a pinhole camera, or would just like to have a conversation, you can head down to Room F118, where you will always be welcomed by a friendly smile and a humble, Christ-like spirit.

Varsity hoops tip off Tuesday

continued from page 1

season the Bears finished with an overall record of 8-21 and an 0-6 record in district.

This year, Greene said the team will look a lot different with new people in the jerseys, but they have the same expectations.

“We play whoever is on the schedule,” Greene said. “And we approach it the same way, by playing to the best of our abilities.”

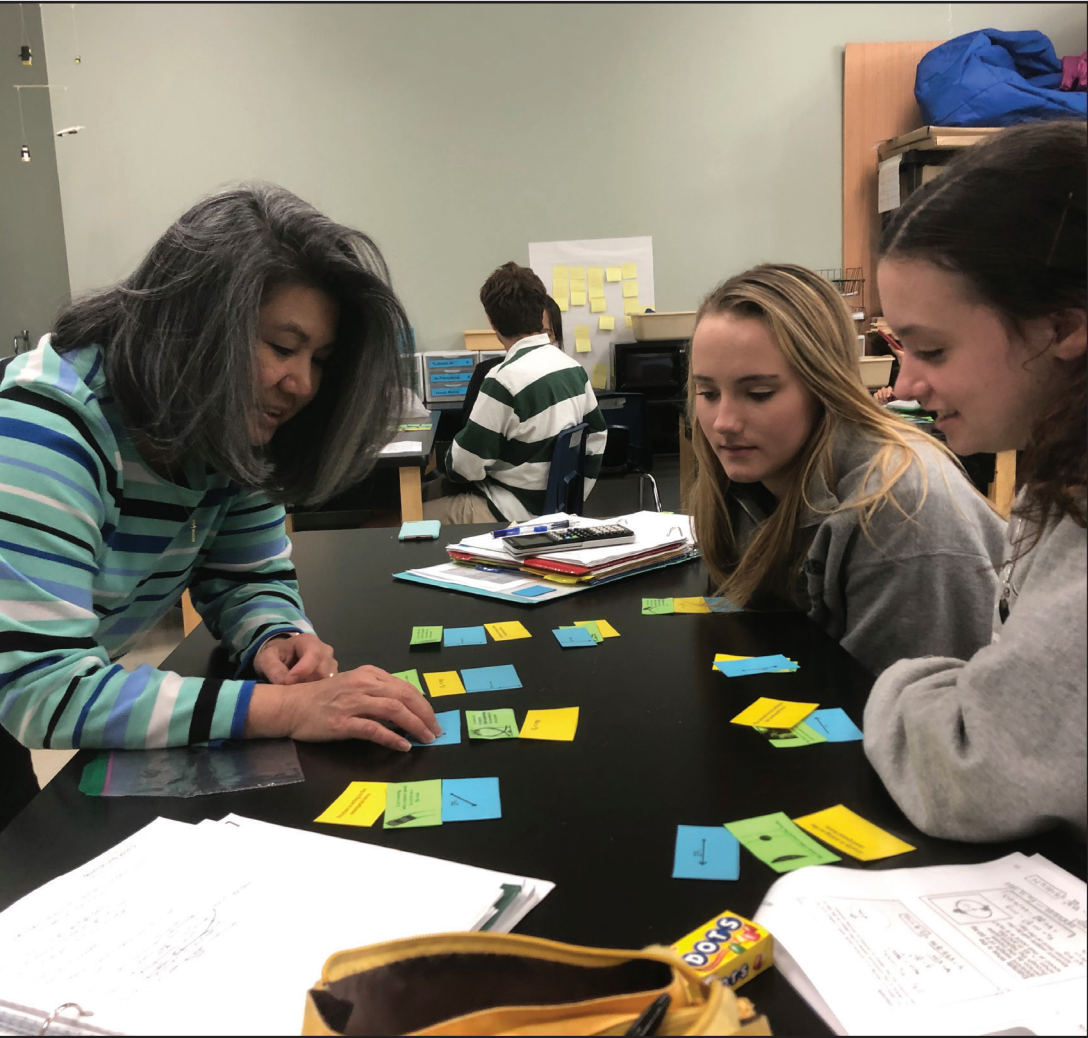
The Bears lost five seniors: Micah Best, Chase Blackman, Nate Ging, Zack Mack, and Connor Troutman. But they have one returning all-district player – senior Daniel Hickl – and two others who played varsity: seniors Coby Best and Isaac Copeland.

Greene said he sees this new young team as an opportunity to try new things, and has no intentions to lose. His players can sense the difference.

“This year coach has pushed us harder than he has ever before,” junior Grant Martinez said. “We may not be the biggest, strongest, or most talented team, but we will outwork everyone we play.”

Hickl is encouraged by the change.

“Practice has been more energetic and more serious,” Hickl said. “It has been different, but it has been for the better.”



Dedicated Dr. Diann Sloan, here helping seniors with Physics, is known as a very supportive teacher.

photo: Natalie Barry

Bears rout St. Michael's, Hyde Park; playoffs next

By Jackson Baird

The Brentwood Christian varsity football team is 8-2 and has wrapped up district with a 2-1 record. BCS is scheduled to play Second Baptist in Houston on Nov. 15, after a 51-20 win over Hyde Park on Nov. 1 to finish second in their TAPPS 5A district.

"It was disappointing losing to Regents, but it's always good to make the playoffs, and we are looking forward to making a run there," se-

nior Sam Orick said. Head coach Stan Caffey was also disappointed by the loss to Regents, but he is happy about the team's progress. "It was good to see the improvement from last year," he said, "and it felt better that we finished second in the district this year." Brentwood is led on offense by Orick, who has 1,135 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns. He is followed by sophomore Connor Rohlack, who has rushed for 529 yards and seven TDs.



photo: Darnell Mack

Hard hitting Junior Aaron Lilya, the Bears' leading tackler, drops a ball carrier from Shiner St. Paul during the game on Oct. 11. St. Paul won in overtime, 31-30.

Orick has passed for 1016 yards, eight TDs, and six interceptions. Sophomore Zack Billante leads the team with 29 receptions for 439 yards and three TDs. The defense is led by junior Aaron Lilya, who has 94 tackles, followed by senior Isaac Copeland with 77. Copeland leads the team with 11.5 sacks; junior Baley Cordes leads with three fumble recoveries. In the secondary, senior Coby Best leads with five interceptions. Following are the team's recent game results: **10/4: @ Yorktown 35-13 W** The Wildcats got on the board first with a 30-yard touchdown pass. But the Bears responded with a long drive that resulted in a TD run for Rohlack. Brentwood scored again with touchdown runs by Copeland and Cordes to give BCS the 21-7 lead at half. In the second half, senior Phillip Mach extended the Bears' lead with a 60-yard TD catch. **10/11: Shiner St. Paul 31-30 L (OT)** Brentwood dominated the first half, going into the locker room with a 16-0 lead. They scored on runs by Orick and Rohlack, along with a field goal from Connor. The Cardinals cut the deficit with two quick touchdowns, but BCS responded with a TD run from Rohlack. Brentwood continued to struggle on defense, while the Cardinal defense got the stop they needed and set up their kicker with a 35-yard field goal opportunity in the final minute. He nailed it, tying the game at 23. In overtime, after Orick regained the lead for the Bears, Shiner answered with a score and then made a two-point conversion for the win. **10/18: St. Michael's 42-7 W** On homecoming night the Bears opened up district play in front of a large crowd of alumni

and fans. The Bears got on the board in the first quarter on a TD run by Orick. But the Crusaders responded with a quick score, tying the game at seven. Right before the half, Orick punched in another touchdown run giving BCS the 14-7 lead. In the second half the Brentwood defense stifled the Crusader offense, forcing a few turnovers, including a pick-six from Cason Best. Despite a rowdy St. Michael's heckler, the Claw Crew and fans remained calm as their team poured it on the Crusaders. Orick added to the lead with a TD pass to Mach. **10/25: Regents 35-6 L** In the KVUE game of the week, the crowds came out in droves to cheer on their Bears against the district powerhouse. Regents quickly scored on a 70-yard touchdown run, and the Bears struggled to get anything going against the Knights' stifling defense. Leading 14-0, Regents began the second half with three quick touchdowns, two coming off of BCS turnovers that set up the Knights with great field position. The Bears scored a late consolation TD. **11/1: Hyde Park 51-20 W** Brentwood got on the board first with a field goal from Connor but found themselves trailing 7-3 after giving up a TD on the ensuing kickoff. Orick found Billante on a fourth and goal pass to retake the lead. After a close first quarter, Brentwood exploded for 21 unanswered points in the second and led 30-7 at halftime. In the second half Orick launched a 40-yard bomb down the sideline and connected with Mach to extend the lead. The Bears dominated all three phases of the game, including special teams, which produced two kick return touchdowns from Billante. Orick had 156 yards rushing and a touchdown on 18 carries.

Varsity soccer teams begin practice

By Jackson Baird

Winter sports are starting up as the girls' and boys' varsity soccer teams have begun training. The boys started practicing after school on the baseball field on Oct. 21, where they will continue working out every afternoon in preparation for the upcoming season. The girls have begun practicing Mondays and Thursdays after school, and Tuesdays and Wednesdays before school. The boys are entering their fourth season under head coach Jesse Jordan. Last season the Bears finished with a 4-2 district record and fell in the area playoffs to Prince of Peace Christian 2-1. "My goal for every athlete I've ever coached is that they'll know I loved and respected them enough to push them to be their best on and off the field, while pursuing righteousness and excellence," Jordan said.

Jordan will have two holes to fill by departing seniors Adrian Batlle and Riley Walker. Batlle was the team's leading scorer last season with 13 goals, and Walker was the team leader in assists with 10. Returning all-district players include seniors Jose Real and Jonah Connor, who were named first-team all district last season. Seniors Elias Qussad and Jackson Baird were second-team all district. "I am excited for the season and ready to make a run at district," Connor said. Brentwood will open up their non-district schedule on Nov. 19 on the road against San Antonio Christian, and district play begins Jan. 14 against Hyde Park. The girls are going into the season under first-year head coach Nick Marquez, who is the director of coaching at FIERCE United, an Austin girls' soccer club. The Lady Bears consist of 17 girls, but more than half of them

have never played soccer before. "The girls on the team are all working hard to get prepared for the season, and we are having fun time while doing it," junior Caroline Griffith said. Last season the girls finished with a 0-8 record. The Lady Bears' first game is Dec. 3 against San Juan Diego. Leading the way for the team will be veteran players Genevieve Graessle, a senior defender, and junior Julia Glenn, one of the forwards on the team.



photo: Genevieve Graessle

Go Bears Sophomores Ema Diaz and Sydney Cooper race to the ball in a Lady Bears afternoon practice. The team has begun morning and afternoon practices on the baseball field.

Volleyball ends on high note

By Aurora Tyson

The Lady Bears' varsity volleyball team ended a disappointing season on a very high note, defeating district opponents Regents and Hyde Park each in straight sets on Oct. 15 and Oct. 17, respectively.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, the Lady Bears struggled through their first round of district. Junior setter Brooklyn Allen suffered a concussion and then, later, two sprained ankles. Senior middle Jillian Hamilton also sprained her ankle during the first match against Regents. With these players out, Coach Rory Tyson had to run a completely new line-up.

"We played about three weeks with a different line-up every game, which really doesn't ever happen in volleyball," Tyson said.

The girls took losses to St. Michael's, Regents, and Hyde Park, effectively ending their playoff hopes.

"The first round of district was very frustrating for us because we had a lot of injuries that caused our line-up to change a lot," junior Caroline Griffith said. "I am still proud of the way we played in those games."

When they became a full team of healthy players once again, the girls were determined to "go out with a bang" and end the season on a good note.

"These girls play with more heart than any team I've seen," Tyson said. "You see the girls on the other teams and think, 'There's no way we should win,' but we give 110% and leave it all on the court."

The team finished with an overall record of 18 wins, 16 losses, and 2 ties. Griffith was the leading attacker for the season with 1016 attempts and 346 kills. Hamilton led the team with 58 blocks. Junior Aurora Tyson led with 571 digs, and also with 575 passes. Sophomore Ava Alvarado was the leading setter for the season with 517 assists.

Three players were listed in the Austin American-Statesman CenTex ranking for all high schools in Central Texas. Tyson tied for fifth with 5.5 digs per set. Griffith tied for seventh with 3.6 kills per set. Alvarado tied for 19th with 5.0 assists per set.

The Lady Bears now have momentum for next season and are ready for the challenge.

"I'm really excited to see how we play as a team without our seniors, but I think it's going to be a very fun and very good season," Alvarado said.

CC runners finish well at state; Min sets record

By Hannah Womack

The BCS boys' cross country team placed eighth, and the girls 11th, at the TAPPS state championship on Oct. 21 at Cottonwood Golf Course in Waco, bringing to a close a full season that featured the addition of an on-campus course and a new school record.



Top runners for the boys at state included junior Min Yoon (18:45), sophomore Jack Leidlein (19:13), and senior Gavin George (20:14). The girls' top finishers included junior Julia Glenn (14:10), sophomore Emma Diaz (15:16), and junior Hailey Reich (15:19).

The race, which was described by some as extremely hilly, had a steep finish that greatly affected many runners' times. However, all of Brentwood's returning runners obtained a faster time than they had last year, when the boys placed 13th, and the girls 19th.

The team competed at the Concordia Invitational on Oct. 12, where Yoon and Leidlein both broke the record set just last year by Riley Walker. Yoon finished in 17:34, with Leidlein only three seconds behind.

"I was slowing down at the end of the course because it was uphill," Yoon said. "But Coach (Katie) Smith encouraged me at the last second. That made me push past the second, and made me break the school record."

Julia Glenn placed fourth, leading the way for the girls (14:21), followed by Diaz (14:58), and Elisabeth Her-ring (14:59).

Smith said she was proud to see the team greatly improve this year and was pleased with

Pushing it Senior Gavin George, here running at the Concordia meet, was one of the boys' top runners as they finished eighth at the state championship in Waco.

photo: Sydney Cooper

Jog-a-fun to feature colored beads, snowcones, prizes

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will enjoy fresh fruit and Kona Ice, while elementary students will be allowed to jump on bouncy castles. Throughout the rest of the day students will be entertained with movies and various group games, different for each grade. One of the activities for secondary students is viewing or participating in the annual Buff Puff volleyball game.

The 5K will begin behind the football bleachers, where Jog-a-fun runners will take off underneath the starting line's archway. Inside the gazebo, Spirit 105.9 will be broadcasting a Christian playlist for joggers to enjoy.

Unlike in the color run or bubble run of recent years, this year students will receive necklaces of beads to wear – one for each lap they finish, and extra beads for excellence. After the first lap is completed, near the start line a jogger will be rewarded with a green beaded neck-

lace. Once the second lap is completed, the participant will receive a black necklace, and on the final lap he or she will receive a white necklace. The first 100 finishers will receive a golden set of beads.

Before the race begins, students and others will have the opportunity to accept a "challenge finish time." If they confirm they have accepted the challenge, and complete the jog in the time allotted, they will be granted a chain of red beads to wear proudly. It is possible for a jogger to complete the day with five strands of beads.

After Jog-a-fun ends, individual rewards will be granted. One student in K4 through second grade will have the chance to win a Round Rock Express Grand Slam Party package. An upper elementary student and five others will win an iFLY Austin experience. Top Golf for up to six is for middle school, and four season passes to Six Flags for high school.

their overall attitude. She expressed high hopes for next year's team,

"I think overall as a team we're going to place higher in state next year," Smith said. "And we'll just keep moving up."

Brentwood hosts run

Ten schools and 200 runners arrived on campus for the first-ever BCS Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 19, to test out the new on-campus trail built earlier this summer.

Sixth-grader Harper Counts won the elementary girls' division with a time of 13:16 on the two-mile course. Eighth-graders Katie Pittner (13:46) and Renne Cooper (11:55) won the middle school girls' and boys' races, respectively. BCS won the team competition for middle school girls but did not have the required number of runners to compete as a team in the other divisions.

Many students and parents sacrificed time during the summer to help clear the trail and make it "meet-ready." Although the meet was exclusively for middle school, Smith said that she hopes to have the one-mile loop – which athletes ran twice – expanded to a 1.5-mile loop, so that a high school meet can take place on the course next year as well.

Despite what Smith called perfect weather, the course was still very difficult, as it included the much dreaded "Lamar lap" so many students have had to practice on. Smith was, however, very impressed.

"We had a lot of good times, and a lot of good runners," she said.

Wilson said that so far students and faculty have raised nearly half of the money needed to reach the \$100,000 goal.

Wilson credits many Brentwood parents who make the day work, including Tracy Grooms, who has been elementary field coordinator for eight years; her assistant Laurie Weston; and Kyle Wilkie, who will again monitor time-stamps for each runner.

Crossword answers

ACROSS	DOWN
3 Hyde Park	1 New York
7 Graessle	2 Greene
8 Elias Qussad	4 Psychology
9 November 19	5 Ava Alvarado
12 Society	6 Not a dance
13 California	10 Jog-a-fun
14 Waco	11 London

Homecoming features costumes, music, football, fun times

By Zack Haswell

Groovy disco dancers, hippies, and skaters flooded the halls of Brentwood Christian during the week of homecoming, which culminated in a spirit-filled day on Friday, Oct. 18. That evening, seniors Cade Young and Ad-

rie Gruis were crowned king and queen during halftime of the Bears' 42-7 victory over St. Michael's. A week earlier, on Oct. 11, most of the homecoming court was announced during halftime of that week's game, which was voted by the secondary students in grades 8-12. The court

consisted of Lord Aden Mann and Lady Elisabeth Herring; Duke Cruz Wilkie and Duchess Ava Alvarado; and Prince Andrew Gevarghese and Princess Alyssa McLain. King nominees were Jonah Connor, Sam Orick, and Young; and queen nominees were Natalie Barry, Gruis, and Taylor Warner.

Although fall break made it a short week of homecoming, StuCo ensured that the hallways were groovy, nostalgic, and interesting. Led by sponsor Jeff Morris, his wife, and Young, who is the student body president, StuCo met on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 13, and spent the next 31 hours piecing together the homecoming hallway. In between the decorating, students watched *Spy Kids* in the art room while making all the decorations such as banners and hallway art. These featured references to pop culture from the '70s through the 2000s such as Michael Jackson, mixtapes, CDs, and social media.

They did take a break to sleep in designated classrooms, with the boys in Mr. Harper's room and the girls in Mrs. Birdwell's room. "It was a lot of hard work, but it paid off because it looked good and we had fun doing it," Young said.

Earlier in the month StuCo informed the students by creating a video describing the homecoming theme, featuring the members dressed up in theme-related costumes. Tuesday was the first day of dress-up, which was '70s-'80s at-

tire. Although there was no dress up day on Wednesday due to PSAT testing, students were able to dress up in clothes from the '90s and early 2000s on Thursday.

Students dressing in outfits of the past came to a close on Friday, when they celebrated school spirit by wearing green and getting excited for the evening football game. The pep rally was a catalyst for the excitement, featuring the cheer and drill teams performing dances to songs from across the decades, according to the homecoming theme. They danced to songs such as "Footloose," "Can't Touch This," and "Staying Alive." To end the pep rally, the students gathered for the school song to celebrate their Bear pride.

Before the game, cooking and tailgating in the parking lot managed by parents and teachers was accompanied by the Brentwood band practicing in the background. By game time, the bleachers and parking lot were overflowing with fans and their cars; some had to park off campus.

However, that was not the end to the fun. High school students went to the Athletic Center for an event billed as "Not a Homecoming Dance." At the party, students could find pizza, music, alumni, and even secondary principal Carol Johnson in a mosh pit.

"I really liked how we could actually hang out with underclassmen while also being with our friends," senior Elias Qussad said.



photo: Darnell Mack

Royalty Seniors Adrie Gruis and Cade Young are crowned Homecoming Queen and King at halftime of the football victory over St. Michael's on Oct. 18.

Musical is repeat of 2009 show in FLC

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tweaking of specific aspects of scenes, but the most challenging part for her was to wrap her head around all of the elements of the musical, such as the orchestra, sound system, and costumes.

This was Maleare's first time directing a musical, but she has directed many plays at her church and had a dual major in college of theater and Bible. To make sure she was prepared for the task, she started working on it before she even knew she would be hired at BCS. She went to Disney World in the summer and photographed pictures of Belle's castle to get an idea of what the set should look like.

Choir teacher and director Emily Borbon said that the whole cast maintained their characters' personas throughout the entire play, and she was very proud of everyone in the cast and crew.

"This show was very high-caliber for a high school production," she said. "There is something about Disney shows that makes you get swept up in their world."

Beauty and the Beast was performed previously by BCS students back in 2009 in the FLC. The Center for Science and the Arts was not constructed until 2011.

One returning star was senior Genevieve Graessle, who was a teacup in the ensemble during the 2009 production. This time, she played the treasured Chip, another teacup.

Pollard directed the music for both shows, and he said that in 2009 there was not a full orchestra, and most of the music was played on the piano. There was also minimal lighting, and the audio was very inferior. The stage was in the wall where the athletic offices are now.

The CSA theater has allowed the musical to seem much more professional and convenient. Pollard said that in the FLC, the audience sat in folding chairs, and many kids would sit on the floor in front of them.

Beauty and the Beast has recently been relevant with Disney's live action remake in 2017. The story puts a twist on the basic fairytale plot in which the strong, attractive man is the villain, while the Beast is actually good on the inside. This twist makes it stand out among other

musicals while keeping the fairytale atmosphere.

The original *Beauty and the Beast* story was written by French author Gabrielle-Suzanne de Villeneuve in 1740. It has many differences from the Disney version, including Belle's 12 siblings who think she is stupid for being content with who she is, and the absence of Gaston.

The story has been very popular through the centuries, and had many versions written, but it gained the most popularity in America when Disney created the animated film in 1991.

The Broadway adaptation that was performed at Brentwood was written by Linda Woolverton, with music by Alan Menken, and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice. It played on Broadway in 1994.



photo: Travis Pollard

Daredevil Griffin Smith flies upside-down on the zipline during the seventh grade's annual retreat on Oct. 22 at Camp Buckner. During a long school day that began at 6 a.m., the students spent time in the natural beauty of the Hill Country working together in team-building games, riding kayaks, climbing walls, and listening to the five seniors who served as counselors and mentors to the kids.