



THE BEAR FACTS

VOL. XXIV NO. 6

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

APRIL 2012



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IN SHORT

DuPond places at state

Sophomore Erika DuPond received fourth place in the Energy and Transportation category at the ExxonMobile Texas Science and Engineering Fair in San Antonio on March 30-April 1. This was the state level competition following the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival where she received second place in the same category.

Math League

High school Texas State Math League tests this year have culminated with Brentwood's score placing 14th in the state. Top scorers were recognized in a special awards ceremony on April 2, with the top spot belonging to eighth-grader Andrew Armstrong.

In the eighth-grade competition, Armstrong was one of four students in Texas to get a perfect score. This contributed to the eighth grade placing 10th out of 47 schools in state and first in the region.

Book Fair

This year's spring book fair, on March 26-29, included the help of more than 30 parent volunteers. Sophomore Beth McKinney was featured with her own table and copies of her recently published novel "Young Falcon."

According to secondary librarian Tere Hager, the book fair raised about \$4,000, which is well below what was raised last year. While Hager said the economy and the low attendance at Open House were to blame for the low numbers, the fair remained a success, and students of all ages enjoyed the selection of books.

Rosedale

The National Junior Honor Society continued the tradition of facilitating the egg hunt for the students at Rosedale School on Thursday, April 5. BCS students hid Easter eggs and then helped the students find them. Afterwards, they all colored eggs.

TCSIT takes two seconds

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

While Brentwood Christian's participation in the 27th annual Texas Christian Schools Interscholastic Tournament culminated a second-place finish in both middle school and high school divisions, a more startling storyline caught the attention of some students: a Korean placed fifth in Spanish Bible reading.

"I think that it is both surprising and expected, because they are already practiced at learning another language, yet they are still Korean," senior Daniel Gardner said.

Having won first place in high school sweepstakes 13 times since first winning in 1994, BCS students and teachers typically experience some disappointment about getting second

place. But knowing that the team was at reduced strength helped assuage the disappointment. The high school was hurt by the fact that band and choir were in state competitions during the same weekend, taking away several key contributors from various subjects.

"So many good things happened, and so many on our abbreviated team performed in an outstanding way," said Brentwood's TCSIT coordinator Dr. Libby Weed. "I was proud of those who did their share and more, making up for the absence of a lot of strong competitors."

Competition began Thursday afternoon with art, debate, Bible improvisation, and newspaper events. All other events took place Friday, after which most students most students en-

see **ARMSTRONG**, page 4



photo: Kaleen Graessle

Motley crew BCS seniors played a key role in capturing the second-place sweepstakes trophy at TCSIT this year. Pictured with the students is Carter Boyd's blow-up toy.

BCS takes first in state at TAPPS academic meet

e.j. **SUNG**
reporter

BCS took the first-place trophy in the TAPPS 3A state academic meet on March 30-31 at Concordia University in Austin. Brentwood finished with 70 points; the runner-ups were Flower Mound Coram Deo with 50 points and Houston St. Thomas Episcopal with 42 points.

Before the competition, Dr. Libby Weed, who is the coordinator of Brentwood's participation in academic meets, said she would be very happy if BCS could place in the top five. After the results, Dr. Weed expressed great joy.

"I was thrilled to learn that we took first place!" Dr. Weed said.

Surprisingly, Brentwood was able to win

with only nine students competing – or seven, since two students were disqualified. Junior Mary Monacelli broke a rule in the persuasive speech event. Her sister Megan, a senior, wrote her name in the wrong place in her ready writing event.

"I did the state essay just like I did the essay for district," Megan explained. "I don't know what happened."

The school yearbook, Bear Tracks, won first in state, and the school newspaper, Bear Facts, took second place. Bear Tracks adviser Jessica Love expressed great satisfaction.

"I am extremely pleased, but not surprised," Love said.

Senior Daniel Gardner was second in two math events and third in science. Senior Min

Track girls win district convincingly

sports staff

The varsity girls took first place in this year's district track meet in Kingsville on April 12, while the boys' team got fifth place out of 11 schools. It was the first district championship since 2008 for the girls, whose team total of 201 points was 66 more than the second-place school in TAPPS District 3-3A. Twelve girls qualified for the regional meet in 15 events.

The boys' team total of 77 points was more than twice the total of area schools Regents and Round Rock Christian. Six athletes qualified for regionals in eight different events.

Everyone who placed fourth or higher at district qualified for the regional meet, which will be tomorrow, April 21, in Hallettsville. The state meet will be held May 4-5 in Waco.

Senior Brittany Brunson won the 1600 meters with a time of 5:50, and she took first in the 3200 as well, finishing in 12:37.

Junior Priscilla Glenn was first in the 300 hurdles (48.95) and pole vault (10-3), and she qualified for regionals in five events. Her sister Nicole, a freshman, also qualified in five events, including all three relay teams.

see **GIRLS**, page 6

Large and in charge: Kia Khadem

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Besides murder and jittery cameras, ‘Hunger Games’ is great

For those of you who have never heard about “The Hunger Games” (although that would be nigh impossible, considering it seems to have more adherents than all of the major religions in the world combined), it is a trilogy of books written by Suzanne Collins that is suitable for children of all ages and promotes healthy family and spiritual values through various instances of murder.

My question is: Will this movie be yet another cheap cash-in on a famous franchise ala “Twilight”? Or will it defy all established conventional laws about licensed adaptations being terrible?

Since my previous reviews have drawn ire from people who are unable to comprehend that I have a dissenting opinion from them, let me start off with a disclaimer. I am a critic, and as such, it is my job to criticize. If it were my job to gush over every tiny detail that the movie did halfway decently, I would no longer be a critic but a member of my high school student council.

It pains me to say this, but “The Hunger Games” is actually a great movie. However, it is not without flaws and imperfections, and I’d hesitate to call it a masterpiece, like myself.

The main character is Katniss Everdeen, a girl whose name was most likely taken directly from a botanical encyclopedia. She lives in the harsh and unforgiving woods of the primitive mining-centric locale known simply as District 12, under the oppressive rule of the Capitol, a political power that emerged from the ruins of North America in the distant future. Katniss dreams of living in a world free from the rule of the Capitol with her bland family and bland potential love interest named Gale.

One day, the tributes for the 74th annual Hunger Games (a deathmatch involving 24 tributes) are announced for District 12 by Effie Trinket, a woman whose fashion tastes strongly resemble that of a Victorian-era Lady Gaga. Katniss’ younger sister, Primrose, is called as a tribute, and Katniss, intuitively knowing that Prim will die if entered, volunteers in her place. The other tribute of

the district is Peeta Mellark, a man whose name and physical appearance strongly suggest that his ancestors were descended from primordial slugs. They are taken on a train to

the Capitol, wherein they meet their mentor, Haymitch, who appears to be a miserable drunk at first, although we later learn that he’s still a miserable drunk, but with occasional flashes of brilliant advice and vomit. At the Capitol, Katniss meets the other 22 tributes who range from the innocent Rue to the Herculean Cato.

That’s as far as I’m willing to go with the plot, because I know that if I spoiled one more word of it, a lynch mob of socially inept fanatics of the franchise will appear outside of my front door with pitchforks and torches.

The acting was rather strong, excluding some scenes that had a massive amount of ham-fisted delivery. Katniss is a likeable girl,

if somewhat bland. Strong roles include Cinna, whose charm contrasts with Katniss’ irreverent nature, and Rue, whose innocence helps convey the brutality of the Hunger Games.

One notable difference in the movie adaptation is that the audience cannot see what Katniss is thinking. This actually has both a positive and negative effect on the character of Katniss herself. On one hand, Katniss becomes exponentially more likeable, as you no longer have to suffer through paragraphs of teenage angst and sappy love triangles so overdone that I’d swear I was reading “Ask Elizabeth” or another book written specifically for teenage girls who have no control over their hormones. However, motivations and character development are lost to the audience at the same time.

This brings me to another criticism. Since “The Hunger Games” was a rather long novel, many of the subplots and scenes had to be cut out (much like this review for the newspaper), and since anything over two and a half hours would make the audience’s brains hemorrhage. As a result, the relationships between the main characters never really get the chance to bloom or develop, and thus, the movie is shallower than the book.

The movie also skirts around the themes of the oppression displayed by the Capitol and any other philosophical lessons for us. The characters don’t question the Capitol or show too much disdain for it in my opinion. They’re not appalled at the fact that they’re toys for

see ‘HUNGER’, page 6



THE BEAR FACTS

Brentwood Christian School
11908 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78753

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.

Editor-in-Chief
Megan Monacelli

Photo Editor
Mary Monacelli

Reporters
Matthew Archer Kia Khadem
Carter Boyd Hannah Kwon
Dennis Clifford David Lee
Anna Ewing Jonathon Reich
Madalyn Garelick Kailey Rodden
Jackson Hager Charlie Sinclair
Lanae Hollingsworth E.J. Sung
Jin Ha Jeong M.J. Sung
Joseph Kang

Adviser
Jonathan Weed

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

Megan’s Musings: Megan Monacelli

Opportunties slip by as year comes to close

A little more than a month stands between us and the freedom of summer. (Graduation is 35 days away, but who’s really counting?) The aroma of change fills my nostrils and makes my mouth water with anticipation. Vacations, mission trips, and days spent lounging by the pool are being marked on the calendar as summer peeks from around the corner. It’s so close I can hardly stand it, but as this year slowly creeps to a close, a part of me is nostalgic about the past year. Part of me wants to turn the other direction and run back to August.

While I hold little regrets about my time this past year and much less, my time as a high school student, I am reminded of the fact that valuable opportunities slip between the cracks as the excitement and anticipation of summer heighten. Sure, we have just a few weeks left, but that’s a few weeks we will never get back.

The way I see it, we have two options as we dive headlong into these “few weeks” and both of these options deal with attitude. We can either begrudge every minute in the classroom, or we can see each day as precious time to pour ourselves into friendships, give every last-ditch effort to learn a thing or two in the classroom, and seize every chance to serve joyfully.

I read an article recently written by one of my mom’s coworkers, R.Y. Declan Fleming,

M.D., and in this article Dr. Fleming reflected on how our actions and attitudes tell a story. He commented on Donald Miller’s new book, “A Million Miles in a Thousand Years” and asked this question as a summary of Miller’s point: “If he could script his life so that what he did was more interesting, what he pursued was grander and nobler; if his life was a better story, he wondered, what would it be like?”

I ask you the same question. Dig with me through the anticipation of summer and find a gem of opportunity. These last few weeks are a chance for you and me to re-script our day-to-day, often mundane life. Time is presenting itself before us, and we can tell an unforgettable story these last few weeks. How do I go about breaking the day-to-day norm, though?

I want to pour myself into my friendships. One of the biggest cons to graduation and the ending of another school year is the inevitable goodbyes. They wait for us and make the last week of school a bittersweet ending. We know that the friendships of this year won’t be the same next year even if you’re not parting ways. I’ve learned that friendships are malleable. They are dynamic, and they do not stay the same from school year to school year, and this is because people change. Appreciate this change, but nurture and water the friendship as

it is right now, before the summer sun scorches it. Reflect on the memories, make new ones, laugh, cry, love, and serve.

Serve. It’s a beautiful chain reaction that never has a foreseeable end. Small acts of service go a long way, and I know this from experience. About two weeks ago I left a sack dinner in Dr. Hollingsworth’s classroom while I was at Six Flags Fiesta Texas for a Physics field trip. When I picked up my dinner after school, I found a little note had been slipped into the sack. Pink and blue highlighter covered the paper in sweet words like “you’re amazing.” It made my day and I still don’t know who wrote it. I send out a big thank you to whoever was so thoughtful. It truly is the little things in life that bring the biggest smiles.

So, while we can see summer on the horizon, I encourage you not to get so caught up in the excitement and planning that you let time and opportunities to love and serve pass you by. Take a chance on re-writing your life script for the next few weeks, and instead of bemoaning how slowly time seems to be dragging by, look at the time as an opportunity to cherish friendships. You and I have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Sarcastic senior cherishes trip memories

carter **BOYD**
reporter

Travel is and has been a fixture of humanity since our master race began. It is something that all people can agree on, no matter their culture: It is a good thing for a person to leave his or her home and country and go to a place where everything is different.

The poet T. S. Eliot once wrote, “the journey, not the arrival, matters.” T. S. Eliot clearly did not have the middle seat between two large men on a trans-Atlantic flight. His arrivals probably never included the novelty of stretching one’s legs or finally breathing fresh oxygen after almost forty hours of being trapped indoors and on planes. We can only assume that Eliot’s travel was a little more enjoyable, and while our modern forms of transportation take the joy out of the journey, they certainly make the arrival an ordeal.

The near-hour spent in the airport in Rome is all a blur. We got off the plane and all we wanted to be out of airports. When we finally struggled through the revolving doors separating us from the ancient city we had dreamed about for so long, celebration ensued. “When in Rome,” we thought, “do as the tourists do!” Two days spent rushing through museums and buildings and Italian restaurants and plazas and squares and back roads wore us all out, and by dinnertime on both days, people were sleeping in their chairs, ignoring the eggplant parmesan completely (a crime of which I will claim innocence – the eggplant was delicious). Rome had taken its toll on our group. We all slept at every opportunity, and I think it’s safe to say the longer bus rides had become more wonderful than we would ever have imagined.

After a very wonderful five-hour bus ride and a brief detour in Assissi, we arrived in the quaint medieval city just in time for dinner. For myself and many others, our days in Florence were the highlight of the trip. As a city, it was as old and beautiful as Rome, but the two days we spent there were less rushed and more full of free time to see the city as each person (and their required group of four) wanted to see it. Whether each group chose to spend the free time we were given browsing the famed open markets (which, I will admit, annoyed me to no end), educating themselves at the various museums, exploring the back streets and less tourist-oriented areas, or shopping in unnamed and overpriced American stores (H&M), ev-

eryone loved Florence.

However, as we know, what goes up must come down. After two days in Florence and a brief interlude in the exotic but crowded town of Pisa, we boarded what we would soon discover was Satan’s personal ferry. I would like to take a moment here to note that one of the biggest reasons our class chose the trip we chose was this ferry. It was exciting! It was a cruise! We were going to go on a CRUISE on the MEDITERRANEAN SEA! Obviously we should choose this trip!

As it turns out, the ferry was not fun. The bedrooms were loud and cramped and hot, the food was approximately four times the price it should be, the only form of entertainment was the “disco,” which was actually not entertaining at all, and there was no way to escape. We spent twenty-two hours of our spring break on a ferry, at least half of which, with an alternate form of transportation, we could have spent in beautiful Barcelona, Espana.

We arrived in the port of Barcelona at sunset, which made for a picturesque introduction to the city that many of us would never find beautiful again. The next morning, we began to tour. We saw the unique architecture of the

(in)famous Antoni Gaudi and heard its history described to us by one of the most heavily accented tour guides we had come across. I can’t speak for the class, but I know that I and at least a few others had grown to hate the city before lunch time. The free time we were given after the tour, however, was worth the wait. As we explored the city at our own leisure, our hatred fell away. The city itself felt a bit like New York City, being crowded and dirty and smelly and essentially a tourist trap, but there were stores and museums and attractions that appealed to everyone. When we finally regrouped at the end of the day, exhausted as we all were, we set off on a long subway journey to our last dinner on the strange and beautiful continent of Europe.

Mark Twain, in his infinite wisdom, once said that “there ain’t no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them.” Over the long week we spent in Europe, I found that sometimes I hated my classmates, sometimes I loved them, usually I liked them, and that (for the most part) I couldn’t have enjoyed my spring break any more.



photo: submitted

Gaudy Gaudi Seniors pose in front of Gaudi’s architecture in Barcelona, Spain, on their spring break trip March 9-17. They traveled to Rome, Florence, and Barcelona.

Cafeteria responds to new USDA lunch standards

david **LEE**
reporter

The United States Department of Agriculture has released a new set of nutritional standards for school meals which will be implemented in the 2012-2013 school year. According to the USDA, public schools must increase their offering of fruits and whole grains while reducing saturated fat and trans fat.

While Brentwood Christian is not required to follow USDA guidelines, cafeteria director

Chris Turner said BCS has added more fruits and vegetables this year, with usually three offered per lunch. According to Turner, BCS has been attempting to provide students with fresh fruits and vegetables over canned ones.

Turner pointed out that while her company does not compare its menu with what Austin Independent School District provides, they do follow the national school lunch guidelines.

The following are the new nation-wide requirements: Fruits must be served in every lunch, whole grains must replace refined grains,

meat must be offered daily, milk must be low fat or fat free, and calories must be reduced.

Turner said the cafeteria recently changed to whole grain pastas, and they now offer gluten-free bread for students with gluten allergies. She also said that since BCS does not have bulk buying power like public school districts do, the cafeteria has tried making more items from scratch this year.

“We continue to search for new food items, and menu ideas and student input is always welcome, in a constructive manner,” Turner said.

Career day opens eyes of students

jackson **HAGER**
reporter

With graduation just around the corner, seniors are looking forward to college, while juniors and sophomores are thinking about their own plans. To help with the work load, guidance counselor Dr. D’Lanna Mason organized a career day on April 10 for all of high school. Students assembled in the auditorium at 8:15 for a short introduction and then went off to classrooms where they listened to and asked questions of panelists.

“What young person hasn’t been asked the question, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’” Mason said. “There are so many amazing careers available to graduates today, but it takes some time to explore options before knowing that something may be a good fit for an individual.

Before spring break, students were given a questionnaire on which there were 13 categories of careers, based on information that Dr. Mason received from discussions about jobs with juniors and seniors. Students were told to select their top three choices. This survey helped give Dr. Mason a general idea of whom she should invite. The top three choices that were selected by students were: Health Diagnosis and Treatment; Arts, Visuals and Performing; and Architecture, Engineering and Drafting.

The day began with an introduction from Rebekah Hood, the online correspondent from KVUE news. The nearly 50 panelists were introduced, and students rotated among the panels of professionals in the three career categories they were placed in. The panels were mostly held in different high school classrooms. For each category of careers, three to five panelists were invited to speak. Many of the panelists were parents of BCS students, and nearly all of them were from businesses around Austin. According to Dr. Mason, BCS parent Celeste Scarborough was helpful in finding the panelists.

Several students said the day was a success. Many enjoyed the wide variety of different professions and thought they gave good information about career paths that interested the students. Some students, such as senior Sydney Jung, after further discussions with panelists, received opportunities to shadow them at their prospective careers.

“It helped me reaffirm that I want to be a teacher,” senior Laura Combs said.

Dr. Mason said she hopes by the time the freshmen and sophomores are ready to graduate, they will have a better idea of what they want to major in.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: *Marcus McCormick*

Seniors featured in the Bear Facts were selected by a vote held among the entire BCS Class of 2012.

Philosopher/athlete a faithful encourager

jonathon REICH
reporter

You may recognize him from his crowning as Homecoming King. Or you may remember him as Captain Von Trapp from last fall’s musical, where he performed his rendition of “Edelweiss.” You might even remember him for his leadership on the cross country and soccer teams.

However you remember him, it’s certain that you’ve noticed senior Marcus McCormick somewhere, and wherever that was, you probably noticed how encouraging he was to everyone else there.

Marcus has a tendency to want to participate in most activities. Now there are many people who do a lot of things around school, but there are very few who do as many things as Marcus as happily as Marcus does them, and almost none who also try to make all of those things more enjoyable for the other people doing them. He loves to be involved in many things, both for the activities themselves and the people he’ll have the opportunity to be with.

“He holds himself to a higher standard and works hard to achieve it,” fellow senior Caitlin Messinger says.

Since coming to BCS his junior year, Marcus has competed on multiple sports teams, including soccer, track, and cross country. Because of his 14 years of experience, Marcus has dominated the field defending the goal, and he led the cross country team as one of strongest runners. Marcus does his best to serve as an inspiration to his teammates and an encourager to underclassmen, praying before games and encouraging younger athletes not to give up.

“He’s such a good example and one of the most cheerful people during soccer,” says sophomore Erika DuPond, whose varsity girls’

team often practiced with the boys. “He’s so supportive during the practices.”

An example of this would include the way Marcus treated the team’s only goalkeeper last season. Because he was much younger than the juniors and seniors he was playing with, freshman Thomas Howard was not as trained or familiar with the game. So Marcus and other



photo: submitted

team members helped and encouraged Thomas to stay with it.

“Marcus knows how to sympathize with friends,” senior Min Shin says. “He’s faithful and always dependable. He’s the epitome of a good friend.”

Marcus also displays his creative side by

playing tenor saxophone for the high school band, participating in jazz band and jazz combo, singing with the choir, starring in this year’s musical, “The Sound of Music,” and competing in multiple TAPPS and TCSIT events, including duet acting.

Choosing a college has been a difficult task for Marcus. For now, he says he plans on going to Harding, where he will major in history to

become a philosopher or teacher, although lately he says he is considering Abilene Christian. But wherever he decides to go, Marcus says he will keep playing saxophone for a band, and he might stick with running as well. Eventually he hopes to become a college professor of classical history, where he can “teach the subjects no one else wants to teach.”

In addition to his dedication, his aspirations, and his inspiration, Marcus is a leader. He is introverted, a deep thinker, and yet he is a strong leader in everything he does. He is also very humble, although he wouldn’t ever admit to that. As Marcus’ youth minister put it, he has a “desire to know more of his own accord. He doesn’t just accept what he’s told blindly. He challenges it and goes looking for more information.” This combination of characteristics makes for a kind and caring young man who is willing to dedicate himself wholly to friends, and especially to family.

“They’re the people I can always come home to at the end of the day,” Marcus says. “They help keep me sane.”

Marcus is a dedicated friend at school, at home, at church, and everywhere he goes. He is well-known by all, well-respected by most, and well-loved by many. In the span of less than two years, he has grown into an essential part of Brentwood Christian School and will be a coveted addition wherever he makes his next home.

Armstrong wins five TCSIT events

continued from page 1

joyed supper at Gattiland.

A few finals were held on Saturday morning before the competition drew to a close with an awards ceremony at noon.

High school highlights include the BCS one-act play being named Grand Champion and Gardner placing in four events, including first in physics.

Eighth-graders Andrew Armstrong and Joshua Sass each won a high school event, taking geometry and Algebra I, respectively. Junior Ginger Huh placed in three math events.

Junior debaters Rachael Wells and Mary Monacelli tied for third place in the Lincoln-Douglas debate, losing to two national debaters. Wells also placed in two other events.

Brentwood’s newspaper took first place, and Bear Facts writers Kailey Rodden and Carter Boyd, both seniors, took first in news writing and feature writing, respectively. Rodden placed in three events, as did senior Megan Monacelli and junior Lanae Hollingsworth.

Other first-place winners in high school were junior Jackson Graessle in computer-aided design and junior Elena Battle in Spanish comprehension.

Middle school was dominated by eighth-graders Andrew Armstrong and Joshua Sass. Armstrong won all three of his math events in addition to the high school event he won; Sass was second to Armstrong in all three. Armstrong also took first in science, while seventh-grader Gabie Nguyen won a math event and Brentwood won the team math event, to no one’s surprise.

Eighth-grader Carissa Jackson tied for first in picture memory.

When a classmate became ill shortly before her extemporaneous speaking competition, seventh-grader Lauren Petrik volunteered to step in, knowing nothing about the rules. Wells pulled her aside and gave her a 10-minute primer. Lauren and both of her teammates proceeded to qualify for finals.

Scheduling for TCSIT this year was quite difficult; students were coming and going from all over the state. Track students arrived late Thursday night after driving seven hours from Kingsville to compete in Friday events. After competing in TCSIT, four middle school students were transported to San Antonio on Friday night for Saturday’s TM-SCA state competition. Also leaving Friday night were several choir students who had to be back in Austin Saturday morning for TAPPS state competition.

After the meet Dr. Weed’s excitement was tempered by her disappointment in several high school students who failed to report to their event, including an entire team.

“It made me sad that several students seemed not to understand the importance of competing as a team. This really hurt us,” she said.

“But I must add that most of our competitors had a strong team attitude and supported one another throughout the competition.”

Geometry students bust bridges in annual rite

anna EWING
reporter

The BCS parents of freshman and sophomore Geometry students now have their kitchen tables back. The spaghetti bridges have been turned in to teacher Kaleen Graessle and broken.

The project was due on Monday, March 26, and the breaking began on Monday, April 2, in the classroom. Some bridges broke with five pounds of pressure, but others held more than 80 pounds. Students moved to the weight room when the testing reached 30 pounds.

Two cinder blocks were placed seven inches apart, and the bridges were placed across the blocks. Then the weight was carefully placed in the middle of the bridge. Someone counted to five before the weight was removed. If the bridge did not break, it advanced to the next weight tested.

Some of the bridges broke right down the middle while others shattered and went everywhere.

“You can feel the tension in the air,” freshman Tyler Clark said. “Everyone listens intently for the dreadful cracking of spaghetti, then the Koreans laugh obnoxiously loud when a bridge breaks.”

When a student’s hard work is destroyed, there is always at least a slight disappointment.

“It really was a bummer when my bridge broke,” freshman Travis Teeter said. “I wasn’t expecting it to break that soon.”

In Honors Geometry, freshman Anh Nguyen’s bridge proved to be the strongest, finally breaking at 375 pounds. Freshman Isabelle Graessle’s bridge was a close second, at 350 pounds. In the non-honors class, sophomore Cynthia Smith’s I-beam bridge held 275 pounds.

“It is amazing to see how the structure and design go into the strength of the bridge,” Mrs. Graessle said.

Although the bridges were tested for strength, one bridge in each class won the “most beautiful” award. Freshman Rachel Dixon earned the award in honors, and sophomore Cynthia Smith won in non-honors. Both of these students earned an automatic 100, as long as their bridges were able to hold five pounds.

There are many types of bridges including truss, I-beam, and even arch. Some were painted pink or blue, even purple, but other remained the traditional “spaghetti yellow” color.

Graessle said the bridge project has been around for 21 years, since she first assigned it in 1992. The rules say the bridges have to be between seven and 10 inches long and weigh no more than 20 ounces.

TEACHER FEATURE: *Michelle Mohrmann*

Beloved teacher gives her all to family, students, BCS

hannah KWON
reporter

A science and math lover by nature, Michelle Mohrmann worked at a pharmacy for six years before she began her job as a teacher. Now the Amarillo native teaches science every day out of love for the subject and for her students. “Dealing with medicine is still really interesting,” says Mohrmann, who began as a pharmacy major for one semester before switching to education. “But I didn’t want to count pills all my life.”

While a student at the University of Texas, Mohrmann began working part-time as a pharmacy technician. However, working in a pharmacy made her realize she wanted to do something else. Mohrmann said she knew she always loved working with kids, so she changed her major and her future.

In 1996, Mohrmann’s career at Brentwood Christian started when Sylvia Burcham, a member of her church and a BCS teacher, suggested to her that she should apply for the sixth-grade teacher spot that would be available soon. Mohrmann was hired, and she ended up teaching sixth grade until 1999.

That’s the year she gave birth to her first son, Joseph. Mohrmann stayed home for 10 years before coming back in 2009 to start teaching again, once more as a sixth-grade teacher. While she was gone, she still showed her devotion to BCS, serving as PTF president from 2005 through 2007. She also welcomed two more children: Aaron and Lianna. Her boys are now in seventh and fourth grade, and her girl is in kindergarten.

In 2009, when BCS decided to add a third section of sixth grade, Mohrmann agreed to come back to teach the new class when elementary principal Dr. Libby Weed called to ask her. However, BCS experienced a shortage of sixth graders the next year, leaving Mohrmann to teach computer to kindergarten through fourth-

grade students.

There is a story behind Lianna, the only daughter in the Mohrmann family, who was born in Juanxi, China.

Mohrmann is an only child, as she explains. Since her mother had difficulty conceiving a baby, she knew it was likely she might face a similar problem. So when she was dating Lee Mohrmann, they were both already considering the possibility of adoption.

However, even after Mohrmann had two beautiful boys, Joseph and Aaron, she said she kept thinking of adoption. The Mohrmanns started looking for opportunities until Mr. Mohrmann was struck with thyroid cancer and they put other plans on hold. When they resumed the adoption process in January 2005,

things finally began to fall into place and the matching process began.

In July 2006, the Mohrmanns were able to receive a photo and some information of their future daughter-to-be. In September of that year they flew to China to pick her up. After staying with her in her hometown for five days, they all took off to the United States, now as a family.

Mohrmann expresses her love for her girl and says Lianna shares a lot of character traits – such as being strong-willed – with her first-born child.

“Lianna fits right in with my family,” says Mohrmann. “God is in charge!”

Mohrmann expresses her abundant love not only for her family but also for her students. Her current sixth-grade students say her inter-

est in their lives is really evident to them. From boys to girls, they say they really appreciate Mrs. Mohrmann as their science teacher.

Along with student Jenna Beggs, who strongly conveys that Mohrmann makes science easy and fun, her friend Nicole Petrik emphasizes that Mohrmann is not a Grinch.

“Mrs. Mohrmann is my favorite teacher,” Petrik says. “She is not very strict or harsh in a mean way.”

Mohrmann has energetically participated in countless activities. Last September, she helped BCS win a playscape and \$5,000 from Old Navy and TerraCycle, a recycling company. She was also a director for BCS students who competed in the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival in February this year.

“Mohrmann shares her enthusiasm of the subject with her students,” sixth-grade teacher Becky Stewart says. “Nobody would guess she is a part-time teacher this year. She is always around, finding something to do.”

Even though she has little free time for hobbies, Mohrmann said she enjoys scrapbooking and spending time with family. She also plans to attend graduate school for her master’s degree in educational leadership this summer.

One of her long-term goals is to travel to different countries, starting with a medical mission trip in Zambia. Other destinations include Italy, Australia, and possibly a visit to China with her daughter when she grows up.

Though Mohrmann is no longer working in a pharmacy, her loving heart is eager to help and cure other people. According to Weed, Mohrmann is a delightful Christian woman who is not afraid to discover new things and is constantly looking for ways to make things better.

“Whether she is a science or computer teacher, serving as PTF president, or in any role, she is dependable, hard-working, and enjoyable to be with,” Dr. Weed says. “Mrs. Mohrmann is a great blessing to our school.”



photo: Mary Monacelli

Lots of love Middle school teacher Michelle Mohrmann is known for her hard work and devotion to Brentwood Christian. The former pharmacy technician and mother of three is praised by students for her ability to make science fun.

Final day of giving doubles Money for Medicines to \$14,150

madalyn GARELICK
reporter

The time when kids search through nooks and crannies for extra change ended on Friday, April 13. The grand total brought in by Money for Medicines this year was \$14,150.08, all of which will purchase medicines and vitamins for use by the Zambia Medical Mission this summer.

Kindergarten through 12th-grade students contributed to this total over a two-week period that began on Thursday, March 29. With one day remaining, the total was about \$6,500, but the amount more than doubled with some large donations on the final day. The total is about \$3,000 more than last year’s.

The senior girls were the most generous class, giving an average of \$38 per student.

Their prize is an extended off-campus lunch.

The lower elementary winner was Sharon Howard’s kindergarten class, and for upper elementary the winner was Carrie Hunter’s fifth-grade. Both groups won an ice cream party.

In middle school, Cindy Singleton’s seventh-grade study hall and Karen Peyton’s sixth-grade class shared the top prize. They will be given an ice cream sundae party.

While most students brought in loose change, some brought in dollar bills. There were even a few 100 dollar bills brought in, including one from Hunter’s class. The fundraiser also received the occasional check written for larger dollar amounts. All the money was collected each morning, and students volunteered to come to the classroom of Money for Medicines founder and sponsor Michele Broadway during their lunch period and help count it. They

earned service hours for donating their lunch time to helping out.

Student Council and Spiritual Life Committee then posted the new total in the elementary and secondary buildings every afternoon, and Broadway emailed an updated spreadsheet to all teachers.

Students always find creative ways to bring in more money. Jodie Coyle’s fourth-grade class had a lemonade stand after school on Thursday, April 12, and donated all \$170. Other students solicited donations in their neighborhoods.

Money for Medicines is a BCS tradition that has been going on for eight years, and Broadway says she plans to continue it for as many years as possible. As always, this year’s campaign kicked off with an all-school chapel when Broadway spoke about the daily struggles that families in Zambia go through. El-

ementary students screamed and clapped when reminded that they could help by eating a pack of M&M’s and then refilling it with change to give to families less fortunate.

Zambia Medical Mission has existed since 1920. Every single coin, dollar bill, and check goes to buying medicine that is distributed to people in Zambia through the mission. Over the summer, Broadway and her husband Mark will join a medical team of more than 100 people and journey to various Zambian villages. School buses will line the dirt-road paths with doctors, pharmacists, and volunteers ready to give pills and shots to the awaiting lines.

“The Zambians feel complete gratitude,” Broadway said. “When we show up their faces are all smiling and their eyes light up. It truly is an amazing experience.”

Girls win three meets, including district; boys setting records

continued from page 1

Junior Morgan Vandygriff won the 400 meters in 1:04.58, and she qualified in a total of four events. Her classmate Serena George was first in the high jump (4-6) and second in pole vault, and she was a member of two qualifying relay teams.

Michelle Dembosky, also a junior, easily won discus with a throw of 92-5.

The girls’ 4x400 relay team coasted to victory in 4:25, well short of their school record set in an earlier meet. The team consisted of Brunson, Vandygriff, and both Glenn sisters.

Girls’ head coach Katie Smith said this year’s team is a very capable group who enjoy a special kind of unity formed by playing several sports together.

“We know it is possible to compete against the best in the state, and all these girls are working hard not only for themselves and their own individual events but also for the team, which is unusual for a track team,” Smith said.

The boys’ team took first in two events at the district meet: senior Marcus McCormick in the 1600 (5:21), and the 4x200 relay team (1:38.66), consisting of senior Simon Na, junior Matthew Onabajo, sophomore Kent Howell, and junior Anthony Milan. Their time set a school record, improving the one they set two weeks earlier.

McCormick was also third in the 3200 (11:28), while Na was third in the 400 (54.90) and third in the long jump, leaping 19-8 – the longest for Brentwood in more than a decade. Odies Moore (BCS ’99) jumped 20-11 in 1999.

Senior Trent George placed third in the shot put by extending his school record to 42-6. Howell and McCormick tied for third in the pole vault.

Coach Jacob Rotich was impressed with the boys, pointing out that while they also finished fifth in district last year, this year’s competition was much stronger.

Rotich saved his strongest praise for Milan, who qualified in eighth place for the finals of the 200 meters. Determined to defy

expectations and qualify for regionals, Milan succeeded by improving his time and finishing fourth, in 25.08.

“He impresses me the most of all the guys,” Rotich said, calling Milan “gutsy” and commending his competitiveness and preparation.

Rotich said the team is continuing to improve each meet, and if everyone stays healthy, he expects them to advance to state in “three or four” events.

Results for the previous meets are as follows:

4/5: San Antonio Christian Relays

The girls took first place out of 17 schools competing, and their 160 points were more than double the second-place school’s total. They smashed their own school record set a few days earlier in the 4x400 relay, running it in 4:18.96. Brentwood also won the 4x100 relay.

Vandygriff won the 400 meters in 1:02.48, while Brunson took first in the 3200 and second in the 1600.

Priscilla Glenn was first in the 300 hurdles (49.45) and second in the 100 hurdles. She also finished third in the pole vault and the long jump.

Brentwood’s boys came in ninth, led by Na’s third-place finish in the 100 meters (12.09). He was also fifth in the 200.

3/29: Jarrell Invitational

The Lady Bears took first place overall, competing against mostly public schools. The 4x400 relay team set a school record as they finished second, and Priscilla Glenn broke her own record set last year in the 300 hurdles (48.45).

George extended his school record in the shot put, and the 4x200 relay team broke the school record set in 2007. Both records were broken again in district.

3/22: Eagle Relays in Lexington

Facing mostly public schools from the area, the varsity girls took third place. Priscilla Glenn won the pole vault and was second in the 100 hurdles, finishing with the second-highest individual point total among all female athletes at the meet. Brunson won the 1600 and was

second in the 3200; she was fourth in overall points.

For the boys, competing in the JV division, Na won the 200 meters and finished second in the 400 with a school-record time of 53.8. McCormick took first in the 3200.



photo: Jeff Glenn

Clearing the bar Junior Serena George won the district high jump title by leaping 4-foot-6 at the district meet in Kingsville, April 12. BCS competes in regionals April 21.

Girls run at Texas Relays, set 4x400 record

With fleet feet and a few bucks, the varsity girls put a little icing on what was already turning out to be one of the most impressive seasons in BCS track history. On Friday night, March 30, the girls’ 4x400 meter relay team ran in the Texas Relays, which is one of the nation’s most prestigious track meets.

Running in the qualifying heats under the lights at UT’s Mike A. Myers Stadium, the girls improved on their own school record, running it in 4:20.09. Junior Priscilla Glenn ran the first leg, followed by her sister, freshman Nicole Glenn. Senior Brittany Brunson was third, before junior Morgan Vandygriff ran the anchor leg.

The competition was so stiff that the girls, who later broke their record again and became district champs in the event, only finished 36th out of 43 teams.

“It was amazing because there were so many teams there, and they were all good,” Priscilla Glenn said.

‘Hunger Games’ earns mark of approval

continued from page 2

some entity’s amusement. If the government tells them to bark, they’re dogs. Similarly, if the government tells them to murder in cold blood, then they’re Armenian commandos. Truly, this isn’t a movie that will make people think.

My last major complaint is with the camera. Whoever filmed the movie must have had ferrets up his or her pants, as it can become quite jittery, and combat scenes contain so much motion blur that I have no clue as to what’s happening in them. Perhaps the cameraman needs to work out, and if that’s the case, I would recommend a Richard Simmons VHS tape. Despite that, the camera work is mostly tolerable throughout the movie.

Special mention does have to be made for the soundtrack, which really immerses the audience into the movie. In a way, it helps ameliorate the somewhat shallow characters and themes of the movie. Sometimes loud and disorienting music helps convey Katniss’ internal struggles. Other times, it can help empower

tragic death scenes.

Overall, I liked the Hunger Games quite a bit. It defied all of my expectations for a licensed movie by actually being enjoyable to watch. It was a thrilling rollercoaster ride that didn’t need to rely upon cheap explosions and overdone particle effects to make up for a lack of story or characters. Above all, it receives my coveted mark of approval for not being utterly pedestrian tripe. Go see it, as it’s popular because it’s actually good, and not because Ryan Gosling is in it.

VERDICT: Watch it.

P.S. If you did not like my review for any reason at all, please send me an email with your trifling grievances, and I’ll be sure to mark it as spam and delete it with haste.



Baseball team working to reduce errors, learn commitment

lanae **HOLLINGSWORTH**
reporter

In a season marked by ineligibility and inexperience, Brentwood is 2-6 in district play with two remaining games.

The Bears have had to play without key athletes while training 10 underclassmen on a team of only 13 players. Along with this has come a lack of pitching depth, with only three pitchers available for half of the season.

First-year head coach Brian Thrift said he wants the boys to learn about commitment and the time required to play a varsity sport. He also wants to teach the boys how to commit while still teaching them the skills they need to play the game. Thrift said he finds it difficult to balance that with the limited amount of practice time due to a condensed season and multi-sport athletes.

“The goal is for the kids to learn how to compete and to improve every day,” Thrift said. “The biggest struggle is trying to cram everything in while still trying to improve.”

One goal that was not met is qualifying for playoffs, but Thrift is using the remainder of the season to work on mental focus. A bad half inning with several errors and a couple of walks can easily cost a team the game – as it has for the Bears – so he said he wants to work on sustaining effort and focus to prevent those.

Senior Diego Cole, who said he may consider playing in college somewhere as a walk-on,

has also noticed this problem.

“There’s a lack of focus and intent to get better, to keep improving. All the runs we give up are usually unearned,” he said. “If we would try to get better, do the little things ... the district would be a cakewalk.”

Thrift said the majority of offseason work will focus on strength and conditioning.

Following are the team’s recent results:

3/23: @Bryan St. Joseph 15-0 L

In their first district game the Bears got blanked, losing in five innings. No BCS base runner got farther than second base, and as a team they struck out 14 times. St. Joseph scored six runs in the second inning on mostly walks and some of the Bears’ 13 errors.

3/26: St. Dominic Savio 9-2 L

The Bears jumped out to a 1-0 lead after the first inning on an RBI single by freshman Zach Marsh, but the Eagles rallied to score two in the top of the first. BCS only got six runners on base. They did reduce their errors to 11.

3/27: Central Texas Christian 17-13 L

BCS was led by junior Garrett Gentry, who had two singles batting and five strikeouts pitching in relief. Although the Bears came up just short, they did score almost seven times their run total in the last two games combined. The Bears were down 17-5 in the sixth inning; they scored eight runs in the last two innings by capitalizing on walks and errors by the Lions.

3/30: @Waco Texas Christian 11-4 L

Brentwood was held to one hit. The Stars

scored six runs in the third on only three hits.

4/3: @Round Rock Christian 9-7 W

Led by Gentry, who had a double and a single, and Cole, who had a single and struck out four Crusaders, the Bears came from behind to win their first district game. Cole broke a 6-6 tie in the seventh when he scored the go-ahead run with one out. The Bears’ defense committed only five errors.

4/9: @St. Dominic Savio 8-4 L

The Bears hit the ball much better in their second game against the Eagles. They had six hits and scored four runs in the sixth inning when they batted around. Cole led the team, going two-for-three with a single and a triple. Sophomore Skylar Treut-Shaffer also had a single, while freshmen Ben Powell, Charlie Sinclair, and Jacob Orick all contributed singles. Unfortunately the Bears allowed six runs in the fourth.

4/10: Bryan St. Joseph 14-2 L

Although the Bears’ hitting has improved, with six players hitting singles, the Bears are still struggling with run production. They scored both runs in the third inning on a two-run single by Cole. St. Joseph capitalized on a total of 14 hits as they scored six runs in the first inning.

4/17: Waco Texas Christian 11-7 W

Brentwood got a strong pitching performance from Powell, whose curveball was called “extra nasty” by teammates. Key hits from Cole, Treut-Shaffer, and Powell helped BCS jump out to an early lead they never relinquished.



photo: Tina Treut-Shaffer

Special delivery Sophomore Skylar Treut-Shaffer is a key player for the Bears.

Unity, new pitchers lead softball team toward playoffs

matthew **ARCHER**
reporter

The varsity softball team is currently second in district with a 4-2 record and is on track to make playoffs for the fourth time in the past five seasons.

BCS plays at 6:30 p.m. today against San Juan Diego at Kreig Fields downtown. Their final regular season game will be Monday in Waco.

Out of 11 players, nine are returning from last year’s district championship team, including Lanae Hollingsworth, who was district MVP last year as a sophomore. She is team captain this year along with senior Kailey Rodden.

However, the team did lose their pitcher from last season, which has meant that sophomore Cynthia Smith and senior Dianna Torres have had to fill the vacant spot. Neither one had any experience pitching, and according to head coach Paul Sladek they have worked hard and sacrificed a lot to move to different positions.

“Without them we would not be second in district right now,” he said. “I’m so proud of both of them.”

Hollingsworth said she is also impressed with the way the Bears have battled.

“Even with limited practice times, and people in new positions, the team has worked hard to stay positive,” Hollingsworth said.

Sladek said the team is starting to put it together just in time for playoffs.

“This team is the definition of a team,”

Sladek said. “Everything they have done has been to help the team and for the betterment of the team.”

Hollingsworth leads the Bears with a .526 batting average, while Rodden is next at .400.

Following are the team’s district results:

3/22: @TSD 12-3 W

After their season was delayed due to basketball reaching the state playoffs, the girls opened their season with a district win. In her first time pitching, Smith had nine strikeouts, while Hollingsworth went four-for-four with three RBIs and a homerun.

3/26: San Juan Diego 17-5 W

The girls capitalized on poor pitching and errors to get their second win in district. Senior Bailey Hardin went three-for-three with three singles and three runs. Rodden had two singles and two RBIs, and junior Danielle Riedesel went three-for-four with two RBIs.

4/2: @St. Dominic 15-0 L

Brentwood struggled, getting run-ruled in the third inning against this top district opponent. The only hit came from Hollingsworth’s double in the first. St. Dominic also got on base a lot from walks, which led them to score quickly.

4/9: St. Dominic 17-1 L

The girls said St. Dominic was very good defensively, and they were walked too much when batting. Junior Julia Le scored the team’s only run, and the game was run-ruled after four.

4/10: TSD 17-15 W

The team got back in the win column with

a strong offense-filled victory. Rodden went two-for-two with a triple and a double, while Le batted two-for-three. Having to overcome 10 errors, the team was able to put up five runs in the first, fourth, and fifth innings.

4/17: Waco Texas Christian 16-1 W

Vastly superior to their opponent, the girls pounded out hits and took advantage of errors until the game was called in the third inning.



photo: Mark Merkord

Safe! Sophomore Maysie Bartos slides home with another run in the Bears’ 17-5 win over San Juan Diego on March 26 at Balcones. The girls are 4-2 in district play.

Boy Scout Troop 179 adds faith to leadership, service

m.j. **SUNG**
reporter

Two years ago, seventh-graders Matthew Scarborough, Tyler Clark, and Evan Herring were growing frustrated about having no Boy Scout troop at Brentwood Christian. There was already a Cub Scout pack at BCS, so Clark said he thought it would be a good idea to get a Boy Scout troop as well for the cubs to cross over.

Scarborough, Clark, and Herring sent out several emails to potential adult leaders, who then took steps to form a new troop. Boy Scout Troop 179 was established in January 2011 and started with eight BCS boys.

Assistant scoutmaster Lee Mohrmann said the group has a strong focus on Christian faith. Many troops downplay the role of faith, he said, and that leads to various behaviors and attitudes that are very secular. Troop 179 wanted faith as a primary component in addition to the leadership, service, and knowledge or skill acquisition.

Troop 179 consists of scoutmaster Paul Lennous, assistant scoutmasters Mohrmann, Ron Dunagan, and Jeff Glenn, and 12 committee members. Scarborough is the senior patrol leader, and eighth-grader Logan Schuster is the assistant senior patrol leader. There are several adults in the troop, but they volunteer their time.

Lennous, who became the scoutmaster on Jan. 1 of this year, said he plans on developing the troop by training its members to properly lead themselves and plan their own activities. He said his main strategy is to train the current scouts, and then to have the more experienced scouts train newer ones as they join the troop.

“My ultimate goal is to train the troop to function so well that I am not needed,” Lennous said.

Scarborough, Clark, and Herring used to be in Troop 4277 in Pflugerville. Clark said the troop did not care much about him or his achievements, so he said it was difficult for him to go through that hardship alone.

The new troop grew to 11 scouts during the first year, and 10 of the 11 boys were BCS students.

Michael Hickl, who was the non-BCS member, lives a short walk away from campus. Now a seventh grader, he and his brother, fourth-

grader Daniel, enrolled in BCS in January of this year. At the end of February, the troop grew to 19 boys since several Webelos – a Cub Scout program for boys who are in the fourth or fifth grade – have crossed over. Next year the group expects to grow more since several Webelos are waiting, and no one will graduate.

“We are a lot more organized now than we were last year,” Scarborough said. “If everyone gets focused, we could get a lot of stuff done this year.”

The Pack 179 bylaws say the purpose of this troop is to train scouts in the responsibilities of practicing citizenship, to provide growth in moral strength and character, and to enhance the development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness.

The troop’s volunteering activity varies, Mohrmann says, and this benefits both the receivers of the effort and the scouts. They do manual labor like painting, residential repair work, landscaping, and conservation.

“I enjoy campouts the most,” Clark said. “It is a great way to get your mind off of things and to just chill outdoors.”

Mohrmann says the boys are able to experience a wide variety of advantageous activities.

“Each opportunity provides new challenges, learning, and exposure,” Mohrmann said.

While outdoors and service are the more visible aspects to scouting, Mohrmann said the primary goals for the troop are to learn to be a leader and to gain skills for life.

“I’ve learned how to tie knots and ‘conquer the outdoors,’” Clark said. “But I think more importantly Scouts teaches me how to interact with people I don’t necessarily agree with and how to become a better leader.”

Mohrmann says the troop invites any boys who are scouts in other troops to come to Troop 179 and be in scouts with their friends. He said he wants anyone, scout or not, BCS or not, to visit and see what they are about and how they operate, because each troop is little different. They have opportunities to interact with other troops and at different levels such as outdoor activities, camps, local events, fundraising, service projects, and other things.

“Scouts need to find a troop they feel comfortable in,” Mohrmann said. “If the troop and scout do not match, the scout is likely to leave Scouts altogether.”



photo: Paul Lennous

High flying Students from Boy Scout Troop 179 practice for color guard during Spirit Fest at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock on Sunday, Nov. 13.

Choir wins state once again; art, band make strong showing

joseph **KANG**
reporter

While the BCS theater department took the top spot at TCSIT, the rest of Brentwood’s fine arts were accomplishing great things as well.

BCS took first place among 23 schools that competed in the TAPPS 3A state vocal competition on April 14 at First Baptist Church in Belton. It was the choir’s second championship in a row and seventh in 10 years.

A day earlier, the high school band performed at the Texas Private School Music Educators Association state band contest at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas. Schools were not ranked, but students earned several high marks from judges.

Finally, Brentwood placed fifth in the TAPPS state art competition on March 23-24 at Concordia University in Leander.

Choir students received a “one” in all three sacred ensembles, a “one” in all three sight readings, a “two” in all three large ensembles, and a “one” in both small ensembles. Nine of the 24 soloists received a “one” as well.

Choir director Missy Weaver said she was very proud of her 51 choir members.

“I think some students were disappointed in receiving a ‘two’ in the large ensembles, but we have to keep our perspective,” Weaver said. “A ‘two’ stands for ‘excellent.’ And they are an excellent choir, doing so many wonderful things musically.”

Many of the choir students came back from the TCSIT academic contest in Abilene on Friday night so they could sing on Saturday.

Since their competition was on Friday, many band members missed out on TCSIT. The TPS-MEA state contest was an ensemble festival, so BCS large groups – concert band and jazz band – performed, and each did three selections.

The concert band received two “twos” and a “one,” and the jazz band received two “ones” and a “two.”

Band director Travis Pollard said he was satisfied with the performance of his 34 students.

“We don’t perform to receive a ranking,” Pollard said. “I believe we perform to make beautiful music and get constructive feedback from judges.”

After placing fourth in TAPPS last year, art teacher Lori Morin said she did not expect to place this time.



photo: Megan Monacelli

Dazzling Kayle Morin displays some of her award-winning works of art from her senior portfolio.

“This year our contract students in general have not produced the quantity or quality of work they are capable of creating,” she said. “As a result we did not have as many pieces advance to state, so we would need to place in almost every event to place overall.”

BCS took 75 pieces to the district meet on Feb. 13, but of those only nine pieces advanced. Seven were individual pieces that were entered into individual categories, and two of those were Kayle Morin’s and Julie Kwon’s senior portfolios, each of which had several pieces.

Despite having only seven students qualify for state, BCS placed in almost every event. The six pieces in general categories all received a place, and four of the five on-site events also placed.

“I was very excited because so few students advanced but they did so well collectively that we were able to place with very few entries,” Morin said.

Students who placed include seniors Morin and Celeste Cole, and juniors Serene Nermal, Jackson Graessle, and Tiffany Truong.