

Youth First

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

May 2011

WILKERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2010-2011 TORCHBEARER SCHOOLS AWARD



The City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services congratulates Wilkerson Middle School on receiving the 2010—2011 Torchbearer Schools Award by the Alabama State Department of Education. Over 80% of the students at

(Continued on page 2)

2011 FOX6 KIDS & JOBS



Fox6 Anchor, Steve Crocker and DYS Executive Director, Cedric Sparks with 2011 Draft Participants

The City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services (DYS) and Fox6 launched its 2011 Fox6 Kids & Jobs Program with its INTERNSHIP DRAFT on April 14, 2011.

This summer, DYS and Fox 6 will put hundreds of Birmingham youth to work through the Internship Draft, 14 & 15 Year-Old Program, and the Summer Executive Internship (SEI). Kids & Jobs is designed to help cultivate the professional development necessary for youth and young adults to become an integral part of the workforce.

(Continued on page 2)



May 1st-29th

Bart's Art Cart: May
Birmingham Museum of Art
Saturdays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sundays 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
All Ages
For more info: 205-254-2565

May 16th

Tornado Disaster Relief Benefit Concert
Railroad Park
6:00 p.m.
All Ages
For more info: 205-975-278

May 18th

820 Souls Campaign Kick-Off
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Railroad Park
All Ages
For more info: 205-930-1312

May 21st

Tour de Cure
St. Vincent's One Nineteen Health and Wellness
All Day Event
All Ages
For more info: 205-870-5172

May 24th

School's Out for Summer
Birmingham Museum of Art
12:00 noon
All Ages
For more info: 205-254-2565

William A. Bell, Sr., Mayor

Cedric D. Sparks, Sr., Executive Director
City of Birmingham Mayor's Office
Division of Youth Services
808 North 18th Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
(P) 205-320-0879 (F) 205-322-7713
www.bhamyouthfirst.org

Wilkerson Middle School

(Continued from page 1)

Wilkerson scored at Level 3 or Level 4 on the Alabama Reading and Mathematics test (ARMT) and 65 percent of the students scored in Stanines 5-9 in Reading and Mathematics on the Stanford 10 standardized test.

Mayor William A. Bell, Sr. presented Wilkerson Middle School with the Mayor's Crystal Award in recognition of the school being the only one to receive this honor in the City of Birmingham.

Congratulations to Wilkerson's students, teachers, and faculty!

Kids & Jobs

(Continued from page 1)

The Fox6 Kids & Jobs Internship Draft allows students attending Birmingham area high schools to win "paid" internships with companies competing to hire some of Birmingham's best! Students were nominated by their principal in order to compete in the draft process. After a series of interviews and a teamwork challenge, the top six students were selected by area companies:



*Tyler Mackey,
No. 1 Draft Pick to Vulcan Materials*

Tyler Mackey
(Huffman)
*Vulcan Materials
Company*

Olga Manouvakhova
(Hoover)
*National Multiple
Sclerosis, AL-MS
Chapter*

Andrew Graber
(Gardendale)
Impact Alabama

ShuCarra Cotchery (Erwin)
Magnolia Pediatrics

Eddie Jackson (Parker)
Citadel Broadcasting-HOT107.7

Keyaira Johnson (Fairfield)
Quizno's Sub Corporate

The 14 & 15 Year-Old Program gives participating students first-time exposure to the workplace, while the SEI Program gives 16 to 21 year old students an opportunity to gain experience in their chosen career path. Selected students are placed with both public and private entities.



Bike Safety

Bike riding is a fun way to spend time together as a family and to get exercise. Before children head out to ride their bikes, educate them on bike safety rules.

Wear a Bike Helmet

Bicycle helmets need to fit properly and be worn on every bike ride.

Wear Bright Clothing

Make it as easy as possible to be seen by others by wearing fluorescent or bright clothing.

Bicycle Size

Be sure that the bicycle is the appropriate size. If a bike is too big, it becomes unsafe because the rider is unable to safely and quickly get off the bike.

Reduce Chain Hazards

Before each ride, tuck in all shoelaces, and move strings or long, baggy clothing that will get caught away from the chain.

Bike Maintenance

Before each ride, check to see that tires are properly inflated and the brakes are in good working order.

Do Not Listen to Music

Listening to music decreases the ability to be aware of what is going on while biking.

Do Not Ride at Night

Night riding is dangerous, because the driver's ability to see is diminished. If avoiding night riding is not an option, make sure the bike has working reflectors and rear and front lights, and wear reflective tape on clothing, around ankles and on helmets.

No Handlebar Riding

Handlebar riding is unsafe for both the child pedaling and the child riding on the handlebars.

Where to Ride

Generally speaking, riding on the street with the flow of traffic is safer than riding on the sidewalk for children older than 10. Children younger than 10 years old do not have the same level of maturity or the ability to make safe decisions on the street, so the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends that children under 10 ride on the sidewalk.

Read more: <http://www.livestrong.com/article/102244-bike-safety-rules-kids/#ixzz1MErE5nm>



Congratulations Graduates

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves,

Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

~Marianne Williamson, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of "A Course in Miracles,"* 1992



BIRMINGHAM CITY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

Carver High School
Wednesday, May 18, 2011
Boutwell Auditorium
5:00 PM

Jackson-Olin High School
Thursday, May 19, 2011
Boutwell Auditorium
5:00 PM

Wenonah High School
Tuesday, May 17, 2011
Wenonah High Stadium
10:00 AM

Huffman High School
Tuesday, May 17, 2011
Boutwell Auditorium
5:00 PM

Parker High School
Thursday, May 19, 2011
Boutwell Auditorium
7:00 PM

Woodlawn High School
Tuesday, May 17, 2011
Church of the Highlands
1:00 PM

Ramsay High School
Wednesday, May 18, 2011
Boutwell Auditorium
7:00 PM

Will Your Digital Footprint Cost You a Job and College Admission?

Better Think Again Before You Post Those Spring Break Party Pics

By Aly Adair

Takeaways

- One in five employers search social networking sites for information about job applicants.
- College officials take punitive actions from information found on social networking sites.
- Many employers have policies on how employees can use the Internet on & off the job.

Are you having fun posting party pictures, Spring Break vacation photos and personal information about boyfriends and girlfriends on MySpace, Facebook, Twitter and other favorite social networking sites? If so, you probably have a big digital footprint that might keep you from getting a job or getting into college. According to a survey from CareerBuilder, one in five employers search social networking sites for information about job applicants.

Your digital footprint doesn't just stop with social networking sites. Everything you text on your phone or post on a blog is saved as part of your digital shadow. Every time

(Continued on page 5)

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

KRISTION BOUYER and Project Citizen, a program of Green Acres Middle School

Mr. Eric Gardner's class at Green Acres Middle School recently concluded their project to tackle the issue of illegal items being sold to youth from the neighborhood ice cream truck in Central Park. Aptly named PROJECT CITIZEN, students conducted a survey of their neighborhood and developed a series of solutions to solve community issues. Kristion Bouyer, one of Mr. Gardner's students, was unaware that his class project would soon become reality at a visit to a Birmingham park. See Kristion's account below:

MY ACCOUNT

On April 23, 2011, I went to Railroad Park with my dad, my niece, and nephew. We asked can we have some ice cream and my dad said yes. I took my niece and my nephew to the ice cream truck to get some ice cream. It was two people on the truck. When my niece and nephew was making their decision on what kind of ice cream they wanted, the second person was in the door of the ice cream truck and he said, "Hey lil dude you want to buy some weed?" I stopped and thought about Project Citizen and I said, "Yea, let me go and get the money." So I went and got the policemen driving down the street and told him what happened. So he came round the ice cream truck and the man said, "You got the money lil dude?" I said, "Yea he right here." And the policemen arrested him.

-Kristion Bouyer

Our Policy

We, the students of Green Acres Middle School, have found a solution to the problem of illegal items being sold from the popsicle truck in our community. First, we will create an organization to deal with this problem. We have decided to call this organization I.C.A.N. (Involved Community Action Network). Our principal has endorsed us as an official school club. The mission of this club is to research problems in the community and find non-violent solutions to them. In order to begin this process, we will conduct surveys in the school and neighborhood to find out what citizens' concerns are. We will then present these surveys to the stakeholders and policy makers in our local government. We will ask the people for possible suggestions to solve and implement these problems. We will bring these possible solutions back to the neighborhood associations to see if they agree with the policy makers' solutions. After everyone has agreed on what is best for the community, we will use the local media to advance our club and what we stand for so other communities can do the same thing we did.

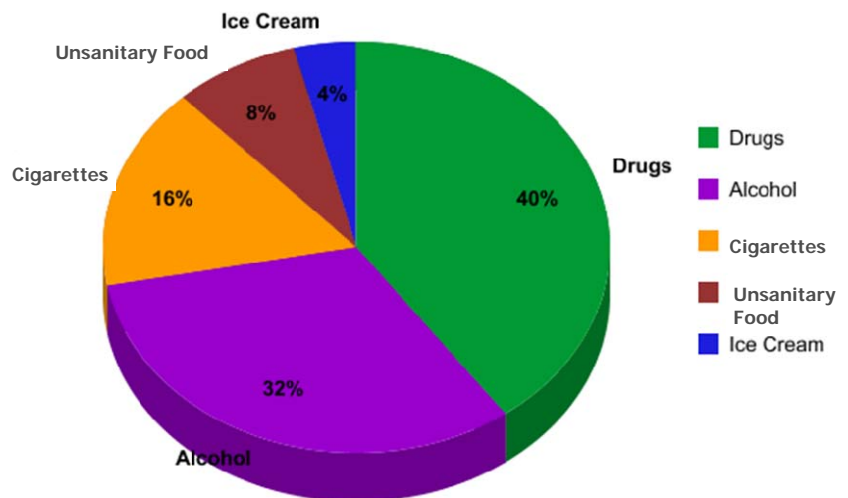
GREEN ACRES MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT CITIZEN 31 Flavors of Illegal Activities

Participants

Laqueria Hatten
Kriston Bouyer
Ricky Herndon
Chelsi Knott
Cordale Phillips
Jaylan Wright
Kameron Vereen

Mr. Eric Gardner, Teacher

Illegal Items Sold From the Ice Cream Truck (Central Park)



Youth First Summer Sports Series presents 2011 ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CAMPS for Birmingham Youth

The City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services (DYS) announces its **Youth First Summer Sports Series, ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CAMPS**. Birmingham youth that attend the 2011 ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CAMPS will receive instruction from one of four professional football players: **Deuce McAllister**, *New Orleans Saints* (retired); **Earl Bennett**, *Chicago Bears*; **Jerricho Cotchery**, *New York Jets*; and **DeMeco Ryans**, *Houston Texans*.

Each Saturday in June, youth ages 8 – 18 years old can participate in one skills & drills camp of their choice.

June 4th: Deuce McAllister's Champions Football Camp
9 AM – 4 PM | Legion Field | For Ages 8 - 18

June 11th: Earl Bennett's Youth Football Camp
9 AM – 1 PM | Legion Field | For Ages 13-17

June 18th: Jerricho Cotchery Skills & Drills Football Camp
9 AM – 1 PM | Legion Field | For Ages 11-18

**** Interested participants must participate in the Birmingham Public Library "You Are Here" Reading Program. Visit any Birmingham Public Library location for details.**

June 25th: DeMeco Ryans Football & Cheerleading Camp
9 AM – 1 PM | Bessemer City High School | For Ages 8 - 18

Beginning Friday, May 13, parents/guardians can register their child to participate in the All-Star Football Camp of their choice by submitting a completed registration form to DYS between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM daily. Slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis until all spaces have been filled.

For more information call DYS at 205-320-0879.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MAYOR'S OFFICE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
Youth First
SUMMER SPORTS SERIES
presents
ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CAMPS
FACILITATED BY PROFESSIONAL NFL PLAYERS
JERRICHO COTCHERY
DEUCE MCALLISTER
DEMECO RYANS
EARL BENNETT
JUNE 2011
EVERY SATURDAY | 9AM - 1PM
BIRMINGHAM, AL
FOR ATHLETES AGES 8 - 18 YEARS OLD
FREE
REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 16th
SPACES ARE LIMITED | REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY
On-Site Check-In Begins at 8 AM
FOR MORE INFO:
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM MAYOR'S OFFICE
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES (205) 320-0879
UNITED FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY
MAYOR WILLIAM A. BELL, SR.
YouthFirst

Digital Footprint

(Continued from page 3)

If you use a card to pass through the toll booth on your way to work, you are leaving a digital shadow.

The size of your digital footprint may help you or hurt you. Your digital footprint is important if you are looking for a job, trying to get admitted to college, or have an employer that has policies about how you use the computer, both on and off the job. Employers and college admissions officials search the Internet for names of job applicants and college applicants to see what kind of background you really have that you might not have revealed on official documents. College officials and employers frequently monitor social networking sites and take punitive actions against questionable behavior. This is perfectly legal to do.

There are a couple of ways you can check your digital footprint. The most comprehensive way to measure your digital footprint

and actually receive a score is by visiting the Digital Footprint site at the Koppel Discovery Channel web site at <http://dsc.discovery.com/convergence/koppel/interactive/interactive.html>

Another way to measure your digital footprint is to Google your name and see where it comes up in the return. There are a number of amazing horror stories about people with like names that got mistaken for another when questioned by employers. If something like that comes up in your digital footprint, you may want to start using your middle initial or middle name in your job and college applications.

Do yourself a favor and keep your digital footprint and digital shadow small and clean.



William A. Bell, Sr., Mayor
Cedric D. Sparks, Sr., Executive Director
City of Birmingham Mayor's Office-Division of Youth Services
808 North 18th Street Birmingham, AL 35203
(P) 205-320-0879 (F) 205-322-7713 www.bhamyouthfirst.org