

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

October 12, 2007

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CCPS is launching Parent@School, an interactive website to allow parents access to student achievements. The site will be available Nov. 1. Pre-registration sessions are being held this month at all schools. More than 1,000 parents signed up at sessions held last week. About 30 percent of J.P. Ryon parents pre-registered for the site on Oct. 4. Pictured are Ryon Principal Virginia McGraw, right, with Ryon students and parents.

CCPS to offer home buying assistance program

Buying a house will become a little easier for some employees as the school system joins Charles County government in a home buying assistance program called House Keys 4 Employees.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Keith Hettel told the Board of Education Oct. 9 that the Charles County Commissioners have agreed to include school employees in the program they have established for county government employees. The Commissioners are funding the program and including Charles County Public Schools as a partner at no cost to the school system. Hettel says he hopes to begin offering the program to CCPS employees within 30 days.

Keys 4 Employees helps eligible, first-time homebuyers to receive more down payment and/or closing cost assistance than what is available through standard programs offered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

DHCD matches dollar-for-dollar, up to \$5,000 toward down payment and closing costs from participating employers. Hettel said the Commissioners have agreed to provide up to a \$5,000 matching, 0 percent loan for an employee's down payment. Participation in the program is open to all Charles County Public Schools employees who meet the criteria.

The match, according to DHCD, is repayable at the time of payoff or refinance, or upon the sale of the house. The assistance is over and above what is available through the standard down payment and closing cost assistance programs.

Conditions, such as agreeing to maintain employment with the school system for a certain number of years, will be required to participate. Hettel said those requirements are being developed and will be sent to all employees once completed. All applications will go through the Human Resources Department and then sent to the county government.

Teacher of the year honored

Julia Habash, a mathematics teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, was honored Friday, Oct. 5 at the Maryland Teacher of the Year awards gala held in Baltimore. She was named the 2007 Charles County Teacher of the Year in May and is one of 24 Maryland teachers selected at the county level.

CCASC members meet

The Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) held its first meeting Oct. 4 at La Plata High School and students participated in a question and answer session with Superintendent James E. Richmond.

More than 100 student leaders from all six county high schools met to discuss issues such as teacher transfers, building renovations and the next new high school, planned to open in 2011. Richmond talked to students about student enrollment, the school system budget and upcoming construction projects and events.

The CCASC provides an opportunity for students to learn leadership skills.

CCPS senior honored

The College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program recently recognized Christopher Mucciolo, a senior at Maurice J. McDonough High School, for exceptional academic achievement. Mucciolo was chosen as a National Hispanic Scholar for scoring high on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



Notebook

Teacher awarded grant

Terrance Klazer, a science teacher at North Point High School, received a \$1200 grant from the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA).

The science tools grant program is a joint effort between AFCEA chapters and the Educational Foundation to promote interest in math, science, engineering and technology among middle and high school students.

Media specialist published

Work contributed by Brenda Hager, a library media specialist at Dr. James Craik Elementary School, was recently published in "Serving Young Teens and 'Tweens," by Libraries Unlimited. She contributed a chapter titled "And Knowing is Half the Battle, When Entering the Zone: Non-Fiction Resources for 'Tweens and Young Teens'."

MSDE visits PBIS schools

Representatives from West Sydney, Australia's Department of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education will visit Eva Turner Elementary and John Hanson Middle schools on Tuesday, Oct. 16, as part of the school system's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports program.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees recognized at the Oct. 9 Board of Education meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Erica Watson, teacher at Mary H. Matula Elementary School; John Lancaster, building service manager, Milton M. Somers Middle School; Anita Scherer, kindergarten teacher at Gale-Bailey Elementary School; and Sean Heyl, English teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School.

In Memoriam

Dr. John H. Cox

Dr. John H. Cox, a former assistant superintendent of instruction, educator and football coach in Charles County Public Schools, passed away Oct. 1, 2007.

Cox began his 37-year career with CCPS in 1968 at La Plata High School in the physical education department. During his career at La Plata, Cox coached football, was the athletic director, and served as a vice principal from 1974 to 1976.

He resigned from his vice principal position at La Plata in 1976 to take a position as the athletic director at W. T. Woodson High School in Fairfax County. Cox remained in the Fairfax County school system until 1983, when he returned to CCPS as the Program Supervisor of Health, Physical Education and Athletics.

Cox accepted the principal position at Milton M. Somers Middle School for the 1989-90 school year and remained at Somers until Westlake High School opened in 1992. He was appointed principal at Westlake in 1992 and was essential in the opening of Charles County's fifth high school.

Cox remained an educator in CCPS until 2005, when he accepted a position with the Maryland State Department of Education as director of instruction for the intensive management and capacity improvement team.

Cox was recognized for his contributions to CCPS through many awards programs. He was named the Maryland State Coach of the Year in 1975, was awarded the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader in 1994, and was named the Maryland Principal of the Year in 1995.

Cox also served on the Maryland State Athletic Association Basketball Committee, the State Athletic Board of Control, the National High School Football Rules Committee, a local NCAA Committee and was chair of the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association from 1986 to 1997.

He lived in La Plata with his wife, Sarah, and has three children; John, Gretchen and Jennifer.

Services were held Oct. 4 in La Plata. Burial took place Oct. 5 at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf.



Dr. John Cox

Betty Chisley

Betty Chisley, a building service worker at Thomas Stone High School, passed away Oct. 1, 2007.

Chisley began her 33-year career with Charles County Public Schools at Thomas Stone in 1974, where she remained throughout her career.

Chisley was born and raised in Charles County, in the La Plata area, and graduated from La Plata High School in 1972.

Chisley has a son, Serard, and lived in Indian Head with her pet, Misty. She enjoyed playing bingo, doing crossword puzzles and cooking.

Services were held Monday, Oct. 8, in La Plata.



Betty Chisley

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National School Lunch Week is October 15 -19

Each year, National School Lunch Week is held across the country to raise public awareness of the nutritional value of federally-funded lunch programs available at schools and to involve students in school lunch. It was established in 1963 by a proclamation from President John F. Kennedy and was designed to help raise awareness nationwide for the important role that school nutrition programs play in the lives of students. Charles County Public Schools encourages parents to come to their child's school during National School Lunch Week to visit the cafeteria and eat lunch with their child.

There are more than 250 food service workers in county schools and centers who come into contact with students and provide vital services to the school system. During the 2006-07 school year, food service workers served 2.6 million lunches and 600,000 breakfasts. Take time to thank your food service workers not only during this week, but also on a regular basis.

Meet two members of General Smallwood Middle School's kitchen staff

Cindy Wagner, assistant manager and cook



Cindy Wagner

Cindy Wagner is the assistant kitchen manager at General Smallwood Middle School. She started her career with Charles County Public Schools in 1995 working in the kitchen at Gale-Bailey and Indian Head elementary schools. She transferred to Smallwood in 1997 and has been an assistant manger for more than five years.

Wagner said she was raised in the kitchen, with a father who was a chef and she has evolved into a "jack of all trades" in Smallwood's kitchen. She works on the food line serving students, works the cash register, but mainly cooks and prepares all meals.

She said the best aspects of her job are working with children and being able to say she enjoys coming to work everyday. "I am the only cook at the school and I enjoy working with the kids. I am very happy here," she said.

Before working with CCPS, Wagner held jobs working in other areas of food service, such as working in restaurants as a server, busser and cook. She is a lifelong Charles County resident.

Larry Simmons, food service worker

Larry Simmons is a food service worker at General Smallwood Middle School. He started his career with CCPS in 2005 after spending a few years being retired from the federal government. He said he simply got "tired of being at home" and decided to give another career choice a try.

Although Simmons is primarily responsible for food preparation and service, he sometimes works the new touch-screen cash register systems. He said his two favorite aspects of his job are working with children and working with technology. He was a computer specialist with the federal government for 34 years and likes the familiar aspects of his job in Smallwood's kitchen.

Simmons said he also enjoys the people he works with and said it is easy for him to get up each day and come to work because he does not have the stress of his future retirement ahead of him. "I like this job. I plan on staying here for awhile," he said.



Larry Simmons

Personnel

Apply for positions at www.cboe.com/hur, or in writing to the personnel office. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Special Ed. Instructional Asst. – Thomas Stone High School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 18.

Instructional Asst., Adult Education – Lifelong Learning Center; part time.

Instructional Asst. – J.C. Parks Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 2.

Culinary Arts Instructional Asst. – North Point High School; 10-month position. Food service experience required.

Instructional Asst., 3-year-old, Title I – Indian Head Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 12.

Special Education Instructional Asst., Life Skills – Westlake High School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 15.

Special Education Instructional Asst. – William B. Wade Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 23.

Instructional Asst., Secondary – North Point High School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 23.

Job Placement Coordinator – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 15.

Human Resources Asst. – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position. Bachelor's degree required. Apply by Oct. 19.

Electrician – Maintenance Shop; full-time position. Apply by Oct. 19.

Food Service Worker – Theodore G. Davis Middle School; three-hour position.

External Diploma Program Advisor/Assessor – Adult Services/Stone Annex; temporary position. Bachelor's degree required.

Title I Instructional Specialist for Early Childhood Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; Bachelor's degree and five years experience required.

Computer Analyst II – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position. Apply by Oct. 22.

Instructional Asst., Secondary – North Point High School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 23.

Building Service Worker – North Point High School; full time. Apply by Oct. 24.

Food Service Assistant Manager – John Hanson Middle School; 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 24.

Secretary – Wade Elementary School; 11-month position. Apply by Oct. 24.

Secretary to the Principal – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; full-time position. Apply by Oct. 24.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at all age levels.

NJROTC Instructor – Westlake and North Point high schools.

Life Skills Teacher – Gale-Bailey Elementary School.

Charles County Public Schools is currently seeking teacher candidates who meet the certification requirements established by the MSDE for the following subject areas:

- Mathematics
- Science
- Family and Consumer Science
- Computer Science/CISCO teacher
- Language Arts/Meeting in the Middle
- Elementary School level

Extra Pay Positions

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following coaching positions open:

- Junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Head baseball coach
- Junior varsity baseball coach

Contact Principal Jervie Petty, 301-753-1755, to apply.

North Point High School has the following coaching position open:

- Head varsity tennis coach

Contact Principal Kim Hill, 301-885-2012, to apply.

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The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.