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## Press Release

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**\*\*2 PHOTOS ATTACHED\*\***

### **Magnet Program Schools Focused on the Arts, Foreign Language, Academics and More Draws a Crowd at This Year's EBR Mania**

**Baton Rouge, LA** – Boys wearing bow ties and cummerbunds milled around near a storefront sipping sodas. In the mall parking lot, spaces were at a premium, and a car patiently waited for one space as a student and her father loaded a cello in the trunk of their car. Music, conversation and laughter filled the air at a school booth in front of The Children's Place shop.

It was all part of **EBR Mania held Saturday, October 17, at Cortana Mall. About 5,000** people attended the event to pick up applications for magnet programs at various school booths scattered in the mall's promenade and to visit gifted/talented booths to learn about the gifted/talented screening process. The annual event is held to recruit students and launch the magnet school application period and to promote gifted and talented programs. This time, **applications are for the 2010-2011 school year at all East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS) elementary, middle and high schools with Magnet Programs.**

At the event, each school provided a basic showcase of its specialized program, ranging from academic magnets to programs offering specialized themes, such as medical and pre-engineering programs. **School staff manned the individual booths and talked to parents – sometimes with the help of students enrolled in a gifted/talented program like fifth grader Jeanne Smith (*first photo, right*) at Brownfields Elementary School's booth. She assisted Gifted and Talented teacher Melissa Jackson (*left*).** The event also showcased talent from the magnet schools, including students like violinist Bridgette Smith (*second photo*) of the Baton Rouge Magnet High School's orchestra.

**Although parents may obtain an application for the 2010-2011 school year at each magnet school, each magnet and gifted and talented school also will host its open house for parents and the community through October 23.**

**The district's period for accepting magnet school applications for the next school year is through January 8, 2010.** For more information, please contact the EBRPSS Office of Innovative & Specialized Programs at (225) 922-5443 or (225) 929-8642 or log on to [www.ebrschools.org](http://www.ebrschools.org).

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