



# THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

APRIL 2021



## Walters accepted into Air Force Academy

By Zoe Cooper

Senior Carlie Walters was honored for her acceptance into the United States Air Force Academy in an assembly on Wednesday, March 25, in the CSA theater.

The ceremony featured U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions as the speaker and was attended by high school students and teachers. He spoke on the importance of leadership and character, and on Walters' many achievements which have earned her a spot at the academy. Walters also gave an acceptance speech thanking her teachers and classmates for helping her on her journey.

This summer Walters will travel to Colorado Springs, Colo., to join her fellow students, or cadets, at the academy. After spending four years there, Walters plans to spend another five years serving in the military.

Walters began the application process eight months ago, which included training for a fitness test, writing essays, attending and preparing for interviews, and gathering the necessary records. The process took hundreds of hours in total, but Walters feels she had been working to

get in long before that.

"Looking back, I found that in a lot of ways I've prepared my entire life to go to the academy," Walters said.

The Air Force Academy accepts about 1,200 students per year and has an average acceptance rate of only 11%. Getting into the academy, however, is just the first of many challenges. The school's rigorous training program breeds a competitive environment, and many students find themselves unable to complete their schooling.

"While all that work may seem tedious, I found a new strength inside of me through my success, one that will continue to grow as I overcome adversity," Walters said.

The school also has a strong emphasis on teamwork and community. Incoming cadets are separated into teams, or "wings." Each wing is then expected to spend most or all of their time building bonds with their teammates and learning to work as a unit.

"The point is to break them down and then build them back up as a team," Sessions said in his speech.



photo: Dorothy Walters

**Leaders** BCS senior Carlie Walters poses with U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions after the ceremony on March 25 celebrating Walters' acceptance into the Air Force Academy.

Walters belongs to a small group of BCS graduates to join the Air Force, including Choi

Williams, who graduated in 2002 and attended the Air Force Academy.

## BCS hires first middle school principal

By Kaitlyn Weilemann

Plenty of BCS high school students can recall a time or two from when they were in middle school that they felt outshined by high school. Maybe StuCo didn't announce their sports win, they couldn't participate in a high school dress up day, or they had to sit on the floor at a pep rally. But the days of feeling second-rate may be drawing to a close thanks to one of the newest additions to the BCS family.

Dr. Amber Grady, the current associate principal at Lake Olympia Middle School in Fort Bend, was announced as the first-ever BCS middle school principal by school president Jay Burcham on March 5 via a school-wide email and will be joining the BCS administration in early June.

Dr. Grady has 16 years of education experience, both in the classroom and on administrative teams, that she will bring with her to BCS. She also holds a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies, a master's degree in educational leadership, and a doctorate in educational leadership and supervision.

"Her academic qualifications and experience are impeccable, but just as important, she wants to be in middle school," president Jay Burcham said.

Within the last five years, BCS has transitioned from a 3A school to a 5A school, the increase in size and opportunities calling for changes in the way the school is managed. Middle school was in need of someone who could focus on students' educational needs as well as their spiritual needs, and could draw from their own experience to improve life for BCS students.

According to Burcham, Dr. Grady's new position in the middle school administration will help strengthen the educational environment by allowing oversight to be more purposeful and by providing support for middle school students' and parents' needs in particular.

"The addition of Dr. Grady is a commitment to the quality of the education each and every BCS student – whether in elementary, middle, or high school – receives," Burcham said.

see DR. GRADY, page 5

## Student shares Hawaii journal

By Natalie Hargrove

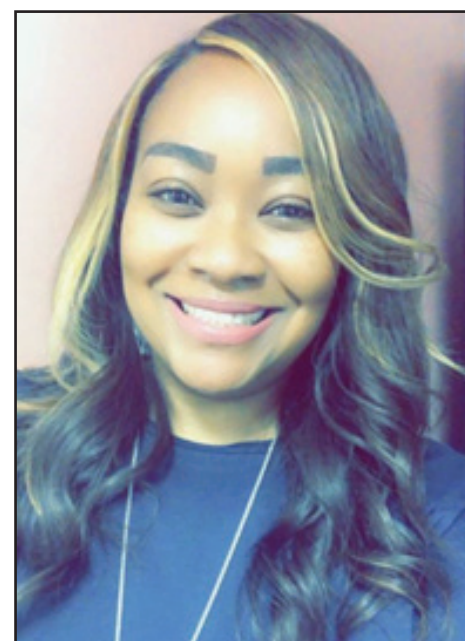
*Sixteen BCS seniors and 12 adults vacationed in Hawaii from March 11-18. This is one senior's journal describing the events of their trip.*

### Day 1:

Aloha ohana! We arrived at the airport around 5 in the morning and were ready to board our flight by 7:15. We flew to San Francisco, quickly grabbed lunch, and were ready to board our flight headed to Hawaii!

We met our tour guide, Jena, and were given fresh orchid leis as a symbol of greeting and aloha. Then we all traveled to Coconut Waikiki Hotel, unpacked our luggage, and got situated in our hotel. We hung out at the hotel and played a few card games before dinner. Next we walked to our dinner as a group, and after we finished

see HAWAII, page 8



BCS file photo

Dr. Amber Grady

From the Editor: Aurora Tyson

# Social media users should consider negative impact

If you are like any teenager or technologically-inclined adult, you have most likely downloaded more than a few social media apps on your smartphone. Whether it's Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter, Pinterest, Facebook, or YouTube, you probably have at least one account registered under your name. If so, you have likely experienced one of the more negative effects of social media on our society and on our generation today.

The first detrimental effect of social media can be most easily understood from a celebrity standpoint. Famous individuals and influencers in our generation typically accumulate

thousands, or even millions, of followers on their social media accounts. Whenever these individuals post a photo, video, tweet, comment, like, or dislike, potentially millions of people all over the world see it. This shows that nothing that happens online is private or inconspicuous. Even though most apps acquire the ability to delete posts, there are billions of users on the planet, and with today's technology, it is easy to screenshot, screenrecord, save, and share others' posts with the click of a button. What was once a seemingly unnoticeable post can soon become viral and get the poster into loads of trouble.

Many careers have been destroyed as a result of a simple tweet or Instagram caption. Starting in elementary and middle school, sports teams and clubs are beginning to address social media posting and prohibit their members from posting themselves or others participating in inappropriate behavior like alcohol consumption, drug use, gambling, bullying, stealing and shop-lifting, use of foul language, and more. Teenagers and adults in secondary school and college or university can lose scholarships and be expelled from school if they are caught. In addition, adults are at risk of losing their jobs if they are found posting unacceptable content on their accounts. With the presence of social media, there are now hundreds of eyes watching everything you post, and the risk of being caught is much, much greater than ever before. In some circumstances, false rumors and lies can be spread as well. This "fake news" may be interpreted as completely true and real to some, and can get people into serious trouble.

Besides the publicity and riskiness that comes with social media posts, the pictures uploaded, the likes awarded, the comments typed, and the overall atmosphere of social media can be extremely bad for mental health. When we see an image that was posted online, whether it is of our friends or family or of an influencer, we automatically begin to compare ourselves to them. Many users of social media compare themselves to others physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially on a daily basis. Have you ever thought, "Wow, I wish I could afford clothes like he/she wears," or, "She/he has the perfect body, I wish I looked like them"? These types of thoughts are unhealthy and will lead to negative comparisons. Many of the images we see on social media have been filtered or altered in more ways than one, and thus, a lot of the photos we see online are fake. However, they may seem very real to us in the moment, and can cause distorted views of reality and unhealthy body comparisons. These habits may eventually cause mental illnesses such as body dysmorphia, eating disorders, severe anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts

and tendencies.

Social media has changed the way we interact with others and the way we connect and build relationships. Our parents' generation's free time was spent going to the movies, hanging out at the library, swimming at the lake or

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*God did not put us in this world so that we could look at it through screens, but so that we could enjoy the glory of His creation and experience His presence with one another.*

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Along with the way we spend our free time comes the time wastage that social media has created in our lives. The average teen spends about three hours on their phone every day, which adds up over weeks and years. Much valuable time is wasted looking at pointless things online and procrastinating by watching YouTube videos and TikToks. Think about how many times you have been on your phone or laptop when you were supposed to be doing something else like homework or chores. Chances are it is probably a whole lot of times, and you know exactly what you should be doing instead. This kind of procrastination and unproductivity leads to a loss of sleep and a loss of motivation. Many people become lazy and unmotivated because they are so used to lying on the couch and looking through Instagram instead of being active and doing something productive. Moreover, the blue light that screens emit makes it harder to fall asleep and easier to stay up scrolling through your phone.

One of the more obvious detriments of social media is the cyberbullying and hate comments that are posted every day. People are more likely to say something to others online than to their face because it takes less courage to do so. Bullies can hide behind their screens and not face any consequences for their actions. Hurtful words and messages are spread through hate comments, and although it may not seem like it, these things can truly damage a person's emotional and mental well-being.

Another negative aspect of social media is the spreading of harmful information and incorrect self-diagnosis. "Trendy" emotional

see **BEWARE**, page 10

## THE BEAR FACTS

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

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The Bear Facts is available online at [www.brentwoodchristian.org](http://www.brentwoodchristian.org).





# Elementary celebrates Easter with egg hunts, parties

By Lucy Belcik

While elementary students had to miss out on annual events like Easter egg hunts and class parties in 2020, teachers in grades K-5 continued as normal with Easter events in 2021, with necessary precautions taken.

“We are keeping our Easter traditions pretty much the same as we always do,” fourth-grade teacher Summer Best said about the approaching Easter festivities on Thursday, April 1.

Throughout Easter week, fourth-grade classes crafted eggs that follow the story of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. As a conclusion, on Thursday they baked “resurrection rolls” and held a class party accompanied by an Easter movie and snacks. According to Best, only simple changes have been needed to conform to Covid guidelines.

“Students will have all their own ‘supplies’ for each of our activities,” she said.

For instance, students each had small bowls of their own ingredients while baking their rolls

rather than passing around large bowls to each other.

Kindergarten students were also able to enjoy a fun Easter party and egg hunt outside, according to teacher Julie Ann Harper. Though normally just the hunt is held outside, this year the party, activities, and egg hunt were all held outdoors behind the FLC.

“We wanted all the parents to be able to come and join in on the fun, so we chose to have our party outside,” Harper said.

Students painted flower pots, planted flowers, and participated in the egg hunt. All of the eggs and supplies sat for the recommended 72 hours untouched before students came in contact with them, and parents were instructed to wear gloves as they hid the eggs.

Nevertheless, kindergartners, fourth-graders, and the rest of elementary alike were able to take joy in a relatively normal Easter this year, something that can not be said for 2020.

“We were very excited to have Easter parties and Easter egg hunts, and celebrate together

this year,” elementary principal Jeremy Thornton said. “We still followed our protocols for our parties as we have done all year long, but to have this opportunity is great!”



photo: Brandy Gauthier

**Little bunnies** First graders Noah Welsh and Ceci Fuentes paint flower pots during their sunny Easter celebration party outside the FLC.

## Competition results pending

*Students await scores in TAPPS academic, music*

By Katie Pittner

The annual TAPPS competitions for academics and fine arts have changed their procedures this year due to the pandemic. In order to be able to still hold the competitions, TAPPS has required competitors to stay at their own schools and send in their various completed material for contest submission.

Though some events, like art competitions, cannot be held, a vast majority of events are still happening in order to give students the chance to compete. So rather than meeting in person, BCS students have been sending in recordings of pieces or completed tests.

Band and choir students sent in video and audio recordings of their pieces from March 26 through April 1. The Brentwood band had 10 small ensembles record. Additionally, senior Julia Glenn recorded a flute solo, sophomore Jaeden McGaughy had a piano solo, and freshman Juliet Booker recorded a violin solo.

“It was quite strange to practice all semester to simply record it,” Glenn said. “I really missed going to the competition in person because I wasn’t able to have fun experiences with my classmates on that trip one last time. While I didn’t realize it earlier, I do miss playing with the entire band.”

Unfortunately, because of Covid restric-

tions, the band has not been able to practice together all year, so Brentwood will not be able to submit any medium or large ensembles.

“I don’t expect to be competitive in terms of final points earned since we will lack the points from our large ensembles,” band director Travis Pollard said. “I do expect to be one of the best represented schools in terms of number of students and number of ensembles competing.”

The choir also could not perform as whole, so each of the three classes recorded separately. Each class sang two songs from 16th-century England, France, or Spain.

“I don’t normally focus on one particular historical period of music, but vocal music from this era tends to sound good with large choruses or with small groups,” choir director Daniel Watkins said.

Additionally, 19 students prepared vocal solos. While the different format was disappointing to many students, freshman vocal soloist Lucy Belcik was happy to be able to record her piece instead of singing it live for judges.

“It was honestly comforting to record instead of perform for my first year. I was happy to be able to participate,” she said.

see **MUSICIANS**, page 10

## BCL makes grand return

By Carina Combs

Students were running around while parents talked in the bleachers. People were designing flower crowns, painting pictures, and blowing bubbles. Teams were competing in Spikeball and 9 Square while others danced to the live music. These were the sights and sounds of the 2021 Brentwood City Limits.

After missing a year last spring, Brentwood City Limits returned on Friday, April 9, from 1-4 p.m. This day was full of laughter, music, and fun for the BCS community. With the purchase of a ticket, attendees had many events to choose from including live music, a painting station, hair styling, flower crown making, cornhole, 9 Square, and a Spikeball tournament, with plenty of snacks to go around.

BCL was planned by StuCo, with the intent of filling in for the events that had to be canceled this year.

“A lot of people haven’t seen live music in over a year, so we figured we could safely bring the community together for some live music and activities,” StuCo president Caroline Griffith said.

Two bands played throughout the afternoon, beginning with a band of BCS students called Color Scheme, composed of sophomores Alishah Mohammed, Elisabeth Herring, and Sarah Walker, and junior Olivia Osborn.

“The whole experience was very enjoyable, and I learned a lot about teamwork and coop-

eration,” drummer Osborn said.

Color Scheme was followed by Del Castillo, a rock band that includes BCS parent Alex Ruiz. Del Castillo, which has toured nationwide and won numerous awards, sang some songs in Spanish and some in English.

“It was a good time seeing everyone dancing and bubbles everywhere,” Ruiz said afterward.

Adults and students alike sat on the football field and listened to the music. There were many families and friends walking around, enjoying the festivities.

Throughout the event, there were also activities for more “artsy” people, like flower crown making and picture painting. Griffith was out helping visitors create intricate flower crowns so they could express themselves through a creation unique to them. All the materials were provided, so all the participants had to bring was their creativity.

For those seeking even more creative freedom, the painting station had paper, brushes, and paint available for participants to utilize. Both younger and older students came to create their own piece of art which they could take home with them.

Another table was set up where guests could get their hair braided and temporarily colored.

“It is cool that everyone found something fun to do,” freshman Elizabeth Everton said. “I had so much fun dancing with my friends!”



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Alyssa McLain

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

Hoopster models kindness, hard work

By Natalie Hargrove

To her father’s great relief, the McLains moved to Austin a few weeks before Alyssa Haley McLain was born on Jan. 13, 2003, but that was not the original plan.

“I was supposed to be born in Minnesota where my parents lived at the time,” Alyssa says. “However, my dad insisted that I should be born ‘on Texas soil,’ and if they were not able to move in time, he would have my grandparents mail a box of Texas soil to put under the hospital bed.”

Behind Alyssa is an incredible family, which consists of her parents Kimberly and Mike McLain, her brother Colton who is a freshman at Brentwood, and their dog Steele.

“I am so lucky to have such a good sister and role model,” Colton says. “I have looked up to her the past 15 years, and I am really going to miss her when she goes off to college.”

Just like many of the seniors graduating in a couple of months, Alyssa has been a part of the BCS community since kindergarten. She is known around campus for her

genuine kindness and bubbly personality.

“It has been such a privilege to grow up on the Brentwood campus,” Alyssa says. “It has been so fun seeing younger kids make the same memories that I had when I was their age.”

Alyssa has grown into the leader of the Lady Bears basketball team, but that is not the only place where she shines. She has managed football for two years and track for one.

“I love playing basketball,” Alyssa says. “It has been a sport that I can easily play when I am happy, mad, stressed, or sad, and it always makes me feel good after.”

Sports livestreamer and history/Bible teacher Jimmie Harper says that he watched the Lady Bears persevere all throughout the season, and Alyssa was at the forefront of the perseverance.

“Alyssa hit the game winning shot against Regents, giving the Lady Bears their first win of the season,” Harper recalls. “The very next Monday she stepped out of her comfort zone and co-commentated at the varsity boys’ basketball game.”

Alyssa has been awarded first-team all-district two years in a row and second-team all-district her sophomore year. Not only has she been a leader on the basketball court, but she was a

leader off the court as well.

Head coach Ariana Marks says Alyssa is thoughtful and compassionate.

“After the season, she made me a hand-made scrapbook,” Marks says. “And she wrote each of her teammates a letter of how they impacted her.”

“She is unapologetically herself, especially on the basketball court,” friend Celeste Metayer says. “She isn’t afraid to be kind to her opponents while scoring three-pointers on them.”

Beyond the basketball court, Alyssa has won the Algebra II award, homecoming princess her junior year, and a homecoming queen nomination. She and her family have been attending Round Rock Church of Christ for over a year now, and she is a part of Summit Youth Group.

“Alyssa has truly become a person I aspire to be,” friend and fellow manager Carlie Walters says. “Armed with her Christlike attitude, cheerful spirit, and hard working mindset, she makes for an incredible friend.”

Alyssa has been described by her friends as caring, bubbly, trustworthy, loving, and slightly sassy at times.

While in Hawaii, Alyssa and I shared the same bed, and in the middle of the night I woke up a little confused and grumpy. I looked over at Alyssa, who was asleep, but as soon I rolled over, she subconsciously hugged me and randomly told me she loved me. That morning when I asked her about it, she just laughed and had no idea she did that.

But she also knows when to be serious and to give honest and genuine advice.

“She puts up with me on my best and worst days, and she’s one person I know will always have my back,” teammate Alicia Gardner says. “She shows love by pushing me to be the best that I can be on and off the court.”

Alyssa is still unsure of where she will be attending school next fall, but has it down to two choices: Texas Tech in Lubbock, and Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. She plans on majoring in Psychology and eventually wants to earn a doctorate degree. She hopes to either become a forensic psychologist or open up her own practice as a psychiatrist. She became interested in psychology through the show Criminal Minds, and later applied and was accepted into the the FBI Teen Academy in 2018.

“Being in the academy program made me even more interested in studying and analyzing the way the human mind functions,” Alyssa says.

THE BEAR FACTS APRIL 2021

Esports team, practicing, improving

By Anjie Popoola

The esports team – a new extracurricular where high school students with a shared interest in gaming can come together and have a lot of fun – has completed their Winter Open and is currently competing in the Spring Major tournament. Directed by esports program coordinator Robert Fleming, the team allows students to play a variety of games and compete against students from other schools.

Brentwood’s 18 esports competitors play either Fortnite, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Valorant, Rocket League, or a combination of the four. Fleming said players help each other hone their skills in their respective games. He mentioned the great community that has been established within the team.

“Esports brings players together by pivoting a hobby most students share into a competitive environment where rivalries and tournaments drive students to new heights while making friendships along the way,” Fleming said.

The first tournament that the esports team participated in was the High School Esports League’s Winter Open on Jan. 25. Brentwood’s team didn’t do very well there, but they turned that around in the Spring Major tournament, which is ongoing. Fleming said they are doing well, with every student performing above the national average, and multiple teams ranking within the top 50 of their respective games. Students play from home and are able to communicate through Discord.

The Winter Open was not the very first tournament for the esports team, because Fleming held the esports tryout tournament on Jan. 16. He couldn’t accept everyone, so those who did best in the tournament made it onto the esports team.

“It was exciting! Getting to set up an in-person tournament within BCS – when did anyone think something like playing Smash Bros. at school could be a thing?” Fleming said.

Brentwood’s boys and girls compete in the High School Esports League against approximately 2,100 other schools around the nation. Fleming said he wants the esports team to be a place where students can make great memories with their friends, and a place where students can create their online presence.





# Cheerful multitasker loves to serve, encourage

By Evelyn Lee

Leah Smith is known across the BCS campus as a well-organized person, a cheerful heart, and a fun-loving person. She’s the academic advisor for secondary students and the middle school assistant principal. If you’ve ever needed help planning your career path after high school, a schedule change, or guidance in your personal life, you’re probably familiar with Mrs. Smith.

Smith arrived at Brentwood Christian in 2016 after teaching high school science and working as a counselor in Taylor. She first heard about BCS from a friend and knew it would be the perfect working environment.

“I wanted to work in a Christian environment where I could lead students towards God,” she says.

Smith is currently a resident of Taylor, but she was born in Abilene and raised between Clyde and Baird. She attended Texas State University and earned a bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree. She later attended Angelo State University to earn a master’s of education and become a certified school counselor.

From a young age, Smith knew she wanted to help and serve others. She still remembers seeing her father assist an elderly woman af-

ter church by sacrificing his own car’s AC unit in the blistering Texas heat so that the woman would be able to drive comfortably.

“He was happy to do it,” she recalls. “There are many acts of kindness that my dad demonstrated, but this is one that sticks out the most because it was a huge sacrifice for him.”

Her early experience with the church was with a televised service that aired frequently on Sundays. Later, when Smith was in the third grade, she and her father began visiting a local Church of Christ. Sunday services quickly became a major part of her life. Nowadays, Smith attends Westside Church of Christ in Round Rock with her family.

Outside of her work at Brentwood, Smith has many passions and hobbies. She enjoys several outdoor sports such as hiking, swimming, and running.

“I love nature, so anytime I’m outside I get to appreciate the beauty of God’s creation.”

Smith also enjoys writing and playing instruments, and is a lover of fiction novels. Her favorite books are from the Harry Potter series. In addition to these hobbies and interests, Smith has a passionate love for her family. She has three children: a teenage son and two young daughters. Her oldest daughter, Shaylee, started her first year at BCS back in September.

“I was so excited to be able to bring her to

school with me and have her be a part of this wonderful community,” she says. “It has been amazing having her be a Brentwood Bear!”

Smith is well loved by secondary students and her fellow staff members. Many students are familiar with waiting in line by her office at the start of each year to change their schedule. As an academic advisor and guidance counselor, Smith helps students reach academic, college, career, and personal goals.

“There are many responsibilities that fall into this part of the job, but my favorite has always been talking with students and encouraging them in their endeavors,” she says.

Many students appreciate her expertise and care she takes when talking with them about possible career paths.

“Mrs. Smith is always there for you when you’re trying to plan for your future,” sophomore Ashlynn Alvarado says.

Smith is known for her organizational skills and her ability to handle so many different tasks and do an excellent job on all of them.

“I am blessed to work closely with her,” registrar Nancy Tindel says. “Mrs. Smith successfully combines being a wife and mother with her job. In every challenging situation I have observed, I am amazed at her ability to stay calm and cheerful.”



Counselor Smith’s office is filled with college pennants representing schools all across the nation for BCS students to consider.



Dr. D Athletic trainer Demetrius Collins, a former football player, works at BCS in the afternoons, tending to athletes’ needs.

## Trainer helps athletes recover, build

By Nathan Joseph

Competing at a high level of athletics can often take a toll on one’s body. It can be a hard task to recover correctly and efficiently without the right instruction. In most high schools, this job of instruction falls to the athletic trainer.

Demetrius Collins, known to most students as “Dr. D,” first made an appearance at Brentwood Christian in the fall of 2019. Collins, who attends Westover Hills Church of Christ, was able to join the BCS staff as a part-time trainer after becoming acquainted with school president Jay Burcham. He also does contract work for Round Rock ISD, working at various high schools as a part-time job.

“My special skill set plus my desire to minister to youth led me to becoming a personal trainer,” Collins said. “Brentwood is a very unique place in the sense that I’m able to share my faith openly and honestly in an accepting environment.”

Collins played football and ran track in high school. He went on to play college football at Abilene Christian. Collins graduated from ACU in 2004 and completed a physical ther-

apy degree at Hardin-Simmons University.

After more than 10 years of traditional work in a clinic, Collins has moved away from the work day of a typical physical therapist. He now works shortened hours that allow him to teach online classes at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences.

A typical day at Brentwood includes clocking in just after lunch, ready to treat anyone needing help in athletics. He is assisted by his student trainer, junior Luke Ging, who checks in injured athletes and keeps track of all the injuries. After a general assessment of the injury, Collins works with the student, prescribing rehab exercises along with massaging sore muscles to ease them back into the flow of things. If needed, Collins can also apply tape, bandages, and braces to protect and prevent injuries.

Collins also makes an effort to build relationships with students. One such example is his work with junior soccer player Josh Treviño.

“One day, I came up to Dr. D and asked him if he could help me get stronger during the offseason,” Treviño said. “I was really fired up after our season this year, and lifting weights with him has helped me build a solid foundation be-

fore our offseason really begins.”

Despite not having an orthodox schedule, Collins does his best to attend Brentwood athletic events, carefully watching to see if anyone needs his professional expertise.

When not helping out, Collins enjoys playing disc golf and spending time with his wife of two years, Kristel.

### Dr. Grady

continued from page 1

As well as strengthening the growing middle school administration and focusing solely on middle school students, Dr. Grady will be a leader whom other members of the middle school faculty and administration can look to for guidance and in the future.

“My hope and prayer is that the BCS middle school will grow and thrive under Dr. Grady’s leadership, and that she and the middle school teachers will lead our precious students to love the Lord and equip them to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world,” middle school teacher Carrie Hunter said.



# BCS beats Regents, Hyde Park, still second in district

By Nathan Joseph

After beating Regents 3-2 on April 9, the Bears are 5-1 (13-5 overall) and second in district with four games left.

Junior Sam Benton singled with two outs in the top of the seventh inning to score junior

Will Hughes with the go-ahead run against the Knights last Friday. Junior pitcher Seth Taylor struck out 14 Regents batters to earn the win.

The Bears' only district loss came in their opener against rival St. Michael's.

"I think we know that we have a lot to improve on and that we are not there yet," head

coach Jeffrey Doege said after the tough loss. "We will use this as a tool to not experience that again. We know it's not where you start, it's where you finish."

The loss also helped the players gain the motivation they needed to train all the harder and finish out the season strong.

"The loss to St. Michael's was only more fuel to the fire," Taylor said. "We all know we could have won that game, but we lost because of simple errors that we've been working to fix. We all feel really good about playoffs and are hoping to make a run for state."

Doege went on to explain how the expanded district made the season much more fruitful. With the added games, the players are forced to continue working hard with minimal breaks, effectively preparing them for a playoff run.

Junior shortstop Jake Amoroso leads the Bears in several offensive categories, including average (.563), hits (27), and RBIs (21); he and senior Zack Billante have each scored 26 runs.

Taylor is batting .478 with 16 RBIs; senior Riley Keesey is batting .431 with 16 RBIs; and Hughes is hitting .438. The overall team batting average is .357.

Junior Jack Spring leads Brentwood pitchers with an ERA of 0.28. Taylor has a 1.48 ERA and leads with 47 strikeouts in only half that many innings pitched. Keesey has a 1.50 ERA and 45 strikeouts.

Following are the team's most recent results:

### 3/9: Round Rock Christian 20-0 W

Brentwood's 20 runs were scored in just four innings. Pitching for the Bears were Spring and Taylor, along with Keesey. They only allowed one hit the entire game. Spring, Keesey, and juniors Benton and Ben Copeland each had two RBIs. Junior Keller Jackson and Taylor each had two doubles, and Billante had a triple.

### 3/19: @ Nixon-Smiley 9-5 W

The Bears were able to come back from a 5-0 deficit at the top of the third inning to beat a talented Mustang team. They trailed 5-3 till the seventh inning, when they scored six runs to take the lead. Jackson, Taylor, Keesey, and Spring all pitched for a total of 16 strikeouts, allowing only four hits. Amoroso and Copeland each had two RBIs.

### 3/23: St. Michael's 4-3 L

Both teams demonstrated extraordinary pitching, each allowing fewer than six hits for the entire game. Taylor and Keesey both pitched four innings. The Crusaders had a huge two-run homer in the fourth inning, but the Bears were able to rally back multiple times and tie the game. At the end of the seventh inning, the game was tied and went into extra innings. The Crusaders capitalized off of crucial mistakes by the Bear defense, scoring the winning run.

### 3/27: St. Anthony's 10-0 W, 10-0 W

The Bears started off strong, scoring six runs in the first inning. Spring pitched the entire five

see **BASEBALL**, page 9

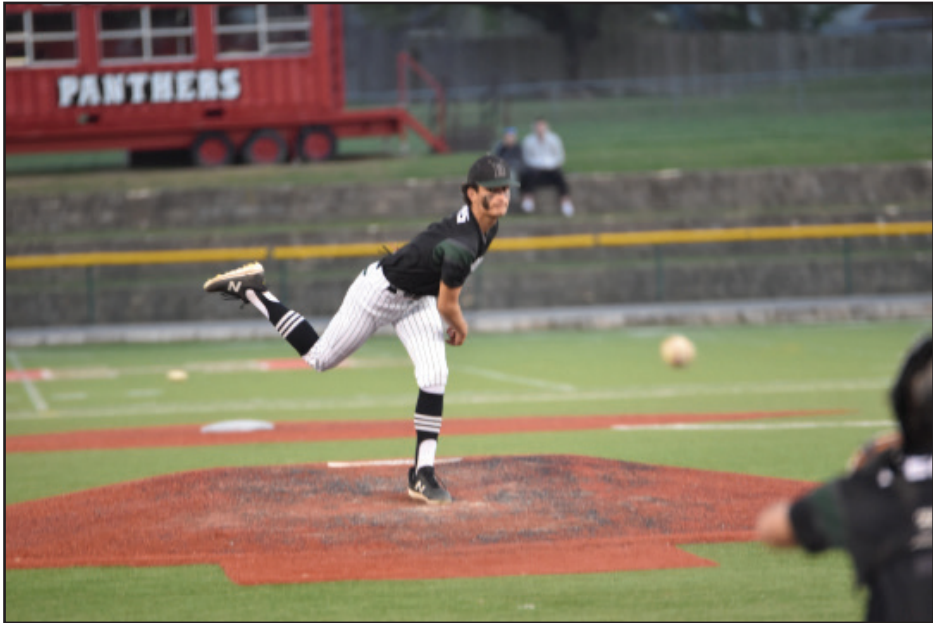


photo: Evan Gruis

**Strike!** Junior Seth Taylor pitched the final two innings of the Bears' 7-1 victory over Hyde Park on April 1, striking out five batters. Taylor also had a triple and two RBIs.

# Softball team challenged by tough district competition

By Aurora Tyson

The Lady Bears softball team is 9-4 overall and 2-4 in district heading into Tuesday's game against Hyde Park. Brentwood plays in the Copperas Cove Tournament this Thursday and Saturday, and plays a district home game against John Paul II this Friday the 16th.

Brentwood had an extremely successful pre-season, winning their first nine games. However, since beginning district play the Bears have faced more challenging competition.

"Recently we've been playing teams whose players play select together all year round," head coach Rory Tyson said. "These girls are built like softball players, and most have been playing for a while."

The coaches all agree that the team has a lot of talent and the ability to upset solid teams, but they just haven't been playing up to their full potential.

"Our potential is like a brick that isn't moving right now," assistant coach Coby Tyson said. "We need to learn how to push ourselves to move that brick and unlock our true potential."

Despite the recent losses, the girls remain determined to win the remaining district games and qualify for the playoffs.

"We all know that we can win these games and we all really, really want to," junior Christina Hoelscher said. "We just have to do it."

Senior Aurora Tyson leads the team with a .744 batting average, 28 runs, 29 hits, and 39 RBIs. Freshman Keira Black leads the team with eight doubles, and Tyson leads the team with nine triples and four home runs. Tyson leads the team in baserunning with 17 stolen bases, and Black has 13.

Tyson also leads the team on defense with a fielding percentage of 1.000 and 50 putouts. Hoelscher leads the team with 16 assists, and Tyson has 15.

Senior Molly Stewart and freshman McKenna Counts both have earned four wins pitching. Stewart has 40 strikeouts, and Counts has 29.

Following are the team's recent game results:

### 3/11: @ TSD 16-3 W

Brentwood scored seven runs in the first inning. Tyson had an inside-the-park home run in her first at-bat, and she finished with four RBIs.

Tyson and Counts each had two hits. Tyson had eight putouts and participated in a double play with Ashlynn Alvarado. After scoring 13 runs, the Bears put in their subs.

### 3/19: Geneva 4-3 W

With the score tied 2-2 after one inning, the players and fans knew it was going to be a nail-biter. Black, junior Ava Alvarado, and sophomore Ashlynn Alvarado each had two hits, and Ava A. had two RBIs. Black caught a ball in center field before throwing it into Tyson, who threw to Ava A. to put the tag down for the double play. Stewart pitched the entire game, striking out six batters. Brentwood scored one run in the second inning and another in the fifth, but Geneva hit a home run in the sixth, making the game close. In the last inning, Hargrove gunned down a runner trying to steal second to end the game.

### 3/20: San Marcos Academy 20-2 W

Brentwood scored six runs in the first inning and 12 in the second. Black had three hits, two of which were doubles. Tyson also had three

see **SOFTBALL**, page 9



photo: Michelle Anthony

**Safe!** Senior Aurora Tyson steals home in a 20-2 win over San Marcos on March 20.



# Rare speed: Bear track teams rack up wins, records

By Renne Cooper & Juliet Booker

With the district meet set for April 15 at St. Michael’s, Brentwood Christian’s track and field athletes have plenty of reasons to be optimistic about their chances for success.

The boys’ team, coached by Correy Washington and Matthew Newby, has broken seven school records so far. The girls’ team consists mostly of seniors and freshmen, and are coached by Katie Smith and Kaylin Mannon.

“Our team is doing great so far,” said Smith, whose team has won two meets. “Although we only have 12 girls and about half are underclassmen, we have really performed strong in all of our meets.”

Washington said the season has been a big improvement from previous years. The team has placed in the top three in every meet they have participated in, placing first in two of them.

“I brag on the boys all the time,” Washington said. “They are exciting to watch. We have been close in the past to win a meet, but this year we have a chance every time we step on the track.”

Senior Noah Shelby has the school record in the 100 meters and the fastest time in TAPPS 5A this year.

Junior Chris Mayo has the fastest 200 meters time in the state for all levels of TAPPS, and he is eager for a chance to medal at state.

“I hate losing,” he said. “In every event there is only one winner, and that weighs heavily on those that love winning. At the end of the day, your team is there to pick you up after a loss. This makes you fight harder to do well in the next meet.”

Washington said his goal is to win the district meet, a perfectly obtainable goal, but their ultimate goal is to stand on the podium as winners at the state track meet.

“I feel like we are right there; we have all the pieces,” he said. “We have already seen our district and most of the teams in the state. I like our chances. We have some of the fastest times in multiple events in all of TAPPS. We need to stay healthy and continue to improve.”

One way he is helping the team stay healthy is ice baths. Washington purchased two tubs that can be filled with ice water, and the team can use them after practices.

Win or lose, the track season has been another opportunity that seniors can especially cherish.

“Being a senior on the track team is incredible, but it’s also hard to believe it’s finally here!” senior Julia Glenn said. “I want to be



photo: Lisa Lee

**Ready for it** Junior Parker Combs prepares to hand the baton to senior Aaron Lilya during their winning effort in the 4x200 relay at the Yorktown meet on March 27.

someone (underclassmen) can look up to, just as the previous seniors were to me.”

“Running track at Brentwood has been a great experience,” senior Isaac Stanglin said. “The coaches really care about us and make us better people and better athletes.”

The top two runners in each event at district will move on to regionals on April 22. Those who finish in the top four there will advance to the state track meet on April 30 in Waco.

Following are the results of the most recent meets:

**Thursday, March 11: Yorktown meet**

Competing against public schools, the boys placed second. Mayo was second in the 200 (22:46). Sophomores Brecken Lee (2:09) and Rodrigo Real (2:14) placed first and second in the 800.

The Bears took second in the 4x100 relay (43.84), first in the 4x200 (1:35), and second in the 4x400 (3:48). Junior Nathan Joseph finished second in the long jump (19-11) and first in the triple jump (41-10). Junior Brandon Tindel took second in the triple jump. The Bears lost to Floresville, a 5A public school, by only 22 points.

For the girls, freshman Lucy Belcik won first in the 3200 (13:55) and second in the 1600. Freshman sprinter Emily Mulcahy won second in the 100, and freshman Juliet Booker earned second in the 200. Freshman Lyla Kate Jackson won first in the 400 (1:09).

**Saturday, March 20: Carment Kiara meet**

Both teams took first place at the Northeast Austin Carment Kiara Relays. Even with a lack of runners, the boys blew the other teams away, winning by 40 points. Shelby brought home second place in the 100 with an unof-

ficial 10.75. Stanglin took first place in the 400, and freshman Renne Cooper took second in the 3200 with a time of 11:38.

The relay teams took third in the 4x100 and 4x200, but in the 4x400, Stanglin, junior Jack Leidlein, Cooper, and junior Parker Combs won by 13 seconds.

In the throwing events, junior Nathaniel Fogle took first place and junior Caleb Riley took third in the discus. Joseph won the long jump and placed second in the triple jump. Leidlein also placed third in the triple jump.

The Lady Bears were led by Glenn, who scored 31 points by scoring first in long and triple jump as well as third in 300 meter hurdles.

The long distance Lady Bears, Belcik and junior Sydney Cooper, took first and third in the 3200; Belcik was also third in the 1600.

Senior Ashlynn Wright made a personal record in discuss with a throw of 79-03. As for the sprinters, Booker finished third in the 200.

**Saturday, March 27: St. Michael’s meet**

The boys’ and girls’ teams both won first place, with the boys beating out the home team by seven points and all the other teams in their district by many more. All the broken records this year took place at this meet. Shelby officially beat the school record with a 10.77 in the 100. Mayo also claimed a record with his time of 22:08 in the 200.

Joseph won both the long and triple jump, setting a school record in the latter (42-4). Lee ran a 4:57 in the 1600, while Joseph placed second in the 110 hurdles (15.75) with a school record, and Leidlein came in third in the 300 hurdles.

see **TRACK**, page 10

## Duff dominant on golf course

By Aden Mann

Sophomore Eston Duff has continued to defeat the competition, topping all boys in the Regents Invitational on March 22 and again at the Hyde Park Invitational on March 29.

In their third tournament, played at Lake Cliff Golf Club by Lake Travis, Duff shot a five-under-par 66. He followed with a one-under 72 at the River Place Country Club in Austin, where the team experienced great weather.

“Eston is a very talented young man who works hard to improve his game,” head coach Randy Tillotson said.

Duff, who has been playing golf since he was eight, was first introduced to the sport by his father, who has 35 years of experience. He has played in many golf tournaments, and he says his parents have been his biggest motivators. His future goals include attending a Division I college and playing in the U.S. Open.

The other four members of the golf team have continued practicing and improving. The Bears will compete at the April 19 district championship Lake Cliff, and Duff will be the only one representing Brentwood after the district championship.



photo: Brandi Gauthier

**Young ace** Talented sophomore Eston Duff has big goals for his future in golf. Duff, who won the Regents Invitational with a five-under 66, will represent Brentwood in district and beyond.



# Hawaii trip features thrills, natural beauty

continued from page 1

eating we concluded the night at the beach. We took lots of pictures and watched the sunset before heading back to our hotel in the rain.

**Day 2:**

Our morning started out at Pearl Harbor National Memorial where we visited the remains of the USS Arizona and walked through different memorials. After traveling back to Coconut Waikiki, we were given free time for lunch. Most of us went our separate ways but met at Waikiki beach and spent some time hanging out by the water. We played Spikeball, took more pictures, and Carlie even hand fed a few birds! We had dinner at Duke's located right on the beach, and changed into swimsuits after we finished eating. We all ran into the water as a group, and while we were swimming it started to rain. Reluctantly, we got out and walked back to the hotel, and then decided to swim at the pool and eventually go to Cheesecake Factory to all get a slice of cheesecake.

**Day 3:**

What a busy day! We started out the morning with a walking tour around downtown Honolulu looking at different monuments like Iolani Palace and the State Capitol. We immersed ourselves in Polynesian culture by walking through a farmers market. There was a variety of items: poke (raw fish), produce, freshly squeezed lemonade, and jewelry. Carlie bought a whole coconut, and we all passed it

around and tried it. Many of us found the texture weird and did not like it. We had free time for lunch and split up in groups again. Then we walked back to Waikiki Coconut and got ready for our night at the Polynesian Cultural Center. We drove about an hour and a half to the North Shore and stopped along the way to take pictures by the beach. Once arriving, we participated in many different activities including a canoe ride, hula dancing, making fire, and coconut leaf weaving. We even watched the Samoan dancers climb a coconut tree! After dinner we watched the "HA: Breath of Life" show, which was one of my personal favorites. We finished the night with a little bit of shopping and a drive back to our hotel.

**Day 4:**

We traveled back to the North Shore, but this time we spent our morning at Kualoa Ranch. We drove by the film locations of movies like *Jurassic Park*, *Jumanji*, *50 First Dates*, and *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*. We even stood by the famous log that was in the "They're flocking this way" scene from *Jurassic Park*. We took lots of pictures and also sat in the Jeep that Chris Pratt drove in *Jurassic World*. After arriving back at Coconut Waikiki we were given some free time, so of course we spent our time at the beach. We found a crab and a little shovel and decided to take pictures with our new friend Gill. We put him back in the water and headed to our dinner. After eating, we ended our night by making a pit stop at



photo: Natalie Hargrove

**Luaus & Leis** On the third day of the trip, the seniors experienced a fun evening full of traditional Hawaiian activities at the Polynesian Culture Center luau.



photo: Natalie Hargrove

**Jurassic Park!** The seniors visited Kualoa Ranch, the film location of *Jurassic Park*, on the fourth day of the trip and couldn't resist a neat special effects photo.

the Cheesecake Factory and picked up a slice of cheesecake to go.

**Day 5:**

This morning was our first scheduled beach time! We had the opportunity to learn how to surf and paddleboard on the calm waves of Waikiki beach. Surfers make it look way easier than it is, and most of us struggled. Julia, Asher, and Ethan were most definitely the pros of our group. One of the things I loved the most about surfing was actually just sitting on my board, feeling the sun on my face and letting my board go over the small waves. We picked up lunch in groups and then got ready for our hike. Soon we stopped at the Halona Blowhole to take pictures and actually saw incredible waves and even a few whales. Then we hiked Makapuu Lighthouse and had another incredible view of the island of Oahu. After hiking, we enjoyed dinner and another slice of cheesecake.

**Day 6:**

Another full and busy day! While jamming out to some music, we hiked the extinct volcano Diamond Head. We had another incredible view and we saw a beautiful rainbow while we were at the top! We visited the Dole Plantation to do some shopping, eat Dole Whip, and walk through a large maze. After some shopping in Haleiwa, we then watched the somewhat visible sunset (thanks to the rain) at Pua'ena Point Beach Park. We traveled back for our dinner and I bet you can guess what dessert we got after.

**Day 7:**

Wow! One of my favorite days of the whole trip! We spent our morning at the beach playing Spikeball, swimming, and hanging out until it was time to snorkel. Then we boarded the catamaran boat and traveled about two miles out from the shore to Sea Turtle Cove. We were given life vests and snorkeling gear, and after getting everything adjusted we jumped in. It was absolutely beautiful and the sea turtles were huge! We were actually swimming above sea turtles, and some of us attempted diving a little deeper to get a better view. We struggled a bit with the deeper diving because of the pressure in our ears once we got to a certain point under water. After snorkeling we found another beach spot at Fort Derussy Park where we laid out to get some sun, played Spikeball, and took pictures. We concluded our night with another great dinner and slice of cheesecake.

**Day 8:**

Our last day of the trip, and the saddest day. We had free time the whole morning and most of us spent our time at the spot at Fort Derussy Park. We had lunch as a whole group and then did some shopping before we went back to the hotel to pack. After packing, we loaded up onto our bus and headed to the airport. We had a red eye flight to Houston that most of us struggled to get any rest on, and then arrived in Austin around 11:30 in the morning.



# Drill, cheer teams hold tryouts for next year

By Macie Griswold

A freshman girl is sitting outside the Athletic Center going over one of her newly learned routines in her mind while nervously sipping a bottle of water. Minutes later, her name is called. She takes a deep breath, and with a few other girls accompanying her, she steps into tryouts.

While sports teams are on the field doing off-season workouts or practicing in the heat of their season, the drill and cheer teams have been preparing for tryouts. High school girls secured their spots on the Lady Bellas drill team two weeks ago, while the cheerleaders will be earning their place during cheer tryouts this week.

A total of 18 girls made the high school drill team, coach Lisa Warner describing the

tryout process as difficult but rewarding. She explained how after three days of clinics and learning necessary skills that will be needed at tryouts, the girls went before four judges who have extensive backgrounds in dance.

After the judging is complete, Warner drives to every house and delivers yard flamingos to every high school team member with a congratulatory sign. For middle school, she drops off a bag of goodies.

“That is how they find out if they make the team,” she said. “I love getting all of the texts and emails of how happy they were when they woke up to the surprise on their doorstep.”

Although Lady Bellas tryouts have passed, Brentwood’s cheer team tryouts are this week. Cheer coach Julie Harper said that a cheerleader’s main role is to lead others to Christ by example. She explained that to become a great

cheerleader, it is important to incorporate enthusiasm, pep, sharp motions, and positive facial expressions into tryouts and beyond.

“I want my girls to be known as the encouragers throughout the school,” said Harper, who teaches kindergarten. “I want the little girls that I teach to look up to them and want to be like them because they are living their lives for Jesus each and every day.”

Sophomore Lillian Ireland will be trying out for the cheerleading team for the first time this year. She said that she is a little nervous, but feels being on the cheer team is one of the many ways she can show her support to the BCS athletic teams.

“I’ve heard from several people on the cheerleading team that it’s a great experience and worth trying,” Ireland said. “I’m very excited and looking forward to the tryouts!”

# Students take day to serve, ‘soak’

By Sarah Esman

High school students stayed on campus this year for Spiritual Emphasis Day, but that did not stop them from focusing on God. On March 10, students served people in the community and participated in several God-centered activities.

Each grade had several activities, and each grade also served different charities. The freshman class served SAFE: Stop Abuse For Everyone, donating care packs. The sophomore class donated money to Dell Children’s Hospital. Juniors donated to Carrying Hope, and seniors made baskets with snacks, water, and notes for local firefighters.

Besides spending time serving charities, there were several other planned activities throughout the day. Each grade was able to rotate through these activities, occasionally splitting up into cohorts. Class meetings were held as well, and many important topics were discussed in a short amount of time so students could then turn their complete focus onto God.

One activity was the nature walk, led by teachers Taylor Mayfield, Kaylin Mannon, and Mel Witcher. Each cohort was led by a teacher throughout the Brentwood campus, walking along paved roads and on paths among the trees.

“It was nice being able to spend time with friends and enjoying the quiet,” freshman Lucy Belcik said.

Another activity was the “soaking” in the church auditorium with teacher Kaleen Graessle. Each grade, socially distanced in the aisles, meditated with music quietly playing in the background.

The dramatic Bible reading in the CSA fea-

tured fun skits with teachers Vanessa Maleare and Paul Robison. Students were able to watch short skits with the teachers dressed up in miscellaneous costume pieces and receive stories and resources about studying the Bible.

Students were able to go to the football field and respond to questions with their classmates, trying to learn about their peers. In cohort classrooms, students also decorated puzzle pieces and created a small display for them.

After lunch, high school students went to the Senior Talk, where the girls met in the CSA and boys met in the AC. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors asked the seniors questions about high school, seeking advice on topics such as the best classes to take.

At the end of the day, Encore led a chapel in the theater which was streamed into the auditorium for middle schoolers and freshmen. Students were encouraged to either sing along or focus on the lyrics of the songs, encouraged to glorify God through song.

The entire day, according to teacher Jimmie Harper, was a “unique change of pace to the daily routine of school.” Harper is pleased with the outcome of the day, and he said that there was only so much planning that he could do, along with the class officers.

Many students enjoyed a wide variety of the activities that occurred throughout the day, but the students Harper had talked to about Spiritual Emphasis Day tended to like the nature walk, soaking, and the puzzle activity best.

“I wanted to give students a day where they could focus on God and exercise spiritual disciplines,” Harper said. “It’s God’s day, not mine. I trust him to touch the hearts of everyone who participates.”

# Baseball

continued from page 6

innings, only allowing one hit and striking out seven batters. Jackson had two doubles and a triple for a total of four RBIs. Amoroso also had three hits. In the second game, the Bears again shut out the Yellowjackets by the same score. Keesey pitched most of the game, striking out four batters and again only allowing one hit. Jackson had three RBIs, and Amoroso, Keesey, and Taylor each had two.

**4/1: @ Hyde Park 7-1 W**

Brentwood took an early lead, scoring two runs in the first inning. Amoroso led the way with three hits, three RBIs, and three runs. Taylor had a triple and two RBIs. Keesey pitched the first five innings, allowing only one run and striking out eight batters. Taylor pitched the remaining two innings, striking out five batters and only allowing two hits.

“It felt just like any other game,” Amoroso said. “Our pitching has become a lot better and we’ve improved at hitting off good pitchers as well.”

**4/6: @ St. Mary’s Hall 7-0 W**

Spring had a fantastic game on the mound, pitching six innings with 10 strikeouts and allowing only three hits. Amoroso led the offense with three RBIs, and Keesey hit a triple. Junior Will Hughes and Taylor each had one RBI, the latter also hitting a double.

**4/9: @ Regents 3-2 W**

The Bears trailed 2-1 after one inning, but Taylor shut down the Knights after that, allowing only four hits and no walks to go with his 14 strikeouts. Brentwood tied the score in the fifth before Benton’s game-winner in the seventh.

# Softball needs strong finish

continued from page 6

hits, two of which were triples, and had seven RBIs. Counts pitched the entire game, earning eight strikeouts. The Bears’ JV players made it in for the last few innings.

**3/26: @ Incarnate Word Academy 8-7 L**

In their third district game, the Lady Bears faced their toughest competition so far this season, playing an intense, close game. Both teams scored one run in the first inning, and IWA scored two the next inning and one in the third. Brentwood played tight defense, but their opponents were strong hitters and had very good pitching. Ashlynn A. had three hits and Tyson had two hits. Counts and Ashlynn A. each had two RBIs. Tyson had a diving catch at shortstop, and had five other putouts. Going into the bottom of the seventh inning, the Bears were winning by one run. When the bases were loaded with two outs, the lead-off batter for IWA hit a double to score the winning runs.

**3/30: @ Geneva 12-10 L**

The Lady Bears, as coach Coby Tyson would say, “pitched the tents and went to the circus” during the first and fourth innings. Geneva had a 5-0 lead after the first, and then scored two runs in each the second and third innings. Tyson had four hits and three RBIs, including a double and a triple. She also had three stolen bases. Ashlynn A. and Tyson both had four putouts. Counts pitched the entire game, ending with four strikeouts. Brentwood was down by seven runs in the seventh inning, and they came back and scored five with two outs.

**3/31: Providence 9-3 L**

Brentwood struggled against their athletic opponents. Tyson had a triple and a double, and scored two of the three runs. Black had five catches in center field, and Ashlynn A. had six putouts. Two of Providence’s players hit home runs deep over the left field fence. The Bears were overpowered both offensively and defensively, but they tried their best to keep up with their opponent.

**4/6: @ St. Anthony 13-7 L**

BCS started out slow, earning only two runs by the end of the third inning. The Bears scored five runs in the fourth, but it wasn’t enough. Black had three hits, two stolen bases, and scored three runs. Stewart pitched the entire game, earning six strikeouts. St. Anthony scored three in the first inning and one in the third, but they opened it up in the bottom of the sixth and scored eight runs with two outs.



# Track teams excel as district meet approaches

continued from page 7

The Bears exceeded the previous school records in all three relays, taking first in both the 4x100 and 4x200, and third in the 4x400. Joseph, Shelby, Tindel, and Mayo beat the school record in the 4x100 with a time of 43.5. Tindel, Shelby, Combs, and Mayo beat the record in the 4x200 with a time of 1:32. In the 4x400, it was Stanglin, Leidlein, Real, and junior Will Hughes with a record 3:37.

The BCS girls barely edged out second-place St. Andrews. Glenn earned first in the triple and long jump as well as first in the 300 hurdles (52.93). Booker broke her personal record in the 200, winning with a time of 27.2.

The 4x100 took second place, while the 4x200 earned a gold after starting off in last place. Belcik also beat her personal record in the 3200 (13:29), earning third place.

**Tuesday, March 30: S.A. Cornerstone meet**

At the Warrior Relays the boys did well, but the host school proved to be too much for the Bears, and Cornerstone won by 90 points.

Shelby took first in the 100; Mayo was second place in the 200. Lee took second place in the 800, and Real finished fourth. Lee also finished second in the 1600 with a time of 4:52, only two seconds from the school record.

In all three relays, the Bears took second to

Cornerstone. Joseph won the 110 hurdles, and Leidlein won the 300 hurdles. Joseph took second in both the long jump and triple jump, and Tindel and Leidlein took third and fourth in the triple jump.

The Brentwood girls were led by the fresh-

men, who earned the majority of the points for the team. Mulcahy earned second in the 100, while Katie Pittner took third in the 800 with a personal record of 2:39. Belcik also beat her personal best in the 3200 with a time of 13:21.

Glenn won the triple jump and was second in

the long jump.

**Saturday, April 10: St. Dominic Savio meet**

The boys won six events and placed second overall at the St. Dominic Savio Eagle Relays. They were bested by Central Catholic, a 6A private school, by only two points.

As usual, Shelby won the 100 (10.91), and Mayo won the 200 (21.75), re-breaking his previous school record. In the 400, Stanglin placed third (55.24) and Real was fourth (55.6).

Joseph won the triple jump (40-04), with Tindel finishing third (39-0). Joseph was also second in the 110 hurdles (16.76) and second in the long jump (19-0), with Combs taking third (18-10). Lee was third in the 800 (2:07).

The Bears took first place in all three relay events. The 4x200 team of Tindel, Shelby, Combs, and Mayo ran a 1:31.59, beating their previous record by more than a half second.

The girls faced stiff competition, including three nationally ranked sprinters. Booker still managed to finish second in the 200 (26.85), and Glenn shined in the jumping events, taking third in the long jump (14-11) and second in the triple jump (32-01). Mulcahy was third in the triple jump.

In the 4x200, BCS girls came in second in 1:51.64, breaking the school record. The team consists of Booker, Glenn, Jackson, and Mulcahy.



photo: Lisa Lee

**Top speed** Freshman Juliet Booker and the 4x200 team set a school record Saturday.

## Beware glowing screen’s lure

continued from page 2

distress has become a toxic behavior present on many social media apps. There are hundreds of posts that glamorize anxiety disorders and spread false information about these types of mental illnesses, making it seem as if they are more common than they actually are. Some examples of these include the trending “trauma test,” the “put your finger down” challenges, and many others. Falsely portraying these mental illnesses is unhealthy and needs to be stopped. We cannot continue to glamorize the emotional turmoil that people experience, making it seem “cool” to say that you have anxiety or depression. This can discourage those who are actually suffering and cause them to think that their illness is not as serious as it is because so many other people feel the “same” way.

While social media has some significant benefits, such as connecting with long-distance family and friends and helping with education, the negative effects outnumber the positive by quite a few. In order to make

social media the useful, fun tool it was supposed to be, it is important to do several things: limit the amount of time you spend on social media apps, ensure that you do not become consumed or obsessed with celebrities and influencers that have it “better than you do,” not be involved in cyberbullying or spreading harmful information, and build your relationships with others face-to-face.

It is easy to become immersed in the materialism that influencers often pull us into, but many of the people we idolize offer no value in helping us walk in the way of righteousness. We are encouraged by the scriptures not to love the world, but to be transformed and to see this life in a different light than those who live in the darkness. As Christians, we are called to pursue those things that are true, noble, pure, admirable, and good in the eyes of our Lord and Savior. Remember that God did not put us in this world so that we could look at it through screens, but so that we could enjoy the glory of His creation with each other in person.

## Musicians record for TAPPS

continued from page 3

Encore also recorded a sacred ensemble.

Watkins was very pleased with all students who participated, and awaits results.

“I am extremely proud of each one of our BCS vocal soloists and ensembles. They worked diligently on difficult literature in less-than-ideal circumstances, and every performance was great,” he said.

The 24 students in academic competitions also had a much different preparation process for TAPPS competitions. In normal years, academic teams would meet at practices with their coaches who are usually teachers. This year, teachers have had a much larger workload, so preparation was vastly student-driven. A TAPPS Google classroom was created for students enrolled in the competitions to be able to access all of their study materials from teachers and coaches.

The competition process was also difficult because different events required different testing procedures. Most tests would be proc-

tored at the individual schools from March 29-31, and held on computers. This process added difficulty to certain events.

“For most events, taking the test on a computer was an easy adjustment,” coordinator Michele Broadway said. “But for number sense and calculator, events where students do math computations really fast and write the exact answer on paper as fast as they can, having to type math added an extra layer of difficulty.”

Speech events also had a different procedure. Similar to band and choir, students in speech events sent in videos of their speeches the week of April 6. The Lincoln-Douglas debate occurred live on April 12; similarly persuasive speaking occurred live on April 13.

Judging will be completed on April 17, and results will most likely be received the week of April 19. Teachers, coaches, and students are eager to hear the results.

“We have strong students in every event that we have entered. I’m excited to see how the results turn out,” Broadway said.