

see pg. 5

see pg. 4



# THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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## Talented hoops team soars toward playoffs

By Sam Benton

With a new coach and a team full of talent, Brentwood Christian is having little trouble as they steamroll through district and aim to go deep into playoffs.

The Bears are 22-4 and 8-2 in district following their win at Regents on Tuesday. Brentwood has four more regular season games remaining, including two games against TMI-Episcopal. The Bears are currently third in district behind TMI and St. Michael's.

This year's success has brought comparisons with Brentwood's greatest teams of the past. The Bears' win total is the most since the 1998-99 team finished with a record of 28-3 competing at the TAPPS 3A level.

Head coach Dustin Karrer and his team are feeling confident about the competition they could be facing in the playoffs. According to Karrer there's a good chance Brentwood will face St. Michael's for a third time, in a playoff setting. St. Michael's, who is the only district team the Bears have lost to this season, overwhelmed Brentwood with the sheer size of their players in their first game. However, in their last bout the Bears put up a strong fight,

losing by only seven after having taken the lead late in the fourth following their comeback from a nearly 20-point deficit.

"One thing we do really need to work on though is being consistent throughout the game and playing at our highest level for four quarters," Karrer said. "We know we're a good team, we just have to stay focused and play to the level we're capable of."

This year's team looks a little different from last year's with new additions such as freshman Adrian Mathis and junior Mason Emerson, who have both played important roles in the Bears' success this season.

"I think Adrian is the best point guard in the city," Karrer said. "He's a great leader and is a huge asset to the team."

"Mason has really grown into his role as a leader on the team," Karrer continued. "He's asked a lot of, and he always delivers. I've seen a lot of skill improvement from Mason, and he's just been really important to the team's success."

Junior Evan Gruis is certainly not a new face at Brentwood but has really stepped up this

see **BOYS**, page 2



photo: Michelle Anthony

**Can't catch us** Freshman point guard Adrian Mathis leads the fast break while junior Evan Gruis is ready to finish during the Bears' 65-38 win over St. Anthony's on Jan. 28. Brentwood is 22-4 this season and near the top of a very competitive district.



photo: Quinn Fowler

**Entertainer** Junior JC Samson and the rest of the *Newsies* cast have put in long hours to prepare for the musical, which opened on Saturday. See story, pg. 5

## Humble beginnings

*BCS library has rich, purposeful history*

By Anjie Popoola

The elementary book fair came back big this year, as the bright colors of brand new book spines filled the FLC floor Jan. 24-27. The special week included a books and breakfast event on Jan. 26 and a day of multiple storytimes with elementary principal Jeremy Thornton. After missing a year, the fair was just as it had been in prior years, with shelves and tables stretching along the court.

"The kids get so excited to get to go and look," librarian Tere Hager said.

With the help of many people, including volunteer coordinator Nicole Willard, the book fair is beneficial not only to the students but also to teachers and the library itself. With profits from the book fair, BCS can purchase books or even a book repairing

machine, while teachers benefit from parents buying books for them off of their wishlists.

"It's super fun. The whole reason to have it is to promote literacy and reading and a life-long love of reading," Hager said.

The annual book fair is only one of many ways that the school librarians try to promote reading and make it engaging for students. Though the libraries are currently in a position to engage kids, it wasn't always that way.

When Brentwood Christian began in 1963 at a different location, the school had no central library. The first library was created when board member and eventual school president Marquita Moss collected all of the books from the classrooms, classified them, and placed them on shelves that had been bought

see **BCS LIBRARY**, page 8



# Basketball

continued from page 1

year as leader. Gruis is the second-highest scorer for the Bears and a highly respected player among his teammates.

“Evan’s play has been huge,” senior Keller Jackson said. “He has come up big for us and I expect him to continue to do so throughout playoffs.”

Mathis leads the team in scoring with 20 points per game, followed by Gruis with 14 and Emerson with 10. Junior Nick Makumi leads the team in rebounds with 7.4 per game, followed by Emerson with 6.8 and senior Ca-son Best with 6.6.

Mathis also leads in assists and steals per game this season with 5.6 and 4.2, respectively. Emerson has 1.7 blocks per game.

Following are the Bears’ most recent results:  
**12/30: Lago Vista 87-35 W**

In this non-district mismatch during the holi-days, Emerson scored 19 points and had seven rebounds. Mathis had 19 points, six rebounds,

and six assists. Senior Conner Rohlack had 16 points.

**1/11: Hyde Park 91-69 W**

There was a lot of tension between the Bears and their longtime rivals, the Panthers. Brentwood took the lead early and just barely stayed ahead of Hyde Park until just before halftime when the Panthers inched ahead by two points. With 20 seconds left in the first half Mathis drained a three from the right corner to take the lead 36-35. Brentwood turned up the heat in the fourth quarter and pulled away from the Panthers quickly. Multiple threes and a dunk from Mathis later in the fourth killed what momentum the Panthers had left. Mathis had 35 points, 10 rebounds, and seven assists and steals. Emerson followed with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Gruis had 12 points, seven re-bounds, and three assists.

**1/18: Boerne Geneva 79-61 W**

Looking to pick up their second district win, Brentwood gained the lead early and stayed ahead throughout the game. Mathis had 28 points with five assists and nine rebounds. Gru-is had 16 points and seven rebounds and three assists. Senior Rylan Acheson had 15 points.

**1/20: Regents 85-71 W**

The Bears’ bout with the Knights was a very defense-heavy game with not a lot of scor-ing in the first quarter. Brentwood gained the lead early in the first and kept it until midway through the second quarter. Regents had a 34-28 lead as the teams walked to the locker room. The Bears recovered the lead two minutes into the third quarter and quickly extended it to 12. Excellent defense enabled BCS to push the lead to over 20 points in the fourth quarter. The Knights’ offense struggled against the Bears’ full-court press and fast pace on offense. Gruis had 25 points with eight rebounds and four steals. Mathis had 20 points and six assists. Emerson had 17 points and nine rebounds.



**Getting physical** Senior Rylan Acheson goes up strong against St. Anthony’s during a win on Jan. 28. Brentwood’s win total this year is the school’s highest in 23 years.

**1/21: SMH 83-44 W**

Brentwood’s speed and athleticism was too much for the Barons. The Bears kept up a good tempo throughout the game on offense and kept SMH reined in on defense. The score was 54-19 at halftime. Emerson ended up with 21 points and 10 rebounds with four assists. Mathis had 18 points with five assists and seven steals. Freshman Coleston Allen had 12 points with five assists.

**1/25: St. Michaels 77-70 L**

St. Michael’s took an early 15-0 lead, domi-nating the Bears with their size, having three players listed at 6-foot-9. Brentwood’s shots began to fall, and although Mathis left the game with a leg injury in the first half, the Bears trailed by 14. They continued to steadily come back in the third quarter, with Mathis back in the game. In the fourth quarter, following Em-er-son’s steal and a layup, Mathis hit a three pointer to put the Bears ahead of St.Michael’s 70-69 late in the fourth. But the Crusad-ers managed to pull ahead by seven before the clock ran out. The Bears showed their grit and how strong a team they can be when

dealing with tough competition. Gruis had 27 points, seven rebounds, and three assists. Mathis had 14 points, four rebounds, and three assists.

**1/27: @ St. Anthony’s 104-70 W**

Brentwood came out slow at the beginning of the game and gradually picked up steam. They were cruising after halftime and won the third quarter by 30 points. It was only up from there for the Bears as they shot upward into triple digits. Gruis had a personal record of 30 points with five rebounds, five assists, and three steals. Mathis had 29 points, six assists, and four steals. Emerson had 16 points, 11 re-bounds, and two steals.

**1/28: St. Anthony’s 65-38 W**

With the confidence from last night’s big win against the Yellowjackets, the Bears domi-nated St.Anthony’s from the beginning. Brentwood picked up a comfortable lead early and it steadily increased as the game went on. By the third quarter Brentwood was ahead by 30 points and there wasn’t much the Yellowjack-ets could do against the Bears’ full court press, which caused multiple steals by Brentwood. Mathis had 17 points, six rebounds, and five as-sists. Emerson had 13 points, seven rebounds, and six steals. Gruis had nine points, five re-bounds, and six steals.

**2/1: @ Regents 91-71 W**

The Bears gradually stretched their lead to 44-30 at halftime, and late in the third quarter they began to pull away. Full-court pressure produced steals and layups, and Brentwood had its seventh win in eight games in 2022.

## THE BEAR FACTS

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



**Read to me** Caroline Pollard and brother Judah enjoy some reading time in the outdoor amphitheater.



# Sixth-grader Kahan wins spelling bee in 14th round

By Evelyn Lee

Two years after the last publicly attended Brentwood Christian spelling bee, sixth-grader Caitlin Kahan won first place after a total of 14 rounds on Jan. 13 in the church auditorium. Her winning word was “parole.”

“I was a bit nervous going into the competition,” Kahan said, “but I had been studying for a few weeks leading up to it and felt ready.”

The runner-up among the 18 total participants was seventh-grader Evan Berger, and coming in third place was eighth-grader Andrew Prundeanu, who lasted until the 12th round. Seventh-grader Bryce O’Sullivan, who won last year’s online bee, made it eight rounds and finished fourth.

“I had a couple of good, hard studying sessions for the bee,” said Berger, who prepared by studying the word list with friend and competitor O’Sullivan.

In order to progress to the next round of competition, Kahan and Berger will take part in an online test between Jan. 28 and Feb. 11. If successful, they will advance to a regional spelling bee held in Kyle on March 5. Regional winners will advance to state, and state winners to the national-level spelling bee.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee will take place at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, during the week of Memorial Day.

“It was a fun learning experience, and I am looking forward to the next round,” Kahan said. “I’ll be studying the next list of words!”

The list for this year’s spelling bee was full of words in varying degrees of difficulty, from “hat” to “retirees” to “Quasimodo.” Beginning in round 11, the three remaining contestants were given words that were not on the list of words that they had studied.

Kahan said the hardest word for her to spell during the bee was “Bloomsbury.” She took her time with each word and asked for a definition when unsure. Her cautiousness clearly paid off.

The judges this year were librarian Jackson Hager and middle school teachers Carrie Hunter and Cynthia Davis. The pronouncer was secondary teacher Jonathan Weed.

The event this year was once again coordinated by Sharonda Cooper with help from Jane Humphrey, who will be taking over coordination of the bee in the future.

Humphrey said she would also like to acknowledge the help of Nancy Sutton in this year’s bee.



**Composure** Caitlin Kahan, a sixth grader, won the school spelling bee on Jan. 13 in the auditorium. She defeated runner-up Evan Berger with her final word, “parole.”

# Seventh grade visits Capitol as field trips are back



**Learning history** After a year with no field trips, BCS seventh graders resumed the joy of going places with classmates as they visited the Capitol on Jan. 10.

By Clive Whaley

Students’ voices echo through the massive rotunda of the Capitol building, as eager eyes comb the governors’ portraits and marvel at the grand building’s majesty. Later, as they trek between outdoor monuments, they roll down grassy hills. After nearly two years of canceled field trips, new life was breathed into this wonderful method of learning last month.

The seventh-grade class went on their field trip to the State Capitol building on Jan. 10, after the trip was canceled last year due to Covid regulations. The class departed at about 8:15 a.m. on buses, accompanied by middle school teachers Jonathan Weed and Carrie Hunter, along with a few parent chaperones. Soon after they arrived, they began to tour the Visitors Center, a building that they found out is even older than the Capitol, which was finished in 1888.

Afterward, most students visited the gift shop, where they could buy a variety of souvenirs, such as keychains, Texas-themed candy, hats, and even little footballs. The students were then divided into two groups and toured the Capitol, walking through historic halls

adorned with large paintings and statues with their friends. They traveled through various locations within the Capitol building, such as the Senate Chamber, the House Chamber, and the rotunda, with the tour guides telling stories and sharing obscure facts along the way.

“I just liked touring the Capitol and being with friends at the same time,” seventh-grader Josie Piche said.

The class then left the building and ate lunch together under some trees on the south lawn. After this, the students enjoyed playing with each other outside, rolling down the grassy hills, and taking pictures beside monuments.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the trip was a success. Additionally, there were no outbreaks among the seventh-grade class, even though masks were not required on any part of the trip.

“We will continue to be careful and observe the regulations that are in place to mitigate Covid, but we are also going to reinstate the learning that comes with the visits to places we study and the fun that comes with getting on the bus and sharing the experience with classmates,” BCS president Jay Burcham said. “Field trips will be a part of the spring semester.”



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Josh Trevino*

*Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2022.*

# Soccer player leads with love, heart of gold

By Davin Ha

It's soccer season right now, and senior midfielder Josh Trevino has been looking forward to this for a long time. He has put in hours of training for months, since the grueling summer workouts, and he is in great shape. His team relies on him, and they work in harmony on the field.

But for Josh, who has been playing soccer since the tender age of three, his love for soccer does not match the passion he has for the people around him. Josh has focused his sights on one objective this year, and that is to cherish the people around him and uplift everyone in the process.

Josh was born in Austin and was soon enrolled in Brentwood Christian's preschool program.

"I came here when I was like three, so I have been here my entire life," he says, adding how grateful he is that he never left. "I feel like the small size of Brentwood allows me to really get to know everyone here. I really love the people here. It has been nice growing up with my friends and getting to see the younger grades grow up too."

He says he wishes he could stay and see the younger grades grow up, and he emphasized that he will try to make it to future soccer games to see how the freshmen are doing when he's gone.

Josh says many people have had an impact on him at Brentwood, but it was one particular upperclassman who made a surprisingly huge impact on him when he was a freshman. Josh remembers being very anxious when he joined the soccer team his freshman year, but Blake Juranek, a junior at the time, was there for him and believed in him.

"Coming into high school was hard for me," Josh says. "I didn't know what to expect and I definitely didn't know anything about who I was, but Blake always saw something in me. He believed in me whenever I didn't believe in myself. He taught me that oftentimes, that's all people need – someone who believes in them."

So this year, Josh decided to do the same. He wanted to be that encouraging and kind upperclassman for the lowerclassmen as Blake did for him.

"Josh is one of the friendliest people on campus. He's open to being friends with anyone, even underclassmen – a trait you don't see much in older students," said Josh's close friend and teammate Nathan Joseph.

Josh continues to be a leader to students on and off campus. Teachers around campus have all witnessed Josh's empathetic personality and have agreed it's what makes him such a good

leader.  
"Josh has a heart of gold. You'd be hard pressed to find a more genuine leader on cam-



pus," English teacher Taylor Mayfield says. Mayfield reminisces on a time that he thinks summarizes Josh's character the best, when Josh started a campaign in his sophomore year named the "Josh Trevino Loves You" campaign. Josh would write positive and uplifting notes on heart-shaped paper and stick them on a wall for people to take when needed. This event spurred an outburst of positivity which caused other students to write positive notes as well.

"Call me sentimental, but I still have mine," Mayfield says.

Someone who has made a constant impact on Josh is his older brother Christian, who graduated from BCS in 2019. Currently a mechanical engineering major at UT-Dallas, Christian continues to be someone Josh confides in on a daily basis.

"My brother has always been my biggest role model. He has always been my best friend," Josh says.

One very important lesson he learned from his brother was that loving your neighbor is more than just saying the right words: "Loving people is listening to music together on the way to school. It's making them laugh whenever they don't want to. It's driving them to McDonald's late at night. It's texting them about something that reminds you of them."

Josh has immortalized these words in his head in hopes to live every day with a more positive viewpoint in life and in his relationships with his friends and family.

Christian says whenever he leaves to go back to college, he misses Josh the most, adding that Josh has always brought a lot of joy and laughter to the family.

Standing at 5-foot-3, Josh has heard every "short joke" in the book, but he no longer lets the comments affect his efforts to have a constant positive outlook on life. When asked if his height has ever been an issue in sports, Josh responded with a resounding "Yes," but then said that over time he has "grown into" his height.

"When I was in middle school I cared a lot about what others thought about me, and I hated looking different than everyone else. As I got older I really started to just own it," he says.

Josh tries to constantly remind underclassmen the importance of finding their true iden-

tity and not worrying about what others think of them.

"Josh has a way of uplifting the student body, whether it be through the morning announcements or his meaningful development of one-on-one relationships," classmate and Student Council president Sydney Cooper says.

Josh says that it's important for younger students to learn this kind of confidence while they are in high school.

"I think a lot of kids are too focused on feeling accepted, and they get buried in the people around them," Josh says. "I would encourage everyone to use this time to figure out who you want to be. Spend time alone and do the things that you love the most, and don't worry about what other people are doing. Post the pictures that you like, and tell the jokes that make you laugh, and stand up for the things that you believe are right, and spend time with the people that you love, and work hard for whatever it is calling you. Everything else will come in time."

Josh is a part of Brentwood's Student Council, where he works alongside his classmates Sam Benton and Cooper as his class's representative.

"I really love StuCo and the whole group," he says. "It's been a lot of fun working with them."

Sydney says Josh has made a huge impact this year.

"He is such a hard worker. If I ever need something done, someone to come early to school, stay late, or someone to help with anything, Josh is a person I can rely on," she says.

Jack Esche, who has known Josh since first grade, says that Josh has always been a kind-hearted person.

"Josh has a pint-sized body, but a gallon-sized heart," Jack says.

Josh came into high school with the mindset that he wanted to appreciate everything God has blessed him with. Whether it was soccer or the people around him, Josh did not want to take any of it for granted. As he approaches college, he is not sure what he wants to do just yet, but he's leaning toward going to Texas A&M to study engineering. But he isn't worried, and he knows he'll find happiness anywhere he goes.

When he looks back over the past 15 years, Josh cherishes his time at Brentwood and will miss his "boisterous but loving" class.

"There are a whole lot of people in this world, and I think it's special that I ended up around the people I did," he says. "I really believe that there is something to learn from everyone you meet, so I encourage whoever is reading this to appreciate those around them more and more each day."



# Patient teacher grateful for daily blessings

By Laynie Ruiz

Britney Gittinger once dreamed of sitting at a news anchor’s desk, sharing riveting reports and interesting information. However, God showed her a different path, and she now sits at a teacher’s desk, helping second-graders grow and mature into the people they are meant to be.

Now in her fifth year at Brentwood Christian, Gittinger has been making an impact not only on many young lives, but also on her peers.

“I am so thankful that I have a teaching partner who is so helpful, patient, and caring,” says Janaye Barker, Gittinger’s fellow second-grade teacher. “We share so many laughs together throughout each workday, and she is someone who I can always turn to, whether it is to ask for advice on something or to share a funny story with.”

Gittinger grew up in Sherman, a town just north of Dallas, with her two sisters, Berrilynn and Brandi, and her brother, Bradley. Her father was a business owner and had to travel often while her mother stayed at home with the children. As they grew up, her family members started to migrate to Austin for careers and school. She eventually moved to Austin from San Antonio after college to join them after the death of her older sister, to whom she was very close.

“Losing her was the most difficult time I had gone through, at the time,” she says. “I decided a change of pace would be ideal.”

Before that, Gittinger attended Abilene Christian University and was a reporter for the school’s newspaper, “The Optimist.” Having grown up watching and enjoying the news, she thought being an investigative reporter or news anchor would be fascinating. Gittinger received her degree in mass communications and news broadcasting with a minor in journalism.

“Reporting factual, unbiased information about important events that the public should know about meant something to me,” she says.

Shortly after she moved down to Austin, she



**Impacting lives** Second-grade teacher Britney Gittinger says her favorite thing about teaching is spending time with unique kids and showing them how God loves them.

met her future husband Ben. They now have three children: Abigail, Miles, and Evan. Abigail, her step-daughter, is a sophomore at Texas A&M, and the boys are sixth and fourth graders at BCS. Gittinger puts her faith at the forefront of her life – one of her favorite things is spending time in the Bible with her kids.

She enrolled her sons in Brentwood after hearing many good things about it from her niece and nephew, Brandi’s children. She often attended their games and eventually joined the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher came from watching her sons learn and grow, and

she says through God’s guidance she was provided with many opportunities to help out at school, such as being a kindergarten aide. Her husband, who is a teacher and baseball coach, fully supported the idea of her becoming a teacher, and after two years in the teacher certification program, Gittinger became a full-fledged teacher when former elementary principal Mara Ashley offered her a job in 2017. She says her favorite memories at BCS so far have been when her sons were in second grade, because she felt blessed that they were just one room away from her.

“It has truly been a blessing ever since,” Git-

tinger says. “I love my job of helping children grow and learn. I enjoy teaching them about the wonderful love of God and the love he has for them no matter what.”

During her free time, she loves watching her boys’ sports games, spending time with her family and friends, and traveling. She has been to many states in the U.S., as well as places as far as Italy, Hungary, and Austria. She said these trips were enlightening because she got to be part of new, unknown experiences. One of her favorite trips was to Costa Rica. There, she got to eat a termite, which she describes as having a “woody” taste. She also enjoys reflecting on her thoughts and passing time reading mysteries, especially author Dee Henderson’s books.

Gittinger says one of the most important things she has learned while teaching at BCS is to have what she calls a “growth mindset.” The other key, she says, is patience.

“Patience is vital. My mother used to always tell us that patience is a virtue, and as an adult I see that as being so true,” she says. “It is good to be able to tolerate something that takes longer, whether that is situational in the classroom, waiting for God, or in other areas of my job or life.”

Gittinger says her favorite thing about her job is the fact that she gets to spend time with all sorts of special and unique kids while teaching them that God cares for them. Leading them in the path of Jesus’ footsteps and toward God’s love is something she takes great pride in doing. When a student is struggling academically or personally, Gittinger loves encouraging her students through God’s word. She loves her students and hearing the “sweet, hilarious, well-meaning, and mostly innocent” things they say.

“Brentwood Christian School is a special place, filled with good people and big hearts, encompassing students, faculty, staff and administration,” Gittinger says. “I am grateful to be a part of it every day.”

## ‘Newsies’ gang ready to entertain no matter the weather

By Lucy Belcik

After weeks of preparation, nearly 60 BCS students were prepared to present four performances of *Newsies* from Feb. 3-5 in the school theater. When the Bear Facts was sent to the printer on Feb. 2, winter weather warnings had already canceled the first show, with more schedule changes likely.

The cast and crew of Brentwood Christian’s spring musical continued rehearsals into the month of January. As performance

week drew closer, practices grew more intense, at times lasting until 8 or 9 at night.

“There is a lot of goofing off at first, but towards the end we really start pulling everything together,” said junior Kennedy Drennon, who shares the role of Katherine with classmate Lily Trueper.

Director Vanessa Maleare was not surprised by the students’ greater focus as the musical drew closer.

“In the week before the show, actors tend to self-generate a lot more motivation than in ear-

lier rehearsals,” she said.

Rehearsals consisted of the sitzprobe, in which the cast practiced singing through the musical with the full orchestra, and run-throughs, where both cast and crew performed the musical in its entirety.

Late night rehearsals also gave cast members a chance to build relationships with each other and develop camaraderie.

“One of the things we like doing to warm up for rehearsals is to have the sound tech play various song selections and sing and dance

along to them while we wait to start rehearsal,” Drennon said.

Maleare stated that their biggest challenge in preparing for the shows is working around cast members’ varying schedules.

“Because we don’t always have all the actors here, rehearsals are productive, if not as efficient as they could be,” she said.

However, Maleare said that overall she feels that both the cast and crew are well prepared for the upcoming shows.

“We are definitely ready,” she said.



# Lady Bears suffer close losses as season nears end

By Karlee Lawrence

Despite getting 38 points from sophomore Aubrey Acheson, the Lady Bears took a tough loss on Feb. 1 against Providence in San Antonio. They are now 6-8 in district (8-13 overall), with playoff hopes fading.

With the team consisting of young players and athletes relatively new to the sport, the Bears have improved a lot as a team. Head coach Theresa Nunn said their strength has been execution.

“When we focus on executing our defensive game plan and everything offensively, it allows us to get good looks and be more deliberate defensively,” she said.

This also comes with things to work on. “We are learning a new culture of basketball, so it’s just a process, and we are going to have to go through adversity to be successful down the line,” Nunn said.

Acheson said she thinks the girls have definitely grown as a team. She also believes the next two games will be challenging, but the Bears will finish strong and as a better team.

“I feel good about the season,” she said. “I’m disappointed because we definitely could’ve won most of the games we lost, but we have

majorly improved from last year and from the beginning of the season.”

Acheson leads the team in scoring with 10 points per game, and senior Alicia Gardner follows with eight.

Following are the most recent game results:  
**1/6: @ St. Anthony’s 49-44 L**

The Bears started off strong, tied in the first quarter but behind at halftime. The girls were struggling defensively coming back after a long break. After the half the score stayed close, but they came up short. Acheson led with 14 points.

**1/11: Hyde Park 71-50 L**

Brentwood was having a tough game in the first half struggling with fouls but regained their footing in the third quarter, scoring more than Hyde Park. Although the second half looked better, the girls couldn’t keep up in the final quarter. Junior Tynneson Allen led with 16 points, and Acheson had 14.

**1/14: @ Boerne Geneva 62-31 L**

With two key juniors missing, the girls pushed the pace but were beaten both offensively and defensively. After halftime the defense picked up intensity and the Lady Bears were able to keep the Eagles to only four points in the last quarter.

**1/20: @ Regents 44-39 W**

The Lady Bears came into the game with a win against Regents already, knowing what they needed to do. The girls had a tough time gaining a large lead on Regents for the first half but gained their footing. In a game with lots of fouls called, Brentwood was able to hang on for the win. Acheson led with 19 points and five assists, while Allen grabbed 18 rebounds.

**1/21: TMI-Episcopal 53-20 W**

The Lady Bears were able to pull two wins in two days. They started not as strong in the first quarter and struggled with fouls, they were able to improve on both offense and defense and come out with a big win.

**1/28: @ Saint Mary’s Hall 34-30 L**

In a crucial game, Brentwood came up short. The Bears started off strong offensively, but let off defensively, allowing their opponent too many points. In another game with many fouls called, the girls were up by two with two minutes left. With more fouls on the Bears and a three-pointer by St. Mary’s, BCS couldn’t execute and fell short by four points.

**2/1: @ Providence 54-47 L**

Acheson scored 38 points and Gardner had 12 rebounds, but BCS lost another crucial game to a team they beat in December.



photo: Yearbook

**Ready, aim** Junior Abbie Burcham takes a free throw on Feb. 1 in San Antonio.

# Swim team debuts, competes in state this week

By Reid Alexander

Recent morning announcements have reported the BCS swim team results, so this brings up the question for many: “We have a swim team?”

Yes, Brentwood Christian has a swim team, and their state competition will be on Feb. 8 at the Bill Walker pool in San Antonio.

In the past two decades, individual swimmers have come and gone at BCS, but this is the first official swim team. The swimmers are senior Zoe Roetter, freshman Gus Ebner, and freshman Reid Alexander.

The team has faced some obstacles as there is no official coach, because the team does not yet train together. Instead, swimmers work out with their private clubs, where they also swim at USA Swimming timed events. Also, the district meet was canceled last month because of a Covid exposure at the host school. Despite the obstacles the swimmers have placed well in meets.

On Jan. 24, the team competed in the TAPPS Division 2 Regional in San Antonio at the Bill Walker South Pool. Alexander finished second in the 500-meter freestyle and fifth in the 100 fly. Roetter placed seventh in both the 100 and 200 free. Ebner was 13th

in the 50 free and sixth in the 100 breast.

The first time the team swam together was in November at Texas School for the Deaf. They returned to TSD for meets on Dec. 11 and Jan. 8. Highlights included Roetter’s first-place finish in the 200 free in the latter meet.

Forming a team was the idea of Troy Alexander, the father of Reid, who is a first-year student at BCS. He spoke with athletic director Jeffrey Doege and other school officials about the idea of having his son competing in TAPPS swimming.

“It was at that point I found out about Zoe Roetter as someone who swam alone last year and competed under the BCS name,” he explained.

His son Reid found Gus, and soon the parents began to collaborate.

As Roetter is a senior she only gets one season, which she says is somewhat disappointing since she won’t get to see the program grow.



photo: Troy Alexander

**Few but mighty** Freshmen Reid Alexander (left) and Gus Ebner joined senior Zoe Roetter to form Brentwood Christian’s first swim team. The boys will compete at state in San Antonio on Feb. 8.

“But it is nice having a team, and I wish more people would join to keep the swim team alive,” she said.

Troy Alexander said there is plenty of room

for more swimmers, both at the middle school and high school levels.

“It would be great to one day be able to compete in relays,” he said.



# Talented boys' soccer team 'could do great things'

By William French

The varsity boys' soccer team is currently fourth in district with a 4-3 record as they make their way through the second half of their district schedule.

Seniors Nathan Joseph and Jack Leidlein lead the team with six goals apiece, followed by sophomore Renne Cooper with four. Sophomore Ike Ruiz leads the team in assists with six, followed by Joseph with five, and Cooper and Leidlein with three each.

"I think we have a very talented group of boys that could do great things, and the worst is behind us," head coach Cash Miller said, referring to three consecutive games against the three most difficult opponents.

Before every game assistant coach and former player Mason McCormick says the same thing: "Play our game, don't lose our mentality, keep the ball on the ground and combine passes." The coaches think the players have the potential to be the best team in the state, and they currently sit above reigning state champs TMI in the standings.

Following are the team's district results:

**1/4: @ St. Mary's Hall 2-0 W**

After controlling the ball and being up 1-0 by the half, the Bears put one more in to finish the game. Goals were scored by Joseph and Leidlein with assists from Cooper and

Joseph. "A great way to start the season, and a learning experience," senior Josh Trevino said.

**1/7: Hyde Park 3-0 W**

The first night game ended with another district win for Brentwood. McCormick called it "some of the best soccer I've ever seen on this field," as he estimated the Bears kept the ball 85% of the time. Leidlein scored twice and Cooper once. Joseph had all three assists.

**1/11: @ Regents 4-0 L**

As the sun went down and the rain started, Brentwood played the second-place team in district and played solid defense until an unfortunate own-goal. The Knights' speedy attackers got through to score three more times.

**1/18: San Antonio TMI 2-0 L**

The Bears held together the first 20 minutes of the game against the back-to-back defending state champions before conceding the first goal. It stayed 1-0 until the Panthers scored again midway through the second half.

**1/21: St. Michael's 2-0 L**

The Bears played well against the top team in district, but the Crusaders' offense broke through late in the first half and early in the second, and the Bears could not recover after that. "Disappointing – we need to regroup and do better going forward," Joseph said.

**1/25: Boerne Geneva 9-0 W**

Brentwood scored early and often against the last-place team in the district. Leidlein and



photo: Sydney Cooper

**Mismatch** Hyde Park's defender collapses as senior Nathan Joseph looks to score one of his two goals during Brentwood's dominating 5-0 victory on Jan. 28.

Joseph had three goals each, while Cooper scored two goals and senior Josh Trevino had one. Ruiz had six assists, followed by Leidlein with two and Cooper with one. Geneva players were extra physical throughout the game, and with 20 minutes remaining, an altercation on the field led to both players being sent off with red cards.

**1/28: @ Hyde Park 5-0 W**

On Panther turf right before the weekend, the Bears went back above .500 in district. The first three goals came late in the first half and the next two early in the second. Joseph and Ruiz each had two goals, and Cooper had a goal that Miller described as "the ugliest, most nasty goal I've seen."

# Girls' soccer losing, growing      Baseball team has big plans

By Taylor Cunningham

It has been a rough soccer season for the Lady Bears, as the young team has found it difficult to compete against their opponents.

"Even though we are struggling because we are inexperienced, the girls never give up and are very coachable," head coach Cash Miller said.

The varsity girls hold an 0-6 record, all of them district games, with two games canceled.

"The team has great chemistry on and off the field," sophomore Macie Griswold said. "We need to work on capitalizing on our chances at goal and being physical."

The limited roster of just 13 girls is filled with several underclassmen as well as players new to the sport or returning after a long intermission.

"We are very young and have time," Miller said. "It is one of the most athletic girls' teams I have ever had at BCS. Once we learn more about how soccer is played and use that ath-

leticism, I know we will be a difficult team to beat."

Miller said that each game, the team is gaining experience and learning how to connect better.

The girls opened their season on Jan. 4 with an 8-2 loss to St. Mary's Hall in San Antonio. Griswold scored a goal; their second was an own-goal by St. Mary's.

On Jan. 7, BCS hosted Hyde Park but was shut out 7-0. Their next game was a 8-0 loss at Regents. Ten days later, the Lady Bears were held scoreless in their 12-0 loss against the visiting St. Michael's Crusaders.

Despite exceptional goalie play in the second half by junior Ashlynn Alvarado, their next game was another 12-0 loss at home, this time against Boerne Geneva.

In a rematch with St. Mary's Hall at home on Jan. 31, Brentwood lost 7-2. Freshman Sofia Geevarghese scored in the first half, and Griswold had an impressive goal in the second half.

By Daniel Womack

After last week's bad weather, the varsity baseball team is ready to opens its long-awaited season with high expectations. Softball, meanwhile, faces an uphill battle as they return with nowhere near the experience of their baseball counterparts.

With a roster that includes nine seniors, including all-state infielder Jake Amoroso and all-state pitcher Seth Taylor, this year's baseball team has set lofty goals in preparation for the new season. Players and coaches alike agree that district and even the state tournament are real possibilities if they can improve consistently, work as a team, and bring the hype and enthusiasm it takes to compete at a state level.

"We want to get to the state tournament and have a chance at it all, but we will have to grow every day as a complete team," said head coach Jeffrey Doege, who is starting his fourth season coaching the Bears.

Placing second in district last year while going 9-1 has Brentwood players as well as fans expecting a very good season at the least. The team has five returning all-district players, including Amoroso, who led the team with a .522 batting average. But as is the case with most teams, the Bears will have to overcome obstacles such as losing some key players to graduation. The loss of center fielder Zack Billante and first-baseman/pitcher Riley Keesey will be felt, but Doege has other skilled and trusted players who are expected to step up and fill those spots.

Another obstacle the Bears will face involves finding a regular catcher. With senior catcher Ryan Crowe out with a neck injury, the position may be left to a skilled upperclassman or present an opportunity for a younger player to shine.

One of Brentwood's biggest strengths will be pitching. Both of the Bears' near-unhittable

see **BASEBALL**, page 8



# BCS library has long, winding history

continued from page 1

for the school's tiny office, which would double as the new library.

The library's growth rate increased when the school moved to its current location in 1981. Due to the school's small size, the library in the new building was located in a room the size of the office in the old building, but with more shelves. Soon the library grew so much that it was moved to the classroom across from the offices in the A building, which, aside from the Youth Center, was the only building at the time. As growing schools do, the school eventually needed that classroom and ended up moving the library to a large open space that is now the elementary library.

For a while there were no walls there, only rolling partitions. When it was time to add walls, the librarian decided that it would be too oppressive to have a library without windows, so the walls of the library stopped about three feet from the ceiling. The outside of these walls was covered with cork to make one giant bulletin board where teachers could display their students' work. It was only recently that these unique walls were taken out and replaced with the current walls of the library with big windows and double doors.

On top of the big wall renovation in the 1980s, the library was remodeled with newer shelves and newer decor. Due to Covid the elementary library isn't how it used to be because many of its tables had to be taken out in order to follow Covid guidelines and keep everyone safe.

In 1987, as Brentwood continued adding more grades and enrollment grew, the school partially completed the one-story front portion of what was then the High School Building (Building C) and moved into two classrooms. When the rest of the classrooms were completed in 1990, the secondary library was created



**Generation ago** Sandra Morrow (left), who served BCS as a librarian for 28 years before retiring in 2012, speaks to students in the elementary library in the early 1990s. Until recent years, the library had walls that stopped well short of the ceiling.

in a room about the size of a classroom.

Sandra Morrow, who was hired in 1984 as the school's first librarian, became the director over both libraries. She started the book fair at BCS, and in the early 1990s she started something that had a much greater impact. Morrow helped create a series of three reading awards to feature wholesome, age-appropriate books for Christian schools. The program has grown since then and is currently housed at Harding University and overseen by the National Christian School Association. Known as the Triple Crown Awards, the program is found online at [triplecrownawards.org](http://triplecrownawards.org).

For a while, Morrow was able to manage watching over both libraries, but as the school grew a secondary librarian was added. The library also needed to grow, and so the wall between the secondary library and the adjacent classroom was taken down in order to give the library the space it needed.

Through the years, not only has the appearance of the shelves changed, but also the placement of those shelves. Until recently, the library was also filled with rows of books. These didn't allow for much space within the library. There were only a few tables where people could work and collaborate on schoolwork.

As use of computers and digital sources rose, the library became less accommodating for that type of work.

To fix the problem of an outdated system, the rows of shelves were taken out and replaced with shelves that lined the walls of the library. This big change resulted in the library having more space for schoolwork and people wishing to have a quiet place to work.

Along with the rows of shelves that lined the walls of the library, computers, tables, and couches were added to make it more work friendly. Changes to the secondary library made it more tech focused in an effort to better accommodate students.

Morrow, the mother of two BCS graduates including fifth-grade teacher Paul Morrow, retired in 2012. Her career began in an era of electric typewriters, card catalogs, and long hours processing books. She treasures the memory of a time when a young reader, eager to read a new book but having to wait for the book to be processed, said to her, "If I can't check it out yet, may I just touch it?"

By the end of her years as a librarian, Morrow was benefiting from modern-day automation, and students had shifted toward internet research. While she has witnessed much change, she is pleased with the big picture.

"I am happy to say that there is one constant in the ever-evolving libraries, media centers, learning resource centers, and whatever they may be called in the next generation," Morrow said. "That is that the state of reading and research, regardless of format, is alive and well."

## Baseball, softball

continued from page 7

pitchers are back as seniors: Taylor, who racked up 65 Ks last season, and Jack Spring, with 56 Ks and an ERA of 0.76.

Both pitchers are very excited about the season and have set high goals.

"I hope to (reach) the state tournament, proving to everyone that we are as good as we say," Taylor said. "And I hope to keep hitting the ball great, pitching good games, and bringing the energy to be the best leader I can."

Spring also has high expectations for the team and for himself.

"We are all hoping to get that ring at the end of the year, and we've all been looking forward to it," he said. "Personally, I need to hit better than I did."

Along with Doege, assistant coaches Greg Gentry and Charles Bollinger are back guiding the Bears in practices, which began on Jan. 17.

The softball team began their after-school practices on the same day, but no longer at Balcones. Instead, they will practice and play games at Havins Fields at Walnut Creek Park, which is much closer.

Under head softball coach Rory Tyson, the Lady Bears softball team is coming off a successful season in which they made the playoffs and won 14 games. But the loss of four-year starting pitcher Molly Stewart and catcher Aurora Tyson does put Tyson and the Lady Bears at a disadvantage. However, Tyson said she is ready for the challenge and expects it to be a good season.

"I like taking raw talent and seeing what we can do with it, and it should be a fun year," Tyson said.

Sophomore McKenna Counts takes over for Stewart as the Lady Bears' lone pitcher, and sophomore Keira Black will return at centerfield or shortstop. Senior Taylor Kerr will play a big role in the infield as well as with her bat, Tyson said, while junior Ashlynn and senior Ava Alvarado "will solidify the infield."

"Even though the loss of a few key players from last year makes things difficult, we are working on rebuilding and regrowing our team, and I believe we will do pretty well in district," Counts said.

The Lady Bears' first game is scheduled to be at San Marcos Academy on Monday Feb. 14.

"Even with so many rookies, I'm confident we will be competitive and still be able to make a run for the playoffs," Tyson said.



**Fireside chat** Elementary principal Jeremy Thornton reads to students at last month's book fair in the FLC.