

bws

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL MAGAZINE

2021-2022



On the verge of celebrating our 50th anniversary, a hallmark of the Brentwood School experience remains the feeling of community that permeates both campuses. In our nearly 50 years of existence, however, nothing has challenged how we define and manifest a sense of community like COVID. It has required creativity and effort that was previously unimaginable. Fortunately, everyone pitched in to preserve our deeply held sense of community: students, faculty, staff, parents and guardians, and alumni. You will read about some of these examples in this magazine: from parent and guardian Meet and Greets, to wide-reaching student and school service in support of Veterans, to our first-ever Pollyanna Conference: "Community and Belonging at Brentwood School," to opportunities for alumni to reconnect and celebrate our shared history. These are just a few of the many examples that could be cited.

At the most generic level, "community" means a group of people that live or work together and have something in common. Clearly, attending a school meets this superficial criteria. Brentwood, however, aspires to and reaches a much deeper sense of community. For us, our community creates social connection, constructive challenges, support, and most of all, a deep sense of belonging. And this belonging is not conditional. The belonging to which we aspire carries with it a deep level of acceptance and inclusion for our authentic selves. When accomplished, relationships deepen, learning improves, and we stay genuinely curious about the world and people around us.

As you read this magazine, look out for the examples of belonging and how the security that comes from it fuels ambition and meaning, two other hallmarks of Brentwood School.

Dr. Mike Riera

HEAD OF SCHOOL



Ezra F. '23 realized his childhood dream of competing in the Paralympics when he traveled to Tokyo with the U.S. Paralympic Team in the summer of 2021. While he didn't medal in his two sports—long jump and high jump—he performed well and gave it his all. Plus he gained a lifetime of friendships and memories, and renewed his drive to return to the Paralympics in the future. In the meantime, a trip to the White House with his teammates was the icing on the cake.

[Photo by Ravit Markus]



ON THE COVER

First grade students presented "Baby Elephant" this spring since they were unable to perform it during the traditional Kindergarten year due to quarantine. This and so many other performing arts moments lit up our stages this year. Visit <https://www.bwscampus.com/about-us/gallery2022> for galleries of images.



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FEATURES

- 10 OUTREACH, BELONGING, AND IDEAS**
Student and institutional outreach continues for Veterans; the Pollyanna Conference focuses on community and belonging; and the BCIL expands innovative work in designated spaces.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2** BWS DIGEST
24 ALUMNI
40 GOODBYES AND HELLOS
52 ON ANY GIVEN DAY



Performing Arts Alive and Well on Both Campuses

As COVID restrictions eased throughout the school year, students in all divisions shared their talents with the community, at first in outdoor spaces and later indoors with masked audiences. Dance concerts, choral and orchestral performances, the Upper School Play, “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” and the Middle School Theater Company’s “Wizard of Oz,” among others, were all vibrant celebrations of music and movement, comedy and fantasy. The Lower School Winter Performances were all recorded and shared with parents, but Spring Performances were as they had always been—in person with Music Teacher Olga Nevin on her piano at the front of the stage leading the student performers in songs and choreography. The 5th Grade “Odyssey” even returned, and 1st Grade shared in the “Baby Elephant” tradition along with Kindergarten since they had missed the opportunity during quarantine. ■





LEFT TO RIGHT:
Kindergarten
"baby hippos"
sing their hearts
out; the Upper
School Winter
Dance Concert,
"Reflections,"
explored masks
as metaphor;
1st grader
Anderson S.
performs on stage
for the first time
in Baby Elephant;
Casey R. '23
takes her turn in
the spelling bee
during the Upper
School musical
last fall.

"Spring Performances were as they had always been—in person with Music Teacher Olga Nevin on her piano at the front of the stage leading the student performers in songs and choreography."

Summer at Brentwood 2022

The Summer at Brentwood team is gearing up for another summer of fun under the sun, and this year we are looking forward to bringing new offerings for our Sports, Lower School, Middle School and Upper School programs. We are continually evolving our programs to engage students in relevant topics and provide them with an experience that is similar to Brentwood's year-round academic and co-curricular programs. This year, that includes a new specialty week in the Lower School program, Empower Me! (Glee/Drill), featuring singing and dancing for Grades 3-5. In the Middle School program, we are offering Robotics, Service Learning, two sessions of Model UN, and a revamp of the Eagles Launchpad for all new incoming Middle School students. In addition to academic courses, the Upper School program will include two sessions of Service Learning, one for grades 9-10 and the other for 11-12. ■



Aqua Adventures is a popular camp offering every year during Summer at Brentwood.

ATHLETICS

Girls Varsity Basketball Give It Their All in State Playoff Run

by **CHARLES SOLOMON**
Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

Brentwood Girls Basketball had an incredible year. The Eagles won over 20 games and made it to the semi-finals of CIF 2A! It was an incredible run that was capped off by qualifying and winning a STATE game for the first time since 2018. The Eagles beat CIF Champions Orange Lutheran on the road in what will be known as one of the best wins in program history. This was the highest scoring team in the history of the program averaging 61 points per game. Brentwood shot lights out from beyond the 3-point arc making over 350 three pointers this season. They had multiple players average double digits including Junior Amber Furch who was named All CIF, All State, and All League. She led the Eagles in scoring and is currently being recruited by multiple D1 schools. Junior Captain Emma Dudley was also a key contributor for the Eagles. Brentwood returns the core of their scoring unit and should be even stronger in the 2022–2023 season.

“This was also the highest scoring team in the history of the program averaging 61 points per game. They had multiple players average double digits.”



Girls Varsity Basketball qualified for and won a State Championship game for the first time since 2018.

Sam Herzog, (sprint football), **Andrew Mendelson** (tennis), and **Luke Rotenberg** (football), all class of 2022, are making their dreams come true by competing at the collegiate level.



CONGRATULATIONS 2022 BRENTWOOD BOUND STUDENT ATHLETES

FOOTBALL
Luke Rotenberg- University of Chicago

MENS TENNIS
Andrew Mendelson- Bowdoin College

SPRINT FOOTBALL
Sam Herzog- University of Pennsylvania



Middle School Girls Cross Country Wins Delphic League Championship

by **ERIN DIAMOND**, Associate
Director of Athletics

The Middle School Cross Country team was comprised almost entirely of students who had never competed in the sport before. From day one, the team bought into the coaching style and guidance of Coach Narc Narcisse. Recording fast times, it was obvious these athletes had talent, but it was the bonding and camaraderie that taught the runners how to succeed as a team. In the league finals, led by Sloane W. (2nd Place), Amelia S. (5th Place), and JoJo F. (7th Place), the Eagles collectively recorded the lowest team score (51), giving them the 1st Place victory plaque and the title, Delphic League Champions!

Spring, Fall, and Winter Athletic Accolades

SPRING 2020-2021

GOLD COAST LEAGUE HONORS

- **Cameron MacDonald '21**, Baseball 1st Team
- **Justin L. '24**, Baseball 2nd Team
- **Caswell F. '24**, Lacrosse 1st Team
- **Luc Yoshimaru '21**, Lacrosse 1st Team
- **Jason N. '22**, Lacrosse 1st Team
- **KJ W '22**, Lacrosse 2nd Team
- **Xander R. '24**, Lacrosse 2nd Team
- **James M. '23**, Tennis Singles MVP
- **Drew S. '22**, Tennis Singles 2nd Place
- **Alec Vyas '21** and **Hutcherson B. '22**, Tennis Doubles 2nd Place
- **Max Winkler '21** and **Dean M. '24**, Tennis Doubles 3rd Place
- **Matthew Polson '21**, Boys Volleyball 1st Team
- **Oliver G. '22**, Boys Volleyball 1st Team
- **Jackson Drake '21**, Boys Volleyball 2nd Team
- **Gray M. '23**, Boys Volleyball 2nd Team
- **Ryan K. '22**, Golf 1st Team
- **Ethan Schwimmer '21**, Golf 1st Team
- **JP M. '22**, Golf 1st Team
- **Paul Brindley III '21**, Golf 2nd Team
- **Grant H. '24**, Golf 2nd Team
- **Ryan J. '22**, Golf 2nd Team
- **Erin Williams '21**, Track and Field MVP—Jumps
- **Parker T. '23**, Track and Field MVP—Sprints

CIF TRACK AND FIELD

DIVISION 4 FINALS QUALIFIERS

- **Bella K-H. '24**, 400m, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay
- **Riya A. '22**, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay
- **Jessica S. '22**, 100 Hurdles, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay
- **Carys W. '23**, 4x400 relay
- **Erin Williams '21**, 4x100 relay
- **Ezra F. '24**, High Jump
- **Parker T. '23**, 100m, 200m, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay
- **Marco S. '22**, 4x100 relay
- **William Miller '21**, 4x400 relay
- **Luke R. '22**, 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay
- **Daniel S. '22**, 4x400 relay
- **Kyle Zeitlian '21**, 4x100 relay

CIF-SS SWIM QUALIFIERS

- **Mio A. '23**, 200 Individual Medley 2:10.81, 7th place, 100 Butterfly 56.93, 7th place
- **Chloe H. '22**, 100 Backstroke 1:01.55, 2nd place

The girls 200 and 400 freestyle relays both qualified for CIF. The 200 relay finished in 10th place. The 400 relay finished in 7th place. Both relays were comprised of:

- **CeCe P. '26**
- **Devon M. '23**
- **Chloe H. '22**
- **Chloe H. '22**

FALL 2021-2022

GOLD COAST LEAGUE HONORS

- **Luke R. '22**, Football 1st Team
- **Joe B. '23**, Football 1st Team
- **Frank L. '24**, Football 2nd Team
- **Michael C. '23**, Football 2nd Team
- **Sydney M. '22**, Girls Tennis Singles 2nd Place
- **Bella Y. '23** and **Sophie T. '24**, Girls Tennis Singles 2nd Place
- **Samantha S. '22**, Girls Volleyball 1st Team
- **Ava K. '22**, Girls Volleyball 2nd Team

PREP LEAGUE HONORS

- **Andre R. '22**, Boys Water Polo 2nd Team

WINTER 2021-2022

GOLD COAST LEAGUE HONORS

- **Asher S. '22**, Boys Soccer 1st Team + CIF-SS Division 6 Section Team
- **Maxwell W. '23**, Boys Soccer 1st Team
- **Alejandro S. '23**, Boys Soccer 1st Team
- **Elijah W. '25**, Boys Soccer 2nd Team
- **Jonah G. '25**, Boys Soccer 2nd Team
- **Dylan B. '22**, Boys Soccer 2nd Team
- **Jessica K. '23**, Girls Soccer 1st Team
- **Zoe W. '23**, Girls Soccer 2nd Team
- **Adeline K. '25**, Girls Soccer 2nd Team
- **Michael C. '23**, Boys Basketball 1st Team
- **Will C. '22**, Boys Basketball 1st Team
- **Sean S. '22**, Boys Basketball 2nd Team
- **Daniel S. '22**, Boys Basketball 2nd Team
- **Amber F. '23**, Girls Basketball 1st Team + CIF-SS Division 2A Section Team
- **Emma D. '23**, Girls Basketball 2nd Team
- **Aariah R. '24**, Girls Basketball 2nd Team

PREP LEAGUE HONORS

- **Devon M. '23**, Girls Water Polo 1st Team
- **Soph R. '22**, Girls Water Polo 2nd Team

THE SHOT



Amelia S. '27, JoJo F. '26, Sloane W. '26, and Jagger N. '27 proudly show their individual Cross Country medals and team trophy.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION



The Parents Association Year in Review

KELLY GRIFFIN

Co-Chair, West Campus

JILL OLOFSON

Co-Chair, East Campus

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your Parents Association (PA) Co-Chairs for the past two years. We are grateful to all parents and guardians for your unwavering support and enthusiasm. Brentwood School's strength is our community, and everyone stepped up to keep our connections strong.

We welcome and congratulate Allison Schwartz as the West Campus Co-Chair for next year, and the PA gratefully acknowledges and thanks Kelly Griffin for continuing her Co-Chair position, now on the East Campus. We are thankful to our outgoing Executive Board for their hard work and dedication during this school year. Likewise, we are thankful for the incoming Executive Board for their volunteerism and commitment to next school year. Additionally, the PA acknowledges the 20 hardworking Head Grade Representatives who facilitated communication within their respective grades. Also, we thank the 67 Standing Committee Chairs who supported our school community through their volunteerism. ■

“We are grateful to all parents and guardians for your unwavering support and enthusiasm. Brentwood School's strength is our community, and everyone stepped up to keep our connections strong.”

PARENTS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

2021-2022 BOARD

Jill Olofson, East Campus PA Co-Chair

Kelly Griffin, West Campus PA Co-Chair

Colleen Mintzer, Upper School President

Margo Freedman, Upper School Vice President

Eva Williams, Middle School President

Eugenia Rosenthal, Middle School Vice President

Allison Schwartz, Lower School President

Lauren Axelrod, Lower School Vice President

Gary Rosen, Head of Communications

Marina Cohn, Head of Fundraising

Darian Jennings, Head of Merchandising

Jeanine Kay, Head of Parent Education

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Eric Mathre, EC New Families Liaison

Ayana Moulton, WC New Families Liaison

Shadi Daneshrad, EC Volunteer Coordinator

Ashley Cassir, WC Volunteer Coordinator

Amanda Brooks, Parent Affinity Liaison

Barbara Sanchez de Tagle, Parent Affinity Liaison

2022-2023 BOARD

Kelly Griffin, East Campus PA Co-Chair

Allison Schwartz, West Campus PA Co-Chair

Margo Freedman, Upper School President

Eva Williams, Upper School Vice President

Eugenia Rosenthal, Middle School President

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Lauren Axelrod, Lower School President

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Courtney Ives, WC New Families Liaison

Julie Weiss, EC Volunteer Coordinator

Katie Khemlani, WC Volunteer Coordinator

Ayana Moulton, Parent Affinity Liaison

Barbara Sanchez de Tagle, Parent Affinity Liaison

2021-2022 Parent Education Events

The Parent Education Committee (Jeanine Kay, Haley Fisher, and Thea Wolf) presented the following virtual lectures for parents, guardians, and their students of appropriate age.

"Recognizing and Navigating Mental Health Challenges in Tweens and Teens"

TIM and RYDER DAVIS

October 2021

In partnership with the School Speaker Alliance of Los Angeles (SSALA), Brentwood School presented a lecture by Tim Davis of the National Alliance on Mental Health to facilitate understanding the risks, signs, and helpful responses related to mental health conditions in our families. Mr. Davis and his son Ryder shared their personal experience with Ryder's bipolar diagnosis and provided practical information for navigating mental health conditions in our families.

"The Lonely Century: How to Help Kids Connect in an Increasingly Isolated World"

NOREENA HERTZ

November 2021

Dr. Mike was joined by Upper School B-Well student leaders Cooper K. and Brandon M. in a Community Conversation with British author and economist Noreena Hertz. Dr. Hertz gave an insightful lecture into our global epidemic of isolation—and what can be done about it. She explored how our increasing dependence on technology, radical changes to the workplace, and decades of policies that have placed self-interest above the collective good are damaging

our communities and making us more isolated than ever before. Dr. Hertz is the author of her best-selling book, *The Lonely Century*, and holds a PhD from Cambridge University and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She is an Honorary Professor at the Institute for Global Prosperity and the University College London.

"How to Raise an Adult" and "How to Become an Adult"

JULIE LYTHCOTT-HAIMS

March 2022

Through Brentwood School's partnership with SSALA, Julie Lythcott-Haims offered her insights on preparing for an authentic, resilient adult life with one event geared towards parents and the other toward students Grade 7-12. As dean of freshmen and undergraduate advising at Stanford University, Julie Lythcott-Haims bore witness to students' first forays into adulthood, as well as the traits that help students thrive or struggle through the transition.

"Teaching our Teens to Make Good Choices"

DR. DOLLY KLOCK and JONATHAN CRISTALL

May 2022

Dr. Mike was joined in Community Conversations with Dolly Klock, M.D. and veteran prosecutor Jonathan Cristall to help us navigate some of the challenges facing today's teenagers. This discussion helped parents and teenagers prepare for a better understanding of the most-up-to-date issues related to drugs, alcohol, partying, police interaction, sexual consent, and personal and digital safety. Dr. Klock and Mr. Cristall also gave parents tools for initiating candid, open dialogues with our children. Dr. Klock, a family physician and mom of a teen and a "tween," is the founder of the site Adolessons (<https://www.adolessonsla.com>). Jonathan Cristall is a former prosecutor and author of the book *What They Don't Teach Teens* (<https://www.wtdtt.com>). ■

Additional PA Activities to Connect Parents and Guardians

The Parents Association (PA) had an exciting year with our students' return to campus. While parents and guardians were not immediately permitted on campus, the PA held its Fall All-School PA meeting virtually with divisional breakout meetings for Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School to better acquaint parents and guardians. Thereafter, the Parents Association was pleased to hold the Winter All-School PA meeting on campus, which included sales of Eagle Wear and an informative presentation on practical mental health tips by our own BWS divisional counselors. Likewise, we were thrilled to host Parent/Guardian Happy Hours for grades K, 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12, in lieu of the traditional Class Potlucks, to facilitate class bonding by parents and guardians. Pancake Days were held in each of the three divisions with parents/guardians flipping and serving piping hot pancakes to our students. Finally, the Spring All-School PA meeting concluded the year as our last in-person event. ■

2022 BRENTWOOD AUCTION

The 2022 Brentwood Auction was a hugely successful fundraiser for the Parents Association that offered a wide array of exciting vacations packages, incredible sports and entertainment events, invigorating health, beauty and wellness opportunities, exclusive fashion and jewelry, and top-level wine/restaurant offerings.

Thanks to the generosity of the school community in donating and purchasing items, the funds raised help sponsor varied programming (parent education, welcome events for new families, parent/guardian events, and teacher conference lunches/appreciation gifts, to name a few). The Parents Association also historically makes an annual gift to the school's endowment. This year, the year-end gift by the Parents Association to the school was earmarked for financial support through the school's endowment.

Many thanks to the exceptionally talented Auction Team: Marina Cohn, Head of Fundraising, and her hard-working Auction Committee, Cathy Gordon, Kristin Ford, Melissa Erickson, Elise Dognieri, and Tony Chu. ■

THANK YOU AUCTION DONORS!

ITEM DONORS

The Axelrod Family, Courteney & Ryan Bailey, Tracey & Toby Bailey, Brinah & Roy Bank, Holly & Albert Baril, Lara & Darin Beebower, Bari Milken Bernstein & Fred Bernstein, The Bienstock Family, The Bodie Family, Monique Lhuillier & Tom Bugbee, Allyson & Eric Bunting, Alexis & Tim Byk, Katrina & Ken Carlson, Casey Wu & Chris Chen, Dina & Noel Cohen, Stacie & Aaron Cohen, Marina & Adam Cohn, Katrin & James Dardashti, Angela Hoffman & Patrick DeBlase, Karlene & Rossano De Cotiis, Elise Doganieri & Bertram van Munster, The Drake Family, The Dudley Family, Meritt Elliott, Melissa & Rob Erickson, Michael Farhat, Behnoosh & Michael Farzam, The Fielding/Curran Family, Kristin & Brian Ford, Megan & Clark Freeman, Amy & Michael Geibelson, The George Family, Laura & Seth Gerson, Suzy & Steve Gilson, Catherine & Jason Gordon, The Gordon Family, Kim & Adam Gottlieb, Michael Green, Rebecca & George Greenberg, Julie & Russell Greenman, Kelly & Justin Griffin, Hayley & Ben Haefe, Michele & Jordan Hamburger, Yasmin & Phil Harvey, Malerie Marder & Mark Hyatt, The Iino Family, Darian & Richard Jennings, Ashley & David Josephson, The Josephson Family, The Kamins Family, D'Lynda & Craig Kaplan, Silvia Obagi & Raffi Karamanoukian, Cece & Mike Karz, Dana & Scott Kaufman, Kelly & Ryan Kaufman, Sheila & Daniel Kharrazi, The Kim Family, Abby & David Kohl, The Kosove Family, Naina & Raj Kothari, Galit & Brian Laibow, Brooke & Ken Lande, Mira & Brian Lee, Sean Leffers & Tom Buttgenbach, Carla & Rod Liber, Jessica & Greg Liberman, The Lichtenberg Family, Andrea Lieberman & Vincent Passeri, The Lourd Family, Andrea & Jason Lublin, Fainche MacCarthy, The Meenaghan Family, Hillary & Lance Milken, Crystal & Rob Minkoff, Sheila Nazarian Mobin & Fardad Mobin, The Momtazee Family, Sarah & Neal Moritz, Adrienne & Ari Nathan, Sabina & David Nathanson, Hedy & Benjamin Nazarian, Mieke & Spencer Neumann, Jill & Eric Olofson, Molly & Andrew Patience, The Prakash Family, The Rajasingam Family, Karni & Ran Reske, Carrie & Evan Rifkin, Rona Rodrig, Eden & Steven Romick, The Saken Family, Kirsten & Keith Sarkisian, Allison & Matt Schwartz, Suze & Marc Schwartz, Claudine & Steve Shokouhi, Bui & Herb Simon, Brett Kassan Smith & Jake Smith, Brooke & George Spanos, Melinda & Art Spigel, The Spound Family, Allison & Rich Statter, Nanna & Dan Stern, Erika Aronson Stern & Adam Stern, Katy & Stephane Strouk, The Sugarman Family, Jennifer & Jack Tsai, Brinley & Jason Turner, The Wadler Family, Obaida & Scott Watt, Hila & Jeremy Wenokur, The Whitlock Family, Eva & Kirk Williams, Jackie & Adam Winnick, Lauren & Alexander Winnick, The Yang Family, Elena & Drew Zager, Adrienne & Robert Zarnegin

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The Weisbarth Family
Dave & Dominique Wirtschafter
Steven & Leah Yari



Parent Meet and Greet and Happy Hour Events

by **MAYA DHARWARKAR**, Parent

As the parent of a 5th Grader, I am used to feeling that "class connection" with other Brentwood parents, after years of attending in person on and off campus events. The 1st Grade Parent Meet and Greet was a chance to put names and Zoom boxes to real-life faces and people. It was the first time we felt that palpable connection you feel to other Brentwood parents with children in the same grade and it felt like the start of our real journey together as a class parents. ■



Campus events for parents took place on both campuses and provided an opportunity for campus tours and conversation.





VCRE

THE VETERAN PARTNERSHIP IN FOCUS

by **GENNIFER YOSHIMARU**, Assistant Head of School
and **DR. SUSIE LYONS**, Director of Middle School Service Learning and Veteran Education

Through the Veterans Center for Recreation and Education at Brentwood School (VCRE), we manifest our commitment to serving Veterans. Brentwood's partnership with VA spans almost 50 years and has positively impacted the lives of Veterans and students alike for generations. What follows are but some examples of

Stand Outs

With access to the VA campus limited during the pandemic, the VA's Community Engagement and Reintegration Services (CERS) personnel deployed teams of social and resource workers into the field in an effort to support homeless Veterans. Two large-scale coordinated efforts, called Stand Outs, took place in November of 2020 and March of 2021, sending multiple teams at a time to cover a very broad geographic area of the city. In each instance, Brentwood School's VCRE supported the work by providing backpacks (stuffed with new socks, toiletries, and a blanket), petpacks (donated by the Michelson Found Animals Foundation), breakfasts, lunches, and resource guides to be handed out.

On November 9, 2021, with COVID regulations allowing for limited outdoor gathering, VA hosted a Housing Resource Stand Down at Lot 1 aimed at matching unhoused Veterans with resources and programs to get them off the street. BWS provided a looping shuttle for Veterans between different access points on and off campus as well as hundreds of breakfast burritos, lunches, bottled water, juice, and tea.

how we manifest our robust range of service projects, recreational activities, educational opportunities, and essential support.

Cooking Classes

Prior to the pandemic, Brentwood School's VCRE launched a series of cooking classes at Building 209 and the Domiciliary on the West Los Angeles VA Campus. It was a wonderful opportunity for our faculty and staff to connect with Veterans and provide a culinary lesson and demonstration of an easy recipe, which then culminated in enjoying what had been cooked.

hand-painted stones for Veterans for our back gate.



Our faculty and volunteers soon realized that the best part of the cooking class was the connection and conversation between Veterans while sharing a meal together!

Post pandemic, Brentwood School's VCRE now offers monthly outdoor cooking classes for Veterans at the West Los Angeles VA Campus Domiciliary. These cooking classes have included some easy and healthy recipes with an emphasis on cardiovascular health and nutrition, such as Greek garden gazpacho, juicing classes, lemon vinaigrette potato salad with grilled fish, vinegar coleslaw with fish tacos, homemade garlic hummus with kabobs, and homemade salsa with fresh fish. Classes are always very well attended with approximately 50 Veterans each session. We look forward to classes expanding to include CTRS and Building 209 at the West Los Angeles VA Campus as well.

Pallet Shelters

There is something about Thanksgiving that heightens our appreciation of family and home as well as our awareness of those in need. For years, even during the pandemic, Brentwood School's VCRE has provided beautiful and delicious Thanksgiving meals to Veterans living on the WLA VA campus. This past November, we went one step further by sponsoring 20 Pallet Shelter homes for Veterans living at CTRS (The Care, Treatment, and Rehabilitative Services Initiative).

The CTRS initiative is a low barrier to entry pilot program created during the COVID-19 pandemic that provides high-risk Veterans experiencing homelessness with healthcare, case management, peer support, meal services, a clean environment, and transitional housing assistance in a designated area adjacent to Lot 10. Since its inception, we have served lunch and dinner Monday through Friday to its residents and meets requests for supplies of all kinds—from tents and sleeping bags to bottled water and clothing.

The shelters arrived early in the morning of November 20 and were assembled, connected to utilities, and made ready for occupancy just in time for Thanksgiving. In a press release



The shelters arrived early in the morning of November 20th and were assembled, connected to utilities, and made ready for occupancy just in time for Thanksgiving.





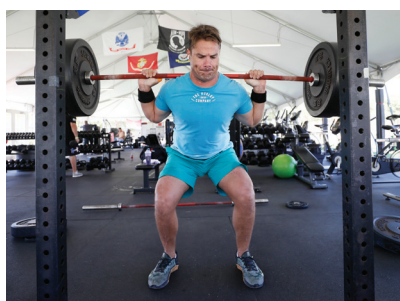
BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT SERVICE, OUTREACH, AND OTHER VETERAN IMPACT

SINCE AUGUST 2021, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BENEFITTED FROM:

1,320 handmade and handwritten cards	1,100 cookies	105 new backpacks with school supplies for children of Veterans	335 hand-painted flower pots with succulents for Veterans Day
800+ pairs of socks	301 toiletry kits	77 new toys collected and given to children of Veterans	150 new backpacks with toiletries donated by a Brentwood student
200 Valentine Bags w/toiletries	135 tents, sleeping bags, blankets, cots, and mats to CTRS	20 pallet shelters donated to house Veterans at CTRS	127 new outdoor mats for the Pallet Shelters in CTRS
127 art pieces of the American Flag by the MS Leadership Team and 3rd Grade given to Veterans living in CTRS	5 large gift baskets for female Veterans' Pamper Me Tea	27,920 meals to Veterans living in CTRS	4,466 visits to VCRC (since June 2021)
197 VA Scholarships to Summer at Brentwood awards for 2022	600 bags of food distributed in Drive-thru Food Pantries	240 grocery gift cards distributed in Drive-thru Food Pantries	100 paintings for Vets made by the US Veteran Art Club

Twenty pallet shelter homes were delivered to the West LA VA campus on a cold morning in November and were assembled by a team of volunteers for Veterans in the CTRS program, just in time for Thanksgiving.



about the construction of the 20 Pallet Shelters, Dr. Steven Braverman, Medical Center Director, VAGLAHS said, "VA would like to thank Brentwood School for its partnership in bringing these additional tiny shelters to the West Los Angeles campus." As a dedicated partner in VA's mission to support our honored Veterans, Brentwood School was thrilled to provide additional tiny shelter housing for Veterans participating in CTRS, particularly in time for the holidays. We have worked closely with Veterans experiencing homelessness in our community over the past several years, and we hope the shelters serve as a launching pad to help these 20 Vets get their health and their lives back on track.

Veteran Workouts at the VCRE

Seven days a week, Veterans and their spouses/partners have exclusive access to the 22-acre VCRE athletic complex built and maintained by Brentwood School on VA land. In the late 1990's, BWS and VA entered into a land use agreement that allowed Brentwood School to transform what was a 22-acre

later in the morning by organized groups accompanied by the Domiciliary program's recreational therapists. In partnership with with rec therapists, Paul has created a weekly program that includes free weights and machines, cardio training, agility practice, and a range of team activities like floor hockey and the always popular Friday softball games. It is magical to watch the way that Paul interacts with the range of Veterans who come to the workout tent, yet Paul is the first to say that he receives as much from them as he gives to them.

Job Skills Classes

In an effort to help Veterans navigate the ever changing and challenging job market, Brentwood faculty and staff have led various job skills classes. These classes have aimed to help not only Veterans, but also VA staff members who assist Veterans. Some classes have included: Resume Writing; Advanced Resume Web Training Parts 1 & 2; Interviewing Tips and Skills; LinkedIn Training Parts 1 & 2; and How to Market Yourself to Employers. In addition, our Technology Department has outfitted and maintains

Seven days a week, Veterans and their spouses/partners have exclusive access to the 22-acre athletic complex built and maintained by Brentwood School on VA land.

Veterans received fitness training and support from Paul Radenberg, VCRE Fitness Facilitator and Coach, in the work out tent during VCRE hours.

VCRE landfill and ravine into a state-of-the-art facility to be utilized by Veterans and students alike. A new lease formalized in 2016 led to the creation of the VCRE (Veterans Center for Recreation and Education) that includes, among other things, a full-time fitness facilitator and coach, Paul Radenberg, dedicated solely to Veterans. After a long closure due to COVID, the facility was able to open again in June of 2021 and now receives hundreds of Veteran visits each month. On weekdays, the first wave comes early, often before sunrise, and consists of Veterans from a range of ages, physical conditions, and circumstances. Some belong to residential programs on the VA campus and others live or work in the neighborhood. Beyond being Veterans, they have another common connection—Paul. Paul offers them individualized fitness programs and inspires a passion for wellness. In addition to being a coach and mentor, he is always willing to lend an ear. The first wave is followed

three different computer labs, one in Building 257 and two in the Domiciliary, so that Veterans have access to technology that supports resume creation and job searches.

Yoga Classes

Yoga classes provide Veterans an opportunity to increase flexibility, muscle strength, and tone; improve energy and vitality; increase body awareness; relieve chronic stress patterns; relax the mind; and sharpen concentration. Weekly afternoon yoga classes are spearheaded by Brentwood faculty member Tracy Wallace and are held at the West Los Angeles VA Campus Domiciliary.

Veteran Spotlight Board

Building community! Once a month, Brentwood's Middle and Upper School students spotlight an employee at Brentwood School who is also a Veteran. An ongoing and "living" board, US students from the VA Student Support Group interview various employees and share their write-up for all students to read. This spring, College Counselor Mr. J Cole, a Veteran of the U.S. Navy, and BWS Public Safety Officer Mr. Clyde Cross, a Veteran of the Marine Corps, were highlighted, giving students the opportunity to learn more about military experience, the branches of service, and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Veterans within our community. ■



**1,563
STUDENT
SERVICE
HOURS**

VA SUPPORT GROUP

- School Supply Drive, sorting and organizing for children of Veterans
- Thanksgiving Drive—organizing and assembly of bags
- planning, prepping, organizing, and hosting the Veteran's Day Assembly for Middle and Upper School
- bringing plants and cards to CalVet Home for Veteran's Day
- interviewing Veterans who are BWS Employees for the Veteran Spotlight Bulletin Board
- spearheading and helping to assemble the 200 Valentine's Day Bags
- running the Gently Used Athletic Shoes and Sweats Drive for Veterans
- organizing and preparing the K-12 Toiletries Drive for homeless Veterans
- writing letters and cards to Veterans
- announcing Drives at the US Assemblies

6TH GRADE FUNDAMENTALS

- backpacks were packed up for children of Veterans
- Veteran flower pots were painted and planting succulents for Veteran's Day
- cards were written for Veteran's Day
- handmade Valentine cards were created for Veterans
- stones were hand-painted for Veterans for our back gate
- students designed and colored a banner for Veterans at the West Los Angeles VA Campus Building 209
- 6th Grade VA Scavenger Hunt where students met our faculty who help Veterans and learned more about our relationship with VA

PE SERVICE IN 8TH GRADE

- hands-on service at the Japanese Garden, Heroes Garden, and Building 209:
 - planting herbs
 - planting fruits and vegetables, including peas, tomatoes, carrots, and strawberries
 - weeding, raking, pruning, and watering plants
 - clearing brush and overgrown areas

10TH GRADE

- 255 flower pots were painted and planted for Veterans

MS SERVICE LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING TO PREPARE AND PLAN

- assembling Thanksgiving bags
- spearheading the Toiletries Drive in the MS
- writing letters and cards to Veterans
- announcing Events and Drives at the MS Assemblies

POLLYANNA at Brentwood School

A DAY OF CONVERSATION, COMMUNITY, AND BELONGING

by **DR. TRINA MOORE-SOUTHALL**
Director of Equity and Inclusion



I attended my first Pollyanna Conference along with other administrators, faculty, parents, and students four years ago at Harvard-Westlake. It was a day for constituents in the same role to hear from others in Los Angeles area schools about how we are doing in our commitment to equity and inclusion. It also offered the opportunity for everyone to hear from a panel of students—the most powerful part of the day. Could we replicate this Saturday morning experience for over 1,000 people on a school day at Brentwood? **Yes!**

Pollyanna was founded in 2015 by Casper Calderola, a parent at an independent school in New York City, with a mission “to advance systemic change by developing stronger communities ... through programs that enhance cultural competency, racial literacy, and equity practices.” Pollyanna works with academic and other institutions—through its unique conference models, discussion platforms, and racial literacy curricula—to increase cultural competence. Typically, Pollyanna conferences involve several area schools participating in the event as a group. This was their first conference on a school day which makes it the largest conference they’ve had.

Calderola says, “This idea of belonging, seemingly so basic and straightforward, is at the heart of the challenges school communities have been trying to address for years: How do we ensure there is space for every person and every identity to feel they authentically belong in our school communities? How do we eliminate identity-based marginalization and promote acceptance and inclusion?”

The night before the conference, parents, guardians, faculty, staff, and trustees had the opportunity to gather in a pre-conference virtual session with keynote speaker Charles Vogl, international best-selling author of several books including *The Art of Community*. Then, when the conference opened the next morning on the Middle School Field, Vogl shared his own story of how he learned to make connections with others in a time when America is at its loneliest moment in history. He challenged the attendees to sit with someone and share a time when we craved community.

Our students were courageous in sharing different times in their own lives where they were not included. Vogl presented the concept that an experience with a small number of people where connection is intentional is similar to a campfire experience. A purposeful invitation is extended, not an announcement made to be somewhere.

Prefect Brandon Melamed ’22 explained, “During the keynote speaker’s presentation, I was able to connect with my peers about times that I’ve felt lonely, and also about ‘campfire experiences’ that I’ve had. It was really meaningful to learn that I had a lot in common with other students.”

As we left the keynote address, students gathered with other students, faculty, and staff with other faculty and staff, and parents with other parents, to respond to the same prompts in a small group setting.

Cecilia Víctor, Trustee and parent of an alum, was the facilitator for a group of parents and guardians during the morning breakout session. “Our parent group was comprised of families from different grades who shared their experiences with each other. As a trustee, it was an honor and a pleasure to reassure them how much work Brentwood is doing on all fronts to bring everyone closer together.”

Our student affinity leaders then led identity spaces in the afternoon where conversations continued about existing in the Brentwood community in various identities. Aligned experiences were supported and affirmed.

“At the Pollyanna Conference, I had the opportunity to facilitate a conversation with a group of 7th graders,” said Alexandra R. ’24. “I had a blast working with this group! When I first entered the classroom, they were a bit shy and nervous to dive into such serious issues, but by the end of our session, I had heard from practically every student and was thrilled to see such respectful and responsive conversations. I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to engage in such thoughtful and meaningful conversations with them.”

To close the day, we all returned as a full group to hear from an impressive, diverse student panel. Our two Head Prefects, Sydney Mitchell ’22 and Brandon Melamed ’22, were joined by the students who represented Brentwood at the national Student Diversity Leadership Conference: Haeley G. ’23, Allie R. ’24, Donovan Southall ’22, Jason Uranta ’22, Jade V. ’23, and Rahul Y. ’23. Students shared about specific places they felt a sense of belonging at Brentwood and examples they’ve seen from their peers and teachers to help create this. They also shared challenges that exist in their efforts to navigate in an underrepresented group at Brentwood. To solidify a message of community and belonging, we ended the day with Brentwood’s Alma Mater.

Following the conference, the founder of Pollyanna noted, “Brentwood School is making an important statement and commitment engaging in these questions and this work, especially during a time when there are those who would argue that these kinds of conversations don’t belong in schools.”

People leaned in all day to have courageous conversations. Our hope is that everyone can truly feel the slogan printed on our conference T-shirts: “I belong at Brentwood.” ■



Charles Vogel delivers his presentation on “The Art of Community” to the crowd on the Middle School Field; students responded to prompts from Mr. Vogel; student panelists close the conference with an inspiring discussion about Community and Belonging.

“I WAS ABLE TO CONNECT WITH MY PEERS ABOUT TIMES THAT I’VE FELT LONELY, AND ALSO ABOUT ‘CAMPFIRE EXPERIENCES’ THAT I’VE HAD. IT WAS REALLY MEANINGFUL TO LEARN THAT I HAD A LOT IN COMMON WITH OTHER STUDENTS.”

—BRANDON MELAMED. ’22



BCiL SPIRIT OF INNOVATION EXPANDS ACROSS BOTH CAMPUSES WITH NEW SPACES AND PROJECTS



ABOVE: Ronit Kumar, BCiL Facilities Design, works with robotics team members in the BCiL Fab Lab.
RIGHT: Kindergartener Zenia Z. works on a project in the Lower School Idea Lab.



by **DR. JOSH BERGER**, Director of the BCIL
and **KATIE MCKELLAR**, Assistant Director of the BCIL

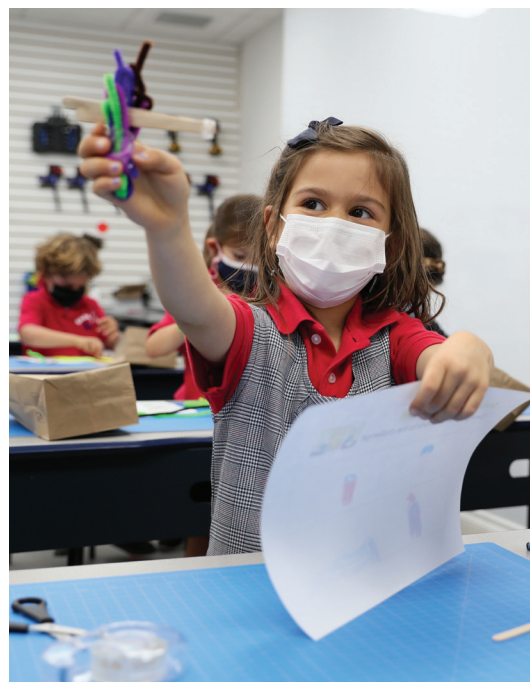
“Welcome to the Idea Lab! What do you think happens here?” was how we began each of the Lower School grade orientations to the new space in the fall. Without hesitation, the students responded enthusiastically: “We build our ideas!” The students were exactly right—this space was designed as a home for building student ideas on the West Campus.

The return to in-person school combined with the opening of new BCIL spaces this fall bolstered the depth and number of K-12 BCIL projects during the 2021-2022 school year. Across both campuses, students engaged with real world challenges and explored solutions while practicing important skills such as proposing original ideas, collaborating with peers, learning from experts in the field, and iterating after feedback. Below are some examples of how the spirit of innovation that is born in BCIL spaces extends into classrooms and beyond in the life of Brentwood School.

West Campus Idea Lab

Students smiled and jumped out of their seats as they glanced around the room, admiring the stacks of pipe cleaners, construction paper, popsicle sticks, and other making materials. They gleefully asked when they would be able to use the 3D printer, the laser cutter, and, of course, the scary looking metal-cutting shears on the top shelf.

Every grade level in the Lower School visited the Idea Lab this fall for a design thinking orientation where students prototyped solutions to challenges they experience in their own day-to-day Brentwood life, such as, “How might we stay safe under the sun during recess?” The purpose of these introductions,





along with the grade-level projects that followed, was to introduce students to the design thinking process. Students learn what it means to ideate, practice protocols for giving feedback, and get experience sharing original ideas to classmates. Each grade level returned to the Idea Lab over the course of the year for projects related to their curriculum. Topics ranged from ocean conservation to mining and sustainable agriculture to Antarctica clothing.

"We had such an amazing time making our Gold Rush prototype as a team. Our project was to make a mining and gardening tool. We made a long tom that could water a food plant to help feed the miners. Our favorite part of our experience was

"EVERY GRADE LEVEL IN THE LOWER SCHOOL VISITED THE IDEA LAB THIS FALL... STUDENTS PROTOTYPED SOLUTIONS TO CHALLENGES THEY EXPERIENCE IN THEIR OWN DAY-TO-DAY BRENTWOOD LIFE, SUCH AS, 'HOW MIGHT WE STAY SAFE UNDER THE SUN DURING RECESS?'"

to present our prototype to our entire grade and teachers. Our biggest challenge was our time management. Personally, we think that we could have made our prototype better if we had made it sturdier. Overall, this has been an incredible school experience."

—4TH GRADERS SLOANE B., ADDISON F., AND BODEN H.

East Campus Applied Science Lab

The BCIL Applied Science Lab repurposed one of the breakout spaces within the BCIL Hub in the Eagles Center. In this space, students work alongside Dr. Aidyl Gonzalez to propose and implement original research projects. Dr. Gonzalez refers to the students who join her in the lab as "world changers in action," and they, in turn, call her "Dr. G." If you spend any time in the BCIL Applied Science Lab, you will witness students celebrating the number of offspring of zebrafish, discussing the social justice implications of applied science, or analyzing the soil composition for the next simulation of growing plant life on Mars. In all of her work with students, Dr. G encourages students to think about how science can make the world a better place.

From their research in this Lab, three teams racked up wins at the Los Angeles County Science Engineering Fair and the California Science and Engineering Fair. A project entitled "An escape from Global Warming (Warming)" by Alex K. '23 and Huck A-J. '23 won the prestigious invite to compete at Regeneron Science Talent Search, which honors and empowers our nation's most outstanding world changers in STEM. They also earned 2nd place in the Earth Space Division at the Los Angeles County Science Engineering Fair and 3rd place in the Southern California Paleontological Society competition. Two other teams earned Honorable Mentions at the Los Angeles County Science Engineering Fair.

The impact of this space has extended beyond the BCIL Applied Science Lab as well. Students in the 5th Grade participated in a Citizen Science project with Dr. G. They collected soil samples on campus, analyzed the pH along with other data for input into an international database, and used a microscope to search for nematodes. Dr. G also explained to the students how research and involvement in science projects such as this could lead to real world change related to social justice and the environment.

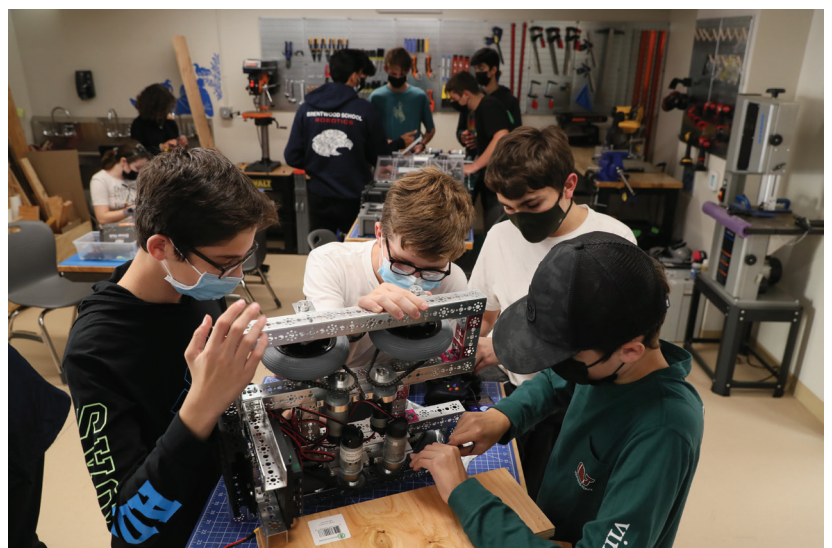
"This year, Max W. '23 and I have been working on an experiment in the BCIL Lab using *C. elegans*, a microscopic worm. Along with Dr. Aidyl Gonzalez, we have researched the effects of these nematodes on plant growth. We were lucky enough to enter into the BCIL Innovation Challenge, present an idea, and win the 2022 competition. This has been such a meaningful experience for both of us because we have not only learned essential lab skills but have also made important, impactful discoveries that inspire us to help our planet. We were so lucky to get this opportunity to work in the BCIL Lab and look forward to continuing our research and someday turning our ideas into reality." —RUBY C. '23

East Campus BCIL Fabrication Lab:

When I visited John Wan's Design and Engineering class this spring, students were busy finalizing prototypes for a unit on public transportation in Los Angeles. Students identified challenges specific to Los Angeles and then proposed original solutions, ranging from motorized disposable seat covers, to designs to make female riders feel safer, to better lighting and ventilation to increase rider comfort. I was extraordinarily impressed with the level of detail and originality in each design and asked the students how they had all proposed such creative and specific solutions. "It was the process Mr. Wan taught us!" one student explained. "He had us each come up with 4-5 ideas, gave us extensive feedback, and then encouraged us to keep refining our ideas until we had the best one." This process is one the students repeated during several units throughout the semester.

Projects that use the Fabrication Lab often connect to other courses on campus. Teachers collaborate with Mr. Wan on their project ideas which usually involve research and class discussions before students set foot in the lab. For example, 8th graders studied water sanitation connected to their science curriculum and interested students created prototypes in the Fabrication Lab; 9th graders created clay pots to relate their study of the novel *Circe* in a way that was relevant to their own lives. After 6th Grade students participated in a multi-week BCIL project introducing them to the design thinking and invention process, many students continued to work on developing their prototypes in the BCIL Fabrication Lab for their 2050 Science Project. In any lessons we do in the Fabrication

LEFT: Kindergarteners work together in the Idea Lab to solve real world problems BELOW: The BCIL Fabrication Lab provides ample space for students and faculty members to create robots and other projects.



Lab, students are practicing important design skills related to prototyping, iteration, and feedback.

"I came up with the HydroTab in my 8th Grade science class while researching the Sustainable Development Goals. After reading about each one, I quickly realized that Goal 6, Clean Water and Sanitation, stood out to me the most. Until then, I never knew how many people lacked access to clean drinking water, and I thought many other people should get informed about it. Presenting this project made me feel very proud of what I created and my peers' and the judges' feedback really helped me think about the next steps to develop the HydroTab further."

—MISHKA A. '26

"THE HUB IS A SPACE ON CAMPUS WHERE STUDENTS CAN COME TOGETHER TO COLLABORATE ON PROJECTS AND SHARE IDEAS."

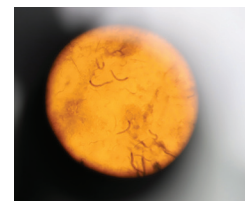


"This year in the BCIL, I have spent the majority of my time working on various projects for my "Engineering and Design" class. At the beginning of the semester, I created an app for Metro that allowed passengers to have knowledge of availability on their bus, prior to boarding. After that, I worked on an enhanced model of a planter. It has been meaningful to me because the BCIL allows me to harness tangible materials to face genuine world challenges. I have found tremendous support and guidance from Mr. Wan, the instructor of our engineering class."

—RYAN K. '25

East Campus BCIL Hub

"What is the challenge you are trying to address?" "How do you know your customers actually want what you are creating?" "If you had one week to build your idea and minimal resources, what would you build?" These are the questions you would hear Zach Chien asking his students as they sit in the HUB discussing business ideas, whether for independent studies, Middle School exploratory, the Innovation Challenge, or his Entrepreneurship II class. The HUB is a space on campus where students can come together to collaborate on projects and share ideas, and BCIL classes also meet in this space. Seniors in our Peer Leadership program meet regularly in the HUB to practice BCIL Core Leadership Skills and prepare lessons for outreach with 9th graders every week. Topics can range from silly ice breakers to how to facilitate difficult conversations with real world challenges many 9th graders face.



LEFT: Students can try experimental technologies in the BCIL Hub. ABOVE: Dr. Aidyl Gonzalez, BCIL Upper School Innovator and Collaborator works with students in the Applied Science Lab to study soil composition and microscopic organisms in their simulation of growing plant life on Mars.

In 7th Grade Spanish, students identified a global challenge, studied it in the context of both Latin America and the United States, and proposed both a solution and an awareness campaign. After lessons from Mr. Wan on graphic design, students created a poster to raise awareness and also prepared a PSA announcement. Final presentations in the HUB included some Q&A with classmates and members of the BCIL Team.

Sixth-12th graders also gather in the HUB for our BCIL Speaker Series, and this year students heard presentations on topics such as Social Impact through Gaming and Launching a Startup. Derek Smith, founder of Plug in South LA, highlighted the importance of working with teams and joining collaborative experiences to help prepare for the world of business. In the live challenge, students simulated the hiring of a Product Manager for a growing company that is hoping to have a global impact. In teams, students reviewed three resumes and discussed each candidates' strengths and growth areas before making a recommendation for hiring. It was fascinating to see the spirited debate in the room as each team had compelling reasons for selecting their candidate.

"The best part of my independent study project was the meetings with the BCIL team in the Hub. The faculty would all ask me questions and empower me to keep going. Ms. Lewis-Adams was my cheerleader the entire time and she was also there to give me guidance on how to improve. She was able to give me the best feedback that allowed me to reflect and create ideas that were outside the box." —MERLOT G. '24

Concluding Thoughts

An important feature of the BCIL is that students are able to explore an area of interest and strive to make an impact in the real world. While all of these spaces are designated for use by the BCIL, deep explorations, innovations, and meaningful collaboration are happening across the divisions in the classroom through BCIL projects with faculty. Access to BCIL spaces and resources, the inspiration and support from passionate teachers, and guidance from various experts on the BCIL team support our incredible students in bringing their original ideas to life. ■

SAMPLING OF BCIL SPEAKERS THIS YEAR

Derek Smith, Founder of Plug in South LA

Miry Whitehill, Founder & Executive Director of Miry's List

Francesca Palamara '14, Production Assistant at Epic Games

Eric G. '26 and **JoJo F. '26**, Creators of the Circuit Shower

HONORS IN THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD SERIES OF INNOVATION

Jacqueline C. '26, **Olivia M. '26**, and **Ashley S. '26**, 2nd place for their Pads for Peace entry that addressed Global Goal #5, Gender Equality

Merlot G '24, Finalist for her We Are Stronger Together campaign that addressed Global Goal #5 Gender Equality

SCIENCE FAIR HONORS

A number of students who have been working in our BCIL Applied Science Research Lab were honored at the CA Science Fair earning special recognition for their original scientific research. These students have all done an admirable job committing many hours during lunches, after school, and on weekends to their scientific inquiries.

Yang P. '23 and **Ben W. '23**

Awarded Special Recognition at the CA Science Fair in the Animal Biology Senior Division for their project titled: The Effect of Different Concentrations of Glucose on *Caenorhabditis elegans*

Ruby C. '23 and **Max W. '23**

Awarded Special Recognition at the CA Science Fair in the Environmental Management Senior Division for their project titled: *Caenorhabditis elegans* Soil Rejuvenation

Isaac L. '23

Awarded Special Recognition at the CA Science Fair in the Mathematics and Computer Science Senior Division for his project titled: The Mathematics Behind the Rubik's Cube

Huck A.-J. '23 and **Alex K. '23**

Awarded Second Place in the Earth/Space Sciences Senior Division and Third Place by the Paleontological Senior Division for their project titled: An Escape from Global Warming (Warming).

Sam Licker '11 hugs
faculty member
Asako Kurosaka-
Jost at the "Alumni
Cocktails &
Conversations" event
held November 4,
2021 at Post & Beam
Restaurant.

ALSO PICTURED:
Colin Pak '11,
David Foote '11,
Danielle Taylor '07,
Jamie Kwan '07,
and Jasmine
Duckworth '08



OFFICE OF ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT

Emily Manning Ellis '94
Director of Alumni
Engagement

Flor M. Cruz
Assistant Director
of Alumni Engagement

Angela Song
Alumni Engagement Assistant

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2021/2022

Bryan Hudson '09
President

Scott Sandler '92
Past President

Shakira Gagnier '97
Co-Chair, Alumni Diversity
Committee

Nigel Lifsey '02
Co-Chair, Alumni Diversity
Committee





We're back! Despite the ever-changing world around us, I'm delighted to report that our Alumni Association successfully hosted myriad wonderful programs in person throughout the 2021–2022 school year.

We hosted two fantastic new events: Cocktails & Conversations chaired by our Alumni Association Diversity Committee, and the Alumni Venture Challenge, our first alum pitch competition. We were overwhelmed by the incredible turnout at both events and grateful to the many alumni who made these events possible.

I'm also thrilled to report that we finally celebrated Mr. V and his 40 years of service to Brentwood School! It was a beautiful evening filled with love, laughter, and heartwarming memories—well worth the wait!

Special thanks to our Alumni Association leadership team and also our alumni engagement team including Flor M. Cruz and Angela Song. Together, it's been a true joy to see faces and reconnect in person this past year. We look forward to celebrating the school's 50th anniversary with you this fall!

Emily Manning Ellis '94

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

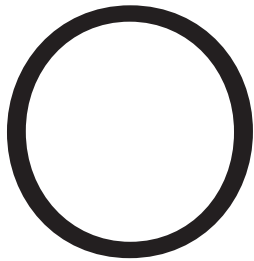
EVENTS



HEART & SOUL

A CELEBRATION OF MR.V

by **MARY SIDELL**,
Mr. V Legacy Campaign and Event Coordinator



On Saturday night, December 11, the Brentwood School Alumni Association welcomed more than 700 alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, current and former faculty and staff members, friends, and family to the Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills to say thank you to Dave Velasquez for his spectacular 40-year career at Brentwood School.

For those who may not have had the privilege to know this extraordinary man, Mr. V has been an iconic member of our school community since the day he arrived as our Director of Admissions in August 1980.

The evening's celebration was a love fest as friends and colleagues paid tribute to this remarkable man. Celebrities who were not able to attend in person sent well-wishes via video. Throughout the evening, Dave was serenaded with his favorite styles of music—Disco by the Faculty Band, Rock and Roll by alumni band Across Coves, and Broadway show tunes sung by eight alumni women who had each taken a turn as a leading lady at one time on the Brentwood School stage, their ages spanning 25 years.

Throughout his 40-year career, Mr. V never lost track of what a gift it was to receive the Financial Aid that allowed him, a boy from El Paso, Texas born to first generation Mexican-Americans, to attend Stanford. He dedicated his career to helping others benefit from those same kinds of opportunities by serving as Director of Financial Aid at Brentwood for 22 years, and working closely with organizations such as A Better Chance, Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs, and Young Eisner Scholars. It is only fitting that our school is raising funds for an endowed Brentwood School scholarship in Mr. V's name, The Mr. V Endowment for Financial Aid.

TO VIEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS INCREDIBLE EVENING, VISIT BWSCAMPUS.COM/MRV



- 1** | Marquee at the Saban Theatre, Beverly Hills
- 2** | Mr. V accepts an honorary Brentwood diploma from Dr. Mike
- 3** | Event and Campaign Coordinator Mary Sidell with Mr. V
- 4** | Director of Alumni Engagement, Emily Ellis '94
- 5** | Show MC Tanika Ray '90
- 6** | Alum Speaker Maggie Alonzo Lindenbaum '99
- 7** | Alum Speaker David Nathanson '94



“The evening’s celebration was a love fest as friends and colleagues paid tribute to this remarkable man.”



EVENTS



8

HEART & SOUL

A CELEBRATION OF MR. V



9

8 | The faculty band sang Mr. V's favorite disco songs
9 | Dave's signature bow tie and shoes were part of the theme **10** | Alumni team Emily Ellis '94, Mr. V, and Flor M. Cruz **11** | Speaker Tom Marlitt, Dave's partner **12** | Maxx Morando, Brandon Warren '14 and Nick Podany '14 of Across Coves **13** | Lynn Schnider, Mr. V and Elena Cardenas **14** | "Dave's Divas" featuring Mimi Paley '06, Nora Linden '84, Heather Mischer '91, Jennifer Linden '81, Devin Sidell '98, Holly Sidell '95, Jessica O'Connell '92, and Kala Savage '96 **15** | Speaker Bernadette Leiweke **16** | Alumni President Bryan Hudson '09, Mr. V and Past President Scott Sandler '92 **17** | Speaker Reveta Bowers



10



12



11



13



14



“Throughout the evening, Dave was serenaded with his favorite styles of music—Disco by the Faculty Band, Rock and Roll by alumni band Across Coves, and Broadway show tunes sung by eight alumni women...”



15



16



17

TO VIEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS INCREDIBLE EVENING,
VISIT BWSCAMPUS.COM/MRV

EVENTS



1 | Aja Hoggatt '13, Gavin Pak '13, Zach Chien '13, Dominique Pearson '12, and Jon Alexander '13 **2** | Monica Heffron '06, Evelyn Alvarez, Jessica Young, and Liliana Alvarez '06 **3** | Alumni mingling on the gorgeous outdoor patio **4** | Natalie Gomez '16 and Armando Pulido '15 **5** | Flor M. Cruz, Shakira Gagnier '97, Nigel Lifsey '02, Emily Ellis '94, and Bryan Hudson '09 **6** | Veronica Green '03, Shakari Gault '04, Jennifer Jackson-Ridgeway '04, Tabari Dossett '04, and David Foote **7** | Justin Threatt '02, Antoine Grant '03, and Ryan Mallory '04



Alumni Venture Challenge

Lower School Great Room

April 27, 2022

The Alumni Association welcomed over 60 alumni, among them 11 brave contestants for our first pitch challenge. Judges included Board Chair Brian Lee, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of BAM Ventures, Brian Garrett '91, Co-Founder of Crosscut Ventures, Paris Coleman '09, Co-Founder of Black Om and CEO and Broker of Coleman Realty, Alex Rubalcava '98, Founder and Managing Partner of Stage Venture Partners and Zach Chien '13, Co-Founder of Triptomize and the BCIL Entrepreneurship Coordinator.

Congratulations to winner Andrew Glantz '13, CEO and Founder of GiftAMeal! GiftAMeal “seeks to empower people to fight hunger in their community while supporting local businesses.” Most compelling to judges was Andrew’s assessment of product-market fit, his “founder story, and authentically finding a problem needing to be fixed.”

Much gratitude is owed to our judges, the Alumni Association Committee, and our MC extraordinaire, Tyler Shooshani '18. We thoroughly look forward to our next Alumni Venture Challenge!



1 | Danielle Sherman '01 pitching her business, Sherman Field
2 | Kat Dezfoli, Alana Talbert '05, Tanya Tsikanovsky '05, and Andrew Riley '08 **3** | MC Tyler Shooshani '18, Caroline Goldsmith '17, and Robert Amoruso **4** | Pitch Contestants Yonathan Napoleon '14 and Dennis Ashley **5** | Judges Alex Rubalcava '98, Brian Lee, Brian Garrett '91, Paris Coleman '09, and Zach Chien '13 **6** | Ben Gafni '94, Ken Mariash '94, and Melissa Hammond '97



EMERITUS

Keep up with faculty and staff who served for 15 years or more at Brentwood

Nicole Bali shares her retired life between the Yosemite area in California and the shores of Lake Chapala in Central Mexico. Long daily nature walks, exploring beautiful Mexico and learning about its history and its peoples, knitting sweaters for Mexican orphans, lots of reading (still reading Latin poetry every day!), and some hope for international traveling as soon as the Covid situation allows!

Jeff Porter ("Mr. P., Coach P., CP, CoPo") is in his sixth year of retirement from Brentwood. He is finding himself plenty busy. He finds his days filled with coaching (yep, still there), motorcycling, fly fishing, and BEST of all, spending lots of time with his three grand kids. Rolling into his 71st year on the planet ... life is good!

Coach **Patrick Brown** has spent his retirement under the umbrella of the pandemic. He can't believe it's coming up on his two-year anniversary. He has still found time to travel with his wife, Vicki, visiting many of the beautiful places our country has to offer. He has taken road trips to Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Tetons, the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Arizona, Lake Tahoe, and Bishop. He also traveled over 2,700 miles to Kentucky to visit his mother-in-law who was turning 93 years old. Of course, during all those travels he and Vicki always had their fishing poles handy. Coach Brown also loves spending time with his three handsome grandsons, Mason (age 6), Sonny (age 4), and Luka (age 2). Day trips to Legoland, Angel baseball games, but most of the time in the words of his grandsons, "we want to go to Nana and Papa's house."



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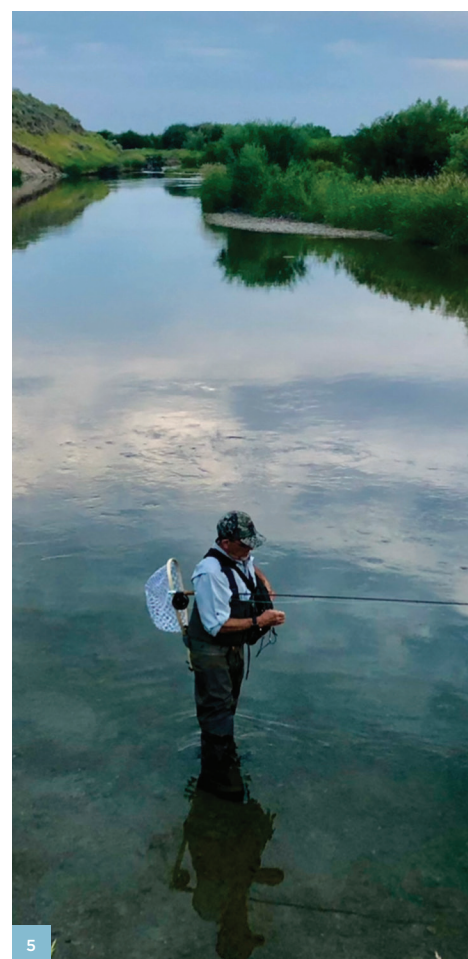
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CLASS NOTES

1 | Nicole Ball
2 | Patrick Brown and
grandsons 3 | Patrick
Brown and his wife
Vicki 4 | Jeff Porter
and grandchild
5 | Jeff Porter 6 |
Jody (Wojciechowski)
Royee '77 7 | Mara
Berke '83 and son,
Dante 8 | Ted King '83
visiting Cancun and
Chichen Itza, Mexico,
with wife Maya and
daughters Ava and
Vivienne.



6



7



8

1977

Jody Royee writes, "Greetings and congratulations to everyone who has navigated, sustained, and thrived through the world wide circumstances of the last 2 years. I was aptly prepared for this 'paradigm shift' because I embraced the digital shift in 1998. I'm grateful to have the skill, fortitude, and ambition to help a number of companies pivot when March delivered to us a whole 'new model.' I'm proud to say I helped people embrace technology and grow their businesses during the lockdown. I'm personally guided by a special quote: 'In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.'"

1983

Mara Berke has become a pickleball enthusiast and will be off to pickleball camp this summer. She would love to play with some alumni at Memorial Park, so definitely reach out! Mara continues to practice family law at Berke Family Law and is Of Counsel to Jaffe Family Law Group. She has published recent

articles, including in the Los Angeles Lawyer "Co-Parents from Hell: When One is Your Client," and has a monthly article in the Santa Monica Star newsletter, "Top Tips from a Divorce Lawyer: Charting the Course Ahead." Mara is a proud mom to Lola, her loyal Havanese beach walking buddy, and her son Dante, a graduate of the University of Chicago (2022), who will be starting a job at McKinsey, Chicago this fall. She felt lucky to visit Dante while he was studying in Oxford during the pandemic.

Ted King recently completed biographical work on television and film as two vastly different characters. The first role is in the limited series "Angelyne" starring Emmy Rossum on the Peacock network. Following that, Ted played Senator Bartlett in the upcoming Christopher Nolan film about Robert Oppenheimer, due in theaters in 2023.

1984

Adam Resnick visited Los Angeles this past July. He writes, "It was great to see Andrew Levey '84 and take a nice walk in the hills. I am blessed to

have many enduring friendships from Brentwood, and I was sad to miss out on the tradition of having dinner with Andrew as well as Peter Corrigan '84, Dave Fink '84, Paul Haddad '84, Jeff Kabot '84, and David Taub '84."

1987

When ignoring her intuition about a business associate resulted in fearing for her life at the edge of the Niagara Falls, award-winning Silicon Valley CEO and entrepreneur **Hilary DeCesare** was shocked into realizing she needed a deep reassessment of who she was and why. The answers surfaced where she least expected—her late mother. A workaholic and serial super achiever, DeCesare discovered she had more to learn from a woman who had turned a terminal cancer diagnosis into an affirmation of a lifetime of positive purpose than from all the academics, business leaders, and executive experience that had left her feeling stressed and unfulfilled in both business and in life. Shifting focus, DeCesare delved into exploring who she was from the inside out, immersing herself in the world of neuroscience to uncover a uniquely powerful secret that we all harbor, hiding in plain sight—the

innate, values-driven accelerator that leverages the power of the three H's: the Heart, the Head, and the Higher Self.

1988

Brian Good is happy to report that his older daughter, Olivia Good '20, is currently a sophomore at NYU in the Gallatin School, and his younger daughter, Ella Good ('23), is finishing her junior year at Brentwood.

1990

After 20 years in Hollywood, **Tanika Ray** had a baby. Navigating the wild streets of Hollywood didn't prepare her much for this new gig called MOM. So she set out to find a community to help her navigate this new role with grace while still pursuing her passions. Fueled by the mantra, "The Mommy in me recognizes and honors the Mommy in you," *Mamaste* with Tanika Ray is a sanctuary for the mommy collective where we amplify our wellness, self love, self care, life lessons, unapologetic boundaries, expanding ideologies, empathy, rituals and practices of Mommying AF.

1991

Randy Balik and his family continue to love life in Hermosa Beach. Randy's environmental contracting business is flourishing, and his

renewable energy technology company just received its first major round of funding. He and his wife, Noelle, continue to happily chase their sons Braden (age 11) and Drew (age 8) down mountains, in the ocean, across soccer fields, and around baseball diamonds.

David Diamond

recently retired from 30 years of coaching youth baseball and football, which included stints at both Brentwood and Crossroads. He served two terms on the Burbank Police Commission, continues to practice law (criminal defense), teaches at Woodbury University, and coaches the Burbank High School and Royal (Simi Valley) High School mock trial teams. He also loves when Michigan State plays Wisconsin so he can talk trash to Lance Reiss '91.

1992

In the summer of 2019, **Julie Uhrman** started on a path to bring a professional women's soccer team to LA. With her partners Natalie Portman (activist/actress) and Kara Nortman (VC/HW Alumni), she built Angel City FC. Angel City FC kicked their first ball April 29 at the Banc of California. She writes, "This has been an incredible journey, building a professional sports

team with three female founders, a majority female ownership group and team. We lead with purpose, using entertainment to drive impact in our community and soccer globally. Our team is just taking shape, being led by 2x USWNT World Cup Winner Christen Press. Being an athlete and a proud Los Angeleno, this is truly a dream come true—leading this team, building this sport, and giving back to our community. I hope to see you all at a game soon (and definitely tell me when you come)!"

1993

Holly Parker continues to enjoy life in beautiful Santa Barbara with her husband, Blaine, and their three kids Hudson (age 16), Duke (age 14), and Caroline (age 12). She works for CLIQ Products, a startup that patented a super compact, one-step setup, portable outdoor/camping chair in the luxury space. She is excited for the launch of new products this year. Said Holly, "I would love to reconnect with fellow alumni at our 30-year reunion next year ... how can it be?!"

Ryan O'Connor has recently completed a M.S. degree in Criminalistics from Cal State L.A. He continues to work as a doctor in the Emergency Room but has been focusing

his career on consulting with attorneys as an expert witness in forensic medicine. He has testified on criminal cases in Superior Court over 200 times. Ryan lives in Los Angeles and is expecting the birth of his third child and first son.

1995

Adam Creasy recently completed his second year as a middle school principal in Austin, Texas. However, this year, Adam decided to move out of education and into his own psychology practice. He now provides counseling and assessment services for students and families throughout Austin. Adam and his wife, Lauren, continue to call Austin home. They have two children, Smith (age 5) and Brooke (age 2).

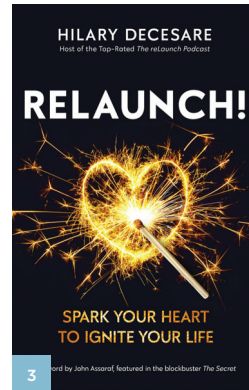
Jake Willens recently became Athletic Director at Echo Horizon School, in addition to teaching 6th Grade Humanities.

1997

Emily Berger was recently promoted to Law Firm Director at Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, the largest family defense legal non-profit in the country. Please reach out to her at ekberger@gmail.com if you want to talk about a career in dependency law! The Alumni Office would



1



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1 | The Baliks doing what they love—skiing as a family. Randy Balik '91, Drew (age 8), wife Noelle, and Braden (age 11)
 2 | Amy Longhi '92 (Piero, Enzo & Gemma), Julie Uhrman '92 (Elle & Charlie), and Ellen Morehead 3 | Hilary DeCesare's brand-new book *RELAUNCH! Spark Your Heart To Ignite Your Life*. Hilary is also the host of the popular "reLaunch Podcast" and "reLaunch LIVE" radio show. 4 | Mamaste with Tanika Ray is found everywhere pods play. 5 | Andrew Levey '84 (left) and Adam Resnick '84 on a recent hike in Franklin Canyon.



like to thank Emily and fellow alum Maia Brewton Spotts '94 for contributing an alumni spotlight to our social media account in May of 2022 for the great work at LADL!

1998

Steven Leckart wrote, executive produced, and narrated "Wild Things: Siegfried & Roy," an 8-part nonfiction podcast for Apple TV+. The series, which explores the most successful and scrutinized magicians in history, premiered in January 2022 and hit #2 on Apple's chart.

1999

Sam Yebri is a leading candidate for Los Angeles City Council to represent the 5th District, which includes the neighborhoods of Westwood, Palms, Bel Air, Century City, Rancho Park, Cheviot Hills, Beverly Fairfax, Miracle Mile, and Hancock Park. Sam thanks Brentwood classmates, alumni, teachers, and parents from across decades for supporting his campaign to improve Los Angeles for all Angelenos. Please visit [SamForLA.com](https://samforla.com) to learn more about his campaign.



2000

Drs. **Sean Marco** and **Rajni Marco** welcomed their son, Roen, on 8/24 (Kobe day!). Their daughter, Sophie, turns 4 this year and

they enjoy practicing Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine and Pediatrics, respectively, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

2001

Jonathan Berry and his wife Meghan recently welcomed their seventh (!) child, baby Josephine Marie, to their home in the Maryland suburbs of D.C., where she joins her big siblings in the Berry family homeschool. Jon's boutique law and strategy firm, Boyden Gray and Associates, continues to litigate on the "wrong side of history" at the Supreme Court, Jon has challenged COVID vaccine mandates and EPA carbon caps; locally, he has been taking on the State of California's mandates on corporate-board diversity and electric vehicles.

2004

A group of 2004 grads celebrated **Alexis Beechen's** nuptials in Mexico in April, including **Alex Haskell**, **Erin Kobashigawa**, **Jana (Wayne) Schottenstein**, **Jesse Kaplan**, **Alex Penfold**, **Molly Jones**, **Tara Schuster**, **Lauren Pollare**, and **Tyler Stypinski**. They are proudly representing '04!

Spencer B. Kallick was named the Operating Partner of the Century City office

of Allen Matkins LLP, a 240-person real estate-centric law firm.

Alex Haskell is still in D.C., where he's working as a Special Assistant to President Biden and the Chief of Staff of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs (the more words in the title, the less important!). He's thankfully seen a ton of the '04 crew this past year, including at the beautiful weddings of Tyler Stypinski in New Orleans, Erin Kobashigawa in San Francisco, and Alexis Beechen in Punta Mita. He hopes for more of the same in the year to come.

2005

Oliver Perry, son of **Austin Perry**, just finished his first year in Kindergarten at Brentwood. He absolutely loved it and is so excited to be an Eagle!

Victoria Rose has achieved some career milestones the past few years. She's a graduate of USC's MFA screenwriting program where she wrote, *A Different Tree*, a short about meeting her father for the first time when she was eight, and which won HBO's Short Film Award at ABFF. She's developing a one-hour supernatural genre pilot *Breathless*, based on the Black Mask Comic, for Sony TV. Her drama feature



1 | Members of the Class of 2004 at Alexis Beechen's wedding 2 | Members of the Class of 2004 at Tyler Stypinski's wedding 3 | Oliver Perry, Brentwood Kindergartener 4 | Sean Marco '00 with wife Rajni, daughter Sophie and son Roen 5 | "Wild Things"—an AppleTV+ 8-part podcast—was written, produced and narrated by Steve Leckart '98



Tunnels, which landed her on The Tracking Board's Young & Hungry List and was a Humanitas finalist, is in development at Circle of Confusion with Susan Sarandon, Jaeden Martell, Patrick Wilson, and Anna Faris attached to star.

In May 2022, **Michael Keller** was a part of the reporting team at the *New York Times* that won the Pulitzer Prize in the National Reporting category for their investigative series on the prevalence and motivations behind fatal police traffic stops and other issues and injustices in the American policing system. Visit www.pulitzer.org/winners/staff-new-york-times-1 to learn more!

2009

Robert and **Brian '06 Roizen** are incredibly excited to announce that their company Feedonomics has been acquired by BigCommerce! They wrote, "HUGE thank you to our family, partners, and our entire team of over 300 Feedos, including our sister, **Sara '14**, who recently became a Product Manager. Looking forward to continuing to build the future of Omnichannel eCommerce."

2012

The Alumni Office would like to thank

Eli Geschwind for stopping by Brentwood as a guest speaker at the Middle School! Eli noted, "I enjoyed speaking to Mr. Kalan's 'Money Matters' class about how blockchain technology will play an important role in how we think about money for the coming decades. The students asked great questions as we walked through key features of effective money, described the importance of blockchain technology, and reviewed a few different use cases (digital scarcity, new forms of organizing capital and labor, etc.), and spent a few minutes talking about NFTs." Ever the impressive alum, Eli also contributed his quote in haiku form: "You, Money Matters And Crypto is the future So buy some bitcoin."

Marlaina Owens has been awarded the prestigious Fulbright grant to Paris for 2022-2023. She will be researching black classical music repertoire in French history.

2014

Bryce Caster obtained his MBA at IESE Business School in Barcelona in May 2021. After graduation, he moved to New York City and now works in pharmaceutical consulting.

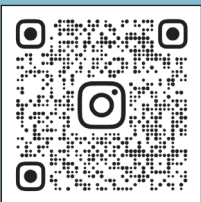
2018

Alexander Liebeskind was named the recipient of the 2022 George Wendell Memorial Medal. The award was established in 1924 by the alumni and faculty friends of the late Professor George Vincent Wendell to honor and perpetuate his memory. Each year, the Columbia School of Engineering and Applied Sciences faculty nominate one student from each department who they believe best exemplifies his ideals of character, scholarship, and service. The nominees are then presented to members of the senior class, who vote to determine the winner. ■

1 | **Marlaina Owens '12**
2 | **Brian Roizen '06 and Robert Roizen '09**



GET
CON
NEC
TED



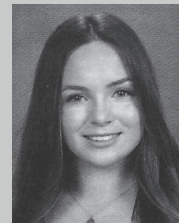
SAVE THE DATE
FOR BRENTWOOD
SCHOOL'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY
HOMECOMING
WEEKEND!

OCTOBER 28-29, 2022

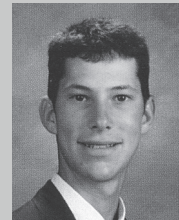
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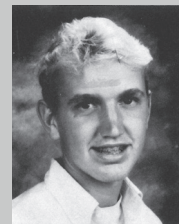
IN MEMORIAM



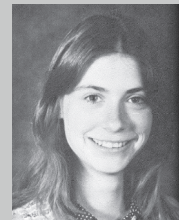
Brianna Kupfer '15



Mark Kessler '93



Morgan Bivans '86



Melanie Plummer Brooker '76



**Judith Beerman
O'Hanlon**

(46 Years)
Upper School English
and French

BY MICHAEL KNIGHT,
UPPER SCHOOL VISUAL
ARTS

Judith, those of us who know you well, and most likely those whose lives you have touched even briefly, sigh because you are leaving us—inspired by your passion and the calm voice of reason that sifts faculty gatherings, we sense loss.

I remember us being kids, not much older than those we taught, on an immature campus that has evolved into something we could have only dreamt of. And now, we unbelievably fast-forward to your retirement. We focus on how you influenced generations of students with your devotion to literature and language. In every sphere, you set standards of distinction to inspire young

minds. You mentored clubs, activities, and amaranth, encouraging your disciples as they turned interests and requirements into lifelong passions. Your shared inquiries into how ideas and actions are shaped by words and expressions inspire thinking about the past, present, and future.

Recent enrollees and alumni alike carry love and respect for you in their hearts by the score. You have created an invaluable legacy. Some give easily from their abundance; you dig deeper, generously sharing the essence of your heart and soul. We will remember you for that and for life.

You have always been a meaningful presence, a role model speaking your mind to many for so long, impacting our decisions. You have shaped our firmament, a constant star in the constellation that is BWS. Flourish! I will miss you dearly.

BY SUSAN KATZ, UPPER
SCHOOL ENGLISH

Judith O'Hanlon is the last of the first wave of remarkable teachers for which the English Department has been renowned since the school was founded. We have been inspired by and will continue to define ourselves as teachers and as colleagues according to the extraordinary standards Judith sets for generosity of spirit, wisdom, diligence, compassion, and a deep knowledge and abiding love of literature that she seeks in every way to impart to all. The annual Hamlet project that her AP Lit students display in the library, the celebrated Kafka breakfast, amaranth as a vehicle for students' creativity, her crisp organization of the Banned Book Week and Poetry Month readings—memorable as much for the baked treats for which she is so famous—are a few among many of the traditions Judith has upheld (even via Zoom) as ways to bring the community together by way of a shared love of words and ideas. Above all else, Judith is a lady, an elegant, soft-spoken, now-silver fox of a woman, who has modeled for teachers and students

“Above all else, Judith is a lady, an elegant, soft-spoken, now-silver fox of a woman, who has modeled for teachers and students alike a way of being in the world to which we can all aspire.”

—SUSAN KATZ

alike a way of being in the world to which we can all aspire. Au revoir, Judith, and bonne retraite.

BY LESLIE GOUGER,
UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH

Judith O'Hanlon leaves behind a true legacy at our school. She has been a fundamental part of our community

“You have always been a meaningful presence, a role model speaking your mind to many for so long, impacting our decisions. You have shaped our firmament, a constant star in the constellation that is BWS.”

—MICHAEL KNIGHT

since our early days, and those of us who have had the chance to work alongside her in the English department know that we are the lucky ones. It is hard to envision English meetings without her delicious banana nut bread, her fiery opinions about grammar, or her passionate excitement about teaching AP Literature. Judith was my office mate when I first started working at Brentwood, and I could not have asked for a better welcome to the community. Each day, I was met with her glorious laughter and enthusiasm, Silvia Plath papers lining her desk beside a rogue Hamlet skull or two, comical Kafka quotes peeking through stacks of amaranth magazines from years past.

I am forever grateful that she was my introduction to our school, as she exudes grace, wisdom, and humility, the essence of a true scholar. As Mary Oliver writes, "Attention is the beginning of devotion." Thank you for your devoted and attentive care, Judith, and best wishes for a fulfilling retirement! ■

amaranth 40 A Look Back

by **Judith Beerman O'Hanlon**

In 1982, when we inaugurated a new Upper School magazine of literature and the arts, our goal (as it had been with an earlier school publication, *Mayic*, which came out in the late 1970s) was to provide a forum for the creative spirit and talent of Brentwood students. Forty years later, *amaranth* still reflects our desire to celebrate those gifts. We started out very simply, typing on typewriters, literally cutting and pasting, hand-applying borders on all black and white pages, and driving down to the press at The Printing Plant in Culver City. Now, of course, the layout is done on the computer, making it possible to have a much more sophisticated look, to scan large artwork or photos and to reproduce work in color. We have instituted a now long-standing tradition of co-sponsoring, with our school library, the Banned Books Reading in the fall and the Poetry Reading in honor of National Poetry Month every spring as well as the Six-Word Story Contest and the Short Story Contest—both of whose winners are featured in our issues. These are all ways of bringing attention to the beauty of language and the importance of the freedom of artistic expression.

It is an honor and a delight to work each year with a talented staff of dedicated students who share these goals and who, in addition to our meetings during activity period, also spend many hours of their own time choosing work and putting together the layout. Seniors Annabelle F. and Julia F. served as staffers in 9th Grade and then, for the past three years, as Editors-in-Chief. My faculty co-sponsor, Timothy Haehn, and I have been inspired by and grateful for their remarkable leadership, enthusiasm, and loyalty.

Over the years, all the past staffers and editors-in-chief, faculty co-sponsors, the Art Department, Office of Communications, and Heads of School—Charles Downes, Hunter Temple, Michael Pratt and Michael Riera—have supported and encouraged our vision. The 40th anniversary issue contains a special section, "A Look Back," which focuses on our magazine's history and legacy and contains a sampling of past work as well as comments from editors-in-chief and some Brentwood alums who have gone on to have noted careers in the arts.

"The 40th anniversary issue contains a special section, "A Look Back," which focuses on our magazine's history and legacy and contains a sampling of past work as well as comments from editors-in-chief and some Brentwood alums who have gone on to have noted careers in the arts."

We have come a long way in many respects, but the spirit of the magazine, embodied in the title we chose long ago referring to a mythical flower that never fades or dies, remains strong. I hope you will join us in commemorating and celebrating this significant anniversary! ■



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**Donnie Krenzien
Todd**

(39 Years)
Upper School
Counseling and
Foundations

BY HANK KORANSKY,
UPPER SCHOOL HISTORY

Donnie Todd is retiring after 39 years at Brentwood School. Donnie, what you've given to Brentwood goes way beyond just 39 years of service. You've been an innovator. There was no counseling program before you—you were Brentwood's first. Human Development was your brainchild, and the TA program was also your creation. Brentwood's first courses on psychology were taught by you. You saw the need and you acted. You are respected by your colleagues; it is you who often was the one to speak up if something

was not fair. You've done the heavy lifting for us when no one else would pick up the ball. Most importantly, you are beloved by the thousands of young people you have taught, counseled, and guided into adulthood, including your son, Evan '04, whom several of us had the privilege of teaching.

I was able to see all of your qualities in action, firsthand, when you invited me to design an upper-level course on ethics with you. "Ethics in Contemporary Society" was Brentwood's first male-female taught course, and it has been inspiring for me to co-teach it with you. Developing lessons together was solid collaboration—the kind of work every teacher cherishes. But working as a unit in the classroom really

made me aware of your gifts. Your compassion, sensitivity, honesty, and humor made those lessons work. The proof of the success of the class came from the way our students continued to stay connected to us after the class ended. I also became aware of the many, many former students of yours with whom you've kept in touch.

Donnie, you've had an impact on Brentwood. You've enriched this school and the lives of all you've touched, and that includes me. Our friendship, that began decades ago, has also deepened and continues to enrich my life. So, farewell to Brentwood, but not good-bye. See you around. ■



Judy Adler

(16 Years)
Upper School Science
BY MEMBERS OF THE
UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT

Judy goes out of her way to help her colleagues and does so with compassion and humor. She has a wealth of knowledge—institutional and otherwise—and never fails to use that knowledge to help us all improve how we do things around here. Judy is such a good friend. Almost every time I make a sub request, she is quick to text me to make sure I'm okay and to offer help. It makes my day every time. She cares deeply for her friends, colleagues, and students. Over the years, we have had many laughs, together and have shared tears too. She is the best.

—DAWN ROJE

“Human Development was Donnie’s brainchild, and the TA program was also her creation. Brentwood’s first courses on psychology were taught by her. She saw the need and she acted.”

Judy has been so incredibly supportive and kind. She had many words of wisdom for a new teacher and impacted my formative years at this school.

—LAURA FEUCHT

“Judy is passionate about physics and loves challenging her students to become creative thinkers. She is great with technology and hands-on experiments, and enjoys showing us and her students how to see physics in action.”

Judy Adler has been a wonderful mentor and colleague to me in my first years of teaching at Brentwood School. As a physics educator and member of this community, she is irreplaceable. She was always there for me in helping me organize my materials, plan lessons and fun activities, set up labs, and enrich my course content in every class. Judy also went out of her way to help make our science department more collaborative and supportive, and also support students' interest and engagement with physics and science in general.

—JEFF MCLEOD

Judy is passionate about physics and loves challenging her students to become creative thinkers. She is caring and supportive, and always wants to help the people she works with. She is organized and responsible, and will step in to help with patience and experienced guidance. Judy has helped me navigate through the AP Syllabus Audit, making the difficult process painless. She is great with technology and hands-on experiments, and enjoys showing us and her students how to see physics in action. Judy is so sweet and always there for us.

—SABRINA ERICKSON ■



Marc Schuhl
(15 Years)
Upper School History
BY MEMBERS OF THE
UPPER SCHOOL HISTORY
DEPARTMENT

A true lover of learning, Marc Schuhl has helped make the Upper School History Office a favorite spot for students and faculty to visit. Marc is also a true academic scholar who possesses the most enthusiastic, genuine love of learning. Brentwood's students are acutely aware of this and have genuinely cherished their time with him, year after year. Not only has he taught all levels of Latin courses in the Upper School, but he has taught a wide variety of history courses including Ancient and Medieval World History, AP United States History, AP United States Government, and Introduction to Healthy Financial Adulthood. Marc always makes himself available to Brentwood's students, whether their interactions occur in the formal classroom setting or in the many informal outside-of-

class meetings that he has with them. Many of his former students have stayed in touch with him over the years and express their gratitude for the important role he played in their academic endeavors. They appreciate his sense of humor, informed perspective, and knowledge drawn from a variety of fields and interests.

Marc's inspired mind is always ready to engage in meaningful conversations on a wide range of topics. His spur of the moment analogies have changed the everyday language in the History Office. He is the students' and faculty's go-to for clarification about what is happening in today's complex world. Marc is as knowledgeable in domestic and foreign affairs as one can be. When many of us are just reading the breaking news headlines scrolling across our TV screens or seeing the latest updates on our phones for the first time, Marc has already read fifteen articles on the subject, all of which encompass

a wide variety of perspectives on the matter.

- Need a Taylor Swift song that references a unit in the AP US History curriculum? Ask Schuhl!
- Have concerns about the volatility of cryptocurrencies? Ask Schuhl!
- Wondering what to do when your home insurance provider drops you because you live in a high-risk fire zone? Ask Schuhl!
- Need a recommendation for a great National Park campsite? Ask Schuhl!
- Looking for a meaningful conversation about literature and art? Ask Schuhl!
- Curious about the etymology of a Latin-based word? Ask Schuhl (in English or Latin)!
- Need a new Netflix show recommendation? Ask Schuhl!

Marc has been, for so many of us, a source of information, stability, perspective, wisdom, and compassion, and his positive impact on our school's community will continue to be felt well after his departure at the end of this year. ■

“Marc's spur of the moment analogies have changed the everyday language in the History Office.”



GOODBYE TO
Victor Pesiri
 Director of Facilities/
 Interim Chief
 Operations Officer
 BY DAWN CUNNION,
 ASSOCIATE HEAD OF
 SCHOOL

Have you ever had the experience of meeting someone who was the “right” person at just the “right” time? That was what happened the day Victor Pesiri came to Brentwood School to interview for the position of Director of Facilities. It was January 2015 and, while it wasn’t the traditional time to be hiring, there was Victor. He was a school person at heart and, in his vast years of experience, had just finished leading another school through the implementation of their master plan, which included the building of many new buildings. It was meant to be!

During his seven years at Brentwood School, Victor

accomplished more than most people do in a career simply because he is someone who always says, “Yes, I can get it done.” He was a significant member of the team that worked to secure our new Conditional Use Permit, spending many hours working with our neighbors to garner their input and support. And then there is the fact that we built not only one significant building, but two, in addition to renovating the Eagles Center, the Bundy Building, and a new track under his leadership. Victor understands the building process from the grandest of plans down to the most minute detail. We are grateful to him for sharing his many talents and years of expertise with us during this critical time of transition and building at Brentwood School. Thank you, Victor! ■

HELLO TO
Jerry Lewis
 New Director of
 Facilities

Jerry Lewis joins Brentwood School from the University of Southern California with 15+ years of experience working in facilities management. At USC, he served as the head of capital construction, sustainability, and operations, and cares deeply about facilities and leadership. Jerry has two Bachelor’s degrees from University of Arizona and began his career in the United States Marine Corps, where he served 10 years completing various deployments during Operation Enduring Freedom. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Jerry’s family migrated to California from Shreveport, Louisiana. Always upbeat and positive, Jerry enjoys camping, water sports, motorcycles, and music production/engineering, and is excited about his next chapter at Brentwood School. ■



HELLO TO
Dr. Trina Moore-Southall
 Assistant Head
 of School for
 Community and
 Belonging

Next school year, Dr. Trina Moore-Southall will assume a new role as Brentwood’s first Assistant Head for Community and Belonging. The focus of this role will be on longer term systemic and strategic development in professional development, which includes ongoing faculty/staff DEI discussion groups, working with the Board of Trustees and the DEI committee; admissions and outreach; data collection and analysis; serving as a consultant-coach to senior leadership, working more closely with the Parents Association particularly in the development of an ally group, and working at a deeper level with division directors around various initiatives, including curriculum. Dr. Southall will also oversee the implementation and evaluation of our 5-Year Plan for Equity and Inclusivity. ■

“During his seven years at Brentwood School, Victor accomplished more than most people do in a career simply because he is someone who always says, ‘Yes, I can get it done.’”

HELLO TO
Carley Dryden
 New Director of
 Equity and Inclusion

Carley Dryden is in her seventh year at Chadwick School, where she serves as the Director of Marketing and Communications and as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator on Chadwick's Equity Team. Carley holds various student-facing roles, including co-teacher of a DEI class for 8th graders, 12th Grade advisor, and faculty advisor of Black Student Union and Multiracial Affinity Group. In her Communications role, she led the redesigns and enhancements of Chadwick's website, social media channels, magazine and other print publications, and communication to parents. Carley's personal commitment to supporting students has been integral to her making a difference in the lives of students and faculty/staff alike. Carley earned her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Southern California and a Graduate Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion Leadership from Cornell University. ■



HELLO TO
Amanda Kelson
 Upper School
 Director of Student
 Life

Amanda is stepping away as Athletic Director next year to move into a new role as the Upper School Director of Student Life. Amanda has done great work leading our East Campus Athletic Department for the past 10 years! Prior to this role, she was Director of Summer at Brentwood, Lower School PE teacher, and Class Dean to the Classes of 2015 and 2018. We are confident she will bring her numerous skills and never-ending enthusiasm to student life. ■

HELLO TO
Dana Vasquez
 Director of Athletics

As Amanda takes on this new set of responsibilities, we are pleased to share that Dana Vasquez is joining us as the next Director of Athletics. Dana is currently the Assistant Athletic Director at Notre Dame High School, where she has worked since 2004. Prior to Notre Dame, Dana was the Assistant Athletic Director at Louisville High School in Woodland Hills. ■



GOODBYE TO
J. Cole
 Director of College
 Counseling
 BY YETUNDE
 RUBINSTEIN, ASSOCIATE
 DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE
 COUNSELING

Jerome "J" Cole's two quick years at Brentwood School somehow feel much longer, despite having spent almost half of that time in our all-too-familiar Zoom boxes. That he has been able to create lasting friendships and build community so quickly, is a testament to J's kindness, generosity of spirit, mentorship, and open-hearted good nature. A fellow member of the leadership team shared that J's "contributions to different leadership teams on campus have helped shape the ways we think about various things within the school and how to move different initiatives forward. I appreciate his optimism and will miss the almost constant smile on his face." In the College Counseling Office, we've benefited from his optimistic leadership and generosity and will miss his warmth, humor, and walk-up song, "Eye of the Tiger!" Beyond the leadership team meetings and the College Counseling

Office, J's positive impact on our community has been felt far and wide. From helping to construct dwellings for fellow veterans, to meeting with affinity groups, J always made time to connect. Another long-time administrator loved the fact that "despite not knowing a single student, J stayed the entire time at a Middle School track meet...all the way to the 7th and 8th Grade 4x400m!"

J's genuine interest in our students, their challenges and successes, both inside and beyond the classroom, whether they're in 6th Grade or 12th, speaks volumes. J, as one of your colleagues so beautifully summed it up, you made clear your intention from the start, which was to "strengthen our community by sharing your life with us, being present for both students and faculty, and authentically representing the values you believe in every day." You've achieved this and more. In celebration and gratitude, we'll miss you, J! Thank you. ■

HELLO TO
DeeDee Sanders
 New Director of
 College Counseling

Dee-Dee Sanders was a high school English teacher for eight years prior to making the switch to college counseling in 2007. Currently she is the Director of College Counseling for GEMS World Academy in Chicago. Prior to GEMS, Dee-Dee was the Network Director of College Counseling for Great Hearts Academies where she trained, coordinated, and supervised 23 college counselors for their family of campuses. ■



GOODBYE TO
Ryan Boccuzzi
Upper School
Director

BY DANA GONZALEZ,
UPPER SCHOOL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

It goes without saying that Ryan Boccuzzi embodies all the quintessential qualities of a school administrator. He is confident, patient, smart, open, experienced, kind, empathetic, level-headed, and honest. But what has truly made Ryan singular in this leadership role is his humility and his extraordinary ability to show up for students no matter the cacophony of the campus. "That's not in my job description," "I don't do that," "It's not my responsibility," and "Ask someone else to do it" are phrases I have never heard uttered out of Ryan's mouth. He is committed to being helpful no matter the task. Ryan has been spotted around campus hanging pictures for colleagues in their offices, picking up trash in the Quads, hauling snacks from the SLC to the Pool Patio, making sure a teacher has markers for their whiteboard, and giving campus tours to prospective families and teaching

"What has truly made Ryan singular in this leadership role is his humility and his extraordinary ability to show up for students no matter the cacophony of the campus."

candidates all while managing the larger programs, personalities, and constituencies of the Upper Division. Ryan is one of the unique leaders that understands the importance of always being useful and assisting, without ego or need for praise, in the name of the greater good of the community. On any given day, Ryan's calendar holds 18-20 scheduled meetings and those meetings can be drastically different from literally one minute to the next. And while many of his meetings are complicated, sensitive, or difficult, Ryan's commitment to and respect for the students are unwavering. No matter how challenging or emotionally charged his day, Ryan interacts with every student with kindness, civility, composure, and positivity at all times, even when it is not

returned. He treats every child with dignity and never allows the chaos of running and managing a division of over 650 people to affect his relationship with them. They know that with Ryan they will be heard, and respected, and even if they don't get what they want, he will always be even-keeled and supportive of their growth.

Ryan, thank you for your service, your leadership, your trust, and your friendship. You will be sorely missed by all. ■

HELLO TO
Dana Gonzalez
New Upper School
Director

Dana Gonzalez is the current Assistant Director of the Upper School and teaches Gender Studies in the Upper School. As a veteran Spanish and Human Development teacher, Dana also served as an Upper School Dean and the K-12 Director of Diversity and Inclusivity at Viewpoint School in Calabasas. In her role as an administrator, Dana has worked in parent and faculty education, mental health, social justice, SEL, curriculum development, college counseling, and student leadership and activism. Additionally, Dana has presented at local and national professional development conferences ranging on topics from K-12 Sex Education, College Counseling, White Allyship, and Anti-racism and Teacher Leadership.

Dana earned her Bachelor's in English with minors in Spanish and Feminist Theory from Miami University before earning her Master's from Middlebury in Hispanic Languages and Literature. Dana is a mom to two amazing Brentwood School lifers in the 9th and 11th Grades and has a cute pandemic dog named Bear, AKA Boo Boo. ■



GOODBYE TO

Josh Berger

Director of the
Belldegrun Center for
Innovative Leadership

BY ELENA CARDENAS,
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT, BCIL

In his 16 years at Brentwood School, Josh Berger has had multiple roles that have captured who he is as a person. He is enthusiastic, motivating, kind, and a great leader, mentor and listener. Working with Josh over the years has given me a better understanding of who he is and his work ethic, and know that Josh Berger is truly a team player. I have had the pleasure of working with Josh twice over my Brentwood career, and he has been caring, genuine, authentic, understanding, and supportive to me. Josh's kindness has created a positive environment where both students and colleagues are able to grow, participate, and develop a sense of belonging. His caring nature instills confidence and makes everyone feel heard, supported, and seen.

Josh built the Belldegrun Center of Innovation Leadership from the ground up, and the BCIL is thriving. The "Fab Lab" is busier than it's ever been, and the BCIL Science

Research Lab is buzzing with real-life research. Josh started the Peer Leadership and Peer Tutoring programs, and has impacted many students through these programs, as well. But Josh will never take credit for the things he has done, and how he has impacted Brentwood School. Instead, he is always thanking those around him, and praising and sharing how grateful he is.

One of Josh's qualities that I admire most about him is his ability to listen. He makes sure he takes the time to understand, and is willing to offer words of wisdom. He also has a great sense of humor, but is not afraid to show his vulnerable side. Josh has impacted many members of our community for the better, and he has gained the affection and respect of many of his colleagues. Colleagues would describe Josh as an incredible leader, inspiring to others, creative and caring. They say that Josh brings out the best in every person and idea through honest feedback and unwavering support. Josh is a person who seeds "good," which takes root and changes a community to do better.

We have all been the lucky ones to work with such an amazing person. Josh is more than just my boss/supervisor. He is my friend, colleague, leader, and mentor. I am so grateful that I have had the opportunity to work with him. He has helped me gain my confidence, and believed in me. I will miss our conversations, pep talks, scheduling his many meetings, his smile, but mostly I will miss my friend. Josh is one of the most caring, kindest human beings I have ever met. He believes in human decency, and that is what makes Josh Berger one of a kind. I am honored to call him my friend, my brother, my "familia." ■

"Colleagues would describe Josh as an incredible leader, inspiring to others, creative and caring. They say that Josh brings out the best in every person and idea through honest feedback and unwavering support."

HELLO TO

Darlene Fukuji

New Director of the
Belldegrun Center for
Innovative Leadership

Darlene Fukuji will be joining Brentwood to build on the foundational work that Josh has done these past four years in getting the Belldegrun Center up and running. Darlene comes to us from Loyola Marymount University where, for the past 6 years, she has served as the Associate Director of the Fred Kiesner Center for Entrepreneurship. Prior to her work at LMU, Darlene was the Engagement Manager for Growthink, a boutique consulting and investment banking firm for entrepreneurs. She has served on and continues to serve on a variety of boards, including: The Jacaranda Foundation and School in Malawi; the Westchester Rotary Club (past President); and President of the Toshiko Takaazu Foundation. Darlene is also quite familiar with the Belldegrun Center having served as an expert judge in this year's BCIL Innovation Challenge, held in person in front of all our East Campus students, faculty, and staff. ■



GOODBYE TO
Nicole Arndt
Middle School
Director

A California native, Nicole decided to move to Los Angeles after having worked in teaching and leadership positions in New York since 2002. To say that she joined the Brentwood community during the most unusual of times would be an understatement. After visiting the campus for her interview in December of 2019, Nicole found herself joining an almost completely virtual school upon her arrival at Brentwood School in July of 2020 which is not an easy feat. Most faculty and staff were

working virtually until the spring of 2021 when we were able to bring students back in person for the final weeks of the school year.

Nicole pivoted to navigate the unprecedented challenges associated with creating a meaningful learning experience during COVID, from working with faculty to create and deliver curriculum via Zoom to transitioning back to onsite learning with grade level cohorts, masks, and physical distancing. We thank Nicole for her ongoing determination to maintain a semblance of normalcy for our Middle School students, faculty, and staff in the midst of the daily unpredictability of this pandemic. We wish her well and offer our appreciation for all her efforts over the past two years. ■

HELLO TO
Jill Bergeron
Interim Middle
School Director

Jill currently serves as the Middle School Director at the Chandler School in Pasadena. She has worked there for 18 years in various roles, the last five years as the Middle School Director. ■



GOODBYE TO
Steve Tolbert
Former CFOO
BY SUSANNE MCNEIL ENG

Steve Tolbert joined Brentwood School in July of 2018 as the Chief Financial and Operations Officer. He brought with him a wealth of senior leadership experience in finance and operations within K-12 independent and public charter schools and years of investment management experience from within the institutional investment sector. During his journey at Brentwood, Steve mastered the “pivot” during the challenging times of running a school during a pandemic. In addition, he was instrumental in working on key financing to ensure the financial stability of the school. Steve has moved on to his new role as Vice President of Finance and Administration at Loyola High School, where his two sons attended school; it is a place near and dear to his heart. We miss Steve’s warm personality and big laughter and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. ■

HELLO TO
Susanne McNeil Eng
New CFO

After the birth of her second son and looking for a career change from the corporate world, Susanne McNeil Eng joined Brentwood School in the summer of 2010. As a graduate of Louisiana State University and earning a CPA, she began her career in the audit sector for the public accounting firm, Ernst & Young. From there, in her 30+ years of experience in finance and accounting, she was an integral part of the SEC reporting team for Litton Industries, the Financial Planning team at Toyota Motor Sales and, prior to Brentwood, as Controller for Tennis Magazine. During her tenure at Brentwood, Susanne’s career started as the school’s Controller where she has been instrumental in building the Business Office team. She was promoted to Director of Finance and Accounting in 2018 and now serves in her new role as Chief Financial Officer. She is also the proud parent of Eli ’25 and Asher ’28. ■

“Nicole pivoted to navigate the unprecedented challenges associated with creating a meaningful learning experience during COVID from working with faculty to create and deliver curriculum via Zoom to transitioning back to onsite learning with grade level cohorts, masks, and physical distancing.”

Faculty/Staff Anniversaries

5

5 YEARS

Megan Bloom
Erin Day
Tara Haroutunian
Elvira Hajar
Jose Mejia
Vilma Morales Mayorga
Alma Ranous
Marc Rudisill
Chris Sharp
Stacey Siegel
Claudia Teager
Tracy Wallace
Melanie Winns

10

10 YEARS

Ryan Bailey
Jonah Blumstein
Laura Feucht
Pam Horrocks
Jessica James
Teri Kebby
Josh Melnick

15

15 YEARS

Sarinah De La Cruz
Amelia Hollis
Marc Schuhl
Michael Workman
Farah Yaqubi

20

20 YEARS

Cassy Clarke
Kelly Heard
Michael Kalan
Concha Valeriano
Rossana Whitmore

25

25 YEARS

Elisabeth Abarbanel
Jamie Chow
Michele Maringola
Dawn Cunnion
Hank Koransky
Asako Kurosaka-Jost
David Svec

30

30 YEARS

Carlos Godinez
Ellie Novaes

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BRENTWOOD FUND

The Brentwood Fund is our school's top philanthropic priority because it provides 10% of the school's annual operating budget. Funds raised are spent the same year in which they are donated, going to work immediately. Gifts to the Brentwood Fund help ensure the excellent programs, innovative faculty, inspirational learning environment, and life-changing experiences available to every Brentwood School student. Brentwood Fund giving sustains faculty salaries, professional development opportunities, new curriculum initiatives, financial support, robust student programs, arts and athletics, extracurricular activities and clubs, and more.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association (PA) shapes our community and enriches our school by supporting a range of programs and events. Parents and guardians collaborate to strengthen their connection to one another and to the school through volunteerism. The PA's major fundraising efforts are Eaglewear sales, Party Book, and the Spring Benefit and Auction. PA proceeds support the school's endowment.

MAJOR GIFTS

Major gifts are typically paid over several years and support two areas of importance at Brentwood School: capital projects or the school's endowment. Capital projects enhance the future of the school through new construction or extensive renovation to facilities for better teaching and learning. Endowment giving supports the long-term vitality of the school and is designed to last indefinitely, securing the exceptional Brentwood School experience for generations of Eagles to come.

WAYS TO GIVE

Brentwood School is grateful for your ongoing support! Your philanthropic gifts make an immediate and lasting impact on the student experience. We are a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit, organization, making gifts tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Following are the ways you may make contributions to the school:

CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD

Your cash gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. You may make gifts via credit card online (www.bwscampus.com/give) or by contacting Alyssa Brakey, Director of Major Gifts, at (310) 889-2743 or abrakey@bwscampus.com. To mail your gift, please download the Brentwood Fund Gift Form, which is available on our website.

SECURITIES

You may achieve tax savings by making your gift via stocks or other capital assets. If you donate appreciated, marketable securities that you have owned for more than one year and one day, you may receive a charitable deduction for the full market value on the date of the transfer. Neither you nor Brentwood School would be required to pay capital gains tax on this type of gift. If you have securities that have decreased in value, you may be able to take a deductible loss when you sell the stocks and donate the proceeds. To access the Gift of Securities Form, please visit www.bwscampus.com/giving/annual-fund.

GIFTS-IN-KIND

We welcome gifts of goods or services that may provide a budgetary savings to the school or fulfill a particular departmental need. Per IRS guidelines, the school will not assign a dollar value to your gift, but will provide a letter with our appreciation to substantiate your in-kind donation. We recommend consulting your tax advisor to explore the tax benefits specific to such a gift.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers match philanthropic donations made by their employees. A wonderful way to maximize your impact, matching gifts can sometimes double or even triple a donation. Simply send the appropriate paperwork to the Brentwood School Advancement Office from your employer's human resources department and your gift to Brentwood School will be matched according to your company's guidelines. If you are unsure whether or not your company has a matching gift program, please visit www.matchinggifts.com/brentwood.

GIFTS THROUGH ESTATE PLANNING

Donors may wish to consider giving through such means as a will, life insurance, a bequest, or a charitable trust. These types of gifts have a noble destination—to help secure the future of our school. Your generosity not only impacts the lives of our current students, but also has long term benefits for students for years to come. These gifts may also help reduce estate and inheritance taxes. We encourage you to speak with your financial planner when considering this type of gift. For more information, please contact Alyssa Brakey, Director of Major Gifts at (310) 889-2743.

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For more information, please contact:

Alyssa Brakey, Director of Major Gifts
abrakey@bwscampus.com
(310) 889-2743





03/25/22



There's just something about wearing your pajamas to school and sharing syrup-drenched pancakes with your friends. This Lower School tradition has been missed and its return brought a renewed sense of normalcy to our youngest students and to the entire community.

bws

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Brentwood School inspires every student to:

Think critically and creatively.

Act ethically.

Shape a future with meaning.

Core Values: Trust, Respect, Responsibility,
Honesty, Caring, Diversity, Community



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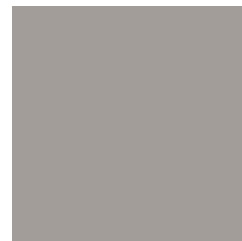
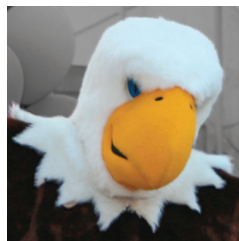
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2022/2023 will be filled with
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trustees, alumni, parents of
alumni, and grandparents ...

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION BENEFIT

THE ARCHIVE DRIVE

50 ACTS OF KINDNESS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

... AND MUCH MORE!