



BIRMINGHAM  
CITY SCHOOLS

# BCS News & Notes

A newsletter for parents, students, staff and community

Dec. 17, 2010

## 17 teachers get national certification

Seventeen teachers in the Birmingham City Schools recently learned that they have earned their National Board Certification.

Sponsored by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the National Board Certification process is rigorous and requires teachers to prove their skills. It is considered the premier credential in education.

The new National Board Certified Teachers are:

- Margena Caldwell, Avondale Elementary School
- Clara Davison, Woodlawn High School
- Teri Elder, Wylam Elementary School
- Rebecca Gibb, Robinson Elementary School
- Zakiya Jenkins, W.J. Christian K-8 School
- Lakecia Lowery, South Hampton Elementary School
- Sandra Martin, Avondale Elementary School
- Christopher McClendon, Phillips Academy
- Terrica McMillan, Jackson-Olin High School
- Yohna Mills, Avondale Elementary School
- Alice Murdoch, Huffman Middle School
- Natalie Oswalt, Gibson Elementary School
- Annise Pinson, Gibson Elementary School
- Aulundria Shelley-Grace, Hemphill Elementary School
- Sofrina Shepherd, Gibson and Sun Valley elementary schools
- Jerry Strickland, Wilkerson Middle School
- Stephanie Whitt-Webb, Inglenook K-8 School

The district will honor them with a pinning ceremony and reception at 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at the Birmingham Museum of Art.



## Teacher Paul Hoomes and the AP government class Huffman students prove knowledge

The Huffman High School Advanced Placement (AP) government class, taught by Paul Hoomes, came in second place recently at the We the People Mock Congressional Hearings competition at Shades Mountain Baptist Church.

The class competed against other high schools from the Jefferson County area in the Seventh Congressional District. The team now qualifies for the state competition which will be held on Feb. 4, 2011, in at the Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham.

Huffman High School also is one of five schools in Jefferson County and the only one in the Birmingham City Schools participating in a stock market program sponsored by the Samuel Adams Foundation in partnership with the Alabama Council of Economic Education. Hoomes' economics class has maintained an account with ScottsTrade with a diversified portfolio totaling over \$2,000 .

Huffman is receiving \$20,000 over a 10-year period to participate in the stock market program. This is Huffman's fifth year to be a participate in the program.

## Green Acres goes interactive

Having a parent-teacher conference has always meant parents have to set aside time to go to their children's schools and sit down face-to-face with the teacher. That has changed at Green Acres Middle School, thanks to MustangConnect.com, a new interactive website.

MustangConnect is an online resource teachers and parents can use to relay important school information, including homework assignment, and keep abreast of school activities and events.

"Making it easy for parents and teachers to interact is essential to establishing a culture of belief at any school," said Principal Evelyn Nettles. "Thanks to MustangConnect.com and some clever technology, we are now able to do just that."

Green Acres Middle School is the first in the Birmingham City Schools to offer an interactive space for parent and teacher conferences. On MustangConnect.com teachers can:

- Connect with parents and have virtual conferences
- Post and view homework assignments
- Share school photos and calendar events
- Create groups of education resources and tutors

"Our approach this year is one of challenge. We are challenging parents and students to do more each day to become better. MustangConnect.com will make the Mustang Community better, stronger and equipped for daily success," Nettles said.

The efforts already have increased sustained parent involvement by 17 percent. The school's PTA chapter also has been revived.

## Parker FBLA has busy year

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club at Parker High School has been very busy this year.

The club's activities include typing resumes for the ladies of the Aletheia House of Birmingham, a job and budget workshop where they went to various finance stations manned by UAB and business leaders and the induction of officers and members.

The latest activity was attending the National FBLA convention in New Orleans. While in New Orleans, officers and members attended sessions, toured the French Quarter, went on a ferry ride, ate beignets at Café DuMonde; enjoyed the Aquarium of the Americas and shopped at the French Market.

Dr. Ernestine Bennett-Johnson, assistant to the advisor and a New Orleans native, served as tour guide for the trip. Sherlita Hill-Nunn is the FBLA advisor.

## 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@bhamcityschools.org](mailto:mchapman@bhamcityschools.org). Digital photos also are needed. Ms. Chapman is editor of "BCS News & Notes."

## Woodlawn students win awards

Ten students from Woodlawn were honored in the United States Achievement Academy's 2010 yearbook for receiving National World Language Awards.

The USAA recognizes students in grades six through 12 all over the United States for outstanding academic achievements in all content areas. In order to be eligible for this award, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in the nominating subject, have strong overall academic standing and exhibit personal motivation, enthusiasm and leadership qualities.

In the spring, Merelyn Rodriguez and Dr. Rosalva Bermudez Ballin nominated several students from Woodlawn foreign language classes for this recognition; students who submitted their forms to the USAA were mentioned in the 2010 yearbook and entered into a nationwide pool to receive foreign language scholarships.

Xavier Parker, a senior who has taken French I and II, got a personalized page in the yearbook. The page also publicizes Woodlawn High School and the extra-curricular activities in which Xavier participates.

The other students honored in the yearbook are TaBari Boylan, JoShea Carson, Christina Cunningham, Michelle Dick, Rakeyla Gray, Dana Jackson, Chelsea Phillips, Toni Powell and Keyanna Williams.

Ms. Rodriguez and Dr. Bermudez Ballin are very proud of their students.

## Ramsay sets open house

Ramsay High School will have its second annual "A Look into Ramsay High School" open house from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011.

Prospective students and their parents will be able to tour the building, meet some of the ninth-grade teachers and pick up applications for admission. Tours will be given every 15 minutes beginning at 3:15 p.m.

Applications also are available at the school's main office during regular school hours or at [www.ramsayhigh.com](http://www.ramsayhigh.com).

-- Submitted by Nicole Crenshaw



**New Junior Beta Club members at Sun Valley**

### **SunValley inducts students**

Sun Valley Elementary School held a ceremony Nov. 19 to induct 13 students into the Junior Beta Club.

The following students were inducted: Tameron Boyd, Ashley Clark, Aaniya George, Zachary Greer, Miyah Jenkins, Timothy Little, Rachael McKinney, Aliyah McLendon, Kaitlyn Moore, Madison Prim, Ashley Reeves, Lykeria Taylor and Jasmine Whittaker

*-- Submitted by Melody Allison*

### **Smith is Flying High**

Smith Middle School Principal Chuck Willis recently learned that his school has been chosen at one of five winners of the 2011 High Flying Schools Awards to be given at the National Youth-At-Risk Conference in March in Savannah, Ga.

Smith will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 and will be recognized at the opening session of the conference. Representatives of the High Flying Schools will share their school successes in a special showcase at the conference.

*-- Submitted by Dr. Larry Contri*

### **Recycling winners get awards**

The winners of the annual Keep Birmingham Beautiful Commission Yellow Pages recycling program were given awards at the Dec. 14 Board of Education meeting.

Overall, participating schools sent 31,738 books to be recycled. Barrett Elementary School was the top school, collecting 13,322 books. Barrett received a check for \$1,000.

Other winning schools were:

- Arthur Elementary School, 5,725 books, \$750
- Phillips Academy, 5,634 books, \$500
- Smith Middle School, 4,627 books, \$300
- Woodlawn High School, 1,729 books, \$200

The top student recycler was Sherry Brook of Barrett, who brought in 5,148 books and got a check for \$400. Chantell Boykin, also a Barrett student, was second and received \$300.

Other student winners were:

- Nevaeh Payton, Phillips Academy, 1,370 books, \$200
- Bryan Johnson, Woodlawn High School, 1,344 books, \$100
- Marques Jefferson, Arthur Elementary School, 1,110 books, \$100
- Jalyn Bell, Barrett Elementary School, 1,006 books, \$100

*-- Submitted by Dr. Spencer Horn*



**Students and faculty at Wenonah High School conducted a Christmas gift drive for the elderly to provide presents for residents of the Fairview, Fairfield and Mountain View nursing homes. The Gentlemen of Distinction, led by Assistant Principal Michael Scott, and the Ladies of Class, led by Assistant Principal Genita Nolen, brought smiles to the residents' faces as they delivered the presents and sang carols.**



## Board approves items on agenda

The Birmingham Board of Education approved all items on the agenda for its Dec. 14 meeting. The items included:

- Purchase of the Discovery Education Student Assessment (ThinkLink) for non-Title I high schools at a cost of \$15,002.50
- Purchase of program production material and instruction for Woodlawn High School from Treasure Arts Inc. at a cost of \$25,000
- Cancellation of the contract with the J. Vincent Group for operation of the dropout recovery program
- A lease agreement with Twenty-Third Street Baptist Church for the dropout recovery program from Jan. 3, 2011, through May 27, 2011, at a cost of \$5,000
- A lease agreement with Agape Missionary Baptist Church for the dropout recovery program from Jan. 3, 2011, through May 27, 2011, at a cost of \$5,000
- Using the Grade Results computer-based learning instructional model for the dropout recovery program at a cost of \$37,500
- Purchase of a payroll check folder and sealer
- Retiring the \$15,683,000 in Qualified School Construction Bonds
- Purchase of janitorial products and supplies for kitchen and cafeteria areas from American Osment, Jan-Pak Supply and Budget Janitorial at a cost of \$20,665.16
- Sale of surplus textbooks to Follett Educational Services for \$2,000 and \$40 per ton
- Increasing the design fees to be paid to Khafra for the Brown Elementary School project by \$90,760
- Increasing the geotechnical testing fees to be paid to BECC for the Brown Elementary School project by \$15,000
- Paying H&M Mechanical \$24,077 for emergency heating system repairs done at Minor Elementary School between Feb. 1, 2010, and March 31, 2010.
- Establishing a re-roofing capital project for Glen Iris Elementary School to cover the portion of the roof not included in the previous addition and renovation project
- Paying CDW-G \$76,428.26 to provide infrastructure network equipment and installation services for the new Glenn K-8 School
- Purchase of media center furnishings for the new Glenn K-8 School from The Mell Group LLC at a cost of \$43,587
- Paying CDW-G \$65,143.76 to provide infrastructure network equipment and installation services for the Inglenook K-8 School project
- Paying Black Box Network Services to furnish and install the premise distribution (phone and data)

system for the new Jones Valley K-8 School at a cost of \$171,258.91

- Paying Brantley Painting Co, for painting and patching at Kennedy School at a cost of \$33,425
- Paying Continental Flooring \$60,830 to install new vinyl composition flooring at Kennedy School
- Paying Institutional Network Communication LLC \$32,112.75 to furnish and install the coaxial cabling/head-end system for the new Lee Elementary School
- Paying Black Box Network Services \$153,400.74 to furnish and install the premise distribution (phone and data) system for the new Lee Elementary School at a cost of \$153,400.74
- Paying Hoskins Architecture LLC \$81,425 for the design and administration of the additions and renovations at the Lincoln building
- Paying Dixie Acoustical Contractors Inc. \$45,672 to replace damaged ceiling grid system and tiles at the Lincoln building
- Paying Monumental Contracting Services Inc. \$87,931 to install new vinyl composition flooring, carpet and base at the Lincoln building
- Paying Alabama Power Co. \$23,316.27 to provide site lighting for the Ramsay High School renovation and addition project
- Paying Appliance Connection \$13,519 to provide appliances for the family and consumer science program for the Ramsay High School renovation and addition project
- A change order for the W.J. Christian K-8 School renovation and addition project at a cost of \$111,891
- Increasing the budget for the Woodlawn High School addition project budget by \$3,097,500 to accommodate additional requested space
- Paying CDW-G \$84,931.26 to provide infrastructure network equipment and installation services for the new Wright Elementary School
- Purchase of 60 Dell Mini 1020 computers and services from Sprint/Nextel at a cost of \$33,040.66
- Donation of \$525 to the Birmingham City School from Better Basics
- Donation of \$1,000 to Carver High School from State Rep. Mary Moore
- Donation of \$6,416 to Daniel Payne Middle School from State Rep. Earl Hilliard
- Donation of \$16,050 to Parker High School from the Warren Family Foundation
- Donation of \$5,000 to Ramsay High School from State Rep. Demetrius C. Newton
- Donation of \$500 to Wenonah High School from the Roosevelt City Neighborhood Association