

brackenlife

A BRACKEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PUBLICATION

APRIL 2006

AND THE WINNER IS...

1ST PLACE AT TAPPS DISTRICT FINE ARTS AND ACADEMIC MEET

On Feb. 28th, Bracken hosted the District Fine Arts and Academic Meet. The other six schools that participated were Winston and Trinity from San Antonio and Waldorf, Regents and Round Rock from Austin. Bracken came out in the winner's spot with 233 points to Round Rock's 230. See page three for a complete listing of our winners. Both our student newspaper, *WarriorChronicle*, and our yearbook received first place awards.

FIRST PLACE AT 2006 DISTRICT MS MATH OLYMPICS

On March 10th, 18 Bracken MS students competed at the District Math Olympics held at Castle Hills. Competition was fierce, as there were 12 schools represented (SACS, Trinity, Believers and Sendero, to name a few) and 140 students vying for ribbons. Bracken took first place overall with nine ribbons. See page three for a listing of students who participated, were recognized and who won.



CORONATION 2006... A EUROPEAN EXTRAVAGANZA!

One of Bracken's most cherished traditions is Coronation Week and the exciting activities that go along with it. Students in high school look forward to this time with great anticipation. This year's Coronation begins with a "Hats Off to Seniors" celebration in the gym Thursday afternoon, April 6th, at 2:30. There are games and activities planned that are sure to get everyone involved.

As soon as that celebration has ended, Coronation volunteers will begin the arduous task of transforming the gym into A European Extravaganza in preparation for the Coronation Ceremony that will take place Friday morning the 7th at 8:30 a.m. During this time the senior class will be honored as they pay homage to those who have had an influential impact on their lives while at BCS. It is always a special treat to hear how the Lord has blessed and moved in the lives

of these fine students during their time at BCS. The Coronation Court will also be crowned at that time, including the high school King and Queen, who are members of the senior class and voted on by the entire high school. The junior class will elect and crown their Prince and Princess; the sophomores their Duke and Duchess; and the freshman class their Baron and Baroness. Pages, appointed from the elementary school, will represent each class. Once the court has been presented to the secondary school, they will parade through the elementary school to the joy and amazement of each wide-eyed elementary student.

Saturday evening, April 8th, Coronation activities will culminate with a delicious banquet and black tie party at Fair Oaks Ranch Country Club. Along with all high school students, board members, BCS staff, and parents of high school

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FIELD DAY UPDATE

CALENDAR CHANGES

HS TAPPS AND MS MATH OLYMPICS WINNERS



CRAIG WALKER
administrator

Exciting Times Are Here!

LOOKING TO THE THE FUTURE OF BCS

DEAR BCS FAMILY,

The academic year is quickly coming to an end with plenty of activities to keep us busy. Our time seems to be in short supply. I hope you will take time to read through the BrackenLife this month. There is a lot of information for the remainder of this year and for the upcoming year which we are deep into planning.

First news flash, next year we will officially return to following the Comal school district calendar for most of our holidays. Bracken families surveyed, overwhelmingly voted to go this direction. We will have the Bracken '06-'07 calendar available for mail out in late April or early May.

Secondly, our football pep rally was a rousing success, and we are busily planning out the details of bringing this new sport into our Fall offerings for next year. Monies are still needed to help us get a field house, bleachers, etc., that we would love to have in place just as soon as possible. Please read the athletic section in this newsletter for more details and be watching your mailbox for a separate mailer on how you can help.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our Annual Fund. This is the second year for this new direction in bringing needed funds into the school. The reality is that private schools cannot make it on tuition alone and BCS is no exception. Some other forms of income are always necessary.

After trying the continual stream of fundraising offers that leave us all a little weary, we decided two years ago to start the Annual Fund (AF). **Have you given yet this year?** A gift of any size will get you included in these important participation numbers. Our Development Team is actively applying for grants to help fund things like athletics and Fine Arts, but benefactors always want to see what percentage of our school has committed themselves to the future by giving in this manner. It's not too late to be included in this year's fund. Please pray about your involvement.

As many have given and God has blessed our stewardship, **I am happy to report that next year we will be able to earmark some of the AF for specific needs to benefit our school.** Enrollment numbers are looking very promising for next year, which is always a key area in any budget. I believe that Bracken can meet its basic expenses on tuition and fees alone, but it will take some good growth in student enrollment. Please help me by spreading the news about BCS to your friends.

AF contributions will go to things like upgrading and/or improving the playground equipment, facelift and re-painting of the elementary building, grounds beautification, fencing of property, additional parking spaces, etc. Your ideas and suggestions are welcomed. If you attended the pep rally, you heard mention and saw drawings of a new Fine Arts/Chapel building. (More details will be coming on that.) What I want everyone to realize is that we need to keep the AF going and growing. This is a method of giving that I believe God is blessing to help us provide for the future.

Pressing on in joy,

Support the Annual Fund!

ANNUAL FUND TOTAL:
\$80,036.45

Once matched, this brings us to \$125,036.45!

FAMILY PARTICIPATION: 44%

STAFF PARTICIPATION: 58%

And The Winner Is...

BRACKEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

BCS TAKES 1ST AT TAPPS DISTRICT FINE ARTS AND ACADEMIC MEET

WarriorChronicle, Student Newspaper: 1st

Bracken Yearbook: 1st

Art History

Devon Gearhart - 1st

Tyler Browning - 2nd

Ready Writing

Alyssa Oviatt - 1st

Caroline Lonigro - 3rd

Miriam Spector - 4th

Prose Interpretation

Priscilla Martinez - 3rd

Casey Graves - 5th

Madeleine Aaron - 6th

Solo Acting

Chase Frost - 4th

Spelling

Grace Butler - 1st

Drew Harrison - 4th

Duet Acting

Kelsey Swierc, Jenni Scantland - 1st

Emily Watters, Joy Rheman - 3rd

Social Studies

Michael Shaffer - 1st

Jessica Dudley - 3rd

Andrew Korkosz - 5th

Spanish

Hannah Perry - 1st

Priscilla Martinez - 2nd

Cameron Scruggs - 3rd

Poetry

Kevin Riley - 3rd

Jordan Engberg - 4th

Blanche Jacobson - 5th

Science:

Tiffany Wetz - 3rd

Katie Riley - 4th

Number Sense:

Jason Lingle - 2nd

Emily Watters - 3rd

Daniel Graves - 5th

Calculator

Jason Lingle - 3rd

Advanced Math

Jason Lingle - 4th

Alyssa Oviatt - 5th

Persuasive Speaking

Michael Shaffer - 1st

Luke Preston - 3rd

Annika Stolhandske - 4th

Current Events and Issues

Michael Shaffer - 3rd

Luke Preston - 4th

Jessica Dudley - 6th

Computer Science

Jason Lingle - 1st

TAPPS Math

Grace Butler - 4th

Tyler Hilgendorf - 5th

Katie Riley - 6th

Original Oratory

Grace Preston - 1st

DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH OLYMPICS PARTICIPATION, RECOGNITION & WINNERS

6th Grade Computation

Emery Jahnsen - Superior, 2nd

Alexis Dickey - Superior, 3rd

Grady Achilles - Superior, 4th

7th Grade Computation

Taylor Stanush - Superior, 1st

Josh Grothues - Excellent

Lecia Meyers - Excellent

8th Grade Computation

Kelsey Daniel - Superior, 2nd

Madeline Loving - Excellent

Zach Dudley - Excellent

6th Grade Reasoning

Becky Korkosz - Superior, 2nd

Aaron Strain - Excellent, 5th

Mercy Preston - Excellent

7th Grade Reasoning

Laurelyn Kelly - Excellent, 2nd

Cooper Goodman - Good

Loren Koch - Participant

8th Grade Reasoning

Zach Strain - Excellent, 2nd

Jason Booth - Good

Eryn Shaffer - Excellent



BRACKEN OLYMPICS FIELD DAY COMING SOON!

Parents and friends, mark your calendars! This year's Field Day event will be Friday, May 5th, in the gym and on the field out back, and will feature fun, group competitions for each Pre-K through 5th grade class. Our secondary students will assist and cheer on their respective SALT Partner classes throughout the day. The opening ceremony will begin at 8:45 a.m. in the gym, and the closing ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m., also in the gym. Parents, you are welcomed to come and bring your younger children, if necessary, but the competitions will be limited to Bracken students only.

Lunch (burger, chips, and a drink) will be served to all who order at a cost of \$4.00 per person. There will be NO Chick-Fil-A served that day. Watch your child's backpack for an order form that must be returned to their teacher with the appropriate funds (A Day/1st period for secondary students) no later than April 14th. You may also download and print a form from our website. Right after lunch, we'll enjoy a staff-only talent show that's sure to show an entirely different side to our wonderful teachers and administration!!

If you would like to help on this day, please call Kim Rohlmeier (830-935-2643), Amy Day (830-669-8924), or Mark Palmer (830-885-7194).

The top three winners will now travel to Austin on March 31st and April 1st to compete in the state competition. Please pray for these students that they might do well in their events.

Palmer's Page

THOSE ALL-IMPORTANT SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS



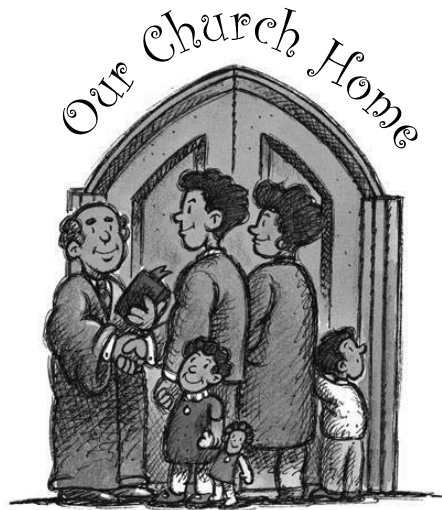
MARK PALMER
elementary principal

There are several institutions in the Bible that God established where people need to operate on a social level. The first is the family. Strong families are considered foundational to healthy societies. There is an ongoing effort in society to rewrite what constitutes marriage and family today. It is important that we as Christians follow the biblical model of the family to help anchor our children in godly relationships with others.

Another institution that is essential for Christian growth and maturity is the local church. It is through the church that we are able to grow spiritually, be encouraged and exhorted, serve others, exercise our spiritual gifts, and spread the gospel – both locally and abroad. It is an integral part of the Christian life. Most of the books in the New Testament are letters to churches or groups of churches. A few are letters to individuals, but even here, there are references to the churches of which they are a part.

A concern frequently voiced to me by parents is for their children to have friends from like-minded families, and who are good kids. There is also a con-

cern that their children learn how to get along with others and mature in their ability to socially interact with their classmates. These social relationships are often mentioned and discussed in family interviews and in conferences. Parents want their children to enjoy the social aspects of school and, consequently, school in general.



As a school, we also recognize the need for this social development in children. Several items on our report cards address these areas of concern: "Cooperates with others in work and play" and "Respectful and considerate." Others indirectly cover social interactions such as: "Exhibits responsibility," "Follows classroom procedures," and "Participates in class." Students are evaluated with marks ranging from satisfactory to excellent,

and needing improvement to unsatisfactory.

I think we would all agree that the family is an essential institution in which to raise our kids. However, do we feel as strongly about church? If you were receiving a grade on your commitment, how would you be doing? Are you "Cooperating with others in work and play" or off somewhere by yourself? Are you "Participating in church" or are you just an occasional observer? Are you "Exhibiting responsibility" by your faithful involvement and regular support? If we are obedient to Christ and working for excellent marks in these areas, we will better model to our children how they too can grow and mature socially and spiritually. If our children see our disobedience in this area, they will not see the need to follow God's standards concerning their relationships with others. Children learn best by example.

Are you a committed and active part of a local church body or are you sampling churches without becoming an active member? Are you assuming your children are getting what they need spiritually from the Christian School and just taking a break on the weekends? Let's be obedient to Christ and good examples for our children to follow.

Worth the Sacrifice

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

by Judy Engberg

I have often been asked why I choose a Christian education for my children. Families spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on houses, tens of thousands of dollars on cars and thousands on vacations, things of no eternal value. Your child's eternal future. What is that worth? Is it worth a better car, awesome yearly vacations, a bigger house, more dining out, more movies and video games, more stuff? Christian Education is an investment...we must see it that way. The decision of how a child will be educated is one of the most important decisions parents will make for their child. As parents we consider a Christian education as the most important investment we can make.

with it) and enrolled at Bracken, but they don't want to change their lifestyle. They like the way they currently live and don't want to make the sacrifice.

We have also been told by other parents (and relatives) that we are sheltering our children from the "real world." If that means sheltering them from man's values, then, yes, we are. We feel that a Christian education prepares our children for the real world...God's world, and all the blessings He has in store for them. Only His wisdom can prepare them for life and for the world. I cannot imagine my children educated in an environment that denies our Lord and Savior, where speaking His name is banned or frowned upon.

"Parents sacrifice to give their children a Christian education because they see the long-term value and the need for investing in the years that shape their children into who they will be for the rest of their lives."

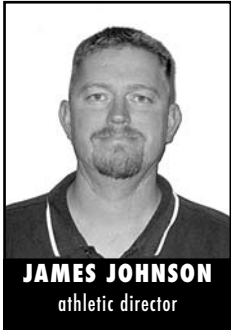
The financial cost of Christian education for our children is a very real sacrifice for our family. Paying for our children's Christian education does not come out of our extra income, for us it means doing without many earthly things and sometimes creatively juggling expenses to make tuition payments. We understand the cost is high, but the price paid is worth every penny when we see our children educated in an excellent God-honoring environment where they can be loved and grown into the individuals God has designed them to be. Parents sacrifice to give their children a Christian education because they see the long-term value and the need for investing in the years that shape their children into who they will be for the rest of their lives.

My husband and I have spoken to many parents at youth sporting and scouting events who have told us that they would love to have their children out of public school (and away from all of the problems, negative influences, and distractions that go along

Several verses come to mind when considering why we have our children at BCS. "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deut. 6:6-7) We desire this for our kids: to have God's word impressed upon them all day at school, and when they get home. A Christian education allows them to live out Philippians 4:8 "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things." Public school has too many worldly distractions. We chose to say no thank you to allowing the "real world" educate our children. They will be in the world soon enough. We choose to invest in our kids because they matter more than any material things and because we are called to do so... and yes, it is a sacrifice. A sacrifice we gladly choose to make.

Warrior Words

BCS ATHLETICS



FOOTBALL UPDATE

I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped kick-off football here at Bracken at our Football Pep Rally several weeks back. It was a great night of fellowship, fun and games, and inspiration as we go forward into this new era of Bracken athletics. Coach Jim Rackley from Judson High School did a great job of helping us all see the potential and excitement that this program can add to an entire campus.



Bracken football students of the future race through the elementary football banner while junior cheerleaders and fans cheer them on.



Middle school and high school cheerleaders pray together before their dance performance at the football pep rally.

SUMMER CAMPS

I know many of you have been waiting for this news and I apologize for the delay; however, we have finally set the summer camp schedule for this summer. We are including a copy of the registration form in this newsletter. You may also come by the school office or download and print a form from the website. We have modified much of the schedule to better serve our families and the community. Be sure to look over the brochure and if you have any questions feel free to contact us here at school. We have a fun and exciting summer planned so get your forms in before space becomes limited!!!!

I would also like to thank all of you that helped us to increase our financial commitment toward this sport by giving that night. We have currently met all of our initial goals to begin football, which is allowing us to move forward in raising funds for additional needs, such as a scoreboard, bleachers, and a field house and locker rooms.

Thanks again to all of those that have helped to bring us to this point of growth in our program. We ask that everyone continue to join with us in prayer regarding this and all other issues, that we continue to seek God's will in all of these decisions.



The fans go wild as potential 05-06 football players are introduced.

Campus Chat

It's almost time to tell our staff and teachers,
"YOU'RE THE BEST!"

Some may even choose to say,
"This year I've been your PEST!"
It all takes place in early May--
don't be the one left out.

We're looking for some "Helping Hands"--
here's what it's all about...

A week to pamper, spoil, and treat
Both staff and teachers who can't be beat!
With help from home or at the school
Just tell us how you're able,
Some may cook while others come
And help us set the table.

A meal, some snacks, and even prizes
Could be the order of the day,
When all is said and done

We'll even clear the mess away.
If you would like to join the fun
This week is sure to bring

Ask the Lord what you can do
And then give Kim a ring.
Her number's listed down below
Her e-mail address, too.

Contact her by phone or "net"
To say what you can do.

The fun begins on Monday
The calendar says 8.

And even though we stop on 12
We still appreciate,

The love of J - E - S - U - S
Each one of them possess!

And we're thankful they were chosen
To serve Him at BCS!!

For more information on how you can be a part of Staff Appreciation Week
(May 8-12), please contact Kim Rohlmeier at 830-935-2643 or
email dkij@gvtc.com.

CORONATION, continued from page 1

students are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Tickets are \$30 each and are available for purchase in the office.

Weeks of planning and creating go into making the Coronation celebration especially memorable for our high school students and all who attend. If you are available Thursday evening, April 6th, to help in the gym transformation, please call Terri Sanders at the school, and she'll get you plugged in!

11TH ANNUAL



Help us catch the bus!
(Tournament to benefit a BCS School Bus)

Monday, April 24, 2006 at the Quarry Golf Club

Volunteers Welcome!

**For more information,
call the office at 830-980-3267**

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

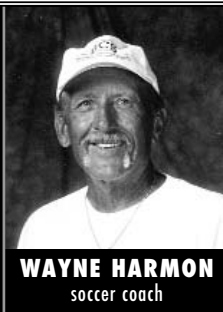
ATTENTION: CALENDAR CHANGES

Kindergarten Graduation will be on Tues., May 23rd at 7:00 pm
in the gym (not on Wed).

Eighth Grade Graduates will present a chapel on Thursday, May
25th in the morning, followed by a reception and celebration (not a luncheon
on the 26th).

Fifth Grade Graduation will be during Elementary Awards Chapel
on May 26th. A celebration will follow chapel (not a luncheon on the 25th).

Ode to Soccer ... For Now



WAYNE HARMON
soccer coach

It has been a great ride! I have enjoyed watching so many of you come and learn the greatest game in the world, soccer. Some of you have shown great potential in becoming very good players. Club soccer may be an alternative for you and I encourage you to check it out.

It has been a very fun and exciting sport at Bracken. We made it to Regionals three years in a row. Last season we were rebuilding, but we were in every game, but one. The players never gave up and I am so proud of them. Sometimes we don't

understand changes, but, as you will learn in life, we just accept it and keep trying our best. As children of the King we have faith. He is still on the Throne and is Lord of all.

Thanks, Bracken, for the privilege of being your Soccer Coach the past four years. With some good growth in enrollment, we will revisit bringing soccer back. Whatever you do in life, do with all your heart and as unto Him.

Wayne Harmon,
Soccer Coach

"...if we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow." John Dewey

We Need YOU!!

If you are interested in being on the cutting edge of helping to advance BCS technology, please email cris.brisbin@brackenchristian.com for more info on how you can be in on these new, exciting projects!

brackenlife

To submit articles, email
Andrea Tabler, Editor:
andrea.tabler@brackenchristian.com
(830)438-3211 or (830)980-3267



670 Old Boerne Rd.
Bulverde, TX 78163

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Spring Branch, TX
BULK RATE

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Craig Walker	Administrator/Business Manager
Mr. Jim Cagle	Secondary Principal
Mr. Mark Palmer	Elementary Principal
Mr. James Johnson	Athletic Director
Ms. Cris Brisbin	Technology Coordinator
Mrs. Judy Engberg	Registrar
Mrs. Tammy Grothues	Secretary/Receptionist
Mrs. Elora Harmon	Secretary/Receptionist
Mrs. Leslie Koch	Bookkeeper
Mrs. Libby Matthews	Tuition
Mr. David Ross	Maintenance
Mrs. Laura Simmons	College Coordinator
Mrs. Andrea Tabler	Development Coordinator

SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Toby Stolhandske	President
Mr. James Jahnsen	Vice President
Mr. Chris Aaron	Member
Mr. Jerry Beene	Member
Mr. Donald Loving	Member
Dr. Amil Ortiz	Member
Mr. Dennis Rion	Member
Mr. Dennis Rohlmeier	Member