

# BA Today

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## Christian Emphasis Week

by: Tila Vines

As most students know, Christian Emphasis Week is getting close! It will be celebrated Tuesday, April 15 through Thursday, April 17. School will be closed Friday, April 18 in observance of Good Friday.

For those of you who don't know, Christian Emphasis Week is a long-standing BA tradition and is usually the week before Easter. It is a week of school dedicated to Christ and His wonderful glory. The week before Easter is also called Holy Week. We will be on activity schedule those days, and each service has the same concept as our monthly chapel services, but most students if not all agree that Christian Emphasis Week is one of the best weeks of the entire school year. Each service has a different speaker and most like to get involved with the students.

Mrs. Connie always organizes the services, and I asked her what she has in store for us this year. Tuesday we have Jim Harris booked to come speak to our school about his past and the effects of drugs. His presentation also includes a remote control airplane and helicopter which he says helps students stay engaged in the service.

Wednesday we have a drama scheduled called The Bible Comes Alive by Ryan and Ashley Harkey.

Thursday we have a speaker, Senior Pastor Joe Kitchens from North Highlands Baptist Church.

Also throughout the entire week some of our students will be singing accompanied by Mr. McWaters, and our choir will be performing. Look for the purple bows that will adorn our school that week as a symbol of the royalty that our Lord and King is. Mrs. Connie and other staff members have a great week planned for us!



Pastor Joe Kitchens

## Teacher of the Week:

### Mr. McWaters

by: Tila Vines



This week's teacher of the week is Mr. McWaters. He teaches high school biology, anatomy, 8th grade science, and choir. We sat down with him to get a little information about him and his life outside of Bessemer Academy.

**All students that have your class see many pictures of you and your family. What are your family members' names, and where do you kids go to school?**

I have a wife named Deborah and two boys. The oldest boy is 14, Hanley, and the youngest is Heath who is 10. Hanley goes to Vestavia High School, and Heath goes to Vestavia Hills Central Elementary.

**What are some of your hobbies?**

I enjoy hunting, fishing, gardening, and singing.

**What is something about yourself that most students don't know?**

Most students do not know that I used to own a recording studio in Nashville. I recorded famous Christian singers.

**You are seen at most of the Bessemer Academy sports events. Which is your favorite and why?**

I enjoy all of the sporting events at BA, but my favorite would have to be football because of the atmosphere and the student involvement.

**Most of your students know that you were a principal at Vestavia High School. Do you miss it or do you like teaching better?**

I loved being a principal, but I definitely like teaching better because I love to get involved with the students, and teaching allows me to do so.

## LikeAFish Technology

by: iZac

Likeafish is a technology designed to allow humans to breath underwater. The concept is based on lowering the air pressure around the water and allowing the trapped air to escape from it.

Of course, this technology had some complications at first. The problem with breathing underwater is that there is very little air trapped inside of the water. The device would have to extract air from roughly 54 gallons or 204 liters every minute to supply air to the user.

Likeafish is able to conquer this problem through the usage of a pump that can pump up to 2000 liters of water and extract air from the water. Such technology has been in the works for quite some time now and has been consistently tested. However, the technology is still not receiving exceptionally common usage. Hopefully, this technology will one day replace current scuba gear to provide a much better experience for users.

*Questions for our tech guru? What would you like to see in the next issue? Text or email [batodaytechtalk@gmail.com](mailto:batodaytechtalk@gmail.com)*

## Plans to Prosper

by: Tila Vines

This year is really winding up quickly. It always seems that right after Spring Break the rest of the year just flies by. For the seniors, they are finishing up making big decisions and about to go into the world head first.

For the juniors, they are becoming seniors and most likely scared of the big decisions to come.

As for the sophomores, they are beginning harder classes next year and only half way through high school.

Freshman are about to finish their first year of high school and feel like time is flying even though they still have three more years.

The point is, high school is a scary part of life. It has big decisions, drama, excitement, laughter, tears. . . the list goes on. So, we all have to remind ourselves that God is with us and has huge plans for us to prosper. Put your trust in God, and He will comfort you, protect you, and lead you into His light.



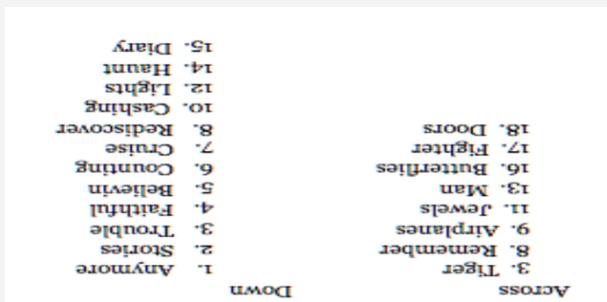
## Gamer's Corner: Infamous Second Son

by: RJ Coleman



Image courtesy of Wikipedia

## Crossword Puzzle Answers



No peeking!

## Campus Improvement

By: Staff Writers

Spring is here which means many potential students and families are coming to visit our school and take a tour. We want to put our best foot forward! You only get one time to make a first impression.

This means keeping your lockers closed, random stuff out of the hallways, and putting trash in garbage cans where it belongs. Think about our school from a visitor's point of view and do your part to make BA a place to be proud of!

**HAVE SOME REBEL PRIDE!**

Sony has crossed the benchmark for the Playstation 4 life cycles and has sold over six million Playstation 4 units. The PS4 uses cutting edge technology to deliver more fully realized game worlds and higher player counts than was possible in previous console generation.

When the PS4 console was released, certain games were developed exclusively for the Playstation 4. One of the games was *infamous Second Son*. This game brings you an action adventure game where surrounded by a society that fears them; superhumans are ruthlessly hunted down and caged by the Department of United Protection. Delsin Rowe discovers his powers. He is viewed as a delinquent, but he is a caring person, which is seen through his tight bond with his brother and family friends. In the game, the player will see that usually the character is equipped with a weapon, but in this game he is the weapon. Players will experience the mayhem that is controlled by them and fight against the D.U.P. Players can draw powers out from other superhumans, creating their own set of distinct powers to use as they see fit. Also, the player will be faced with choices and consequences. Witness how the city, the people you encounter, and even the story itself is all affected by the actions you take. This is the third installment to the Infamous franchise.

Agree? Disagree? What game would you like to see reviewed in the next issue? Email [batodaygames@gmail.com](mailto:batodaygames@gmail.com)

## Private School Probs

by: Casey Burnette



## Second Semester Exam Policy

Second semester exams will be the last week of school, and the current policy is as follows: seniors are exempt from exams unless they are failing a class (or classes). Freshmen-juniors may be exempt if they have an A average for the second semester OR if they have a B average for second semester and also have perfect attendance in that class. This includes tardies and check-outs. This policy applies on a class- by- class basis.

## A New Chapter of Your Life: Dorm Living

by: Emily Harrison

Honey Miller (yes, that's her real name) is one of the top interior designers in the Birmingham area. Miller has been in business for over 30 years. Her clientele are mainly high end customers ranging from home design to furniture selection. I asked her about advice she could give in regards to moving into a dorm room which many of us will be doing very soon. Here's what she had to share:

Graduating from high school closes one chapter and opens an exciting new chapter of your life as you prepare for college. Being prepared physically and mentally will help make this transition a little easier. Preparing physically for "dorm life" means getting organized with paring down clothing choices and essentials needed to sustain each season while you are there. If you are going to college near your home town, you may want to travel back and forth with seasonal clothing since closet space will be minimal.

If you will be sharing a room, try to arrange the furniture along the walls leaving plenty of floor space to walk and/or sit in the floor with friends. Floating furniture demands too much space and will make the room appear smaller. Most of the rooms will be furnished, but you will be able to take some accessories to make it feel more personal and "homey." Lamps are not only attractive accessories, but are also essential to good lighting when you are up late at night studying. Good lighting is easier on your eyes, and will keep you from tiring easily. As we all become more "eco" friendly, try to choose light bulbs that are warmer in color if you are purchasing the newer compact fluorescents. They tend to provide a better light for reading and will also improve your mood as you are preparing for that big exam!

Preparing mentally can be just as difficult if not more challenging than preparing physically. Be sure to surround yourself with friends, whether it be friends that have joined you at your new college or new friends that have become a part of this chapter. Lean on each other for emotional support, knowing that you all are experiencing similar hurdles to leap. Find a church in your college community and become active in the many worship opportunities it will provide. Your church family at college will yield great support available for you any time needed. Some of you will experience some "home sickness" and your church family will help fill that void.

And, last, but not least, time management can be one of the most difficult things to control in the life of a college freshman. There are so many activities to participate in, but remember that academics need to be first and foremost! Your Mom and Dad will be very appreciative of those straight "A"s!!