



BIRMINGHAM
CITY SCHOOLS

BCS News & Notes

A newsletter for parents, students, staff and community

May 13, 2011



Lashondra Turner, a cosmetology student at Parker High School, puts finishing touches on Jeannette Gilmore's hair.

Parker students aid victims

Charmeseia McCall, a Pratt City resident who lost her home in the April 27 tornado, got a real treat Thursday. She went to Parker High School, where the cosmetology department was offering free hair care to tornado victims.

Keosha Howard, a sophomore cosmetology student, gave Ms. McCall a quick weave, resulting in a sleek shoulder-length hairstyle. The culinary arts department had provided her with lunch, and she had a personal care kit provided by the business education department.

Auto mechanics students also were providing free maintenance checks, and health professions classes were doing health screenings.

"It meant a lot to me," Ms. McCall said. "We need something to lift our spirits right now."

Across the room Jeannette Gilmore relaxed in a chair while Lashondra Turner, a junior, combed out her hair after applying a relaxer and doing a roller wrap. Ms. Gilmore, a Tuscaloosa resident who is staying with her son in Birmingham, said she was given a flyer about the free services. "It looks a lot better than when I do it," she said.

Cosmetology teacher Janice Moseley said about 50 women and girls took advantage of the free hair care services.

State waives make up days

Students will not have to make up days missed because of the April 27 tornado.

State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton has approved a waiver for the Birmingham City Schools. The waiver covers all schools for April 28 and 29 and South Hampton Elementary School for May 2 as well.

The waiver also covers all employees for April 28 and nine-month employees for April 29.

Employees who lost their homes or suffered other catastrophic hardship should contact the payroll department for a detailed discussion regarding missed time.

That means Friday, May 27, will be the last day for students and Tuesday, May 31, will be the last day for teachers.



City Council President Roderick Royal helps a student at South Hampton Elementary School select uniforms. The City Council held a uniform drive called All Dressed Out to collect clothing for students who lost their homes in the April 27 tornado. A total of 578 uniforms were donated and distributed May 9. Several council members, including Councilor Steven Hoyt, who is in the background, were on hand to help match students with appropriate sized clothing.



Members of the Wenonah High School Gentlemen of Distinction Club prepare to go to Scott School Saturday, May 7, to help with disaster relief. The boys collected clothing and shoes during the week and delivered them Saturday. They also worked to help survivors that day. Assistant principals Michael Scott and James Ekundayo and teacher Cleveland James worked alongside them.

JO senior wins laptop

Bright House Networks recently awarded Valerie Hrabowski, a senior at Jackson-Olin High School, a new Dell laptop computer as a winner of the Bright Futures Student Laptop Scholarship Program.

The program is designed to provide high school seniors who are matriculating to college with a laptop as a reward for their hard work and commitment to leadership and community.

Students submit an application and a 1,000-word essay that describes the importance of leadership both in school and the community in which they live. Students were then evaluated on the content of their submission. Student winners were selected and laptops presented at senior awards programs.

Stories needed for newsletter

If you know of something good happening in the Birmingham City Schools and you want to tell others the news, write a few paragraphs for BCS News & Notes and e-mail the information to Michaelle Chapman, director of communications, at mchapman@bhm.k12.al.us. Digital photos also are needed. Ms. Chapman is editor of "BCS News & Notes."



Winners of the middle school math tournament held in April show their certificates and ribbons. Sixth-graders are at top. The winners in the seventh grade are in the middle. Winning eighth-graders are at bottom. See the story on Page 3.

Middle-schoolers show math skills

Middle school students from across the Birmingham City School System competed in the 35th annual mathematics tournament April 25.

Winners included:

- **Sixth grade individual** — Keyatta Bonds, Phillips, first; Kobe Green, Martha Gaskins, second; DeShon Ishman, Phillips, third; Daniel Hernandez, Center Street, fourth; Cassandra Holland, Phillips, fifth
- **Sixth grade team** – Phillips, first; W.J. Christian, second; Whatley, third; Martha Gaskins, fourth; Center Street, fifth
- **Seventh grade pre-algebra individual** – Ashlynn Berry, W.J. Christian, first; Alana Bennett, Daniel Payne, second; Omar Altaha, Center Street, third; Maya Quinn, Phillips, fourth; Tavariz Brown, Wilkerson, fifth
- **Seventh grade pre-algebra team** – Phillips, first; W.J. Christian, second; Daniel Payne, third; Wilkerson, fourth, Putnam, fifth
- **Eighth grade algebra I individual** – Micah Griffin, Phillips, first; Jeffrey Simmons, Phillips, second; Tiana Terrell, W.J. Christian, third; Tyler Anthony, W.J. Christian, fourth; Imari Nalls, Daniel Payne, fifth
- **Eighth grade algebra I team** – W.J. Christian, first; Phillips, second; Daniel Payne, third; Bush, fourth; Inglenook, fifth

Survey on code of conduct on line

The Birmingham City School System is seeking input from parents, students, employees and community on the district's code of student conduct.

A survey is on the district website and will be available until June 12.

To take the survey, you also may go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bcs-2011-code-of-student-conduct>.

Ramsay students place in contest

Twenty-one students in finance classes at Ramsay High School participated in the National Financial Challenge, an awards program designed to increase financial knowledge and capability in high school students across the nation so they can take control over their financial futures.

The competition challenges high school teachers to teach the basics of personal finance to their students. It rewards students, educators, schools and states for their participation and their success. Educators and top-scoring students earn special award certificates, and schools and states with the highest participation rates earn special distinction.

Ramsay students Michael Threatt and Ashley Powell scored in the top 20 percent of students nationwide.



Third grade students who won in the math derby took home prizes.

Elementary math derby held

Students from 28 schools competed in the third- and fourth-grade divisions of the Birmingham City Schools math derby May 3 and 4. Thirty schools sent students to the competition for fifth grade May 5.

The math derby is a basic facts contest with a format similar to a traditional spelling bee. Winners from each elementary and K-8 school are invited to compete in the district-wide contest.

Winners included:

- **Third grade--** Samaj Washington, Going, first; Breia Thomas, W.J. Christian, second; Autumn Canty, Princeton, third; Alexis White-Booth, Lee, fourth; Colby Humphrey, Phillips, fifth
- **Fourth grade --** DeVonte Simmons, Lee, first; Aniyah Jones, W.J. Christian, second; Jonah Woods, Minor, third; Aaliyah Muhammad, Epic, fourth; Savannah Williams, Price, fifth
- **Fifth grade --** Kobe Belcher, Going, first; Wesely Huffman, Phillips, second; Brooklyn Albert, North Roebuck, third; Amber Ellington, Robinson, fourth; Maria Garrett, Hudson, fifth