



Student cadets from La Plata High School gather before the start of the first annual JROTC Military Ball, held Dec. 14 at the Waldorf Jaycees Community Center.

CCPS hosts first annual military ball

Charles County Public Schools hosted its first annual Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC) Military Ball Dec. 14 at the Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. High school senior cadets were invited to attend the ball and were presented with certificates for their participation in JROTC. This is the first year CCPS has sponsored a joint ball for high school senior cadets. In previous years, each school organized its own ball to celebrate traditions of the JROTC programs.

The ball included ceremonial military traditions, such as the Presentation of Colors from the National Naval Medical Center Color Guard. Students and guests were invited to participate in another military ball tradition: toasting. Toasts are done before a dinner to honor military personnel, leaders and ball guests. These toasts included references to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, to the JROTC instructors and to the CCPS cadets in attendance.

Col. Donald M. Wade, chairman of the Board of Education of Charles County, presented a keynote address to ball guests. Wade played a key role in bringing the JROTC pro-

gram to CCPS and helped establish the first program at Henry E. Lackey High School in 1998.

More than 150 cadets attended the ball and were presented with certificates of participation by their JROTC instructors. After certificates were presented to all cadets, students and guests participated in two other military ball traditions: cake cutting and the presentation of a military court.

All county high schools have JROTC programs, which teach students skills, values and good citizenship to the community. Participation in JROTC also provides students with leadership opportunities and advanced rank for those who enter the military after high school. More than 847 CCPS students are enrolled in county JROTC programs. These students also participate in a county drill meet, held annually in March, and co-curricular activities such as Color Guards, Armed and Unarmed drill teams, Armed and Unarmed exhibition drill teams, academic and field event competitions.

Payroll announces changes

Mileage rates, the Social Security wage base and sales tax rates all vary with the calendar year. Payroll has released the following updates for employees.

- The mileage rate changes from 48.5 cents per mile to 50.5 cents per mile.
- The social security maximum wage base changes from \$97,500 to \$102,000.
- Sales and use tax changes from 5 percent to 6 percent.
- TSA and 457 plan maximums remain the same - \$15,500 for employees. Employees over the age of 50 can contribute an additional \$5,000.
- Employees are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit for paychecks. Direct deposit ensures an employee's pay will be in the bank on payday despite bad weather, holidays or days off.

2007 Federal Form (W-2)

Verify that your name on your pay statement matches your social security card. If your name changed due to marriage, divorce, etc., you need to contact the Social Security Administration or view their website, www.ssa.gov, for more information.

Verify that the address printed on your pay statement is also correct. Contact the human resources department to request a status change form or visit the staff services section of the school system website. The accuracy of data reported on your W-2 is essential for reporting wage earnings and employment and income tax withholdings to Federal and State authorities.

W-2 forms

W-2 forms will be provided to employees by Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008.

Notebook

Young nationally certified

Janel Young, a guidance counselor at Westlake High School, recently received national certification from the National Board for Certified Counselors. Young is the seventh CCPS nationally certified guidance counselor.

Carter recognized by State

Kristin Carter, a guidance counselor at Milton M. Somers Middle School, was recently recognized as a Service Learning Fellow by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Fellows are recognized each year for coordinating service learning programs in their schools. Carter coordinated a school-wide effort at Somers to publicize the dangers of illegal substance abuse.

Davis hosts theatre night

Theodore G. Davis Middle School will host a play Jan. 17 at North Point High School. The play is called "Night of Theatre" and begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and children under the age of five are admitted free.

Correction

Carolyn Vaughn, a vocal music teacher at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, was incorrectly identified in the Dec. 21 newsletter. Her photo appeared "on the cover."

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Matthew Henson Middle School. Pictured, from left, are: Ronald Fenwick, building service manager; Kathryn Koch, language arts teacher; Stacey Ware, instructional assistant; Lynne Weise, pupil personnel worker; Stephen Parpart, social studies teacher; and Alfreda Spraggins, guidance secretary.



Carol Leveillee, Mary H. Matula Elementary School principal, center, presents a check to Burkey Boggs, left, and Bob Boyce, right, of the Southern Maryland Carousel Group Dec. 19 from Matula. The school raised more than \$6,000 to benefit the "Kids for the Carousel Project." Funds were collected during the past two years and containers were displayed in the school's main office and during Matula's family night events. Eagle Management System, LLC, a local family business, also donated funds to the project on behalf of the school.

Board agenda - January 8, 2008

The Board of Education has released its tentative agenda for Jan. 8. The public portion of the meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. with recognition in the board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Executive session – 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Call to order – 4:30 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance – La Plata High School's JROTC Unit

Recognition

- Employees
 - Jennifer L. Pleva, art teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jennifer Elementary School;
 - Martha A. Morrison, teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
 - Kristen E. Lednum, teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School;
 - John E. Tompkins, Instructional specialist, Matthew Henson Middle School;

Students

- Stephanie Esparza-Pulido, fifth grade, academic achievement, Jennifer;
- Darryl King, fifth grade, academic achievement, Mudd;
- Rowen Alexander, fifth grade, personal responsibility, Wade;
- Zachary Campbell, eighth grade, career readiness, Henson;

Resolutions

- African-American History Month;
- Career and Technical Education Month;
- National School Counseling Week;
- National Adult Education Honor Society;

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
Superintendent's update to the Board

Approval of minutes

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board updates
- Education Association update
- Student Board Member update
- Student services
- Freshman seminar

Public Forum – 6:30 p.m.

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- CIP update
- Budget update

Action items

- Personnel
- Suspicion of drug/alcohol testing
Program policy

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Adjournment

CCPS Channel 96 offers educational programming

Channel 96 broadcasts a variety of different programming, ranging from events happening in Charles County Public Schools, Board meetings and adult education series to programs that help to teach science, math, writing and good citizenship. Some programs carry the Thinkport logo at the top right of the screen. Those programs have supplemental material that can be downloaded by visiting www.thinkport.org. Visit www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96.cfm for dates and times that the following programs will air:

Real World Science, grades six through eight - Using colorful graphics, animation and detailed diagrams, these programs are designed to make science relevant in a child's everyday life.

Democracy It Is!, grades kindergarten through five - Through real-life examples of student activism and participation in communities across the nation, students will learn that democracy means many things to many people. These programs will show viewers how to make a difference in their communities.

Character Building, grades kindergarten through five - This series is designed to develop good character. The program teaches life skills such as respect, responsibility, integrity and empathy.

Different and the Same, grades kindergarten through five - This show is designed to help children and teachers talk about, understand, and combat racism. Each program will focus on children's experiences, feelings, and concerns while providing prosocial, positive models for coping with prejudice.

My Animal and Me, grades kindergarten through eight - Children introduce animals and their shared surroundings. Segments from inhabited continents of the world show how these animals are part of the cultural heritage.

Passport to Japan, grades kindergarten through eight - This series focuses on a day in the life of a Japanese student. Viewers will follow a Japanese student through a school day and then go home with him for a look at a family life in Japan.

Postcards, grades nine through twelve - This is a fast paced, fact-filled program that takes students on a virtual field trip across America.

Everyday Math I, grades nine through twelve - This program features a theme-based, problem-solving approach to math. Examples shown include budgeting, taking measurements, working with percents, geometry and other basic math elements.

Everyday Math II, grade nine through twelve - This program focuses on how math skills apply to everyday life. Students look at common activities that require good math skills and will learn useful math tricks.

Just the Basics: Writing - This course provides viewers with entry level composition instruction. Instruction focuses on nouns and verbs; modifiers; pronouns and possessives; sentence structure; punctuation; topic sentences; paragraph writing; five-paragraph format; and editing and proofreading.

Crossroads Café - Crossroads Cafe is an English as a Second Language series that features six engaging characters whose lives intersect at a local cafe.

Teachers and Their Coaches - This series provides practical information for new teachers. The content is rooted in solid university research and demonstrated by educators.

Teen Mental Health, grades six through twelve - This series will help viewers understand and learn to cope with the problems of stress, phobias and depression. The videos present views on these subjects from an adolescent viewpoint.

Real Science, grades six through twelve - Real Science is a six-part public television series designed to inspire students to pursue careers in science. Each 30-minute program is targeted to students between the ages of 11 and 16 and profiles two young, dynamic scientists working on problems.

The Complete Cosmos, grades six through twelve - This series introduces viewers to space and astronomy. From the Big Bang and the formation of the planets to black holes and the farthest quasars, each episode tells a crisp, intelligent and highly visual story.

Symbols of America, grades kindergarten through eight - This series is designed to help learners understand images that have become the symbols that represent the United States.

CHARLES
COUNTY
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Broadcast Schedule

For a complete copy of the broadcast schedule, visit www.ccboe.com and click on the Channel 96 link, located under the Public Info/Media tab. Schedules are updated twice a month and are released the Monday after each newsletter is published. If you have any questions, email them to ccpstv96@ccboe.com. The schedule is subject to change without notice.



Personnel

Apply for positions at www.ccboe.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

Instructional Assistant, Adult Education – Lifelong Learning Center; position is part time.

Library & Media Specialist – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position.

Gifted Education Resource Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

Gateway to Technology Teacher – Matthew Henson Middle School; 10-month position.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at all age levels.

NJROTC Instructor – North Point High School.

Family and Consumer Science Teacher – North Point High School; 10-month position.

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

- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Special education

- Language arts
- Elementary school level
- Science
- Vocal music

Extra Pay Positions

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following openings:

- Junior varsity assistant softball coach
- Pom pons dance team coach
- Junior varsity baseball coach
- Junior varsity assistant baseball coach

Call Principal Jervie Petty at 301-753-1755 to apply.

North Point High School has the following opening:

- Head varsity tennis coach

Call Principal Kim Hill at 301-753-1759 to apply.

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Head varsity softball coach

Call Principal L.C. Martin at 301-645-2601 to apply.

Westlake High School has the following opening:

- Head tennis coach

Call Principal Chrystal Benson at 301-645-8857 to apply.

School system notes

Higdon awarded Governor's citation

Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School was selected to receive a Governor's Citation for superior maintenance for fiscal year 2007. The citation is awarded to schools in Maryland that are qualified, according to the state's stringent requirements and following random building inspections. Selection is not by county and there is no set number of awards given annually.

Higdon was honored at a Jan. 2 ceremony at the State House in Annapolis. The school has also received perfect inspections from Charles County Public Schools maintenance staff for the past three years. Members of the Higdon Elementary maintenance staff include Pamela Hawkins, building service manager, Corey Washington, night manager, and Daniel Goldring, building service worker.

Higdon Principal Peggy Mertes and Deputy Superintendent of Schools Ronald Cunningham accepted the award on behalf of the school. Both Hawkins and Washington were recognized by the Board of Education last year for their efforts and contributions to maintaining safe and clean school conditions.

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Keith Grier, Title IX Coordinator, or Patricia Vaira, Section 504 Coordinator (students), or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Maryland 20646. 301-932-6610/870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

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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.