

THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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'Charlie Brown' opens Thursday

By Macie Griswold

Students, families, and friends alike are invited to join the BCS theater department for a time of charm, music, and laughs during the performances of the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* on Feb. 4-6. Tickets for four performances are currently on sale.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown is a musical adaptation of the beloved Peanuts stories created by Charles M. Schulz. Those watching will explore life through the eyes of Charlie Brown and his friends in the Peanuts gang. Throughout the story, we see Charlie Brown evolve and grow, overcoming obstacles while ultimately realizing that there is more to life

than meets the eye.

Musical director Vanessa Maleare hopped on the chance of performing *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

"I chose this musical because it's just a big dose of happy," Maleare explained. "Charlie Brown is the kid nothing goes right for, and in a year where we all feel like nothing went right, it's kind of perfect."

Additionally, Maleare made the decision to do something very unusual in Brentwood musical history. This year, there will be two different castings performing the musical, Delta and Sigma. This is not only to keep interaction between students limited, but Maleare has been able to incorporate an additional five stu-

dents who were eager to perform.

The 17 hard-working students will be performing *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* during three evening performances and one matinee. The two Delta cast performances will take place Thursday and Saturday, both at 7 p.m. The Sigma performances will be on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. An additional 12 students will be working behind the scenes. This is a substantial change from last year's cast of an astounding 70 students.

Maleare explained that with a smaller cast, it is easier to socially distance. She also described the challenges the Covid-19 virus has inflicted on the musical.

"The biggest challenges have been the choreography," Maleare said, "and figuring out how we will wear masks while still being able to be heard and seen for the performances."

The musical stars senior Mason Hejl, playing Charlie Brown in both Delta and Sigma casting productions of the musical. He has previously played LeFou in Brentwood's last high school production, which was *Beauty and the Beast* in the fall of 2019.

Another crucial character is Sally Brown, Charlie Brown's younger sister, who will be played by sophomore Lily Trueper during the Delta performances of the musical. It is Trueper's first time being a main role, and she said the preparation has been an absolute blast.

"My favorite part about my character Sally is her sass," Trueper explained. "She is the youngest of the main characters, and yet she has no problem speaking her mind and always trying to steal the spotlight from the others. But

see **CHARLIE BROWN**, page 5

New nurse adapts fast to crazy year

By Lucy Belcik

Although new school nurse Amanda Mayfield joined Brentwood Christian during one of the most unprecedented school years on record, she has adapted and improvised from the start of the year to meet the new needs of BCS students and staff.

"Her medical knowledge coupled with her boundless energy and nurturing disposition has been and continues to be exactly what this school needed in our nurse," school president Jay Burcham said.

Mayfield and the school administration have had to make many changes around campus to help keep students safe. From completely flipping the way teachers teach students, to bathroom passes and lunch tables, many changes have been implemented around campus since the beginning of the school year.

Mayfield, who is married to BCS English teacher Taylor Mayfield, said that the biggest change she's had to make as the school nurse is the way she has to help students. Due to Covid restrictions, she is unable to have students come directly to her. Instead, they head to the office, where she is called in to help them.

"It just takes more planning on my part. I have to figure out what's going on and what I need to bring," Mayfield said.

Before arriving at Brentwood, Mayfield, who graduated with her bachelor's degree in nursing from Harding University, worked as a postpartum nurse at North Austin Medical Center. Though her main focus is BCS, she still works a few shifts per month there.

"It's less than part time," Mayfield said. "Since it was my first job and I enjoyed it so much, I wanted to stay just a little bit more."

see **NURSE MANDY**, page 5



photo: Dorothy Walters

Good grief! Senior Mason Hejl, sophomore Kennedy Drennon, and junior Cruz Wilkie rehearse on Monday for this week's musical that opens on Thursday night at 7 p.m.

Varsity boys gear up for soccer playoffs

By Renne Cooper

With two games left in district, the varsity boys' soccer team has qualified for playoffs with a 4-4 record in district (4-5 overall) after a 5-0 victory against Boerne Geneva on Friday, Jan. 29.

Head coach Cash Miller said that his goal for the team for the remainder of the season is to reset and prepare for playoffs, requiring more effort and discipline from the team. The Bears had a rough start to the season, but they

have worked hard to overcome challenges.

"I think the results on the field show the dedication from the team," Miller said.

Junior Nathan Joseph is leading the team with six goals, followed by freshman Isaac Ruiz, who has scored four goals. Seniors Andrew Geevarghese and Mason Hejl, and junior Jack Leidlein, have three goals apiece.

Ruiz and Leidlein each have four assists, and Joseph has three.

Junior Josh Treviño said he feels the season has gone much better than expected even with

a loss of seven starters who have graduated. Despite this, the team has a large roster including those who are not veteran soccer players, such as freshman goalkeeper Andrew Davis.

"When I decided to play soccer, I was nervous and wasn't sure if I was good enough to play even a minute, but sure enough, I found myself as the starting goalkeeper," said Davis, who has a total of 45 saves.

Leidlein said he is excited the team was

see **MULTIPLE**, page 6

From the Editor: Aurora Tyson

Honoring God with your career leaves many options

What do you want to be when you grow up? This is an extremely common question that comes up in everyday conversations from the time you are in kindergarten to the time you graduate from college. For seniors especially, we have been putting a lot of thought into our future careers and what we want to study during college. The next four years of our lives will be devoted to becoming educated in our work field and learning about the job we will eventually apply for. However, this editorial is not only directed towards seniors; this issue is relevant to everyone, and I hope to persuade some students to change their mindsets about

how they approach answering this question. Many people have decided to stop pursuing the careers they wished to pursue because their dream career is not considered to be ambitious enough, or because they have been told that they can do better. For example, here are the typical responses I receive when I tell people that I want to be a kindergarten teacher:

“Really? I figured you would be a doctor or at least a college professor.”

“Oh, I thought you would do something more important than that.”

“You’re too smart for that kind of job.”

It is discouraging and disheartening to hear somebody disparage what you want to be when you grow up and tell you that you can do better. In a way, these responses are disrespectful not only to the person, but also to their Creator. Everyone is blessed with special talents and abilities, and the way that they use them varies accordingly. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” Let us not judge one another for the gifts we have received or look down on our own talents because they are not ‘good enough.’ We must be grateful for our talents and use them to benefit others. As long as you are aiming to honor the Lord, do not feel bad about your dreams and what you hope to do with your life. If it is what God desires of you and He has blessed you with the gifts needed, then take advantage of that and allow your talents to flourish and to form you into a steward of His grace.

In Romans 12:6-8, Paul says, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” Whatever gift or talent the Lord has blessed you with, use it to glorify and honor our Maker, allowing His love and His kindness to shine through you.

The truth is, the world needs all kinds of people and all kinds of professions to function. We need mechanics; we need janitors; we need teachers; we need doctors; we need policemen; we need beauticians; we need waste collectors; we need firefighters; we need politicians; we

need lawyers; we need coroners; we need barbers; we need cashiers; we need businessmen. We need these jobs and occupations in order to live our own lives, so we should not look down on those who choose to pursue these careers. We should not judge others or dissociate ourselves from them because of the jobs they have; instead we should show everyone Christ’s love and compassion. It can be challenging to discover your talents and how you can use them for the benefit of God’s kingdom. Find something that you are passionate about and enjoy doing, and then dedicate time and effort to becoming better at it. Despite the backlash you receive for what you want to pursue, if it is for the glory of our Christian faith and the betterment of our world, you should put your whole heart into

it. Pray to God about what your talents are and talk to Him about the future He has planned out for you. God has created you in His image and made you with special and unique talents and abilities. Use your talents wisely, whatever they may be.

THE BEAR FACTS

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

Find something that you are passionate about and enjoy doing, and then dedicate time and effort to becoming better at it.



photo: www.freepik.com

Young actors prepare show

By Carina Combs

Centered on a teenage superhero who has to balance her secret superhero life and also her school life, the middle school play will be packed full of action, drama, and meaning. A total of 19 middle school theater students will be performing *Mirror of Most Value: a Miss Marvel Play* on Feb. 19, 20, and 27.

Written by Masi Asare, *Mirror of Most Value: a Miss Marvel Play* is about a high school superhero named Kamala Khan, who will be played by eighth-grader Seraya Pothina. Kamala has superpowers and goes by the name of “Ms. Marvel” when protecting Jersey City from danger. Through the play, Kamala goes through the struggles of finding her purpose, worth, and voice.

“The play explores what happens when we place our worth in all the wrong places,” said Vanessa Maleare, who is directing the play alongside her co-director, junior Elijah Baron.

The cast in this production has been hard at work preparing since before Christmas break.

“The thing I enjoy most about being in the cast is getting to learn and have fun with all of my talented friends. We use all the teamwork

to make this unique, comedic, and adventurous story come to the stage,” said eighth-grader Cristian Soto, who will be playing the part of Kamala’s best friend, Bruno Corelli.

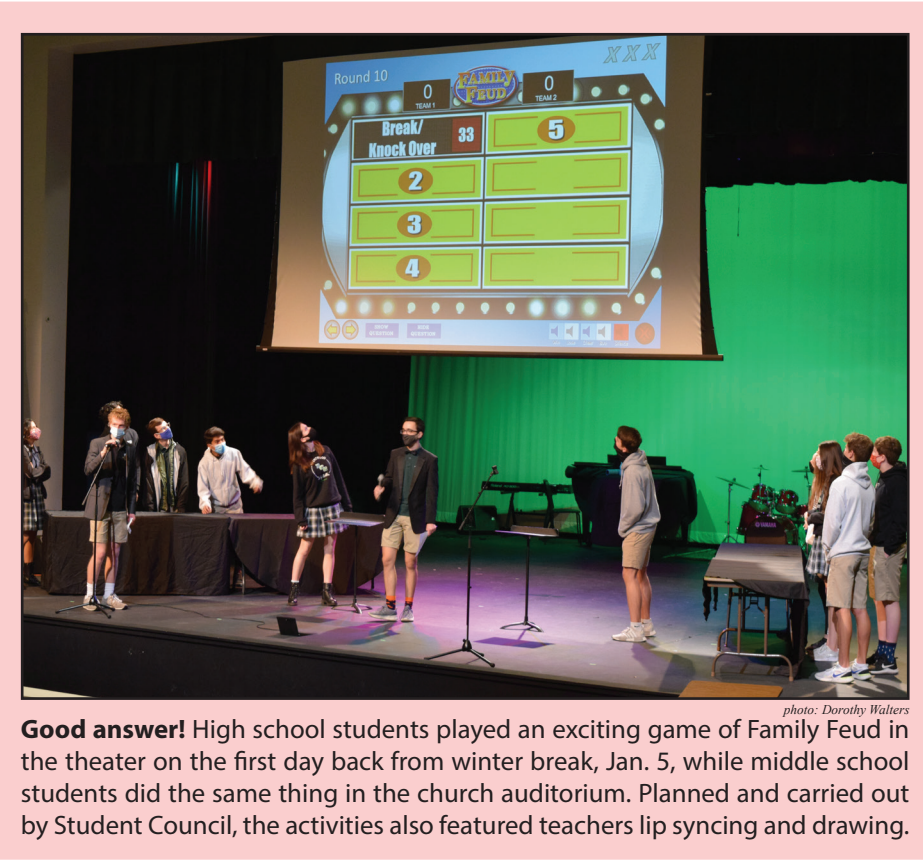
To follow Covid-19 guidelines, tickets will be sold in groups of three and will be socially distanced. There will also be virtual tickets sold, so people can watch online in the form of a live stream.

Many cast members mentioned difficulties while practicing with Covid guidelines. They said that the masks make it difficult to project their voices and that it is awkward to rehearse close-contact fight scenes.

“Covid has really impacted the way we interact with each other,” sixth-grader Amayah Brinkley said. “We’re just trying to do what we can so that the show can go on!”

Usually, there are two middle school plays to enjoy, but due to the pandemic, the play that would normally be performed at TCSIT was canceled.

“This play has a great message and a great cast,” eighth-grader Tanner Clark said. “We’re putting lots of passion into this play, and it’s sure to be worth your time.”



Good answer! High school students played an exciting game of Family Feud in the theater on the first day back from winter break, Jan. 5, while middle school students did the same thing in the church auditorium. Planned and carried out by Student Council, the activities also featured teachers lip syncing and drawing.

O’Sullivan wins online bee

By Renne Cooper

Nobody saw it, but sixth-grader Bryce O’Sullivan won Brentwood Christian’s spelling bee last month, and fourth-grader Jason Tukunang was runner up.

Using an entirely online format, there were 20 students who advanced past the classroom level bees to the school bee. Finishing in a three-way tie for third were eighth-graders Conor Schehl and Jocelyn Galvan, and third-grader Aarya Raulji. This year Scripps, the national spelling bee organization, allows two champions to advance to the next level, so both O’Sullivan and Tukunang will advance to the next round.

Scripps gave schools the option to run their bees online or in person. Elementary principal Jeremy Thornton and secondary principal Carol Johnson decided that it was best for the school to hold the spelling bee virtually.

Sharonda Cooper, mother of two BCS high school students, has run the bee for nine years, and she highlighted three problems with holding the bee online. First, since the bee was optional, participation was low.

Only 50 students in grades 1-8 participated at the classroom level.

“There is a low level of competition when there is such a small number of participants,” Cooper said.

The second issue Cooper mentioned is the problem with glitches. A first-grade student was assigned the correct test, but when he opened it, a fourth-grade test was waiting for him. Scripps was unable to explain the reason for this glitch, but the first-grader ended up with a score high enough to advance to the school bee anyway.

Cooper said the final problem is the most concerning. As a spelling bee is supposed to be oral, an online bee gives participants the ability to write and rewrite the word before deciding what’s right. Worse, she said, dishonest students could easily cheat, looking at the study list while taking the online test.

Not everything about the online bee was negative. Cooper said that this format freed teachers from the responsibility of running their classroom bees in what has been an extremely difficult and time-consuming year.

Students prep to compete

By Juliet Booker

In spite of all the limitations and cancellations brought on by the pandemic, students are preparing for the multitude of competitions coming up this spring. TAPPS academic competition for high school students will take place March 29-31, while younger students still have PSIA scheduled for Feb. 27.

Sadly, TCSIT was cancelled this year in order to keep students safe from Covid-19.

Participation in PSIA is lower this year within Brentwood and within the other schools competing due to the ongoing pandemic. Participants are gearing up for the competition without the formal coaching methods used in prior years. In earlier years parents have coached many student participants in classrooms after school; however, this year parents are only coaching their own children in order to maintain Covid guidelines. Some students have even chosen to study without any coaching at all.

New PSIA directors Dorthy Walters and Carol Neil took over after long-time director Kay Taylor retired from teaching. Although Taylor is no longer working with Brentwood directly, she is still assisting PSIA leadership with the district meet and one-act play.

District is taking place at Regents School of Austin this year. The school that had agreed to host it at first dropped out for safety precautions.

“It’s a blessing just to have a school to host this meet,” Neil said.

A total of 33 high school students are participating in the TAPPS academic meet this spring. According to organizer Michele Broadway, all events are open for participation, but it is unknown whether this particular competition will take place online or in-person.

TAPPS band will definitely be online, according to band director Travis Pollard. Those participating in the competition are currently learning solos or group ensembles to be recorded and submitted.

It was also announced last week that the state choir competition will be run the same way as band, with students of choir director Daniel Watkins sending in solo and ensemble videos in late March.

Art teacher Lindsey Smith said she is also under the impression that the art competition will take place online this year. Their events include seek-and-sketch, art history, art portfolio and computer-aided graphics.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Mason Hejl*

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2021.

Joyful energy drives actor, singer, servant of God

By Natalie Hargrove

It's a busy Sunday at Westover Hills Church of Christ, and Mason Hejl is strumming his guitar while singing to some kids in the children's ministry. It's clear to those around that Mason loves the Lord and truly cares about the children as they watch him pour his energy into what he is doing.

Bubbly, kind, and hardworking, Mason Hejl has made an impact in every place he can on the Brentwood campus. Whether it be singing a song with Encore, kicking a ball on the soccer field, leading a prayer during morning announcements, or acting on the stage as Charlie Brown, Mason does it all.

"Mason is probably one of the most hard-working people in our grade," senior friend Isaac Olewin says. "That man has more on his plate than most people on Thanksgiving."

Mason was born on July 16, 2003, here in Austin, and has been a part of the Brentwood Christian Class of 2021 since kindergarten. His dad was a graduate of Brentwood's Class of '95. Mason has excelled at Brentwood and continues to shine his contagious joy all around campus. He has been a member of the varsity soccer team since his freshman year, and has been a part of eight BCS theater productions. Mason received the TCSIT award for "best male" for his role as George in *Our Town*, and is known for his role as LeFou in last year's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. He has been in choir for nine years, and a part of



Encore for two years. He has also been a part of StuCo throughout high school, serving this year as vice president.

Theater teacher Vanessa Maleare says she remembers a conversation with Mason about the upcoming musical when he told her that he could not picture himself in a lead role.

"I told him that anyone could be a lead if they trained for it, especially him!" Maleare says. "He auditioned for the lead male role of Charlie Brown, and I could not picture anyone else doing it, that was how good he was."

Beyond his many accomplishments, Mason is known for his joyful optimist personality and his love for others. Senior Bible teacher Jimmie Harper says Mason naturally has a cheerful attitude.

"There is a unique brightness about him," Harper says. "He has this goofy carefree way of telling stories, and that elevates everyone's spirits and makes people laugh."

Mason is extremely active in his church and youth group at Westover, where he serves on the worship team and as a youth group leader.

"My faith has grown the most at Westover," Mason says. "The people there have taught me not to be afraid to speak out about my faith, and that has truly given me confidence to lead and to wear the name of Jesus proudly."

It's no mystery that he has served at his church for quite awhile, but it is the impact that he has left on the people around him while serving that makes him so special.

"Mason is one of the greatest leaders I have ever seen," best friend Grant Martinez says. "He truly leads by example, and every single person

around him looks up to him, including our youth ministers and leaders."

Grant says one of the most beautiful things is watching Mason lead silly songs for the kids while working in the children's ministry, giving every bit of energy he has.

When Mason is not on stage at Brentwood or at Westover, he enjoys spending his time camping, listening to new podcasts, playing his guitar, walking his dog Rick, and having spontaneous dance parties.

"I have known Mason for a really long time now," Griffith says. "He is always the life of the party, but can always sit down and listen whenever you need him to."

Mason plans on attending Lubbock Christian University and majoring in business. He hopes to own his own business someday, but also plans on staying heavily involved in his church body, wherever that may be.

Lady Bellas fourth at TAPPS state

By Juliet Booker

The Lady Bellas took fourth in state at the 2021 TAPPS dance championships on Jan. 19 in Buda.

Coach Lisa Warner was extremely proud, saying that the team exceeded all of her expectations with all of the hard work they put in. They earned a superior rating for both of their large group performances, and Lauren Warner and Olivia Wofford scored a superior for their duet, earning the two juniors all-state honors.

Junior Claire Pittner and sophomore Heather Wilson made the second team, and sophomore Annelisa Cornell earned honorable mention.

"I'm so proud of our team for how well we did in spite of everything going on," Pittner said. "Everyone worked so hard in and out of practice to perfect each routine, and all the effort really paid off."

The girls have another competition in February, where they will perform multiple new dances.

"This team made competition very exciting, and I'm certainly excited for our next one in February!" Lauren Warner said.

Nurse Mandy a ‘quick study’

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Mayfield said the hardest challenge she has had to face while learning to adapt to her new position is not related to Covid-19. “I started my career in post-partum and it’s completely different population wise. There’s no babies here!” she said, laughing.

Mayfield shared that she’s had to re-learn things from nursing school that she hadn’t used as much during her time at the hospital in order to better adapt to the different kind of nursing that her new job requires.

There have been smaller things to adapt to as well. Mayfield explained that even finding a well-fitted mask is something that is more important than many think.

“People say, ‘Oh, I have a mask, I’m fine!’, but if it doesn’t fit and you have to adjust it all the time, you should find a new one,” Mayfield said.

Though Mayfield has definitely had a lot more work to keep up with this year than most new school nurses, she has only had to work overtime a few times. She’s had to work on weekends when someone tests positive for Covid-19 and she has to inform the school and perform contact tracing.

While a person can take classes and become certified in contact tracing through courses provided by the CDC and Johns Hopkins University, Mayfield shares that it has been mostly learning on the job for her, though she has taken advantage of the resources she does have.

“There’s been a lot of guidance from the CDC and Austin Public Health that I’ve been able to use, and they help with a lot of my decisions regarding who is a close contact or not,” Mayfield said.

While starting brand-new at Brentwood this year can’t have been easy, anyone on campus

will likely tell you that Mayfield has still done a great job adapting to the current environment. Beginning the new position in September, Mayfield was helped by former school nurse Nancy Meyer for her first two weeks as she established all of the new Covid procedures and guidelines.

“Nurse Mandy is smart, efficient and a quick study,” Meyer said. “She adapted to school nursing quickly and extremely well, even with all the additional work and strain Covid-19 placed on her job.”

And this seems to be true. The number of cases and close contacts have stayed low enough for Brentwood to remain open since the start of the year, and though it is very different from years past, students have been able to go to classes and be with friends in-person if they choose.

Mayfield, like many starting at Brentwood, says that the best part of the job is the community.

“I love being around the kids, and the staff here is great. The kids just have such great energy, and I love it!”

It can’t be said enough that Mayfield’s start at Brentwood sets the record for hardest first year as school nurse. But BCS couldn’t have needed her more than this year.

“When Nurse Meyer announced she was retiring, I began praying, and the Lord brought us exactly who we needed during this time of pandemic,” Burcham said. “I hope the entire BCS community joins me in praising and saying a prayer of thanks for Nurse Mayfield!”

Nurse Meyer puts it this way:

“Nurse Mayfield is energetic, very personable, and caring. She loves God. Brentwood Christian is very blessed to have Nurse Mandy.”

Sloan adapted to ensure that the Physics students would be guaranteed this rite of passage. The catapults will be individually made, and will be much smaller than those of years past. Previously, the projects would typically tower above the students; now, they will be the size of a shoebox and tested outside the CSA on Feb. 8.

“I was so excited to build a catapult with my friends this year but, unfortunately, given what is going on, we weren’t able to. Still, I am appreciative that I go to a school that values our safety,” senior Carlie Walters said.

Students have shown willingness to compromise, but competition will be steeper with triple the amount of entries.

Seniors adjust trebuchet project

By Emily Walker

Many things are being put on hold this year due to Covid restrictions, but no pandemic could stop the AP Physics students from their annual trebuchet project.

Most years, students would work together to create large trebuchets, and would compete to see whose project would propel a ball the farthest. However, what used to be considered normal is now unsafe.

“Due to Covid, I cannot require that students have other students in their homes to construct the devices; therefore each student gets to build their own catapult,” Dr. Diann Sloan said.

‘Charlie Brown’ opens Thursday

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to counter that, she has the sweetest childlike wonder, so that combination makes her so fun to play!”

Freshman Landon Hejl, Mason’s brother, will be playing Linus, the lovable friend of Charlie Brown, in the Sigma productions. Hejl said he believes it will be a great show, and he thinks Maleare is an amazing director.

“I’m most excited to show everyone the song ‘Book Report’,” Hejl said, explaining the part of the musical he was most excited for the audience to see. “It’s my favorite song in the show, and I think it’ll get a good

laugh.”

First performed in 1969, *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* was written by American composer and author Clark Gesner. The original off-Broadway production has won five awards, including a Grammy for best musical show album. The Broadway revival of the musical, first performed in 1999, won an additional five awards.

Maleare said she wants to impact people and ultimately send a message to the viewers of the musical.

“We can choose to experience joy in the small things,” Maleare said, “and as Charlie Brown said, ‘Happiness is anyone or anything at all that’s loved by you.’”

Rolling with the changes

Sports in pandemic brings joy, frustration

By Laynie Ruiz

Athletes this year have been given the opportunity to grow and adapt to new changes. Despite the many inconveniences, they have been able to see light in the dark and have expressed their gratitude for the effort involved in making their seasons happen.

As school administration worked with league officials during the summer to figure out a feasible plan for athletics, it was clear that things would be different. Sure enough, the coaches and staff spend their days doing “two jobs in one,” according to BCS athletic director Jeffrey Doege.

Doege revealed that there are changes to plans almost every week, and keeping up with them is far from easy. Constantly in communication with other schools and league officials, the coaches and staff are frequently adjusting, perfecting, and working out any kinks to make sure that the health and safety of the students and Brentwood community is always assured.

The amount of fans in the stands has been sparse due to a capacity of under 50 percent – most of the crowd being family. Fifth grade middle school sports have been completely cancelled, bringing disappointment for students who looked forward to participating in them.

Through it all, Doege said he appreciates the athletics staff for their hard work and dedication to safety and “dealing with the ever-changing world of Covid.”

“It is not easy, but we are making it work, and that’s all that we can do,” Doege said.

Senior Aurora Tyson has experienced these changes more than most. The changes hit hard during the summertime. The Lady Bears volleyball team could not stay in shape on campus, so Tyson took it into her own hands to send daily exercises for the team to do at home.

When they could meet up for practices and games, they were unable to celebrate their wins and good plays with physical contact, which Tyson said she thought was annoying. On top of that, the team has had to wear masks, gloves, and long sleeves, as well as sanitizing frequently and wiping down each volleyball.

Despite all of this, Tyson maintains positivity: “I definitely will always get a lot of joy out of playing sports no matter what. It’s about having fun with your teammates and using your God-given talents to become a better competitor.”

For the outdoor sports teams, athletes say things haven’t changed very much at all. Junior Sydney Cooper is a cross country runner, and she has been one since her freshman year. The only difference Cooper mentioned was that it’s required to wear a mask during warmups, stretching, and before a meet. The crowd capacity has been normal, and many friends and parents have been able to cheer the team on since it is outdoors.

“I think that cross country was still very fun despite everything going on in our world, and I was grateful for the time I was able to spend with my teammates and coaches,” Cooper said.

Multiple scoring threats lead Bears toward postseason

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able to turn the season around and earn a play-off spot.

“I have really enjoyed playing with such hard-working and fun teammates, and hope we can go to playoffs again next year,” Leidlein said.

Joseph had similar comments about the team.

“I really enjoyed the group of starters that I’ve been able to play with, because we all have pretty solid chemistry,” he said.

Following are the team’s most recent results:

1/5: Hyde Park 3-1 W

The scoring began midway through the first half with a shot by Leidlein that hit the cross-bar. Hejl got the rebound and chipped it over the keeper’s head for a goal. After the Panthers scored an equalizer, the second goal for BCS came from a cross by Ruiz across the face of the goal. Joseph made a hard pass to Hejl, who hit it off a defender and into the goal. The last goal for the Bears came just before halftime.



photo: Kevin McKinnerney

Hot shot Freshman goalie Andrew Davis dives for the ball against Hyde Park during Brentwood’s 3-1 victory on Jan. 5. Senior Mason Hejl scored two goals for the Bears.

Joseph sent the ball across the goal toward Hejl and Ruiz. Ruiz hit the ball cleanly and extended the Bears’ lead to 3-1.

1/12: @ St. Anthony’s 4-0 W

The Bears started strong in the first half with two goals. The first was a knuckled shot from about 30 yards out by Leidlein that soared over the goalkeeper into the back of the net. The second was a long curving shot by Hejl taken with his non-dominant foot that planted itself in the top right corner of the goal. About 20 minutes into the second half, Joseph made a cross to Ruiz who was waiting at the back post of the goal and finished it off. A few minutes later, the Bears scored again with a cross from Ruiz that found its way to Joseph, who was perfectly positioned one yard away from the goal. Joseph smashed it in with a solid header, very similar to the previous goal.

1/19: @ St. Mary’s Hall 4-2 W

The scoring began with a cross to Joseph, who finished it. The second was similar to the first. Ruiz sent in a cross to Leidlein who hit a volley past the keeper. One more goal was scored before halftime by Geevarghese. He hit a hard shot that slipped past the keeper into the net. The score was finalized by Joseph who received a ball that had been played past all the opponent’s defenders. The keeper came up to Joseph, so he curled it around him into the net. The Barons made two goals in the second half.

1/22: @ St. Michael’s 2-0 L

The game started with a close miss from Hejl in the first five minutes. The Crusaders got the

first goal with a free kick played into the box. During the second half, two penalties were called, both in favor of St. Michael’s. The first was converted, but the second was stopped by a diving save from Davis. In the final minute, Leidlein sent a free kick into the box to Joseph, but the shot from Joseph hit the post.

“We didn’t get very many shots off and they possessed the ball incredibly well,” Joseph said.

1/26: St. Michael’s 3-2 L

The Crusaders struck first about 20 minutes into the first half with a shot just out of Davis’s reach. Just before the end of the half, they scored again with a well-placed shot into the corner. Ten minutes into the second half, the Crusaders got their third. A little while later, Leidlein fought hard against two defenders in front of the goal and took a shot as he was falling down that rolled past the unaware keeper. With only two minutes left in the game, Ruiz made a beautiful goal from outside the 18-yard box that soared over the keeper’s head. Unfortunately, there was no time to find another goal.

1/29: Boerne Geneva 5-0 W

The game started off fast with the Bears scoring three goals in the first 20 minutes of the first half. Although both sides had many chances, it was Brentwood who was able to convert. The Bears scored all five of their goals before halftime, and they benefited from many good saves by Davis. They slowed down the jets in the second half, passing the ball around instead of going to goal. Joseph and Geevarghese each scored twice, and Ruiz had one goal.

Lady Bears fight through tough district, eye playoffs

By Katie Pittner

The Lady Bears soccer team is 2-6 in district (3-6 overall), and although they have lost four in a row, the girls still have hope in their goal to make the playoffs.

The girls started the season with a roster of 16 people, but the team rarely has all of their players for a game. Nevertheless, the Lady Bears have given their best for the tough circumstances they’ve been in.

“We have been a bit unlucky with not always having everyone for a game, but we always give it our all and do our best,” said senior Julia Glenn, who leads the team with 16 goals.

The main problem for the Lady Bears has been injury. Injury has taken some of their best players throughout the season, and not having those players has made it hard for the girls to find consistency on the field.

“We just don’t have a big bench of players to put in, so injuries affect us a lot more than some other teams,” coach Cash Miller said.

The girls have hope, however, because they

will soon have freshman midfielder Macie Griswold back after she injured her ankle several weeks ago.

The team had two main goals this season, and one of them has already been achieved. Now all that is left is for the girls to make the playoffs, and Miller seems confident, since only one district team will not qualify for the postseason.

“Goals for this season were pretty simple,” Miller said. “I wanted to make sure the girls won more games than they did the past two seasons and to make the playoffs. We have already won more games, and we should make the playoffs.”

Following are the results of the Lady Bears’ most recent games:

1/5: Hyde Park 6-1 L

The Lady Bears went into the game optimistic, and Glenn scored a goal late in the first half to tie the game 1-1 at halftime. But they had a hard time finding their stride when Hyde Park scored multiple quick goals in the second half. Brentwood lost their shape repeatedly, which

allowed Hyde Park to get through the defense.

1/12: @ St. Anthony’s 6-1 W

Brentwood led 5-0 at halftime with Glenn scoring all five goals. The girls were able to work together, use the space, and slip through St. Anthony’s defense easily. They let a goal slip by them toward the end of the second half, but senior Haley Reich scored the final goal by heading a corner kick into the net.

1/19: @ St. Mary’s Hall 3-1 L

Although conditions were tough with the cold and rain, the Lady Bears fought hard. With the score 3-0 at the end of the first half, the team was able to prevent St. Mary’s Hall from scoring at all in the second half. Assisted by Reich, Glenn scored on a shot that went right over the goalie.

1/22: @ St. Michael’s 4-0 L

BCS played solid defense in the first half, letting only one goal past. Later in the game, the Lady Bears had trouble communicating and gave up three more goals. St. Michael’s had



photo: Kevin McKinnerney

Here it comes Senior Julia Glenn leads the Lady Bears’ soccer team with 16 goals.

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Last-second victory brings excitement to tough season

By Sarah Esman

The Lady Bears are a young basketball team with one win on the season – a thrilling victory over Regents – but they have seen improvement as they continue to fight for a playoff spot. As this team grows, senior Alyssa McLain and junior Alicia Gardner have seen the improvement each player has made.



photo: Kristi Jackson

Defense The Lady Bears set up their zone against St. Mary’s Hall on Jan. 29. It looked at times like the girls might pick up their second district win, but they fell short.

“The season has gone exceedingly well from a learning and fundamental standpoint,” McLain said. “The team has really bonded and has improved greatly.”

Head coach Ariana Marks has also witnessed the growth each player has made.

“This team has consistently gotten better on the defensive end,” Marks said. “As a whole, we have improved so much on getting deflec-

tions and steals, letting our defense fuel our offense.”

As the team keeps growing, there are things they can continually improve on. According to Marks, confidence on the court while shooting and passing can limit unforced errors. The Lady Bears also need to develop a sense of urgency while setting up plays on the court.

“Setting up quickly does not allow the other team to set up their particular set,” Marks said.

A part of the team’s growth can be attributed to their new motto, “Us against the world.” Marks wants the team to use this motto because “we lose together and win together,” and overthinking losses can discourage the players.

McLain leads the team with 11.5 points per game.

Following are the recent game results:

1/5: @ Savio 43-17 L

After many missed passes by the Bears, the Eagles managed to score off of steals, leading to an easy victory for Savio in Brentwood’s second non-district game. Gardner led Brentwood with 8 points.

1/12: @ Hyde Park 57-31 L

Brentwood played hard, but with some players in new positions, miscommunication was an issue. Sophomore Carolyn Morgan led Brentwood with 8 points.

1/15: @ Boerne Geneva 51-30 L

The Lady Bears had a sloppy start after a

long bus ride. They made several turnovers during the game, which led to their loss. The leading scorer was McLain with 13 points.

1/19: Regents 44-42 W

Hoping for their first win of the season, the Lady Bears were eager to face the Lady Knights. In the first quarter, though, they found themselves in an 11-2 hole. But they battled back to within three points at halftime, 19-16. By the end of the third quarter, Brentwood trailed 35-28, but they were determined to win this game. Regents led 40-34 with 5:30 remaining, but they only managed two free throws the rest of the way. The Lady Bears tied it at 42-42, and with less than 10 seconds left, McLain drove past the tallest defender for a game-winning layup. McLain finished with 13 points.

1/26: @ St. Michael’s 50-34 L

In a challenging game against the Crusaders, the Lady Bears were able to start strong, and even led the game by up to 10 points. As the second half commenced, though, Brentwood’s defense became lazier, and St. Michael’s was able to pull away. Gardner and freshman Aubrey Acheson each scored 11 points.

1/29: St. Mary’s Hall 42-37 L

BCS had a sloppy first half with many turnovers that the Barons were able to take advantage of. Brentwood played hard in the second half, but came just short of the win. Gardner was Brentwood’s leading scorer with 17 points.

Youthful Bears determined to find first district win

By Nathan Joseph

After a 66-54 loss against St. Anthony’s on Jan. 30, the varsity boys’ basketball team is winless in ten district games with four games remaining, including a road game against the TMI Panthers that was too late for the Bear Facts print deadline. With the enlarged districts, the top seven teams from the Bears’ district make the playoffs, so the eighth-place Bears are still fighting for a spot.

The Bears have an extremely young team, featuring only one senior, Grant Martinez, but the remaining underclassmen are stepping up to the challenge.

“I’m very blessed to be able to be on this team and go out and compete with these guys,” Martinez said. “The past few games haven’t gone how we would like them to, but fortunately we’ve got some home district games coming up against teams that we have the ability to beat.”

Head coach Donte Mathis said that junior Cason Best has been the most consistent player, averaging just under 11 points per game along with 8 rebounds per contest.

“I think we have the skill to beat some of the teams that have beaten us,” Best said. “We need to get past our own wants and focus on what Coach Mathis is saying to do and what the team needs. I think if we can play consistently and work hard to close out games, we’ll win more games in the second half of the season.”

Juniors Seth Taylor and Connor Rohlack have also been impactful players, both appearing constantly among the Bears’ top scorers.

“The guys are slowly but surely buying in,” Mathis said. “We have things down in theory, but they have to step up and prove that in our next few games.”

Following are the team’s district results in the new year:

1/5: @ Regents 46-33 L

The Bears started off their new year with a solid game against the Knights, until the fourth quarter. Brentwood played well for the first three quarters and led 26-20 at halftime. Best was the top scorer with 12 points, followed by Rohlack with 9.

1/12: @ Hyde Park 54-38 L

Brentwood came out sluggish, and gave up too many offensive rebounds to the Panthers.

Hyde Park outplayed Brentwood in terms of energy, and foul trouble haunted the Bears, with Best and Rohlack fouling out. On the bright side, freshman Colton McLain was able to get extra minutes, connecting on all of his shot attempts from the floor.

1/15: @ St. Michael’s 62-38 L

Playing a very talented Crusader team, size was a huge factor, as the Crusader athletes were significantly larger than the Bears. Brentwood had a run in the third quarter, scoring 27 points, but fell short to the strong defense of the Crusaders. Taylor was the leading scorer with 10 points, followed by junior Rylan Acheson and Best with 9 each.

1/19: @ Geneva 49-48 L

The Bears controlled and led most of the ball game. In the last 30 seconds, up by two, the Bears gave up a pass to the wing on a transition. The ball found its way to the corner and the winning shot found its way in at the buzzer. Taylor led all scorers with 17 points, followed by Best with 11.

1/22: @ St. Mary’s Hall 80-47 L

The Bears traveled to San Antonio to face



photo: Brian Jackson

My ball! Junior Keller Jackson comes down with a rebound in a road game against St. Anthony’s on Jan. 29.

Softball team ready to compete for district title

By Aurora Tyson

The Lady Bears softball players have started hitting the field to prepare for their upcoming season. Every day after school the girls load up the bus and head over to Balcones, their home field, where they practice and play.

The team began officially practicing on Jan. 18 with only 10 girls. The remaining eight players will join the softball team after the end of soccer and basketball season. The Lady Bears will play their first game on Feb. 11 at Central Texas Christian School, and their first district game will be March 5 against Hyde Park.

The Bears graduated leadoff centerfielder Alyssa Mancias last year, but most girls from last year's team are returning to the field. With 18 girls this year, the Bears will be playing some pre-season games with extra innings in

order to get everyone playing time.

Last spring BCS had an overall record of 10 wins and only one loss. Things were looking great for the team until the pandemic hit and their season abruptly ended. This year, head coach Rory Tyson said their goal is to compete for a district title and make it to the playoffs.

"We're going to continue to improve and build on the things we started last year," Tyson said.

The Bears have a new assistant coach, Nicole Gentry, the daughter of assistant baseball coach Greg Gentry. Nicole played softball for BCS her freshman year before transferring to Hendrickson High. She continued on to play softball for Lubbock Christian University and is now working back in Austin.

Brentwood is in the same district as last year, but the teams they face will be new to a majority of the girls.

"I know the San Antonio teams will be tough and there will be lots of travel involved," Tyson said, "so it will be important for us to stay mentally focused."

With four starting seniors on the team, Tyson says that she expects a number of leaders to step up and encourage the new players.

"Aurora Tyson's bat and versatility at both catcher and shortstop will lead the team offensively and defensively," Tyson said. "Molly Stewart has more speed, but the key is being consistent throughout the strike zone."

Coach Tyson also said two new players will

also play a big role on and off the field.

"Junior Christina Hoelscher will contribute as a pitcher, infielder, and with her bat," Coach Tyson said. "Freshman Keira Black brings quickness and talent to both infield and outfield."

With their season being cut short last year, the team – and the seniors especially – are determined to make the best of the opportunity they have to play this season.

"I'm super excited for the season because everyone has a good work ethic, and hard work leads to success," senior Caroline Griffith said.

Stewart said she is anticipating a successful season with lots of opportunities to make lasting memories with her teammates.

"I've seen the work that these girls have put in," Stewart said. "I can't wait to grow closer as a team and have fun."



photo: Rory Tyson

Getting loose Led by head coach Rory Tyson, the softball team has been practicing at their home field at Balcones as they prepare to make a run for the district title.

Boys' basketball

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powerhouse Saint Mary's Hall for the second time. Sophomores Evan Gruis and Jordan Davis were both injured, cutting down the numbers on the already small roster. Taylor once again led the way with 17 points, followed by Best with 11, but the Bears were unable to control the explosive offense of the Barons.

1/25: TMI Episcopal 70-62 L

Playing in their first home district game of the new year, the Bears started off strong, up by one at half. But with a progressively sloppy defense, many fouls, and incredible stamina by the Panthers, the opponents' lead grew. The Bears attempted a full-court press in the fourth quarter, but to no avail. Taylor was the lead scorer with 17 points, and Best finished with 14.

1/29: @ St. Anthony's 72-55 L

Taylor had another fantastic game, scoring 19 points, but the Bears were out-matched in terms of size. Brentwood played a solid game, tying the game at 34 at halftime. When the game resumed, however, the Bears seemed to have lost their groove, giving up lots of shots and falling behind.

1/30: St. Anthony's 66-54 L

In a much closer second game against the Yellowjackets, the Bears struggled to maintain possession of the ball, having 20 turnovers at the end of the game. With Rohlack and Best fouling out, Brentwood couldn't keep up with the high intensity of the opposing team. Acheson had 13 points, followed by Taylor with 11.

Baseball opens this week

By Natalie Hargrove

The Brentwood Bears got out their gloves and cleats and hit the field on Jan. 18 for the first day of practices, as they prepare to play their first game on Feb. 6 at Bay Area Christian.

The Bears had a record of 11-1 last spring before the season was cut short due to the pandemic, and the boys did not get to compete in any district games.

"Not getting a chance to complete (the season) last year didn't sit well with us," head coach Jeffrey Doege said. "So we have a lot to prove to ourselves, because that's all that really matters."

Doege is back for his third season with the Bears, and he has returning assistant coach Greg Gentry and new assistant coach Charles Bollinger joining him in the dugout. The team will have both a varsity and a JV team competing. A total of 28 players have come out for baseball this year.

"We have to play to the very best of our abilities on a daily basis," Doege said. "It is always

about our team and what we do, because that is the only thing that we can truly control."

The team lost three seniors of all-district caliber: Isaac Copeland, Luke Jackson, and Travis Whitaker. Because of the shortened season, no all-district awards were presented.

"All of our seniors and juniors have big roles to play this season," Doege said. "We play as one complete cohesive team."

The Bears have had additions to their district and will be facing four new and eight total district teams this season.

"I am most looking forward to district," said senior Zack Billante, who batted .562 last year to lead the team. "We got cut short last year, and I am excited to compete and make a run for playoffs this year."

Doege said it is all about "us and what we really want."

"We want to win a state championship," Doege said. "Our slogan this year is, 'We want to be number one in 2021!'"

Girls' soccer

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many more shots on goal, but senior Caroline Griffith made some great saves.

1/26: St. Michael's 7-1 L

The Lady Bears could not seem to keep the ball in their possession. St. Michael's had an easy time winning the ball and made many runs, which allowed them to score four goals in the first half. The Lady Bears' problems continued, so the Crusaders scored three more consecutive goals. Reich was able to score toward the end of the game with a long cross from Glenn.

1/29: Bourne Geneva 6-1 L

The Lady Bears had a difficult time after unexpectedly not having one of their strongest players, freshman Abby Munoz. Despite only having two subs, the team held off Geneva for most of the first half, but Geneva scored some quick goals toward the end. The score was 4-1 at the half, with Brentwood's goal scored by senior Celeste Metayer.