



Groves Junior Varsity Debate Team Wins State Championship

Last weekend, Groves' Debate Team won the Junior Varsity State Championships for the second year in a row. This is the fifth time that the Groves' Debate Team has been State Champions. The teams of Ben Glick and Luke Lee, and Eelen Laham and Jonah Lipman placed first and second, respectively by winning their semifinal rounds on decisive 3-0 decisions.

In the novice division, the three-person team of Allie Fundaro, Lily Schafer and Kaitlyn Williams won their final round on a 2-1 decision, placing first. In the Junior Varsity division, Ben won first, Luke placed second and Jonah won third place as individual speakers. Kudos to the team!

Parent-Teacher Conferences - January 22, 2020

This Wednesday, we will have our 2nd-trimester Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Please see the following letter to learn more about

conferences: [https://gallery.mailchimp.com/a27e4c161c001bd25124131ce/files/38a99618-92fc-44f8-8c6c-ef7bb2b7391d/Parent Teacher Conferences Letter.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/a27e4c161c001bd25124131ce/files/38a99618-92fc-44f8-8c6c-ef7bb2b7391d/Parent_Teacher_Conferences_Letter.pdf)

You will have an opportunity to meet Mr. Jim Moll, interim Groves' principal. He will attend Parent-Teacher conferences, and start officially at Groves on Monday, February 3rd.

Groves High School Course Description Videos

It is time to pick courses for the 2020-21 school year. To learn more about the array of courses we offer at Groves, please click the following link to see course videos created by the staff. They are fun to watch.

<https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/domain/2371>

Sophomores and Juniors interested in Oakland Schools Technical Center (OSTC)

If you are interested in learning more about OSTC, you will want to participate in the student visitation for OSTC in which they showcase their cluster programs.

The next visitation will take place on January 28, 2020. Students must click on this link to sign up to attend the January 28 Showcase visit: <https://forms.gle/WuViyzZ16vnXarZL8> (you must select 4 clusters to visit on this date)

If you know that you would like for your student to participate in OSTC, you should sign up as soon as possible. Attendance for the 2020-2021 school year is on a first-come-first-serve basis. To sign up for OSTC, log on to <https://www.ostconline.com/ostc-se> to complete the application.

If you have any questions contact your counselor for more information.

Lost and Found Items

Please check the Lost and Found area, located at the tables outside the attendance office, as it has many items. We will donate all items not claimed by January 24th. Smaller items such as phones, jewelry, glasses, and retainers can be found in the main office with Mrs. Roberts.

Groves Student Congress (GSC) Activities

Groves Student Congress has TONS of fun events coming up in the next few weeks - be sure to talk to your student(s) about these events and encourage them to attend!

House Party

House Party-GSC will be hosting a dance after the Southfield A&T vs Groves Basketball game next Friday! Food will be available for purchase.

Date - Friday, January 24

Time – Immediately after the basketball game until 11:00 p.m. Students will not be allowed to leave until 10:30 p.m.

Price - \$5

Attire is casual, and the theme is blackout!

Snowcoming Dance

GSC is holding a Winter Snowcoming. The dance will be held in the pool hall from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, February 1. We are in need of parent volunteers!

Baked Goods Donation Sign Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4EAFAC2FA5FA7-snowcoming>

Parent Volunteer Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4EAFAC2FA5FA7-snowcoming1>

Sweets for your Sweetie

Students can pay \$1 to send candy. Their choice of three Hershey's kisses, two suckers, or one can of crush to themselves or a friend which will be delivered on February 14th.

Encourage your student(s) to buy some sweets for their friends and teachers! To make your sweets anonymous you can pay \$1 extra. Selling starts on February 5th in the commons during lunch!

Charity Week

Charity week is right around the corner- this year's charity is Brilliant Detroit and we are currently looking for business/company donations. Please email Mrs. Mason at kmason@birmingham.k12.mi.us if you are interested in donating and giving back to our community! Any amount is greatly appreciated!

Counseling, College & Career Center News

Scholarships

Visit the [Scholarship Page](#) on the College and Career Center site for updates, happening daily. *Words of Wisdom: if a "scholarship" is asking for money to apply -- it's not a scholarship!*

College Week is Coming

Jan. 21, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.- Financial Aid Night (Little Theater). Seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend and hear about the different types of Financial Aid they are being offered. Ask a question ahead of time: [Financial Aid Night Questions](#)

Jan. 22, 10:15 - 12:30 p.m.- College Fair in the Groves Commons. Over 30 Colleges and Universities will be at Groves for our annual College Fair.

Jan. 22, during Parent-Teacher Conferences-Presentations from the Counseling Department during parent-teacher conferences. Also, check out the “Jobs I have Held” bulletin board outside the College and Career Center which is in the hallway near the 13 Mile doors, east of the office. Almost 70 staff members have shared their early career/job experiences.

Jan. 23, 10:15 - 12:30 p.m.- Career Choices Day. Various direct-to-job-training, internship programs, skilled trade apprenticeships, Law Enforcement, Public Safety, and other career programs will be in the Commons. Students can learn more about high-demand, well-paying jobs in metro Detroit.

January 23 - OSTC Career Night, at the Royal Oak Campus. This event is aimed at current Sophomores, learn more at ostconline.com/career-night

January 24 - College Shirt Day. Faculty will be wearing a shirt from their Alma Mater and will talk about their pathway to and through education.

College Fair

Since its inception, the Second Ebenezer Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) College Fair on February 22, 2020, has impacted thousands of students and numerous representatives from colleges throughout the country. They will have informative workshops and recruiter sessions, which include onsite admissions, onsite scholarships, and various financial aid opportunities. ***Students must bring their Transcripts to qualify. Student Registration and Group Registration: <https://secondebenezer.org/college/>.

Community Events

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Do something different with your day off to celebrate MLK Jr. Day and the legacy of Dr. King, join in our annual BPS Day of Service.

Who: You! All students (K-12), families, friends, and staff are encouraged to attend.

What: Hear from inspiring student speakers, and take part in a variety of service projects, benefiting local organizations.

When: Monday, January 20th from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Groves High School

Why: Because you can make a difference!

How: Check out: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4cfa62da4fa7-2020> to sign up – spots are filling fast!

*Sponsored by the BPS Community School Organizers.

Blood Drive

Our second blood drive of the year is Thursday, January 30th from 6:30 a.m. to 1:25 p.m. in the Auditorium lobby. You are eligible to donate if your last whole blood donation was on or before December 4, 2019.

To sign up, you can visit our tables in the commons/pool hall or use this link (click on whole blood) https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/m/donor/schedules/available_drive_procedures/123056/01/30/2020. If you have any questions, you can email Katie Lucken at katielucken@gmail.com



Groves Works With Channel 7 to Tell Heartwarming Story

Mark your calendars for Monday, January 27, 4:45 p.m. to attend live viewing of a feature about the Groves Community in the Little Theater, brought to us by WXYZ!

While aired by WXYZ, the Scriptor and FANN collaborated to tell a story about two very special Groves family members: A.J. Camisa and his mom Robyn. Robyn has recently been diagnosed, a second time, with metastatic cancer, and A.J. is kicking off a second campaign to raise money not just for her treatment but for more awareness about how to cope with loved ones battling cancer.

This is also the perfect kickoff to U Matter week. The story reveals how A.J. is both accepting his grief, as his beloved Mom battles cancer for the second time, and the strategies he uses to, as he said, "Not let the darkness engulf him".

Please let your students know about this opportunity and encourage them to attend to support both Groves and A.J. and Robyn Camisa.

Athletics

For Schedules and Sports Information visit the Groves High School Website: www.grovesfalcons.com

Groves Boys Basketball

Help celebrate Groves' staff and cheer on the basketball teams!

The Groves boys' basketball program began the new year by hosting Farmington on Tuesday. The freshman won 56-45; JV suffered its first loss 63-74; Varsity lost a close one-63-66.

The Groves Falcons then hosted Stoney Creek on Friday. The freshman won 57-36 to remain undefeated. JV won 41-24 and Varsity lost 44-59. Come cheer on the boys' basketball teams as they travel to Rochester on Monday and to Troy on Thursday!

Please join the Boys JV and Varsity Basketball Teams on Friday, January 24th as they honor Staff Members for the annual Staff Appreciation Ceremony and Game. The ceremony will begin after the conclusion of the Freshman and JV basketball games around 6:45 p.m. before the Varsity team takes on Southfield High School.

Birmingham Girls Softball

Registration now open! Birmingham Girls Softball (BGS) is southeast Oakland County's largest girls' recreational softball league with over 300 players. BGS is a community-based, non-profit organization providing girls ages 6 to 14 the opportunity to play organized recreational softball. We are dedicated to teaching young ladies the fundamentals of softball in a safe and fun environment with teamwork and good sportsmanship being our top priorities. BGS is open to all girls interested in playing softball for the first time and those with prior experience looking to build on and develop the skills needed to play the game for years to come. All that we require is a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. To register or for more information, please visit our website at www.Birminghamsoftball.com. For questions, please email Jeff Weber at jweb666@me.com.



Birmingham Unified Gymnastics (BUG) Team Takes 4th At Fraser Invitational

Birmingham Unified placed 4th at the Fraser Invitational Varsity Gymnastics meet on January 12th with a score of 123.25. BUG turned in strong individual performances on all events. Division 1 medalists include Seaholm seniors Natasha Boes (9th place vault, 10th place bars, 6th place beam, 9th place floor, 7th all-around) and Madeline Brooks (8th place vault, 7th place bars, 9th place beam, 10th place floor, 8th all around). Groves freshman Zoe Carter-Anthony rounded out Division 1 with an 8th place finish on bars. Division 2 medalists include Seaholm senior Amelia Givens (7th place vault, 5th place bars, and 4th all around), Groves sophomore Elana Stebbins (7th place vault, 10th place floor, 6th all-around) and Groves senior Rachel Flannery 9th place beam).



Staff Highlight

Jaimie Barksdale

Position or Subject Taught

Counselor

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Health and Human Services

Master of Science in School Counseling

Brief Bio

I started substitute teaching while in college for health and human services and knew I wanted to work in a school from that point on. I love helping students reach their goals! All children have potential and I have the opportunity to make a great impact on the lives of many as a counselor. An interesting job I held besides being a school counselor is I was a server at Denny's - it's where I met my husband! :)

Something you may not know about me

I have never had a cavity. My teeth are filling free!

Favorite Quote

They tried to bury me, but they didn't know I was a seed.

Video

On Wednesday, Groves hosted it's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly. This is a time in which the entire school gathers to honor the life and legacy of MLK. Our assembly for this year included performances by the Groves Choir, Electric Mayhem, and a short film created by Groves' graduate and award-winning filmmaker Zachary Cunningham. The entire was coproduced by teacher Amy Voigt and a host of talented Groves students. The video of the assembly is posted below.



Important Dates

College & Career Week

Monday, January 20 - No School for Students and Staff

Tuesday, January 21 - NO X-block

Financial Aid Night for Seniors 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22

College Fair – A & B lunches

Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Presentations in the Little Theatre during Conferences

Thursday, January 23 - X-Block

Career Choices Day- A & B lunches

Friday, January 24

College Shirt Day

Thank you,
Dr. Embekka Roberson
Principal
Groves High School
ERoberson@birmingham.k12.mi.us
Groves Website: <https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Groves>
Follow us on Twitter: @WEGroves
Follow us on Instagram @W.E.Groves