



BCS News & Notes

A newsletter for parents, students, staff and community

Sept. 16, 2011

Parker dedication set for Sept. 22

A dedication ceremony for the new Arthur Harold Parker High School has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22.

The new \$32 million school opened in August. Built for 1,200 students, it features a career-technical wing, a 750-seat auditorium, a practice gymnasium, a distance learning lab and a cafeteria that seats 367.

A competition football stadium with a nine-lane competition track, athletic field house and other athletic facilities will open in 2012.

Brasfield & Gorrie LLC is the general contractor. Evan Terry & Associates/NHB Group is the architect.

Grad exam set Sept. 19-23

High school students across the Birmingham City Schools will be taking the Alabama High School Graduation Exam Sept. 19-23.

The schedule is:

- Biology/science, 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 19
- Mathematics, 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20
- Reading, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21
- Language, 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 22
- Social studies, 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 23

Students who will be taking the exam should remember that feeding the body also feeds the mind. Having food in your stomach will give you energy and help you focus. Don't skip breakfast the mornings of test days, but avoid heavy foods that can make you groggy.

Also be sure to get sufficient sleep before the test.

In addition, make sure you have all things you need -- including scratch paper and extra pencils.

The graduation exam is not times, so do not rush through it. A good strategy is to scan through the test quickly before you start and then answer the easy questions first to build your confidence to tackle other questions.



The Birmingham City Schools has a leadership role when it comes to gifted education, and now teachers in the district are taking leadership among their peers statewide by serving on the Alabama State Department of Education's gifted advisory committee and as officers in the Alabama Association for Gifted Children. Audrey Fine, left, gifted specialist at Epic Elementary School, is the AAGC president, and Amy Waine, gifted specialist at Norwood, is president-elect.

Center to have open house

The Family Resource Center, located in rooms 212 and 214 of the Davis Center, 417 29th St. South, will have an open house from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27.

The Family Resource Center is part of the Birmingham City Schools Family Involvement Program. It has resources to help parents and families.

For more information, call 231-7965 or 231-7978.

Policy Committee to meet Sept. 20

The Policy Committee of the Birmingham Board of Education will meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the board room of the Administration Building, 2015 Park Place.



Speak First debate team members watch as 16 new laptops are unveiled Sept. 12. Jody Jones, CEO of Pangeatwo, surprised the students with the laptops.

SpeakFirst debaters get laptops

The members of the SpeakFirst debate team were surprised Sept. 12 when Jody Jones, CEO of Pangeatwo, presented them with 16 new laptop computers and a check for \$5,000.

SpeakFirst, an initiative of Impact Alabama and the University of Alabama, is an “all-star” debate team made up of students from the Birmingham City Schools and other area schools. Eleven of the 16 current members attend BCS high schools.

Since its inception in 2004, SpeakFirst students have participated in more than 550 debate practices, have competed in more than 60 tournaments and have won approximately half of their debate rounds.

The 19 SpeakFirst members who have graduated have earned more than \$2.8 million in scholarships. The University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of Alabama in Huntsville all provide full four-year academic scholarships to BCS students who complete at least three years of SpeakFirst.

It's flu shot season!

When fall arrives, so does flu shot season, and this year is no exception.

The Jefferson County Department of Health will hold its annual flu shot clinic for Birmingham City School System employees from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, and Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Davis Center.

Employees who want a flu shot should be sure to have their insurance cards with them.

-- Submitted by Russell Veale



Family and consumer science teachers Denise Rucker of Wenonah High School, left, and Debra Ruffin of Jackson-Olin High School are pictured with Dr. Ann Renee Guy, chairwoman of the Child Development Department at Lawson State Community College. All career-technical teachers recently met at Lawson for professional development and tours of both campuses.

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.”