

see pg. 1



# THE BEAR FACTS

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BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MARCH 2022

see pg. 3



## Italy's marvels await BCS seniors

By Anjie Popoola

During spring break, some people clean, some spend time with family and friends, and others just relax, but this spring break the seniors traveled thousands of miles away from Austin to see all of the wonders that Italy has to offer. The seniors will spend a total of eight days visiting five cities and viewing world-famous art, breath-taking architecture, bustling marketplaces, and many different massive cathedrals.

"I am most excited to eat yummy Italian food and see all of the beautiful Italian buildings and architecture," senior Bailey Harris said.

The trip to Italy is Brentwood's first trip to Europe since the pandemic began, and it is also Brentwood's first trip to Italy since 2017. Instead of Europe, last year's class enjoyed the sun in Hawaii.

"It's just exciting because it feels like back to normal to go on a trip like this," class sponsor Denise Riley said.

The group of 32 seniors and nine adults boarded a flight in Austin at 12:25 p.m. on March 10, and after a two-hour layover in Philadelphia, they were scheduled to land in



photo: getyourguide.com

**Roma!** Finished in 80 AD, the Colosseum, in Rome, awaits the 32 BCS seniors.

Rome on March 11 at 9:10 a.m. They plan to spend two days in Rome, visiting ancient monuments, buildings filled with history, and record-breaking churches.

Highlights from Rome will include the fascinating Pantheon and St. Peter's Basilica, the

see **SENIORS**, page 3

## 'Unspoken' blesses with songs, funds

By Laynie Ruiz

Featuring the band Unspoken as well as more than 150 auction items, BCS held its 31st annual Partnership Dinner on March 5 at the event's most common venue through the years: the Renaissance Austin Hotel.

Before the dinner, attendees perused the silent auction items outside the ballroom before finding their tables. By the time desserts were finished, the five members of Unspoken were ready to take the stage.

The award-winning Christian band played several hits, finishing with a new release. Between songs, lead-singer Chad Mattson shared humorous nuggets about raising children, and encouraged the audience with testimony from his own personal struggles. He stressed Paul's words in Philippians, that God "who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Brentwood CFO Jeff Morris said the event brought in a record in gross revenue.

"The dinner was a great success, both from an event standpoint and financially," he said.

Morris explained that he was able to bring Unspoken to the dinner through the Airbox company. A representative from Airbox told Morris about how he has a non-profit organization called 4:12 Kids. Unspoken performed for them, and the representative mentioned he could bring them to the dinner, to which the school agreed.

The live auction with a professional auctioneer followed Unspoken's set, and featured a hotly contested vacation package to Colorado, as well as a NASCAR package and the coveted BCS parking spot.

This year's Paddles Up initiative reached its goal of \$40,000 for a new classroom two-way intercom system. President Jay Burcham said this system is special because it can give announcements exclusively to different grades. It also includes a panic button in case of emergency, per

see **DINNER**, page 3

## BCS: Humble roots, firm foundation

*A History of BCS, Part 1 of 2*

By Lucy Belcik

Today's Brentwood Christian students have grown accustomed to many things the school offers. The school would be a remarkably different place without them – a cafeteria, for instance, or centers for athletics and fine arts, or extracurricular activities and the budget to accommodate them. All of these things are enjoyed and expected of the school. But in the early years of Brentwood, none of these familiar things yet existed, and decades passed before they did.

Brentwood's beginnings can't be found in the sprawling campus students know today. Rather, they can be found in a few small Sunday school classrooms about five miles away almost 60 years ago.

Brentwood Christian School was founded in July of 1963, when John F. Kennedy

see **BCS HISTORY**, page 5



photo: BCS archives

**Prehistoric** Elementary students pose by "the Dinosaur," built by treehouse master Gary Moss, in 1987. The site where this playground once existed has become a small parking lot and grassy slope that leads to the dual hallways of building A.



Keep an Open Mind with Kaitlyn Weilemann

# Editor shares eight favorites from the big screen

As someone who spends too much time melting into the couch watching TV, I try to expose myself to lots of different kinds of media and perspectives so that I can consider ideas outside of my bubble. Though I definitely don't agree with all of the ideas in my favorite movies, it's because I gave them this fair chance that I have such an eclectic mix of favorites. As a brief disclaimer, my opinions and views are not necessarily those of the school leadership.

First up are several movies that I'll never get tired of no matter how many times I've seen them, which is more than I can count. The animated classic *Treasure Planet* features Jim Hawkins, a loveable thrillseeker who has always longed for adventure out in space away from home. Without spoiling anything important, Jim joins a group of sailors with the secret goal of finding a rumored treasure and finds himself in the presence of some colorful company.

A similar tale of a fictional world with a relatable main character is *Big Hero 6*, which breaks your heart from the very start before things get brighter again. A heartbroken Hiro is

picked up by the loveable Baymax, who comforts him in his depression and advises him to get outdoors to make himself feel better, but Hiro's past invention now commands his future. Hiro meets up with his late brother's old friends and creates a superhero-inspired lineup of heroes including both himself and Baymax to fight the anonymous villain who has stolen Hiro's past invention to use for evil, and the rest is history.

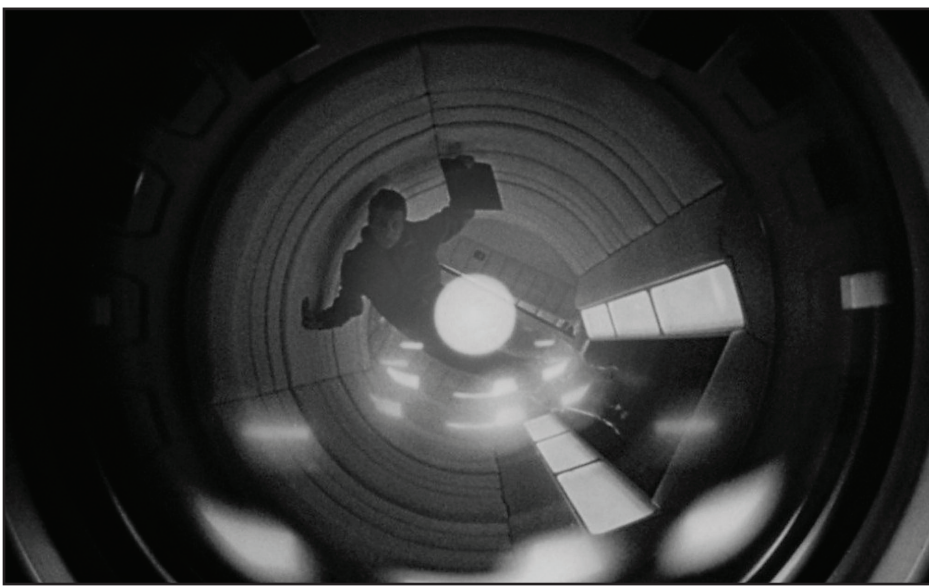
Less of a hero's journey -esque tale and more of a comedy, Adam Sandler's *Bedtime Stories* is a story that I'm a guilty fan of. Placed in an odd rendition of the real world similar to *Holes*, the movie tells the story of an underappreciated son of a hotel owner, Skeeter Bronson, and how his menial life is turned upside down. When he babysits for his niece and nephew and tucks them into bed, he bonds with them by telling them an elaborate bedtime story using the things they add to his crafty narrative. The following day, several specific and otherwise weird things happen to Skeeter, so it's revealed that the things in said bedtime stories come true, and Skeeter tries to manipulate this to his advantage.

*Treasure Planet*, *Big Hero 6*, and *Bedtime Stories* are all very different movies, to put it lightly, but all three are timeless and unique in a way seldom achieved and continue to be some of my first picks for a "good" movie no matter the occasion.

The trifecta of sequels in my not-so-humble opinion is made up of *High School Musical 2*, *The Princess Diaries 2*, and, yes, *Cars 2*.

Of course, *High School Musical 2* is by far the best of the trilogy, from the music to the drama to the romance. Troy and Gabriella have their first taste of real conflict in their relationship because of Troy's passion for basketball and newfound recognition, which is only further fueled by the villain, Sharpay. Despite her positioning as the antagonist, I find Sharpay to be the most enjoyable character of them all, which is perfectly shown in her solo song "Fabulous." A family friendly classic from my childhood with conflict and a cast of semi-realistic characters, *High School Musical 2* will forever remain a summer classic.

Second in the trifecta is *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*, which might be the least recognizable of the three. Starring both a young Anne Hathaway and Chris Pine, the sequel to the equally as iconic and formative *The Princess Diaries* expands on the royal adventures of Mia Thermopolis and her search to find true love. Except now, she's faced with the decision to either give up her throne and be able to marry for love or marry quickly in order to fill the Genovian requirement of having a husband so that she can continue on her path to becoming queen.



“Open the pod bay door” Infamous antagonist Hal in Stanley Kubrick’s 2001: A Space Odyssey stares out with a reflection of main character Dave in his reflection.

Perhaps the most controversial of the three is *Cars 2*, which is widely regarded among unofficial critics and movie buffs to be the worst *Cars* movie and the worst Pixar movie. However, I'm right. The movie stars beloved side character and best friend of Lightning McQueen, Tow Mater, who has no place in a fancy shmancy British spy story. But here he is, mistaking wasabi for pistachio ice cream. In comparison, *Cars* is a slow origin story of an unlikeable character that manages to become even more unlikeable through character development and growth, and *Cars 3* wasn't a necessary addition. But *Cars 2*, with exciting action sequences, exotic locations, and new, dynamic characters, is a cinematic masterpiece.

These are by no means joke entries. I really do enjoy these movies for the reasons I described above, but they undoubtedly make for much less serious watches. The previous movies aren't fixed in their spots, and there's plenty of others that I could've mentioned in their place. But my top two movies of all time, likely to never change, happen to both be space or alien related – the first being *Arrival* and the next being *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

*Arrival* opens as if it might be telling the story of a world-altering apocalypse, following Amy Adams' character Louise Banks. Louise is a linguist who has been contacted in the past to translate top secret messages for the United States government, and this time she is sought after again. The audience is kept in the dark just as much as Louise is, discovering what mission she's supposed to be working on, what her role is, and who she has to work alongside. I had *Arrival* spoiled for me before I watched

it for myself and I really regret it, so I'll spare you the same pain. In short, just go watch it.

*2001: A Space Odyssey* is a popular pick for the best movie of all time mainly because of how fundamental it is to the sci-fi horror genre. Fair warning that spoilers lie ahead, so proceed with caution. Along with the obvious ingenuity for the time and the artful shots, the evil AI Hal is a perfect villain for the isolated setting of two astronauts in deep space. Beyond just being evil, Hal's presence also calls into question several angles of morality including how to convey to computers the same moral values instilled in humans.

The weird shots of monkeys at the beginning are nothing short of iconic because of how bizarre they seem at first, but in the context of the whole film, the odd scenes highlight its themes of human invention and serve to make humanity on earth seem small in comparison to the vastness of space.

Another weird section of *2001* is the notorious ending with Dave's transportation through a wormhole and his rapid aging and de-aging. Uh yeah, that's weird. It was weird the first time I watched the film and it's weird every rewatch, but it's because of how Stanley Kubrick committed to the weirdness in pursuit of making an existential point that I can appreciate it nonetheless. Maybe the point is that Dave has transcended into a different state of being either because he survived Hal's onslaught or just by chance; or maybe the point is just to stump a bunch of movie critics. Either way, *2001: A Space Odyssey* takes the cake as my favorite movie because of the depth of the material and how one-of-a-kind it will always be.

## 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).

# Baseball Bears red hot

By Sam Benton

After going 4-0 in their last tournament in Castroville at Medina Valley, the Bears are 14-1-1 and on a nine-game win streak. Brentwood has six more games before district starts on March 29 against St.Michael’s.

“Right now the Bears are hot and we don’t plan on stopping anytime soon,” senior Seth Taylor said. “Our goal is to be number one in the state, holding that championship trophy.”

With tough competition coming up in district, head coach Jeffrey Doege as well as assistant coaches Charles Bollinger and Greg Gentry have worked to keep the team in a constant state of improvement. Coach Bollinger frequently tells the team that they should never be satisfied and should always believe they can do better.

Doege expected the early success but knows it doesn’t mean much yet.

“I think as a team we still have a lot of room for improvement,” he said. “We set high expectations for ourselves so that we can compete at our highest level.”

The Bears’ top three hitters have been senior Jake Amoroso, who is batting .605, followed by senior Taylor (.538) and sophomore Tabor Tyson (.522). In all, eight players are batting

over .300.

Amoroso also leads the team with 26 hits, 26 RBIs, and 12 doubles. Taylor leads with 25 runs scored, followed by Tyson with 22.

On the mound, Taylor has a 3.58 ERA and leads the Bears with 49 strikeouts in 27.1 innings. Senior Jack Spring leads with an ERA of 0.70, and has 37 strikeouts in 20 innings.

Following are the team’s recent results:

**2/8: Schertz John Paul II 12-2 W**

Brentwood got six runs in the first inning and another six in the second. Seniors Sam Benton and Ben Copeland each had three RBIs. Spring struck out five batters in two innings.

**2/12: Bay Area Christian 14-12 L**

Taylor struggled against last year’s 4A state champions. Brentwood had trouble with errors and fell way behind. Down 14-7, BCS fought to put together five runs. Amoroso had four hits including three doubles and five RBIs.

**2/15: Savio 12-1 W**

Brentwood scored 11 unanswered runs in the first three innings. Excellent pitching by Spring kept the Eagles off the bases. Taylor, Tyson, and Benton each had two RBIs.

**2/18: Bracken Christian 5-3 W**

BCS fell behind but came back. Senior Will

see **BASEBALL**, page 7

# Dinner

continued from page 1

Texas public school law. When pressed, the panic button can call either the office or security, depending on the emergency.

Themed baskets were again part of the silent auction. Each basket is sponsored by a different grade, and many students fill the

item sign-up sheets quickly. This year’s theme was different foods.

Of course, the Teacher Time auction items were back, with even more opportunities than before. There was an afternoon of disc golf with Mr. Stow, Mr. Mayfield, and Mr. Harper; a day of training and Smoothie King with Coach Doege; a Russian tea party with this year’s new high school English teacher, Mrs. Goodwin; and many more.



**Joyful noise** The award-winning Christian band Unspoken entertained and uplifted attendees at the Partnership Dinner on March 5 at the Renaissance Hotel.

# Seniors tour Italian cities

continued from page 1

largest church in the world. Seniors will also see the Colosseum, Arch of Constantine, Arch of Titus, and Roman Forum, guided by a local historian.

In the past, multiple hotels have been used to give students more time to explore each place, and this year is no different with the seniors staying in four hotels. After two days in Rome, the group will drive to Florence for two days and take in even more historic art and architecture at places like the Galleria dell’ Accademia, where they will see “The David.” Other stops include the Uffizi Gallery, the Santa Maria del Fiore, and the Ponte Vecchio, the oldest surviving bridge in Florence.

The next day, the seniors stop in Verona on their way to Venice to view Juliet’s balcony and the famous arena. A major highlight in Venice will be St. Mark’s Basilica and The Doge’s Palace, which are attached buildings where the Italian government has been seated. A three-minute walk through the bustling streets will bring the seniors to the Torre dell’ Orologio and the Bridge of Sighs. After that, they will admire the colorful Rialto Markets

and the Rialto Bridge.

The last day of exploring is spent in Milan, where the seniors will visit the Duomo of Milan, or Milan Cathedral, where the Archbishop of Milan is seated. The next morning, March 18, the group will fly out from Milan and back to Austin to conclude their big trip.

The seniors collected their documents, got their booster shots, and scheduled their Covid tests as spring break got closer. There were many meetings where seniors received information about Italy and a rundown of what the trip timeline would look like.

“I’m excited to go to the Florentine leather market; I’m looking to buy a nice pair of moccasins,” senior Will Hughes said.

The science department will be well represented on the trip with teachers Michelle Mallett, Madison Pamplin, and Diann Sloan all coming along. The two senior class sponsors, Riley and Karla Roberson, are also coming along, and so are three BCS parents.

Preparing for the trip wasn’t easy because of Italy’s constantly changing guidelines for international travel. As new vaccines and booster shots have been coming out Italy has made getting the booster shot a requirement for getting past its borders.

# Students visit U.S. capital

By Evelyn Lee

Bags are being packed, and excitement is brewing. Washington D.C. and its treasures await. Twenty eager eighth graders will leave Austin early in the morning on March 12 for their annual, fun-filled trip to the nation’s capital.

Accompanying the class will be their history teacher, Adam Stow, along with secondary teachers Lindsey Stow and Phyllis Cooper, and nine parent chaperones. The group will return home on March 15 in the late evening.

In the course of four days, the eighth-grade class will tour through the Smithsonian museums, marvel at monuments, and hang out at historical sights like Mount Vernon. Students will also take a trip to Arlington National Cemetery, where four students will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Through an essay-writing contest, Stow selected students Rylee Johnson, Caroline Nagle, Parker Saxon, and Isa Tucker to lay the wreath.

While several visiting and touring restrictions have been imposed on the trip – from national safety to Covid – the class will still be able to experience many of the sights from

a distance and receive plenty of photo opportunities. Sites such as the U.S. Capitol Building, the Library of Congress, and the Treasury building have closed their doors to tour groups.

Students will still tour the National Cathedral, the National Archives, and Mount Vernon, as well as the Smithsonians and outdoor monuments.

“I’m super excited to go and see some museum exhibits, and also see my friends help with the wreath laying,” Zuriel Davis said.

Stow said he is most excited to see and take his students to the Lincoln Memorial again, and tour the Museum of the Bible.

Brentwood will once again partner with School Tours of America after several successful past tours. Guiding this trip will be the much-loved David Elliot, who has shown Brentwood students around D.C. for the past few years. School Tours of America brings a Christian perspective to their tours, one that Stow finds very important for students.

“Perspective we gain during the trip helps guide us toward service opportunities and teaches us to love and appreciate all those who have been a part of our history, as well as those who are part of our lives today,” Stow explained.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Ryan Crowe*

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

# Cheerful ‘car guy’ speaks with soul, models grit

By Davin Ha

Who has slicked-back hair, loves helping others, and has the best music taste around? With a description like that it has to be the one and only Ryan Crowe of the senior class.

Although Ryan has only been at Brentwood for four years, he says he has made bonds and relationships with so many special people, reassuring everyone that Brentwood Christian is a place like no other.

“B-wood is a special place with special peeps,” he says in typical Ryan Crowe vernacular that everyone is familiar with. “If you don’t believe me, look and ask around at what it’s like at other places. They’re not even close.”

Teachers often describe Ryan as a problem solver of “great tenacity.” Whether it’s in school or on the field, Ryan is known to put his whole heart into everything he does. He says this is due to his dad teaching him to think critically about his surroundings from a young age, in order to see the big picture.

“Starting when I was about 20 months old, he relentlessly taught me generic processing. He processed everything right along with me. Literally 30,000 questions back and forth,” he explains. “Once you learn that process, you can find the answer.”

Ryan’s baseball coach, Jeffrey Doege says, “He’s a very intelligent guy and a hard worker, as well as a very respectful young man.”

Ryan first heard about BCS while attending AHB, a little private school in the old Hyde Park neighborhood. Ryan knew some of the Bears from the baseball team and therefore was brimming with excitement when he came for his freshman year.

“Through baseball, though, I knew lots of awesome Brentwood people even before then,” he says. “I feel like I was at home here even before I got here.”

Baseball player Jack Spring recalls meeting Ryan in his sophomore year and feeling like he could instantly tell Ryan anything.

“He just has that trusting vibe about him, you know? Like you could tell him anything and he wouldn’t judge you,” he says.

Ryan’s presence on campus has been very evident in the way he is often helping students with difficult homework and asking classmates how they are doing and checking up on them. He is also an office aide in the morning, making sure to help students who come in asking questions as well as helping executive assistant Jessica Doege with tasks like giving passes.

Mrs. Doege says she couldn’t imagine a day in the office without Ryan’s smiling face.

“Ryan is a young man with a true heart of service,” she says. “He is such a help and en-

couragement to each of us in the office.”

Another way Ryan likes to serve the BCS community is by commentating over sports games alongside teacher and livestream boss Jimmie Harper.

“Ryan Crowe is an absolute legend,” Harper says. “I consider him one of the founding fathers of Brentwood’s livestream.”

Ryan says he really enjoys the work. “I’m always flapping my gums,” he says. “Laughing and yelling at the TV. I hit the pause button a lot. I’m like, ‘Hold on. What did I just see?’ Running livestreams can be tense at times, but I ain’t skeered.

“My great grandpa used to say, ‘That’s life in the city.’”

Many students can identify Ryan when he’s commentating by his unique vocabulary and accent that resembles old jazz musicians. Ryan has no explanation for this almost too-cool-to-be-true accent, but that it might have originated from Ryan’s love for old soul jazz music.

“I think the way you speak comes out the way you think and feel it,” he says. “There’s a James Brown quote I like that says ‘sing it with some soul.’ The way I speak is simply what my soul is like.”

Ryan’s tenacity and eagerness to go above the status quo is something he carries into ev-

erything he does in life, whether that be school, friendships, or livestreaming, but especially baseball. Ryan has played on the baseball team since he was a freshman. But in the middle of his junior year he had become unable to play due to a neck injury that he sustained 17 years prior. It’s really nothing you’ve seen or ever heard of before. This injury is so new to the medical field that Ryan’s doctors only have a theory as to what happened.

The theory goes that when Ryan was born the bones in his neck were misaligned, specifically his C1 and C2 vertebrae. This was left undetected and unchecked for the majority of his life up until his sophomore year, when he began to experience extreme pain in his neck as well as migraines.

Ryan would eventually get his neck realigned, but a new problem presented itself. He would have to start over completely, retraining the muscles in his neck. This put Ryan back at square one in terms of balance, reaction, and even hand-eye coordination. His baseball career took a hit to the face, but, “That’s life in the city.”

Ryan saw this problem and chose to turn it into an opportunity to learn and hone his emotional and physical skills. He was adamant on staying positive and working hard to get better through PT.

“It’s been a crazy journey. Having this rare neck issue has forced me to become better about managing my mechanisms and processes a lot more, especially managing day-to-day things on an emotional and physical level,” he says.

This positivity, determination, and pure grit Ryan displays is evident in class and on the field.

“He shows his positive attitude all the time. Although he can’t play this season, he’s always there to help,” Jack explains. “Whatever it is, Ryan’s an all-around hall-of-fame human being.”

Coach Doege says that everyone on the team can rely on Ryan for anything.

“You’d want nine Ryans on your team, because you know you can count on him through thick and thin.”

Ryan’s father, Allen, works as a contract manufacturer

for the U.S. military, in which he builds parts and works on machinery. His father’s love for working with machines bled onto Ryan, which is one of the reasons Ryan has such a strong passion for working on cars. He says his love for cars is no more than a genetic trait that is passed down by Crowe family men.

“My dad is a car guy. My grandpa was a car guy. My great grandpa was a car guy. Before that there were no cars. So I guess we got in early.”

Ryan remembers his love for cars starting as early as when he was five years old.

“When I was a baby, my dad had like 11 cars. Not fancy per se; just different, cool or unique ones for whatever reason,” he says. “We kinda think about cars the way most people think about outfits. I love all of it.”

Ryan’s love for cars doesn’t just stop at the inner workings and mechanics regarding a car’s parts, but it also encompasses racing. Formula 1 racing is something he enjoys keeping up with, including new car technology.

“F1 is certainly the pinnacle. It’s where the absolute best of the best are allowed to operate without restriction,” he explains, as he happily goes down a rabbit hole of Formula 1 racing and mechanics.

Ryan says he feels very comfortable at Brentwood because it feels more like a family than a school. In a family everyone goes through things together. When one student is struggling, there are students around to lift him up.

“My favorite thing is seeing a unique individual, with unique traits, fight their unique battles and overcome them,” Ryan says.

Ryan has made many memories at Brentwood with many people, but choosing a favorite is impossible.

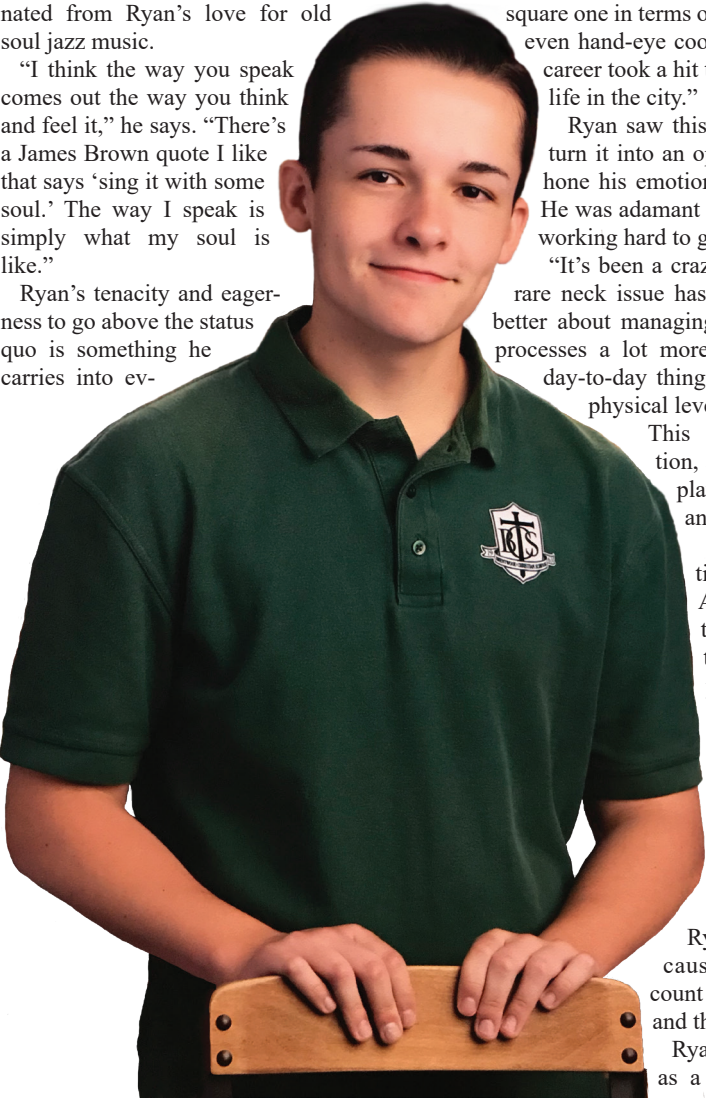
“There are so many. So many, in fact, that it all seems like one long perpetual favorite memory,” he says.

Ryan says he is especially grateful to be able to learn and grow in a community that is focused on spirituality and development of personal faith.

“My faith runs simultaneously and congruent to my everyday life. I would say that I am absolutely a spiritual person,” he explains, and this is evident to those who have witnessed Ryan speak during Bible lessons or chapel.

Ryan is committed to Texas A&M, where he plans to study economics. He says he doesn’t know what his end game is, but he’s sure that if he handles his business he’ll end up where he’s supposed to be. He adds that he will come back to visit all his Brentwood “peeps” after graduation, saying that BCS “isn’t a place you forget.”

Wherever he goes, Ryan knows he brings his Brentwood family with him in heart and spirit.





# BCS History

continued from page 1

was president, and included kindergarten and first-grade classes. The school was first held in the educational wing of Brentwood Church of Christ, which in those days was located in Austin’s Brentwood neighborhood, a few blocks north of McCallum High School and just across the street from Brentwood Elementary School. After the church made the move to its current location on North Lamar Boulevard, the old church buildings became the home of Hope Chapel, and have remained so since.

Mary Bess Harkins, who had first envisioned the school, served as Brentwood’s first principal and teacher. A nursery class and two pre-school classes were later added.

For several years the school offered only kindergarten and first grade, which was common among churches in those days. Public schools did not offer kindergarten or admit children to first grade if their birthdays fell after Sep. 1.

It was a little over a decade later, in 1974, that parents first petitioned the church to form a new school board and to expand the school to high school grades, one grade at a time. These parents proposed a school designed to equip children with a biblical worldview that permeated every dimension of life and to foster life-long Christian faith, beginning in their earliest years.

The proposed board was appointed a year later by school elders. Early board members included some who are still involved in the life of the church and school today, such as Dan Merrell, Michael Weed, and Marquita Moss.

“Support for Christian education beyond first grade was minimal at the time (of the school’s founding),” says Moss, explaining why Brentwood remained such a small school in its early years.

Part of being small was having no cafete-

ria, so all students brought their lunches from home. Becky Stewart, who began teaching at BCS in 1978, recalls special fast-food lunches the students got to have once a week.

“Wednesdays were special lunch days: parents took orders and delivered fast food,” said Stewart. “For example, one Wednesday would be Whataburger Day, another Taco Bell Day.”

In 1979, with a new school board and Brentwood now offering classes through the fourth grade, the elders of Brentwood Church of Christ approved the board’s plan to continue adding one grade per year, with the addition of the first high school grade in 1983. They knew this would require a move to a larger campus, and supporters of the school began to work with church members to raise funds to construct new buildings for the church and school. These new buildings would eventually be built on 44 acres outside the city limits at 11908 North Lamar Boulevard, which many will recognize as Brentwood’s current location.

Moss, at the time chairman of the board, resigned to act as principal of the school. Having also recently quit her job at the University of Texas, Moss tells a story of how, with the school in debt, short two teachers, and without enough to pay the teachers they had, the vision of Brentwood continued on.

Moss had been working tirelessly for weeks prior to the start of term, searching for recruits from church directories and the congregation of Brentwood to fill the empty positions. It was one week before teachers were due to report, and she had still made no progress.

“I got down on my knees and prayed,” said Moss. “I asked, ‘Lord, if this school is really your will – not just my idea that I expected you to bless – I need to know.’”

Moss prayed for three specific requests: first- and second-grade teachers, 20 new students, and a part-time job at UT so she would be able to serve as principal without pay. Within two weeks, Moss had found experienced teachers for both grades, 20 new students, and had a call from UT asking her to teach part-time.

“From the beginning, it was clearly His school,” said Moss.

It was at the start of this new school year, with Brentwood adding the fifth grade, that the effects of Brown vs. The Board of Education were finally seen in the capital city of Texas. Although the historic ruling against segregation of schools had been



photo: Lucy Belcik

**The old Brentwood** Many people associated with BCS today recall the school’s previous location at 6701 Arroyo Seco, now Hope Chapel, across the street from Brentwood Elementary. When the school moved in 1981, it added the seventh grade.

decided 26 years prior, one-way busing and little effort on the part of Austin Independent School District to integrate had kept diversity in schools mostly the same.

In 1980 the court ordered AISD to begin cross-town busing in order to integrate the

see **HISTORY**, page 8

## Recollections from a BCS legend

By PJ Heimermann

Forty years ago, in 1982, I rode up to the school for an interview to be the new PE teacher. I rode on a Suzuki 185 road-‘ill’egal dirt bike. I remember wearing a skinny, satin, navy blue tie that was in at the time.

Marquita Moss interviewed me. They called me the next day and hired me. School started the next day. I had about eight hours to make up what I was going to do/teach the next day. Marquita gave me a chance to prove myself. I was fresh out of college and had no teaching certification.

Up to that point, PE classes were basically just an extra recess period. There was no structure or curriculum which I later developed for K-12. I would make all the students come in the gym and stand on the sideline in a straight line. We did some calisthenics and then would do various activities. All the teachers were so excited that PE was now legit and structured. It was always nice to have guest teachers like “Mr. G” who taught them (and me) basic gymnastics.

The gym floor was concrete. Basketball games were difficult. Referees allowed travels because there was no way to stop your dribble without sliding. When we began adding grades in high school, the 3-point line came into being. We had just carpeted the floor but instead of spending the money on redoing parts of the carpet, I bought green

tape and would tape the 3-point line in every week. Sometimes during games, the line would begin coming off and at times players’ sneakers would stick to the line and rip off a good section of it. “Time-Out!”

BCS got a good deal with me. I had a four-figure salary my first year. Within a couple of years, I was coaching two football teams, three basketball teams and four track teams on top of teaching all the PE classes all day. My office was the janitor closet with one light bulb, so this all seemed to fit the scenario well.

I worked at Oshman’s Sporting Goods store at night in Highland Mall so that I’d have enough money to eat.

In the early days, I would also be asked to teach Science, Banking/Personal Finance and Choir to the middle schoolers to make a little extra cash. After almost blowing up the school and setting it on fire, they decided to just leave me in the gym.

One of the Earth Science students asked if she could make a miniature volcano at home and bring it in to light. I said, “Sure.”

We lit it in the classroom and what I thought would be some liquid bubbling over the edge of the ‘mountain’ turned into a spewing flame about three feet high. Next thing you know, the fire alarm went off and some of the teachers started freaking out. You couldn’t see across the room because of the smoke.

see **RECOLLECTIONS**, page 8



photo: BCS archives

**Multi-function** Those who came to BCS after 2014 never saw the “hole” in the wall of the FLC, which was the stage from 1981-2011. And yes, the early 80s featured a concrete gym floor.



# Girls end impressive season

By Karlee Lawrence

After making the playoffs for the first time in four years, the Lady Bears fell short 49-35 to Houston Incarnate Word on Feb. 18 in Corpus Christi. While there was some disappointment, there was also a lot of satisfaction from the accomplishments from the young team.

Head coach Theresa Nunn said she is very happy with the Lady Bears' achievement and how they have developed as a team.

"So proud of my girls for making playoffs when others thought we wouldn't," Nunn said.

The Lady Bears, matched with a higher ranked team, came out strong defensively, jumping in passing lanes and keeping active. But while their shots were not falling in, the Angels were able to excel offensively. The Bears weren't able to keep up in the second quarter and fell behind by nearly 20 points.

Coming back after the half the Bears were able to draw fouls and make it to the free throw line. They made a major comeback, owning the third quarter and pulling to within 10 points. But that was as close as they could get.

"We played really hard but started up too late," said sophomore Aubrey Acheson, who led BCS with 18 points. "They were a good team; we just needed to come out a little stronger."

The Lady Bears ended their season 7-9 in

district (9-15 overall). With a new coach and young players, they still achieved many things and are looking even stronger for next year, Nunn added.

Senior Alicia Gardner took a lot of satisfaction from the season.

"I think this season is personally the best I've ever been a part of," she said. "I'm sad to go, but I know the team will only go up from here."

Acheson led the team with 13 points per game, and junior Tynneson Allen led with seven rebounds.

Following are results of the team's final district games:

**2/8: @ Hyde Park 78-46 L**

The Lady Bears trailed by 20 points after the first quarter. But they began driving to the basket and forcing turnovers, making it closer at halftime. In the second half BCS made a run but was not able to hold the Panthers. Acheson led with 20 points and Allen had 15 rebounds.

**2/11: St. Anthony's 58-41 W**

With many supporters for senior night and hopes for the playoffs, the Lady Bears were able to execute the offense. Defensively the Lady Bears caused chaos, jumping in the passing lanes, forcing turnovers. The Bears ended up building a lead and got an important victory to qualify for playoffs. Gardner led with 23 points and Acheson followed with 18.

# Softball starts strong

Coach Rory Tyson has Brentwood Christian's softball team off to a good start in a season that she anticipated would involve some rebuilding after the loss of key players from last year's team. The Bears entered this week with a 4-3 record as they prepare for the upcoming district games.

Sophomore McKenna Counts leads the Bears as their only pitcher, and Tyson said she has done a great job improving her control and speed. She also said a team strength is the infield, all of whom are returning starters. The outfielders, she said, are young but work hard.

"They will be busy in district, because our district teams have strong bats," Tyson said.

Brentwood now plays home games at Walnut Creek, after two decades at Balcones.

Following are results of the games so far:

**2/14: San Marcos Academy 19-4 W**

Sophomore Keira Black opened the season on a tear, going 3-for-3 with a double and triple, and scoring four runs. Sophomore Joy Wilson also had three hits, and pitcher McKenna Counts picked up the win with six strikeouts.

**2/17: Copperas Cove Tourn. L L W**

The Lady Bears opened up with a tough

challenge, losing 9-1 to the Copperas Cove JV. Next up was the Temple JV, and Brentwood fell just short with a 10-9 loss. Black had another three-hit game, and Counts hit her first career home run.

The girls picked up a 12-1 win against Waco Connally JV in their final game. Counts struck out seven batters to pick up the win. At the plate, the Bears got two hits apiece from Black, Wilson, Counts, and junior Ashlynn Alvarado.

**2/28: Concordia 7-6 W**

Batting in the bottom of the seventh inning with the score tied 6-6 and the bases loaded, senior Taylor Kerr drew a walk to win the game. Counts struck out 11 batters, while Wilson had three hits, including a triple. Alvarado had a home run, and sophomore Macie Griswold also picked up two hits.

**3/3: Veritas 9-2 L**

Counts had 10 strikeouts, but the Bears could not keep pace with Veritas.

**3/4: E. Austin College Prep 20-0 W**

Brentwood overwhelmed their opponent from the beginning with superior talent and experience. Black and Kerr led the girls on offense, and Counts tallied 11 more strikeouts.

# Swimming

By Reid Alexander

The three Bear swimmers competed at state in San Antonio on Feb. 11. Senior Zoe Roetter placed 15th in the girls' 200-meter freestyle, setting her new personal best time. Freshman Gus Ebner placed 13th in the boys' 100 breaststroke, also setting a personal best. Freshman Reid Alexander placed ninth in the boys' 100 butterfly and sixth in the boys' 500 freestyle.

The three swimmers qualified for state with their performances at regionals on Feb. 28 at the same pool. Their practices were not together, but their coaches worked them through the winter months.

Troy Alexander, the team's coach, said he is proud of all the swimmers' hard work.

"It is just a great showing by Brentwood to have all of its swimmers make the state finals. What a great way to start a swim program, and with Coach (Jeffrey) Doege's leadership, we hope to build upon it," Alexander said.

The coach is looking for people to swim next year. He is open to middle and high school swimmers with any level of knowledge, though experience is appreciated.

# Soccer girls close with thrilling win

By William French

Although the varsity girls' soccer season did not go exactly as they hoped, things ended on a high note with a thrilling sudden-death victory in the final game against St. Anthony's on Feb. 19 in San Antonio after numerous penalty kicks.

Brentwood fell behind by one in the first half after a foul outside the box led to a goal. Then sophomore Macie Griswold and senior Sophie Grooms each scored to take the lead. Early in the second half, a hand ball inside the box by BCS resulted in a tie game.

This led the teams into penalty kicks, or a shootout. After each team's five chosen players had shot, the score was still tied, meaning the game would go into "sudden death." With the Lady Bears kicking second, any goal they made following a miss by St. Anthony's would result in the Bears' first win of the season. After an astounding 29 shots, junior Ashlynn Alvarado, the goalkeeper, snuck one into the back of the net and was then swarmed by celebrating teammates.

"It's hard because we don't have the numbers," said assistant coach and BCS grad Avery Miller, daughter of head coach Cash Miller.



photo: Sydney Cooper

**Finally!** Lady Bears mob junior Ashlynn Alvarado in celebration after she scores the winning goal in dramatic fashion in the team's final game on Feb. 19 in San Antonio.

"It's been a really big building year for us. We're just setting the foundation for years to come, and we finished off on the right foot."

Senior Ava Alvarado shared her thoughts on

the hard season.

"Most of our team is young, but I'm glad we could end on a win – it was so exciting," she said.



# Fast start

## Track boys look for back-to-back titles

After winning the state championship last May, the varsity boys' track team picked up right where they left off by winning the SAS Relays at St. Andrews on Saturday, March 5. They finished 21 points ahead of second-place Austin High.

The varsity girls also got off to a strong start with a fifth-place finish. Competition for both teams included area public and private schools.

The boys' team nearly swept the relays, winning the 4x100 and the 4x200.

Senior Nathan Joseph won both the 110-meter hurdles and the long jump (19-1). Senior Jack Leidlein won the 300 hurdles (43.84) and was second in the high jump. Senior Will Hughes came in third in the 400.

Senior Chris Mayo, the defending state champion in the 200, won the event in 22.26.

Boys' coach Correy Washington said he expects to win district and regionals again this year, putting the Bears in good position to compete for another state championship.

Sophomore Juliet Booker led the way for

see **TRACK**, page 8

# Baseball

continued from page 3

Hughes relieved Copeland on the mound and shut down the Warriors. Tyson had three hits, two RBIs, and scored twice.

**2/18: San Antonio TMI 2-1 W**

After both teams scored, Taylor managed to keep TMI from getting around the bases again after that. Brentwood's defense remained solid, and in the last inning, the Bears brought Taylor around for the winning run.

**2/19: Schertz JP II 4-2 W**

The Bears took an early lead, but the Guardians tied it. Amoroso pitched and also led Brentwood at the plate, as BCS took the lead in the third.

**2/19: San Antonio Christian 1-1 T**

Eleven strikeouts from Spring kept the Lions at bay. The Bears were unable to score until Copeland's RBI in the fourth inning.

**2/25: Jarrell 7-2 W**

Starting off the Bears' Claws Up Classic tournament, BCS was down 1-0, then battled around for five runs. Hughes had seven strikeouts and allowed only four hits.

**2/25: St. Andrews 7-0 W**

Taylor pitched a no-hitter with 10 strikeouts. Brentwood had seven hits, led by Benton with two hits for two runs and two RBIs.



photo: Brandy Gauthier

**Crack!** Senior Ben Copeland takes a cut against John Paul II in the Bears' opener last month. Copeland, batting .390, is one of eight BCS starters hitting over .300.

**2/26: Holland 15-3 W**

Brentwood's bats were hot in the second inning as they scored nine runs. Taylor hit a deep ball in the right-center gap for a triple that scored three runs.

**2/26: McGregor 12-0 W**

Spring pitched a shutout, while the McGregor pitchers struggled to put the ball over the plate, walking nine batters. Tyson led the way with two hits and three RBIs.

see **BASEBALL**, page 8

# Boys hoops over too soon

By Taylor Cunningham

The varsity boys lost 69-59 to Houston Lutheran South at a neutral location on Saturday, Feb. 19, bringing an end to one of the most exciting seasons for the program in a long time.

"We couldn't make shots fall, and all their shots were falling," senior Keller Jackson said.

Ending the season sooner than expected, the boys still have much to look forward to next season, returning three first-team all-district players in rising sophomore Adrian Mathis and rising seniors Evan Gruis and Mason Emerson. Head coach Dustin Karrer said the Bears will be working on their physicality this off-season.

"We will be in the weight room this summer and off-season," he said. "We need to get bigger and tougher to compete for a state championship."

The boys ended the regular season third in district with a 10-4 record, 24-6 overall. Freshman Adrian Mathis, who surpassed 500 points on the season, led the team in scoring, assists, and steals, with junior Nick Makumi leading in rebounds.

"We had a lot of talent – everyone was bought in," Karrer said. "There was no selfishness, everyone worked hard, and it was a fun season of growth."

Following are results of the Bears' final district games:

**2/7: @ TMI 92-50 L**

BCS lost a tough game to the district leaders on the road. Brentwood kept the game close in the first quarter, only trailing 18-17, but started to fade in the second quarter, finding themselves down 46-29 at the half as it seemed all of the Panthers' shots were falling in.

**2/8: @ Hyde Park 84-40 W**

Brentwood picked up their 10th win in their last 12 games with the 44-point blowout on the road. The Bears excelled with solid defense, passing, and rebounding. Mathis led with 18 points; Gruis added 15.

**2/11: @ Geneva 69-48 W**

The Bears beat the Eagles on the road thanks to good man-to-man defense, rebounding, and leadership, especially by Rohlack. "Conner was a big emotional leader and helped set the tone," Karrer said. Emerson led the team with 19 points, followed by Mathis with 17.

**2/15: TMI 84-57 L**

In the last game of the regular season, the boys fell in their rematch against the district champs. The boys were outmatched by the sheer size and physicality of the Panthers, who would go on to finish second in state.

# Soccer falls to powerhouse

By William French

The varsity boys' soccer season came to a close after a 4-0 loss to the British International School of Houston in the first round of playoffs on Feb. 25. The Bears finished fourth in district with a 8-6 record.

Playing in Houston, Brentwood returned pressure for the first 20 minutes before an unlucky pass through the backline led to a goal for BISH. Then a header off a corner took it to 2-0 at the half. Unfortunately, the two second-half goals were scored by BISH as well.

"When we were on our game we were fantastic," head coach Cash Miller said. "We just need to work hard to beat the teams we need to beat. The boys set a good foundation for the future teams and overall had a great season."

The leading scorer again this season was senior Nathan Joseph with 15 goals, followed by senior Jack Leidlein with 12 and sophomore Renne Cooper with 5. Sophomore Ike Ruiz led the team with 11 assists.

"I feel like we improved a lot since the beginning of the season and we've done a good job of building a better soccer program here," Cooper said.

Following are the results from the Bears' final district games:

**2/8: Regents 1-1 (4-1) L**

When Joseph scored on a corner taken by Cooper, it was the first game the Bears played where both teams scored. After a scoreless second half that went straight into penalty kicks, Brentwood scored one and allowed four.

**2/11: St. Michaels 2-0 L**

The Bears lost focus and let in a last-minute goal off a corner to end the half. They let in another goal quickly after the start of the second and the score stayed still after that.

**2/15: TMI 2-1 L**

After multiple goal-scoring opportunities that "we just couldn't convert," the Bears let one through their defense about 15 minutes in. With 20 minutes left in the game, and a goalie change, Brentwood let another goal through,

**2/18: @ Boerne Geneva 4-0 W**

In a night game playing one of their weakest opponents, the Bears scored twice in each half.

**2/19: @ St. Anthony's 7-0 W**

A weekend game brought the Bears to 7-6 in district with goals from Joseph, Cooper, and Ruiz. Assists came from senior Parker Combs, Cooper, and Ruiz.

**2/22: St. Anthony's 7-1 W**

On their senior night, the main objective was getting every senior a goal for the season, which was almost achieved.



# History of BCS

continued from page 5

school system. As a result, many white families flooded private schools, which were not affected by the court ruling. To prevent turning into one of these “white flight” schools, Brentwood chose to freeze enrollment at the beginning of the year. Admission was reopened at midterm to minorities and members of area Churches of Christ only. Enrollment caps in each class were also imposed.

The next school year, in 1981, saw the school’s move, along with the church, to its current campus on North Lamar Boulevard. Many years before, the site had been home to a nine-hole golf course. When construction began, there was already one building: the golf course clubhouse, which is today’s Youth Center. Behind it was a swimming pool, where today a parking lot slopes down toward the athletic field.

The church was renamed Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, and the school, keeping its name, added the seventh grade. Heavy rain meant a memorable first day of school, with cars of students getting stuck in the mud. The hilly entrance roads leading from Lamar were at the time unpaved.

BCS teacher Jonathan Weed recalls he and his sister, Susan Womack, wore plastic bags over their shoes in anticipation of the muddy first day.

The beginning of the Brentwood athletics program could also be described as unpaved. Physical education classes at BCS were present from its start, but became fully established with the arrival of PJ Heimermann in 1982. Heimermann, a fresh college graduate with no experience, not only transformed the PE department, but he also began developing a formidable athletics program for a school that would soon be starting a high school and adding one grade each year.

“Brentwood got a good deal with me,” said Heimermann, whose salary was small enough his first year to justify working a night job at a sporting goods store. However, within a few years the brand-new teacher was busy coach-



**Old days** This picture, taken from the athletic field in about 1986, reveals the location of the old swimming pool, inside the chain-link fence by the Youth Center, which is now a parking lot. On the right is a portable building where choir was held.

ing two football teams, three basketball teams, and four track-and-field teams.

Stewart, who spent most of her 38 years at Brentwood teaching sixth graders, recalls the first sixth-grade trip to NASA, an annual tradition that she began. It was 1986, and the class’s scheduled day fell just one day after the explosion of the American space shuttle Challenger.

“However, the Johnson Space Center told us to come ahead for our visit,” Stewart said.

As the students returned to school from Houston, a local news team was on hand to interview them about their trip.

“Everyone remembers the NASA trip as a highlight of sixth grade, but that first trip was quite emotional,” Stewart said.

Along with Heimermann, the 1980s featured the arrival of such beloved teachers as Linda Pimentel, who brought grace and charm first to Spanish and then to high school English classes, and Kevin Moore, whose wit and insight made a lasting impact on students as well as curriculum in Bible and science classes.

“In those early years, almost no curriculum resources were available to help us foster a biblical worldview in our students,” said Moss, who became executive director when Libby

Weed was hired as principal in 1984.

The teachers made humble salaries but were a tight-knit team, struggling long hours to develop Brentwood’s own curriculum.

“They were committed to high standards of excellence while saturating it with understanding of God’s good creation, what went wrong with creation, and God’s plan to redeem and restore it through Jesus Christ,” Moss said.

These years also saw continued growth of the school, with one grade added each year through 1987. Brentwood celebrated its 25th anniversary that year, and then in the spring of 1988 the school graduated its first senior class of 10 students, fulfilling the vision the first board of directors had seen a decade past.

“Through all the growth and changes,” Moss said, “the one thing that must remain central to the school’s identity is faithful commitment to its mission. The words may have grown dull to the ear due to familiarity, but each word helps to remind new generations that this school is God’s school. Its mission is to lead students to love God and to nurture them in a Christ-centered academic environment that emphasizes excellence and inspires them to lives of Christian leadership and service.”

## Recollections

continued from page 5

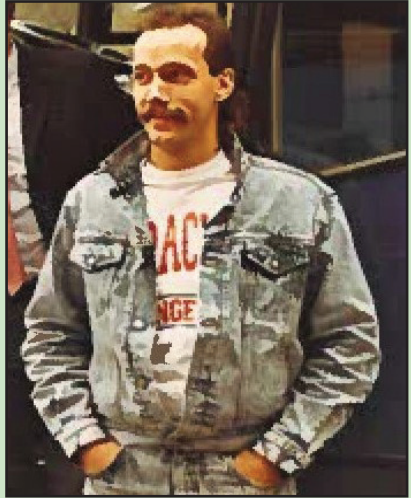
Budgets were always tight and from what I recall, there was little to nothing of an athletic budget. When we were developing the HS boys basketball team, I waited until another school with the same school colors bought new uniforms and I’d go to the AD there and request a donation of their old uniforms. The warm-up bottoms were bell bottoms since they were made in the ’70s. Some of the players, just to be funny, would claim the too-short, too-small warm-up pants so the bells would be floods as well.

We would set up a sound system on the stage to warm up to music, usually “Jump” by Van Halen. I also had to recruit volunteer coaches for any sport I didn’t coach. (Thank you, parents and roommates!).

We would also take junior high students to Mexico every year with Linda Pimentel. I couldn’t afford to go as a sponsor, but there was an anonymous parent that would end up paying for my trip. I also helped come up with fundraisers. One of the best ones was Valentine’s Day flowers. I’m not sure how long this tradition lasted, but it went on for quite some time.

My 10 years at Brentwood were very special. The music business and my family in Nashville, Tenn., beckoned me in 1992. I was not married yet, though the teachers would always encourage me to take the leap. I was engaged twice. Libby Weed bought me a blanket one Christmas because I had a reputation of “cold feet.” I was taken care of by so many people. I knew I was loved and appreciated. I knew I would miss the relationships.

March 12, we are having a reunion of some of the 5th-8th grade football teams. Can’t wait to see some of the “ole guys” and see if I can still outrun them. (Ha!)



**PJ Heimermann, circa 1988**

## Baseball

continued from page 7

### 2/28: @ Jarrell 9-7 W

Down 7-0, the Bears had a team meeting. By the sixth, they had tied it up. They took the lead in the ninth inning, and Taylor wrapped up his six innings pitched with a total of 14 strikeouts. Brentwood pounded out 17 hits, including four each from Tyson and senior Keller Jackson.

### 3/3: Antonian 12-0 W

Amoroso pitched, and BCS scored nine runs in the fifth inning. BCS had a total of 19 hits, led by Spring with three hits and two RBIs.

### 3/3: Medina Valley 4-1 W

Brentwood led 3-0 by the second inning. Spring had nine strikeouts. Taylor, Amoroso, and Jackson each had two hits.

### 3/4: Navarro 8-6 W

Brentwood overcame an early 2-0 deficit with five runs in the second. Tyson led the team at the plate with three hits and two RBIs.

### 3/5: San Antonio Christian 7-5 W

With the bases loaded in the fifth and final inning, Amoroso slapped a ball deep into the right-center gap to score the winning run. Amoroso led the team with three hits and three RBIs; Taylor also had three hits.

## Track

continued from page 7

the girls at the SAS Relays, winning the 200 (27.52) and finishing second in the 100. Sophomore Katie Pittner was fourth in the 800.

The girls also excelled in relays, taking second in the 4x800 and third in the 4x200.

Girls’ coach Katie Smith said the team hopes to win district again and have another top-10 finish in the state, after placing seventh last year. They did lose some key seniors and are down to 12 athletes this year, so she said keeping everyone healthy will be a key to success.