

BCS News & Notes

A newsletter for parents, students, staff and community

Nov. 18, 2011



From left, Spencer Taylor, Priscilla Humphrey, Wanda Holmes and Michelle Sailes display the USDA award

District wins award for salad bars

If you think that teenagers will only eat things like pizza, burgers and chicken nuggets, you're wrong. In fact, the Birmingham City School System's Child Nutrition Department has just won a national award for a high school salad bar program that has proved to be very popular among students.

"Many students prefer salads over hot meals and appreciate the option of a salad bar," said Spencer E. Taylor, senior executive director of the Child Nutrition Department. "The salad bars are widely popular not only with girls but boys as well."

Taylor said his department piloted a salad bar at Carver High School in 2006. It was such a big success that the district's other six high schools got salad bars three days a week the next year. Since 2008, salad bars have been offered daily in all seven high schools.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recognized the program last week by presenting Taylor and his staff with a Best Practice Award during a state CNP directors workshop in Orange Beach.

Taylor said observations in school cafeterias before the advent of the salad bars showed that many students chose only meat, bread and milk with very few vegetables. Research shows that fewer than 10 percent of U.S. high school students meet federal

Music festival set Dec. 1

Hundreds of students from schools across the Birmingham City School System will perform in the 72nd annual All City Christmas Music Festival at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1.

This year's theme is "An American Christmas."

The event will be held at Fair Park Arena because of the closing of the usual venue, Boutwell Auditorium. That means seating will be limited.

Dedications set for new schools

Dedication ceremonies have been scheduled Friday, Dec. 9, for Jones Valley K-8 School and West End Academy.

Jones Valley's program is scheduled for 10 a.m.

Jones Valley's student body includes students who formerly were zoned for Wenonah Elementary School and the old Jones Valley. It was built to accommodate 740 students.

Jones Valley features art, science, band and choral classrooms, two computer labs, a cafeteria that seats 247 students and a gymnasium with a seating capacity of 300.

McWhorter Co., Inc., was the general contractor. Fuller & Thompson Architects designed the building.

The ceremony at West End Academy is set for 1 p.m.

West End Academy was built on the site of the old West End High School. It houses students who formerly were zoned for Lee, Powderly and Price elementary schools.

The \$10 million facility was built to accommodate 688 students. It has art, band and choral classrooms, a computer lab, a cafeteria that seats 229 students and a gymnasium that seats 300.

Stone Building Co. was the general contractor. NHB Group was the architect.

recommendations for the daily consumption of fruit and vegetables.

Birmingham high schools are bucking the trend, with 25 to 43 percent of lunches served being salads. The purchase of fresh produce for high school cafeterias has risen 44 percent overall, with Parker High School's purchases rising 65 percent.

Taylor said students are choosing the salad bar over items such as pizza and chicken nuggets.



Schools across the district participated in American Education Week and the district-wide open house that was held Nov. 15. Top left, students at Sun Valley Elementary School perform a play for parents. Bottom left, Carver teacher Menyorn Beachem speaks with student Darnicia Watkins and her mother. Above, an open house visitor signs in at Jackson-Olin High School. Below, parents watch as students demonstrate their math and science skills at AMSTI (Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative) Night at Glen Iris Elementary School.



Board to meet Nov. 22

The Birmingham Board of Education will have a regularly scheduled meeting at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22, in the auditorium of the Administration Building, 2015 Park Place.

Bands win awards at festival

Hundreds of spectators watched as bands from all seven high schools in the Birmingham City Schools and other schools performed in the recent Magic City Marching Band Festival.

Bands that won awards were:

- Woodlawn High School, Best Band in Class A
- Carver High School, Best Band in Class AA
- Jackson-Olin High School, Best Band in Class AAA
- Carver High School, Best BCS Drumline

Carver High School also won the Grand Champion Award named for Dr. Frank Adams Sr.

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."