

Youth First

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

DECEMBER 2010



Upcoming events

December 7th
Family Autism Night
McWane Science Center
6pm – 9pm | 205-714-8414
www.mcwane.org

December 11th
SWAC Championship
Alabama State vs. Texas Southern
Legion Field
1pm | 205-251-7573
www.swac.org

December 12th – 21st
Alabama Theater Holiday Film Series
featuring "Home Alone", "Elf" and
"It's A Wonderful Life"
7pm | 205-252-2262

December 18th
Optimist Club Essay Contest Deadline
\$2500 Scholarship Opportunity
Bethel Baptist Church
Between 10am & Noon | 205-218-1906

December 21st
XBOX 360 Presents:
Justin Bieber – My World Tour
BJCC Arena
7pm | 205-458-8400
www.bjcc.org

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
www.birminghamal.gov



2010 Step in the Name of Love Extravaganza Kicks-off DYS' Holiday Toy Drive

The 2010 City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services held its *Step in the Name of Love Extravaganza* on **Sunday, November 21, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Boutwell Municipal Auditorium.**

Step in the Name of Love is an annual benefit step show that kicked off DYS' holiday initiatives to provide an enjoyable holiday to some of Birmingham's less fortunate. Overwhelmingly, donations of unwrapped toys and nonperishable food items poured in from youth and their families, faith-based institutions, youth service providers, and Greek-letter organizations.

This year's event featured Birmingham's own 13 year old drummer extraordinaire, Isaiah Fogle; recording artists Rod G. Newman and Big Prophet, and 95.7 Gospel JAMZ's, DJ Strick, serving as this year's host. Featured performances included:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 12:12 (Guiding Light Church) | Pure Royal-T (Guiding Light Church) |
| The XT (The Worship Center Church) | Greenwave Jumpers |
| In-Step Ministries (Sixth Ave Baptist Church) | S.W.A.T. (45th Street Baptist Church) |
| Chi Alpha Prayer Warriors (Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Pratt City) | |
| Kappa Delta (UAB) & Eta Epsilon (Miles College) | |
| Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. | |

There was also a special performance by the DYS All-Star Steppers!



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Homemade Popcorn Ball Ornament!

Consider children who can safely handle a low-temperature glue gun might like creating these homespun popcorn ball ornaments for the Christmas tree.

- **Craft Supplies:**
- Popped popcorn
- Styrofoam Ball (I used a 3 inch ball)
- Ribbon, berries, leaves for embellishments
- Hot glue gun and sticks

Craft Project Instructions: These are very easy to make! Simply hot glue popcorn to the styrofoam ball, filling any open areas with broken pieces of popcorn. You can push the popcorn tight on the ball without it falling off and it's a good idea to press firmly for a couple of seconds, until the popcorn has adhered completely to the foam.

Poke a small hole in the foam ball and glue a loop of ribbon into the hole to create a hanger.

Finally, glue a few Christmas embellishments around the hanger. Our sample uses small pine cones, berries and holly leaves.

That's it! Home-made, easy to do - and really quite pretty!



KAMERON DICKERSON



Kameron Arman Dickerson, age 17, is the eldest son of Kwani and Kermit Dickerson. He is the grandson of Cleve and Myra Eaton and the great nephew of Dr. Frank Adams, Sr. He is a Senior Music Major who specializes in the Alto Saxophone at The Alabama School of Fine Arts where he has attended since the 7th grade. Kameron is also proficient in playing the piano, clarinet, tenor, baritone and soprano saxophones.

Kameron is currently the Alabama Representative as the State's 1st Place Winner in the Senior Woodwinds Music Teacher National Association (MTNA) Competition, The 1st Place Winner in the American Federation of Music Clubs (AFMC) Senior Woodwinds Competition, The Countess Felder Best in Jazz Scholarship Winner, The Berea College 2010 Pinnacle Scholar in Music Winner and the 2nd Place Winner in the Carlton Reese Music Scholarship Competition.

In addition to music, Kameron is an avid Computer Science wizard.

ALEX JONES

Alex Jones, a 14 year-old a native of Birmingham, is a aspiring actor/singer/speaker. Since age 4, Alex has always enjoyed performing and entertaining others. Anyone who has ever met him, knows that Alex is genuinely a people person and considers himself a "collector of people." Locally, Alex has performed with Red Mountain Theatre Company since age 9 and has been seen in productions of Oliver, The Wizard of Oz & Beauty and the Beast. He was also the only youth cast member in the 2009 musical, Barnstormer. He is extremely active in his home church, Perfecting Kingdom Christian Church, and often serves as worship leader.

He is currently a 9th grader at Alabama School of Fine Arts. Recently, Alex auditioned and was cast in the role of Eddie for the upcoming Disney XD comedy, Wasabi Warriors. The show is scheduled to begin taping in January 2011 and will premiere on the network later in the year. Alex is the son of Andre and Lisa Jones and has a 10 year old sister, Alexis.

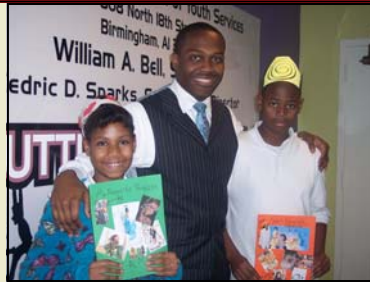




Youth Participated in the DYS Disney Royalty Wishes Project



DYS held a “Disney Royalty Wishes Project” for Birmingham’s youth. Participating youth constructed a royal crown and created a royalty wishes collage. Two tickets to *Disney on Ice presents Princess Wishes* were given to each Prince and Princess who submitted a project. Each submission must have included a picture of the youth’s favorite Disney Prince or Princess and depict their biggest wishes. Here are a few of the submissions of Birmingham’s talented youth.



faith based initiatives

The Grace Episcopal Churchwomen are having their 9th annual St. Nicholas Day Bazaar Saturday, December 11 from 9am until 2pm. There will be unique craftspeople and artisan vendors in our parish hall, a bake sale, silent auction, raffle and we may even have a visit from St. Nicholas himself. One vendor described her experience at Grace as, “An all day Christmas party.” In the spirit of St Nicholas, who gave his money to the poor, the funds gathered from the Bazaar go to support Grace ECW’s various out-reach projects.

Grace Episcopal Church is located at 5712 1st Avenue North in Woodlawn.

Don't miss this one stop Christmas shop!

A Very Special Christmas Giveaway A Visit with Santa



Local Nonprofit organizations are planning a very special Christmas give away this year at The Birmingham Public Libraries. Li Tisa Croom Gaston, President of 3-G Community Development Corporation located in Fairfield, Alabama says, “We have acquired thousands of great toys and books from a local author and poet to give away along with popcorn and a free photograph with Mr. Black Santa.” This event will be at five of our public libraries. Toys will be distributed on a first come, first served basis and every family is invited.

This special giveaway will take place at the designated time at the following Public Libraries:

Central Library will host Santa on Saturday, December 4, from 12-3p.m. 2100 Park Place Birmingham, AL 35203 (205) 226-3613- Pam Lyons, Associate Director

Springville Road will host Santa on Sunday, December 5, from 2-5p.m. 1224 Old Springville Rd., 35215-7512 (205) 226-4081-Rochelle Sides-Renda, Coordinator

North Birmingham will host Santa on Saturday, December 11, from 2-5p.m. 2501 31st Ave. N, 35207-4423 (205) 226-4025-Marguerite Scott, Coordinator

Avondale Library will host Santa on Sunday, December 12, from 2-5p.m. 509 40th St. S, 35222-3309 (205) 226-4000 -Sandra Crawley, Coordinator

Five Points West Library will host Santa on Sunday, December 19, from 2-5p.m. 4812 Avenue W, 35208-4726 (205) 226-4013-Virginia Guthrie, Coordinator



A WINTER TREAT

SPRUCE YOUR FAVORITE WINTER DRINK.... HOT CHOCOLATE!

- * Try a candy cane
- * Whipped Cream and colored sprinkles make this drink super special
- * Top with whipped cream, cherry and chocolate sauce
- * Make a “Milky Way” drink by adding caramel topping
- * Drop a scoop of peppermint ice cream into a mug of hot chocolate



Santa is busy in Birmingham this Christmas season! There are a number of activities and events happening this month that you definitely don't want to miss!



December 2nd
Holiday Music Concert
 Alabama School of Fine Arts 7pm
 205-252-9241



December 4th, 11th & 18th
Breakfast with Santa
 The Birmingham Zoo 8am, 9:15am or 10:30am 205-879-0409
 www.birminghamzoo.com



December 4th
Breakfast With Santa
 at The Summit Shopping Center
 8:30am – 10:30am
 Call for reservations 205-967-0111



December 10th
Zoolight Safari @ The Birmingham Zoo
 5pm – 9pm
 205-879-0409
 www.birminghamzoo.com



December 11th & 18th
Breakfast in Santa's Workshop
 McWane Science Center 8:30am
 205-714-8414
 www.mcwane.org



December 17th
Fresh Start Christmas Coffeehouse
 Toy Giveaway
 Northside Church of God
 7pm 205-910-2781



December 18th – 22nd
Polar Express PJ Parties
 McWane Science Center
 3pm & 6pm
 205-714-8414
 www.mcwane.org



December 19th
Neo Jazz School of Music's
The Gift of Music:
A Youth Instrument & Toy Drive
 Highland Conference Center
 5pm 205-218-0605



Lakeshore Foundation Presents a SUPER SATURDAY for Some Super Youth!

The Lakeshore Foundation teamed up with the City of Birmingham Mayor's Office

Division of Youth Services, The Mayor's Office of ADA Compliance, and Birmingham Parks and Recreation on December 4, 2010 for SUPER SATURDAY. Held from 9 AM until 3 PM, this event was for youth ages 6 to 18 years old. Youth learned Sitting Volleyball, participated in a Christmas themed archery competition, experienced the new Slalom course, and many other surprises along

the way!

Super Saturday was for youth with a physical disability and their siblings. The program was recreational and designed for participants to learn about and try a variety of different adaptive sports and games all in one day. Participants were able to function independently in a group setting.



For more information about **Super Saturday**, call Lakeshore Foundation at 205-313-1429.



PUBLIC EDUCATION WITH PASSION!

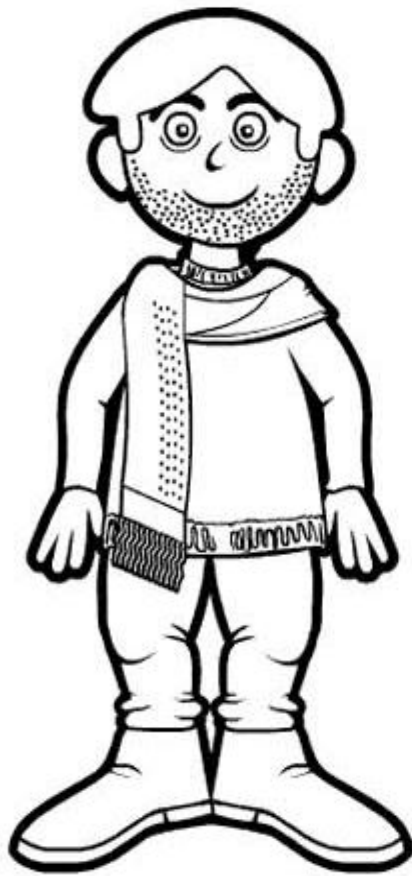
Strings, Wind and Brass Students Wanted at ASFA

- Looking for talented Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Trumpet, Trombone, Bassoon, French Horn and Tenor Saxophone students
- Free, weekly private lessons for every music student
- Wonderful performance opportunities with the ASFA Orchestra, String Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble
- Opportunities to perform chamber music
- Audition information and forms online at www.asfa.k12.al.us
- Questions? Call Kim Scott at 205.252.9241 ext. 2248



ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

1800 Reverend Abraham Woods, Jr. Boulevard Birmingham, Alabama 35203 www.asfa.k12.al.us



Holiday Gifts For Dad Word Search

Not sure what to get for Dad this holiday season? Find a few ideas in this word search by spotting and circling 15 words in the puzzle below.

T A N W J O J H H H T S N T V
 O E T T S W R W A B U L Q S N
 O S S O P X Z Y U U G I O H A
 L G S O Y S O C K S T P K I H
 S J E L J W K H Q L U P W R Q
 F D Q B S W R R N W V E A T H
 V H B O C R A Z O R D R L S A
 S U Y X A J T G L R Q S L H T
 K P Q Y R M M X S R Q K E L Z
 K J J K F B W A T C H T T F C
 M F C O L O G N E Y W O B I W
 E S D M K C G R S R E I W I Y
 W Q W B C H O C O L A T E S N
 S W E A T E R Y M T D J Q L Y
 Q C T I E P B P H T B O O K P

Word List

chocolates

tools

hat

toolbox

t-shirt

cologne

razor

wallet

watch

socks

sweater

slippers

scarf

book

tie

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 Cedric D. Sparks, Sr., Executive Director
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