



BIRMINGHAM
CITY SCHOOLS

BCS News & Notes

A newsletter for parents, students, staff and community

June 9, 2011

Phillips takes second step toward IB

Phillips Academy has taken a second step toward becoming an International Baccalaureate school for kindergarten through eighth grade.

Principal Mark A. Sullivan has received notification that Phillips has been approved as a candidate for the International Baccalaureate Primary Program. He was notified in late May that Phillips' application for candidacy for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program had been approved.

"This is great news!" said Superintendent Craig Witherspoon. "There are hurdles you have to go through to become a full IB school. Phillips has just cleared another hurdle in the process."

During the candidacy phase, Phillips' faculty will work toward fulfilling the requirements for gaining full IB status. Teachers, for example, will have access to an online IB curriculum center where they can obtain IB publications and teaching materials.

If Phillips successfully completes the candidacy phase, it will become an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy – a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education.



Wenonah High School teacher Ruqayyah Aqeel, center, is the top high school Gizmo teacher.

Teachers, schools use Gizmo

When most adults think about gizmos, they're likely to come up with whatchamacallits or thingamajigs as a synonym. But students in many schools in the Birmingham City School System would think of interactive online simulations of math and science concepts.

Several schools and teachers received awards for their use of Gizmos May 25 in the classroom from ExploreLearning.

Jackson-Olin was named as the top high school, with Ruqayyah Aqeel of Wenonah High School being the top teacher. N. Wilson of Jackson-Olin High School was the runner up.

Hudson K-8 School was the top middle or K-8 school. Imogene Hill of Whatley K-8 was the top teacher in that category, with Hudson's Miriam Moore finishing as the runner up.

Gibson Elementary School was tops in the elementary school division. Lacresha McDaniel of Lewis Elementary School was the top teacher, and Kelly Mitchell of Gibson was the runner up.

Overall, 37 teachers received Leadership Award certificates from ExploreLearning. The awards were based on the number of both teacher and student logins to the Gizmo site.



Volunteers from Indian Springs School and The Backyard Pantry were joined by students from Washington K-8 School to build raised bed gardens at Washington May 31. The garden project -- part of a continuing partnership between the schools -- will allow Washington to start an organic garden. Funding came from a \$20,000 prize won by Indian Springs faculty and staff members this spring.



Teachers from Clear View, Texas, donated school supplies to Daniel Payne Middle School when they came to Birmingham on a trip to learn about the civil rights movement. Daniel Payne Principal Eddie Cauthen, right, was pleased to receive the items.

Texas teachers donate supplies

When Hurricane Ike hit the Texas coast in 2008, the Clear Creek Independent School District in the Houston suburbs needed assistance. So it was a natural thing for a group of 30 Clear Creek teachers to bring school supplies to donate to a Birmingham school affected by the April 27 tornado.

They contacted Jackie Jackson, the Birmingham City Schools' social studies director, who asked Daniel Payne Middle School Principal Eddie Cauthen if he would like to receive the donations. Cauthen happily agreed.

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute was the group's first stop when it arrived in Birmingham this week. Jackson and Cauthen met them there, and Cauthen left with the supplies in his truck bed after thanking the teachers for their generosity.

"We went through Ike and we had many people who were generous to us," said Patti Freudenberg, one of the leaders of the Texas group. "We thought a school in Birmingham could use our help."

Last chance to take survey

A survey on the district code of student conduct will end the night of Sunday, June 12. More responses are needed.

If you have not taken the survey yet, please go to <http://bhm.k12.al.us> and click on the news story about the survey.



The Birmingham City Schools recognized 291 retirees at a reception June 7 at Boutwell Auditorium. Linda Newton, top center, Brenda Moxley, top right, and Linda Roberson, bottom left, were among the honorees. The reception included refreshments prepared by students in the culinary arts program at Wenonah High School.

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."