

IN SHORT

Scholars Honored

Peter Johannigman was recognized in chapel Oct. 16 as a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. He will be Brentwood's first National Merit Scholar since Laura Miller and David Runyon achieved the honor three years ago.

Three other seniors were recognized as Commended Students: Eddie Carlin, Seth Cole, and Laura Peterson. This gives the Class of '09 more honorees than any previous class in BCS history.

Speaker Announced

The Honorable Wallace Jefferson, Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, will speak at this year's Partnership Dinner on Dec. 4. Jefferson, who was appointed to the court in 2001, is the descendant of a slave who lived in the Waco area. After the Civil War, that former slave served on the Waco City Council, providing a testimony to the rule of law in this country and establishing a legacy of leadership in his own family.

Book Fair

The secondary library is hosting a book fair next Tuesday to Thursday, Oct. 21-23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All purchases will benefit the school, and teachers can look for special deals, according to Scholastic, the supplying company.

StuCo Retreat

Student Council left school early on Thursday, Oct. 9, for a retreat at Silver Lake Resort in Burnet. They spent some of their time there taking a boat ride on Lake Buchanan and making homemade pizza. They also squeezed in a sunrise devotional and an in-depth planning session over a buffet breakfast on the way home on Friday.

Eddie Carlin and Jay Wiles go head to head discussing the issues as Americans get set to vote

OBAMA vs MCCAIN

Eddie: Jay, why you have decided to support two of the most liberal senators in our country, especially when you yourself admit to coming from a mostly Republican household?

Jay: Well, Eddie, let me give it to you straight. I really believe senators Barack Obama and Joseph Biden will bring change to Washington, which is greatly needed in this time of economic crisis. I do not believe Senator McCain understands the current financial meltdown in this country which is obviously going to be a deciding factor in this election.

Eddie: And with his years and years of experience as a senator, Barack Obama *does* understand the intricacies of the American economy? The president is not going to be able to magically fix this no matter who he is; rather, it is necessary that the American people return to conservative values

concerning spending and fiscal responsibility. McCain has promised to cut government spending.

Jay: I believe that he better understands the problems that Americans are facing. Obama is not waited on hand-and-foot by personal household staff members. McCain spent \$273,000 on household staff members in 2007 alone and has over the past three years increased that amount annually. Obama does not own 12 homes and is not worth over \$80 million. Plus McCain has specifically stated that he does not understand the economy as well as a Presidential candidate should.

Eddie: Comparatively, Obama is worth much less than McCain, but he's not exactly rubbing elbows with the poor people from the slums. Don't forget that Obama was a key player in the mortgage crisis by pushing for loans for people who could not afford them in the first place.

Jay: First of all, he is not going to raise taxes for over 95 percent of Americans. Your taxes will only go up if you make more than \$250,000 per year. If you make less than that, your taxes will go down. And second of all, I would rather taxes go up than borrowing around \$1 trillion in debt to Japan and China.

Eddie: In light of the recent economic plunge, I doubt Obama will be able to deliver on those promises. Still, the American economy is not

merely the result of income taxes, but also how big businesses fare. Presidents can cut taxes all they want, but if the economic powerhouses fail, everyone does. Moving to the war: In the vice presidential debates on Oct. 2, Joe Biden said that we should instead have focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan, "where they (terrorists) live." But I imagine that if we had been there instead of Iraq, Biden and Obama would still be crying for immediate withdrawal.

Jay: I support Obama's stance on the war. We should have and could have been out of Iraq by 2006 or 2007. And the nation of Iraq has over \$80 billion in foreign banks, and they are not spending one cent on the reconstruction of their own nation. We, as American taxpayers, are paying for the reconstruction of a foreign nation which we should have been out

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Neighborhood clinic stirs controversy

BCS parents, teachers have voiced concern over traffic, safety

mark **NESSLAGE**
reporter

On Braker Lane, near the Shell station at Parkfield, a new healthcare center is likely to be built, to the dismay of many in the Brentwood Christian community. This \$18 million building would be constructed by the Travis County Healthcare District (TCHD) in order to provide free healthcare to those who are unable to pay for it.

According to the Walnut Creek Homeowners Association, the state-of-the-art facility will be a multi-level, 50,000 square-foot building which has the capacity to serve 22,600 low-income patients annually. It is intended to be a flagship facility created to replace the old clinic in East Austin on Ed Bluestein Blvd.

Despite the good intentions of the TCHD, many people object to the planned location of the new center for several reasons. One

complaint of those living near the clinic's location is that it will cause traffic congestion along Braker Lane. Serving thousands of patients would also increase traffic throughout the nearby neighborhood.

Another complaint is that few of the low-income families that will use the facilities live in the area, so the clinic will not be easily accessible to them. Many Brentwood Christian teachers and parents have voiced their protest against the clinic.

"This isn't an ideal location for the people who need it," says second-grade teacher Sandra Patterson, a resident of the neighborhood next to Brentwood.

The TCHD, however, finds the location to be ideal. They originally selected 15 possible locations for their new clinic. When factors such as cost of land, the amount of land needed, and proximity to patients were considered, the Braker Lane location was their top choice.

According to Leslee Froehlich, the chief operating officer of Community Health Centers, clinics are dispersed but close to individuals who will use them. Quoted in a recent Community Impact Newspaper, she also pointed out that their goal is to be convenient to those whom they serve.

Neighborhood residents attended a meeting with the TCHD on July 22 to voice their opinions and try to prevent the clinic from being built. In their talks with the TCHD, they expressed their reasons for not wanting to have the clinic on Braker. Despite their efforts, it appears the construction has only been slightly postponed. According to an article last month in the Austin American-Statesman, the completion date is set to be 2010 or early 2011.

BCS president Marquita Moss said she did not know if Braker Lane is the best location for the clinic, but she wants the families who qualify to have access to this healthcare.

STORYTIME WITH LAURA PETERSON

THE BEAR FACTS OCTOBER 2008

The adventures of Johnny Norwood

This is the second chapter in a fictional series written by the editor-in-chief.

There was a hint of fall in the air. The heat had let up enough to allow breathing; the tips of the leaves were tinged orange on select trees; and if you closed your eyes, you could almost imagine the slightest whisper of a breeze rustling your hair. But things had changed quite a bit more drastically for Johnny.

Johnny Norwood had gone from being the embodiment of Hundred Acre High’s every aspiration to a flat out disappointment in a matter of five days. On the first day of school, Mrs. Gromley had begged Johnny to join the Mathletes, refusing to take no for an answer. She politely but promptly uninvited him after she graded his first quiz. Coach Walters likewise had hastily cut him from the basketball team (but much less politely) when he had tried to shoot his free throws granny style during his first PE period. He was now known to every girl in the school as the “boy who is neither Scottish nor ridiculously handsome,” thanks to Cassandra. Ivan Anderson treated Johnny like

his own personal piggy bank when lunchtime rolled around. The one thing that hadn’t changed was the constant presence of Myles, which was one change that Johnny would’ve welcomed.

Johnny stepped into Mrs. Gromley’s classroom, consumed with that Monday morning feeling. However, he quickly shrugged it off when a certain red-headed girl entered the room. His thoughts bounced around his head frantically as they did every morning when she walked in – should he say hi? Or *hello* maybe? Or would a simple head nod suffice? Yes, you couldn’t go wrong with a head nod ... but by the time he made up his mind, she had already sat down.

The bell rang to start class, and Mrs. Gromley waddled to the front of the room to call roll. She gave Johnny a glare as she did every morning when she reached his name. She finished up the attendance and then snatched up a stack of papers which she proceeded to distribute to the class, a menacing glint in her eye. It was a pop quiz. A groan rippled across the room but was quickly silenced by one sharp look from Mrs Gromley.

Johnny sighed and leaned down to grab a pencil from his backpack. “Psst – Johnny!” Johnny whipped around at full speed – the angel was talking to *him*. “Can I borrow a pencil?” she asked. He nodded, too breathless to speak, and fetched his best, titanium, Dr. Grip mechanical pencil. Her fingers brushed his as she took it. “Thanks.” Johnny had just breathed a “sure” when the Gromster slammed an arthritic hand on his desk, snatching his blank quiz from him. She splashed him with saliva as she uttered a low, venomous whisper, “I don’t know what the rules were at your old school, but cheating is NOT tolerated here. That’ll be a zero.” “But Mrs. Gromley, I wasn’t cheating, I was just ...” he sputtered an explanation of the situation, but she would not hear it. “See me after class,” she ordered. Johnny was absolutely infuriated by the injustice of it all. He chanced a glance at the red-head, and was pleased to see that she looked enraged on his behalf. She mouthed to

him, “I’ll talk to her,” and with one last huff, she set to work on her quiz. Johnny lay his head down on his desk, all anger forgotten, as an involuntary smile slowly spread across his face.

After what seemed like an interminable amount of time, the bell rang. “Good luck, Johnny!” whispered Myles. Johnny waited until everyone had left and then trudged up towards Mrs. Gromley’s desk, running through exactly what he was going to say in his defense. But just as he opened his mouth to speak, a clear, melodic voice explained the situation to the grumpy teacher, who was left with no choice but to let Johnny off the hook. Johnny breathed a sigh of relief, and after agreeing to retake the quiz during lunch, left with his savior.

“Thanks so much for backing me up,” he said as they walked down the hall. She modestly pointed out how little trouble she had gone to, and Johnny was surprised at how easily the conversation flowed after that. They talked about hating Mrs. Gromley, loving the cafeteria pizza, and had moved on to which water fountain was the coldest when all of a sudden the red-head screamed, “Look out!” and a huge fist collided with Johnny’s face.

Johnny blinked, looking up groggily at the crowd hovering over him. He could hear Myles squeaking “Give him some space, people!” Johnny slowly sat up, and quickly shut his eyes to stop the room from spinning. Ivan pushed his way through the crowd and grabbed Johnny by the collar, pulling him close enough that Johnny could smell the Frosted Flakes on his breath. “I had better never see you talkin’ to my sister like that again...OR ELSE...” It took Johnny a second to sort through what he was hearing. The red-head was Bigfoot’s sister? Ivan dumped him in the nearest trash can and thundered off to his next class. The crowd too had dispersed in attempt to beat the tardy bell, all except one. “I’m so sorry, Johnny. I suppose I’ve been getting you into trouble all day long.” She lifted a banana peel off of his shoulder, and he realized just how wonderful Mondays could be.

Debate

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of long ago.

Eddie: We might have been victorious and done with the matter earlier if the general opinion at home – shaped by the liberal media – was more encouraging. John McCain is a veteran from Vietnam – a war often compared to our current one – and I have full confidence he is a much more capable commander than Obama. However, my main qualms with Obama have less to do with the economy or the war than they do with his extreme pro-abortion stance. Without life, there can be no other issues, and I *cannot* vote for a man who has supported legislation which would murder even babies who have survived botched abortions.

Jay: While Obama’s and McCain’s positions on abortion differ, they have worked just as hard against it. The only law they have passed was a \$100 million initiative which increases awareness about adoption and provides contraceptives to young people. Also, the Republicans have been talking for over 30 years about how they are “anti-abortion,” and they have passed a bill to ban partial-birth abortions, but they have nothing to show as far as a full ban on abortions.

Eddie: I’d say a ban on partial-birth abortions is a tremendous step towards a more pro-life nation, and now is not the time to give up the fight. Rather than blaming Republicans for a lack of progress on this issue, why don’t we look at the real problem preventing more “change” on this issue in Washington: liberal democrats like Barack Obama and Nancy Pelosi who voted NO on banning partial-birth abortion and embryonic stem cell research.

Jay: There won’t be a ban on abortions. The last 30-plus years of Congressional actions, even with multiple Republican majorities, has proved it.

Eddie: I think you’ve given up too early. The end of slavery and discrimination didn’t exactly happen overnight either, and the fact that this tragic practice is still legal in our country doesn’t discount the attempts made by pro-life politicians to end it, nor does it justify simply throwing in the towel.

Jay: I sure wish we had room to talk about oil, but I guess I’d better start my conclusion. No matter who you vote for, at least know where the candidates stand on the issues, and whether you agree with Eddie (as over 90 percent of you will, I’m sure) or me, vote for what you feel is right. But if you vote for McCain, you’re voting for a war that we should’ve been out of long ago, you’re voting for higher taxes, and you’re voting for a president who doesn’t understand the economy and has personally said so.

Eddie: All other issues pale in comparison with the appalling tragedy of abortion, and indeed, there are no other issues without life. While we may face uncertain times right now, I counsel you to remember that times are always uncertain, and I encourage you not to vote for what you merely “feel” is right, but for the candidate who more closely follows God’s Truth. Both candidates have their flaws, but a vote for Obama is a step backwards towards a culture of death.

THE BEAR FACTS

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The Bear Facts is published monthly by the journalism classes of Brentwood Christian High School. 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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FUZZY WUZZY “The Bear” entertains students at last month’s pep rally.

photo: Kay Taylor

Fall Fest set to entertain tomorrow

gabe **BRETERNITZ**
reporter

Tomorrow you will climb to the top of a rock wall, crawl through a darkened maze, throw water balloons at helpless targets, be magically astounded, ride a Jigglebug train, and bounce around in an inflatable obstacle course. That is, if you attend the BCS Fall Festival.

The fun will last from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature plenty of new booths along with some old and new favorites.

The price of tickets has been raised this year. Before the Fest, four tickets may be bought for a dollar, rather than five. On Saturday, a dollar gets three tickets.

“It is still a great family value compared to other similar festivals,” Fall Fest coordinator Michelle Bryant said. “We have kept the booth ticket amounts the same or lower in some cases compared to last year. This is a fundraiser and we would like to make money for the school as well as have a fun-filled day for the students.”

Fall Fest raised more than \$8,000 last year, most of which went directly to individual classes. All secondary classes get to keep 100 percent of the money they take in, and most of that goes toward things like Junior/Senior Formal and the trip to Europe.

But the Fall Fest isn’t all about money. Some booths are present simply for the benefit of the attendees. The rock wall, the most expensive booth with an eight-ticket entrance fee, went \$335 in the red last year. This year, it will be mostly covered by sponsorships.

“In order to have a few fun rentals for the festival, we need sponsorship money to make up the difference,” Bryant explained.

A much anticipated new booth this year is the Laser Tag, hosted by April Hejl’s second-grade. Those who pay the three-ticket price to will enter a six-foot-high inflatable maze with a laser tagger that will shoot 25 times or be shot 10 times before turning itself off.

Some new booths from last year made a big splash. The water dodge ball booth made \$500 and plenty of fans, especially on the profit side.

“I wasn’t looking forward to it, but I didn’t mind getting wet if it brought money for my class,” sophomore Levi Matus said.

Matus will be a target again this year, along with selected teachers and faculty members.

Last year’s Fall Fest also featured its first magic show, put on by juniors Alex Georgulus and Jamie Furrer. The show made \$170 and will be returning this year.

“It’s gonna be ridinking fridiculous, so bring all your friends!” Georgulus said.

Slick salesmen

Students smash BCS magazine sales records, crave Weepuls

leah **UNGLAUB-BROWN**
reporter

In previous years when a teacher announced the annual magazine sales, little to no excitement would stir up among the students of BCS. But this year secondary principal Jared Lee made the event bigger than ever. With a plethora of opportunities for prizes with each subscription sold, participating students were guaranteed not to go empty handed.

Friday, Oct.3, marked the beginning of the magazine fundraiser. BCS held a rally for the students, where Lee and a representative from QSP explained the new strategy. Lee set a goal of \$150 dollars for each student, promising that all students who reached their goal by Friday, Oct. 17, would be rewarded one half day of Austin Park and Pizza with the principal.

Raising money to fund their own Washington, D.C., and Europe trips, the students surpassed last year’s total sales of \$5,000 within the first

day. Lee said students sold \$7,000 worth of subscriptions on the first day of the sale, and by Tuesday, Oct. 14, they had raised a total of \$25,000.

“I’m so glad that we have something that will get students pumped about raising money for their school,” English teacher Linda Pimentel said.



photo: Jessica Love

SHAVE AND A HAIR CUT Coaches Joseph Walker, Devan Loftis, and teacher Mark Broadway all agreed to shave their legs, head, and beard, respectively, if students were able to raise \$5,000 in magazine sales. Whoops.

Too busy to read beyond this headline?

lizzy **DUPOND**
reporter

One thing that gets to most students, year after year, is a busy schedule. Seventh and eighth graders are just beginning to take sports and competitions seriously, juniors are squeezing in activities before their last year, and seniors are scrambling to stay afloat in the wild sea of college applications. How do students balance all their extracurriculars and still keep up with school?

Some ambitious BCS students, here and gone, recently revealed some of their strategies.

First of all, if you think that you would physically combust if your agenda were any busier, think again. Imagine having to go to school for nine hours and still having more classes or jobs to do. This is the life of many Encore members. For instance, senior Colleen Jung has voice lessons, a Bible study group, and work

after school apart from Encore. Senior Andrew McClellan has basketball plus homework for two AP classes, and he is also in the fall play. Clearly, if you ever feel insanely occupied, you can be assured that you are not alone.

How does a student with time-consuming

extracurriculars manage to do well in school? One technique for getting good grades is foolproof: Get all homework turned in, completed, on time. Late assignments often count for zero points, and those zeroes can potentially bring a decent B to a C or worse.

Secondly, learn to manage your time wisely. Many students who don’t learn this fine art will lose plenty of sleep.

“I can’t tell you how many nights I stayed up until three or four in the morning just writing a paper or studying for a test,” said Nathan Baker, who graduated in June and is now at Pepperdine University.

Baker suggests that students find whatever time they have to get homework done, even if it’s only a few problems. There are a few spaces of time to be found during lunch, before or after practices, and during classes – when the teacher isn’t lecturing, of course.

Baker says that by using these methods, “There were some times when I honestly didn’t understand how I managed to get everything done on time.”

Another person to learn from is senior Olivia Brinson. Perhaps best known for her skills in basketball, Brinson is also involved in StuCo, class officers, yearbook, and Bible study.



photo: Laura Peterson

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Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2009.

Low-key leader blessed with humility, self-discipline

Jacob Cardenas
reporter

If you haven't gotten the opportunity to know Seth Cole, you really should. There's more to him than meets the eye, which is already a lot – 6 feet 3 inches, to be exact. "He's really tall," junior John Alan Archer says with a smirk.

Yes, this is true. Because of his lofty stature, most are forced to glance up at him. But besides the obvious, who is this guy?

"He's a really good friend that truly reflects Christ in his life, which is saying a lot nowadays," senior Andrew McClellan says.

"He's a great bud to pretty much everybody," classmate Nick Sterling adds.

Seth was born in El Paso but has lived in Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, and California. Growing up, he never attended a private school, but since the middle of his sophomore year he has found a home at Brentwood.

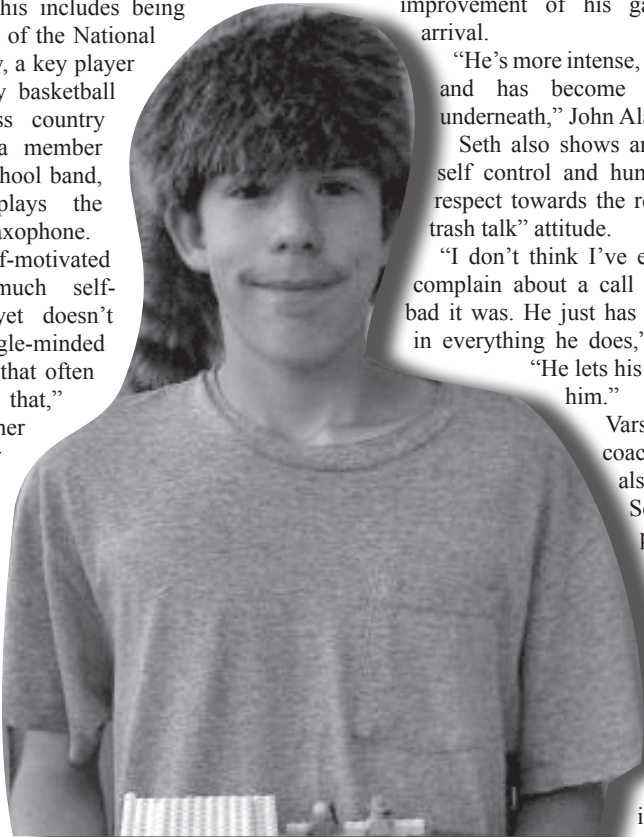
"Coming to a Christian school has given me a better understanding of how I'm called to be as a Christian," Seth says. "And people don't come stoned to class every day."

Christianity is an important aspect of Seth's life, where he aims to "walk the walk and not just talk the talk." So far he seems to be on the right track. Friends and teachers alike recognize his humble spirit, great attitude,

and disciplined work ethic that have helped Seth excel in nearly everything he pushes for. This includes being vice president of the National Honor Society, a key player on the varsity basketball team, a cross country runner, and a member of the high school band, where he plays the clarinet and saxophone.

"He's self-motivated and very much self-disciplined, yet doesn't have the single-minded intense focus that often goes with that," history teacher Mel Witcher says. "In other words, he knows how to relax and work hard at the same time."

Seth may be best known for his impact on the



basketball court, where all of his great qualities are evident. His hard work shows in the drastic improvement of his game since his arrival.

"He's more intense, more confident, and has become a real threat underneath," John Alan says.

Seth also shows an abundance of self control and humbleness in his respect towards the refs and his "no trash talk" attitude.

"I don't think I've ever heard Seth complain about a call no matter how bad it was. He just has a great attitude in everything he does," Andrew says.

"He lets his game speak for him."

Varsity basketball coach David Peyton also admires Seth's character, pointing out his great attitude that makes him very coachable, his ability to be a quiet leader, and of course his "great moves inside."

"He'll play an important role in our success this season," Peyton says.

Seth's character also translates to everyday life, where his friends appreciate his genuine personality and ever abiding encouragement. Whether it's helping out with an AP Calculus problem or taking the time to listen in a moment of need, Seth can be counted on.

"He brightens my day no matter what. He just has this aura about him," classmate Amber Doyle says. "He's so funny and is always encouraging. I feel comfortable going to him about anything because I know he'll always be there."

Besides playing basketball, Seth enjoys reading murder mysteries, playing with his dog, and going to Summit groups on Wednesday nights, where he has the opportunity to form closer friendships with peers that will help him in his goal to imitate Christ rather than distract him from it.

After graduating, Seth plans to attend Texas A&M, where he hopes to become a veterinarian. Considering his reputation for success, there is little doubt this soft-spoken, humble, and hard-working senior will accomplish this goal just as he has accomplished his favorite goal thus far.

"I can dunk now!" he said with a smile. His height doesn't hurt.

High school slips, slides at Back-to-School Bash

Charles Kim
reporter

One of the annual events for BCS high school students, Back-to-School Bash, was held in the Family Life Center on Sep. 26. There were two major attractions during the Bash: Slip 'N Slide and glow-in-the-dark capture the flag.

When the festivities began at 6 p.m. many students went outside and enjoyed the Slip 'N Slide that StuCo provided on the hill behind the gym. Many students said that Slip 'N Slide was the most fun part of the night, even though it brought a few bumps and scrapes.

"Although the end result was painful, it was a wonderful experience," junior Brady Johnson said.

When Slip 'N Slide finished around 7:40, many people gathered in the cafeteria to feed their hunger. StuCo provided Mr. Gatti's pizzas, cookies, and soft drinks. After the meal, StuCo started capture the flag around 9 p.m., giving each student a glowing bracelet so that they could identify the teams they were on. Unfortunately, automatic sprinklers interrupted and stopped the game.

There also were several small events going on simultaneously. Many people enjoyed

playing basketball, soccer, and volleyball with their friends. Other students played video games such as Rock Band, NBA Jam, Halo,

and DDR. Many people came not only to enjoy these events but also to socialize with their friends.



photo: Jessica Love

SLIP-SLIDIN' AWAY High school students enjoy their homemade Slip 'N Slide behind the Family Life Center at the Back-to-School Bash on Sep. 26.

"I felt like it was a good opportunity to hang out and get to know some of my classmates," senior Nick Sterling said. "I also had great time playing basketball with my buddies."

From setting up the tables and laying a tarp on the hill for the Slip 'N Slide, to mopping the floor and putting everything back, StuCo put forth a great effort for the students.

"The event was huge success. We had a great turnout despite the conflict with volleyball," StuCo president Laura Peterson said, referring to an out-of-town varsity game.

A few teachers participated in the events as well. Mark Broadway set up his DDR game for the students, Jessica Love and her husband came and took several pictures for the yearbook, and Linda Riedesel helped StuCo by supervising all the activities.

"It was great fun. I especially liked Slip 'N Slide, even though many students complained about their bruises and burns on Monday," Linda Riedesel said. "Everyone was energetic, excited, and enthusiastic."

The Bash was originally scheduled for Sep. 12 but was postponed due to Hurricane Ike.

BCS substitutes on the ready

aracely **MORA**
reporter

How many people can say they have someone that they can count on at a moment’s notice? Brentwood can. Substitute teachers are needed daily at BCS, and someone is always ready to be called on duty.

Kay Taylor is responsible for getting substitute teachers hired. Every Thursday she sends out an email to all the substitutes with a list of teachers that will be out for that upcoming week. They respond by telling Taylor which times they will be available, and then Taylor makes the final decision on who should cover what class.

Before a person can be on the list, he or she must be interviewed by Taylor and submit to a background check. Later the candidates must attend a workshop that helps them know what they will be doing in the classes.

During the winter session teachers are out more because of sickness. Coaches are the ones needing substitute teachers the most because of travel schedules. In elementary many teachers miss because they have young children, or they take a day for professional training. Then there are the two “personal days” which every teacher is allowed to miss each year.

Out of 44 substitute teachers on Taylor’s list of assistants, 39 are women. More than half are Brentwood moms, while only one is a BCS dad. Five are Brentwood graduates. Substitute teachers do not specifically need any experience to help out.

Jan McClellan, Lori Nesslage, Lorena McCaffety, Julia White, and Tanya Quinn are BCS moms who have worked as substitutes for the longest time, according to Taylor.

“Mrs. McCaffety makes it fun to learn and lets us have a break from the normal routine,” junior Kristen O’Dell said.

Dragica Minic is the substitute who has traveled the farthest distance to get here. A university professor in Serbia, Minic is visiting her son who works at IBM. She found out about BCS through an ESL class she was taking at Westover Hills Church of Christ. She keeps a note in her purse that was given to her by a Brentwood student. Minic told Taylor that it meant more than money to her.

“Mrs. Minic is strict but makes the class more interesting and fun,” junior Rebekah Teeter said.

According to Taylor, most of the new substitutes have been to public schools and have seen how different Brentwood is – not only in how they dress but in how the students treat the substitute. Taylor said substitutes have praised BCS students for their good behavior. They say the class management is good, and if there is a problem it is minor. The students, according to the substitutes, are polite and courteous, and that makes them want to come back.

TEACHER FEATURE: *Cynthia Davis*

Teacher dearest

Fifth-grade instructor brings motherly touch to classroom

ben **LANCASTER**
reporter

Teachers come in all varieties. Some overwhelm their students with information, while others are content to overwhelm them with homework. Some teachers get mad about everything, while others let their students get away with anything.

But some, like fifth-grade teacher Cynthia Davis, are a refreshing balance between lenient and strict, challenging and fun.

Davis is known as a sweet, kind, and caring teacher. She is often smiling and her warm smile reflects her warm personality. Her son, Bryant, a BCS senior who once had his mom as a teacher, said she has always been a very patient and understanding person.

“But that doesn’t mean she isn’t strict when the situation calls for it,” he said.

Davis’ warmth and patience extends beyond the classroom, defining her family life as well. Bryant recounted a story from when he was playing in the yard many years ago. Something went wrong with the “flamethrower” he

was using so, naturally, he threw it away from himself. The only thing was, he threw it right onto one of the rose bushes that his mother liked a lot, and, as most things look after they have come into contact with a flamethrower, it didn’t look too great afterward. Upset, Bryant called for his mother. When she saw the scene, she was not concerned about the bush, but only with her son’s well-being.

Davis is also the mother of a two-year-old named Andrew. She took a few weeks off of

teaching to be with him after he was born. When asked what her hobbies were, she said, laughingly, “I’m the mother of a two-year-old. I don’t have hobbies.”

Davis went to several colleges, but she completed her bachelor’s of business administration at Abilene Christian University, where she met her husband Glenn.

Before Davis was ever a teacher, she was the development director for BCS. One summer during this time, she, her family, and some friends went to Corpus Christi. They went to an aquarium right next to the U.S.S. Lexington. Thinking she may never get to see the aircraft carrier again, she said to her friend, “Take my picture, because this is as close as I’m ever gonna get.”

Little did she know that in a few days she would get calls from Geri Archer, a BCS first-grade teacher, and Dr. Libby Weed, the elementary principal, about a job teaching fifth grade at Brentwood. She accepted the job, and from that year on, she would be spending the night on the Lexington every year with her fifth-grade students.

Davis said she likes teaching her students day in and day out and enjoys spending time with them. One of her favorite things about teaching is seeing a

see **Mrs. Davis**, page 8



photo: Laura Peterson

LET ME SHOW YOU Cynthia Davis, here going over material with Grace Hailey, says she loves sharing her faith with her students.

Honor societies induct 59 new members

ashley **HARPER**
reporter

Tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders skipped periods four through seven on Oct. 1 for the annual NHS induction ceremony at Carrabba’s Italian Grill. A week later, it was time for the eighth and ninth graders in NJHS to do the same.

Seventeen sophomores were inducted along with seven juniors and three seniors, making a total of 67 NHS members. According to sponsor Lynda Pierce, last year’s total of 71 was one of the school’s highest ever.

To qualify for NHS, students must have a cumulative grade of 90 or above, appear on at least one citizenship honor roll during the year, and have no more than two detentions throughout the year.

The ceremony includes a speech explaining NHS by Pierce. All continuing members are then recognized, before the candle lighting explains the characteristics NHS members should have: scholarship, citizenship, service, leadership, and character. Inductees then are

recognized and given their cards, and after that all members rise and say the induction pledge.

NJHS students enjoyed a similar ceremony on Oct. 8. Seven new ninth-grade inductees

joined 22 of their classmates and 25 eighth-grade inductees.

The groups have been dining at Carrabba’s since 2004.



photo: Olivia Brinson

ETERNAL FLAME NHS officers participate in the candle-lighting ceremony on Oct. 1.

Runners disappointed at district, determined for state

trevor **ATHERTON**
reporter

The BCS cross country teams are anxious to compete in the TAPPS state meet tomorrow in Waco. Though their district meet at Incarnate Word two weeks ago was a difficult one, the boys experienced a confidence boost at last Saturday’s Georgetown Invitational. Senior Mark Nesslage led the way for BCS by finishing the 3.1-mile route in a personal-best 17:11, good for tenth place. Classmate Nick Sterling came in one spot behind at 17:17, also a personal best.

Seniors Trever Brightwell and Ben Lancaster also ran their fastest ever, at 18:38 and 19:26, respectively. “If we get top-five in state, that would be an outstanding achievement,” boys’ coach Jacob Rotich said. The boys placed third at the state meet last year, but district realignment has moved several former 5A schools into 4A, which is Brentwood’s division. The boys placed third in the district meet on

Friday, Oct. 3, at Incarnate Word in Corpus Christi. The host team took first with San Antonio Christian narrowly taking second. Nesslage was the first to finish for Brentwood, coming in sixth overall. “It was a tough day,” said Nesslage, whose finishing time was nowhere near his goal. The girls did not have enough participants to place as a team in the district meet, but they ran hard with sophomore Jennifer Quinn finishing first for the girls and coming in 13th overall. “This is the hardest meet we’ve had so far,” junior Lizzy DuPond said. The girls’ team struggled this year with finding girls willing to participate and put the time in to run. This made it tough on the girls because they are one runner short of the number required to qualify for team standings. The BCS team has four hardworking girls who still go to all the meets and do well. “Cross country is a tough sport that requires a lot of self-motivation and self-discipline,” girls’ coach Katie Smith said. “Many of our girls are involved in volleyball and feel that this makes them too busy to do another sport.”

At the Puma Cross Country Invitational on Sep. 20, the boys did well. Nesslage finished with a then personal best of 17:35, with Sterling finishing four seconds behind him. There were more than 250 participants from over 50 high schools that competed in this meet, held at Cedar Park High. Competing schools, all from the Greater Austin area, included Lanier, Connally, and McNeil. “This was tough competition, and the boys worked hard,” Rotich said. Quinn finished first for the girls on their two-mile run, running it in 15:40. Both teams have been training diligently on school grounds and in the surrounding neighborhood during P.E. and after school every day. Some of the boys are doing other sports, such

as Sterling, Lancaster, and Seth Cole. They go to P.E. with basketball coach David Peyton and then immediately head to cross country. “It’s stressful sometimes but it helps my conditioning for basketball,” Cole said.



photo: Jacob Rotich

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN The boys’ cross country team lines up for the start of the district meet Oct. 3 in Corpus.

Sun setting on “bittersweet” volleyball season

Lady Bears hanging to slim hope that ’08 campaign can extend past Tuesday

katie **LEGBAND**
sports editor

The Lady Bears are 4-6 in district after disappointing losses to Hyde Park and San Antonio Christian a week ago, leaving them fifth in district. They needed a win last night against Victoria St. Joseph and today at Corpus

Christi Incarnate Word to have any hope of making playoffs. “The season has been kind of bittersweet,” senior Hannah Sinclair said. “The expectations haven’t been met, but we all enjoyed being with the team through the season.” Through last week’s games, the team’s overall record is 14-10.

There are seven teams in Brentwood’s TAPPS 4A district, and by tonight, the girls will have played each opponent twice – once home and once away. The top four teams make it to bi-district playoffs, which begin Saturday, Oct. 25. “The new district has some tough teams with tall girls, but we have played them well,” head coach Karen Peyton said. “This year’s team does not have anything to be ashamed of. They have a drive to compete and have done that. I am so proud that they have maintained a Christ-like attitude on and off the court. I feel they have been an example to many teams.” Sinclair is leading the team in digs and kills. She had a season-high of 12 kills against San Marcos Baptist on Oct. 2. Classmate Audrei Welter has the most blocks, and junior Katie Miertschin is leading the team in serves. Peyton said Miertschin has been the consistent server she could count on to get points, even in close situations. She also mentioned that senior Meghan Quinn has been a consistent player with great sets for the hitters. The floaters, those girls who play both JV and varsity, are freshmen Brittany Brunson, Haley Decker, and Brittany Ho. “They have fought hard as a team and won as a team,” Peyton said. “This has been a big push of mine – to have a team that is unified. Each team member has great talents and they have brought them all together and have worked as a team.” Last Friday, Oct. 10, the Lady Bears traveled to San Antonio, where they lost in three games to SACS.

The girls lost to Hyde Park on Oct. 7 in three games. Hyde Park won the first two games 25-19 and 25-16. Game three was a battle, with BCS leading until Hyde Park tied the score at 16. BCS then took the lead again and had a 23-21 advantage until their rivals scored the game’s final four points. “The Lady Bears played tough and never gave up,” Peyton said. “The third game was a disappointing loss, especially when we were ahead and then lost by two points.” The previous week, the team played TMI and St. Andrew’s. They lost to TMI in four games and St. Andrew’s in three. The week of Sep. 22, the team had three matches: St. Andrew’s, San Marcos Baptist, and Victoria St. Joseph. The girls lost to St. Andrew’s and St. Joseph, but beat San Marcos. In the San Marcos match, Quinn dominated the serves in the first and second games. She served nine consecutive in the first and 12 straight in the second. Sinclair served nine consecutive in the third. The girls beat district opponents TMI and Incarnate Word on successive nights, Sep. 19-20. In one of their most impressive performances of the season, the girls came from behind to win in five games over previously undefeated TMI. The girls beat Incarnate Word in three games, the closest being 25-22. The Tuesday of that week, the girls lost to San Antonio Christian in four games. They won the third one 26-24, and the first they lost by only two points. The previous Thursday, Sep. 11, the girls lost to Hyde Park in three games. The closest was 25-22.



photo: Olivia Brinson

TAKE THAT! Junior Tyla Wells pounds one past SACS defenders during their September match at BCS. Heading into Thursday’s game, the Lady Bears were 4-6 in district.

Let’s get fired up!

Loud, limber little ones get lessons from larger leaders at Cheer Camp

kaalah **MANONGDO**
reporter

The carefully chosen uniforms. The freedom to yell whenever you want. Routines designed to make people pumped and loud, complete with your constant smile. All this defines a cheerleader, and many Brentwood girls dream of being one.

BCS varsity cheerleaders hosted the Little Bears Cheer Camp for elementary girls on Saturday, Oct. 4. About 60 girls, grades K through 6, paid the \$25 fee to attend. They received three hours of instruction over “basic motions, jumps, and several adorable cheers and chants,” according to senior Haleigh Davis, who was in charge of the camp this year.

The camp began at 9:30 a.m., as girls were divided into groups and shown how to stretch out. Then they rotated through stations of jumps, cheers, tumbling, and stunts. The camp concluded with a performance for the parents where the girls got to show off what they learned.

Freshman Karlie Mattison, a varsity cheerleader, taught the girls cartwheels and somersaults along with senior Nichole Reinberger.

“We’re trying to continue the cheerleading

program. We want to encourage them and show them how fun it is,” Mattison said.

The cheerleaders had several things to prepare in order to host the camp safely and efficiently. Because of the junior class garage sale scheduled at the same time, they had to block off some of the area in order to prevent garage sale customers from wandering inside. They arrived early to stretch out and prepare for the girls. This year they also divided the girls according to grade level and color-coded them.

Before the camp, second-grader Corrie Hager expressed her excitement.

“In kindergarten, I won the spirit award because I was screaming! I want to win it again and I want to be a cheerleader too,” she said.

Cheer camp is especially popular with the younger grades. Many kindergartners and first graders came, whereas only a few fifth and sixth graders attended.

Another cheer camp is

scheduled close to homecoming, where the girls will be taught longer and more complicated cheers. This camp will cost \$30, and the girls will receive the opportunity to perform at the homecoming game.

Cheer camps for elementary girls have been held for many years. Not only are the camps the cheerleaders’ biggest fundraiser, but they also aid in encouraging cheerleading among the students. Head cheerleader Catherine Marler, a senior, is very enthusiastic about these camps.

“Little Bears Cheer Camp is a great way for us to not only raise money but also to interact with the younger girls,” she said. “I think we all enjoy it almost as much as they do.”

Maintaining involvement with the younger grades and keeping them excited about cheerleading keeps girls trying out for the squad. Many of the varsity cheerleaders recall attending cheer camp as elementary students.

“It’s interesting because as the little girls we wanted to be varsity cheerleaders, and now we are,” freshman Shannon Lesko said. “We want them to end up as varsity cheerleaders too.”

Pam Hardin, who works in the athletic office, and Emily Marrs, a former Brentwood cheerleader and graduate (’05), have recently been named the sponsors for this year’s varsity squad.



photo: Kaalah Manongdo

RAH RAH Freshman cheerleader Victoria Hernandez coaches elementary campers through one of the stunts at cheer camp on Oct. 4.

Magazines

Younger teams rolling in soccer, volleyball

continued from page 3

Oct. 17.

“Woo-hoo!” teacher Chloe Campbell exclaimed when she heard her gender had won.

During the rally on Oct. 7, BCS students enjoyed the sight of Mark Broadway shaving his beard, Devan Loftis shaving his head, and Joseph Walker shaving his legs. None of that would have been possible without the students’ determination to sell magazines and meet various goals Lee had set for them.

Another incentive allowed high school students to earn extended off-campus lunch or junior high students to earn off-campus lunch with the principal.

As the two weeks of sales wound down, Lee was very pleased.

“The sale was a huge success,” Lee said. “Not only did it bring in a large amount of funds for student use, I also saw an increase in morale around campus.

QSP has agreed to give the students of BCS 45 percent of the total amount raised during this sale. A small percentage of that will be donated to the American Red Cross to help the 2008 Hurricane victims, according to Lee.

katie **LEGBAND**
sports editor

When the varsity volleyball season winds down, there will still be dozens of BCS girls on the courts. And although the soccer field has no varsity players this fall, there are still lots of guys out there practicing soccer.

Brentwood’s junior high AA volleyball team has a record of 8-4 and won both of their matches last week – against Grace Academy and Round Rock Christian Academy – without losing a game.

Coached by Kaylee Loftis, the girls have also beaten Hill Country, Immanuel Giddings, Summit, and Victoria Christian. On Sep. 19-20, the girls went to the Concordia tournament and beat Immanuel Giddings, but lost to Concordia Lutheran and SHLS.

Before the tournament, the girls beat Holy Word but lost to RRCA.

The A team, coached by Efrain Contreras, started the season with wins over RRCA, Victoria Christian, and Summit. They then lost to Immanuel Giddings and Hill Country. On Oct. 2 the girls beat the Austin Royals to run their record to 5-2.

Contreras said they are working on their passes and approach to spike and have improved a lot through the season.

“They are playing pretty well and getting

more comfortable with each other. They are working hard on overhand (serves), and they have lots of height and potential,” Contreras said.

The elementary teams are split into three. The AA team is coached by Loftis, while the A and Green teams are coach by Contreras. The A team was originally one team but had to be split because there were too many girls.

Last week the AA team beat Grace Academy in two games, but lost to RRCA. The girls also lost to Austin Royals on Oct. 2.

They won their three previous matches against Immanuel Giddings, Summit, and Victoria Christian, but lost their first match against RRCA. They have a record of 8-4.

The A team beat the Austin Royals on Oct. 2 and won all their matches before that as well. They beat RRCA, Victoria Christian, Summit, and Immanuel Giddings, giving them an overall record of 7-0.

“This team is very balanced and they like to have fun,” Contreras said.

The Green team has played RRCA, Summit Christian, and Grace Academy, and won all three. They beat RRCA a second time on Oct. 7 and are undefeated for the season through that match.

Coached by Devan Loftis, the junior high boys’ soccer team is tied for first in the Hutto soccer league with a record of 3-0-1. Eighth-

grader Jon Brinson is leading the team in scoring.

In the first game of the season on Sep. 13, the team beat CCU Texans 5-0. Brinson led the team with three goals. Brinson scored another hat trick in the second game, a 4-1 victory over the RRSA Silver Dragons.

On Sep. 27, the Bears took a 5-0 win over Lake Country. Brinson and classmate J.T. Lopez-Roeper each had two goals, one coming from a header off a corner kick. The boys tied their most recent game 1-1 to Lampasas Force. Loftis said their opponent’s goalie was “phenomenal.”

The elementary boys’ team, with a record of 1-3-1, is also in the Hutto league and is coached by Joseph Walker. The boys played Marble Falls on Oct. 4 and tied 2-2.

“(We) dominated and had chances, but we weren’t able to put away as many as we wanted,” Walker said. “They scored on a couple of great individual plays by their best player, but other than that, we held him in check pretty well.”

The Bears lost 4-2 to FC Element Sep. 27. The previous Saturday the boys also lost to Lampasas club team. They were tied until the last two minutes of the game, when Lampasas scored twice.

In their first game, the team won against a PAYSL recreational team 5-1. Walker said the team dominated and played great.

Lunch Bunch make losing fun

megan **MONACELLI**
reporter

Wednesdays are “D-day” at Brentwood Christian for a group of teachers. And while they might have thought it would be a day to fear, they actually find themselves looking forward to it.

The Lunch Bunch consists of 13 female faculty members who are trying to be healthier. On Wednesdays they weigh in on choir teacher Missy Weaver’s scale. According to English teacher Chloe Campbell, weighing in brings the possibility of potential success.

This group is not exclusive – guys can join too.

“They are welcome, but they’re just too scared to come in,” librarian Tere Hager said, laughing.

One faculty member, however, wasn’t allowed to be a part of this endeavor.

“Mrs. Rotich is our cheerleader,” Jessica Love said, joking about the accomplished long-distance runner. “We wouldn’t let her join.”

The Bunch meets every day during high school lunch to not only share recipes and hold each other accountable, but also just to chat.

“It’s really just to encourage everybody to stay healthy,” Hager said.

In addition to these lunch meetings, Weaver, Campbell, Hager, and volleyball coach Kellsey Smith walk almost every day after school. If it’s cool enough – 90 degrees or below – they walk for about 30 minutes in the neighborhood behind Brentwood, but lately they have walked a route in Building A.

“It’s a lot more fun to do it together and it makes it more of a priority,” Hager said.

Campbell and Smith have also bought bikes

which they ride after walking. They ride on the “flatlands,” avoiding hills, in the neighborhood in which they walk.

Most of the women involved in the Lunch Bunch don’t have a definite amount of weight they want to lose. Their main purpose is to better their health. Still, some do have specific goals. Campbell said she would like to reach her goal weight by the summer.

So far, the efforts toward increasing health

have been a success for most of the members. Weaver keeps track of the group’s weight loss, and the combined total for the ladies during their first month has been 70 pounds. Smith has lost the most so far, but she is followed closely by Campbell. The members agree that it is not a competition, they just want to be healthier.

“It’s a great feeling,” Campbell said. “My clothes are fitting better and I feel more energized and I sleep better.”



photo: Kay Taylor

JAMMIN’ The BCS jazz band serenades students upon their arrival on a Thursday morning. The talented group hopes to be able to make this a recurring tradition throughout the year.

Mrs. Davis

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student understand something – the “AHA! moment,” as she puts it – and, really, she just loves her students.

She says she likes the fifth grade a lot because, among other reasons, she feels that her students are “right in that age where they are between innocence and maturity.” She likes that they are getting old enough to participate in discussions, but not to the point where they have the urge to disagree about everything.

Davis also enjoys the environment at Brentwood and her faith is very important to her. Having taught children’s Bible classes at Brentwood Oaks before teaching at BCS, she says she loves being able to continue sharing her faith, and she appreciates that most of her students come from Christian families as well. She also is glad that she has Christian colleagues and administrators.

Those at BCS hope Davis will always have time to teach here, and to take fifth graders to the Lexington for a long time to come.

Fall play to depict mental retardation

carter **BOYD**
reporter

The lights will fade. The audience will get quiet. And Brett Withem will go crazy over nine boxes of Wheaties. It’s the fall play, and it’s a month away.

Nov. 14 and 15, “The Boys Next Door” are coming to Brentwood Christian. Starring sophomore Brian Peterson as Norman, sophomore Withem as Arnold, junior Josh Porter as Lucien, and junior Jamie Furrer as Barry, the play is about four mentally challenged men living in a group home. Their caretaker, Jack, is played by senior Andrew McClellan.

Past plays, such as “To Kill a Mockingbird” in 2006, have sparked controversy among parents about some subject matter. Director and theatre teacher Lindsey Pierson said she was not worried about any problems over the subject of mental retardation.

“The play is so well written that it will bring awareness to the audience about how these people really feel,” Pierson said.

The play, written by Tom Griffin in 1990, doesn’t make light of the problems, but it does bring them out into the open.

“I want to have the characters step inside the shoes of people that appear drastically different from them and realize that, in reality, they’re not so different from them,” Pierson said.

The cast of 22 has been practicing almost every school day except Fridays.

Busy schedules

continued from page 3

However, one thing that takes up a lot of her time is the college application process. Her advice is to get the essays and applications out of the way as soon as possible. That makes finishing school much easier, since college would be a sure prospect in the end.

For now, Brinson is content with working hard and still finds time for fun.

“My time after school is dedicated to basketball, Summit group, homework, and watching ‘Heroes’,” she said.

When it comes down to it, many students get overwhelmed with the flurry of activity in school, although some students are perfectly satisfied with eating, sleeping, and texting. The advice from seniors and graduates seems to be this: Remember that this is the biggest chance to do so many things at once and find out what you really enjoy doing.

As Kate Click wrote in her final Bear Facts editorial last May: “Do what you love. You don’t have time for anything else.”

Prospective students to have open house during school

brian **PETERSON**
reporter

This year’s open house for prospective students will take place Nov. 5 for the first semester and Feb. 25 for the second. On those Wednesdays, 25 to 30 students and their parents will come and visit the BCS campus to decide their future plans. Students of all ages are invited.

The past several years these open house events have taken place in the evening, but this year they will run from 9-11 a.m. This will not affect classes for BCS students, though many of the prospective students will be missing school for their visit.

Karen Withem, the BCS admissions director, is implementing several new ideas in this year’s open house, hoping that students will invite their friends outside of Brentwood to this occasion.

“The best strategy for getting them to come

is the great testimonials from other students,” she said.

Along with the always popular refreshments, Withem said prizes and giveaways, such as BCS T-shirts, pens, and other memorabilia, will be handed out to the prospective students and their parents. The attendees will also have the opportunity for a personalized tour, as well as a question-and-answer time to give them a chance to address specific concerns about BCS. A slide show will give them a real look at the school atmosphere and student body.

Withem said she hopes to be ready with student speakers as well, so that the attendees can hear about BCS directly from students. She especially hoped to let the visitors hear from the senior class, since they have the most experience at BCS.

“It’s all about the students,” she said.

Following the the presentations, students will be offered guided tours of the campus from Withem and admissions veteran Pam Hardin.