

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

March 14, 2008 • R-289

No child's hand left unshaken

Capturing Kids' Hearts infuses new spirit, attitude at Thomas Stone

Attitudes are changing at Thomas Stone -- one teacher, one staff member, one student, one handshake at a time.

Each day, teachers shake students' hands, offer smiles and pass along positive comments. It's an attitude of respect and part of Capturing Kids' Hearts, a program based on the idea that successful students



Thomas Stone High School math teacher James Nasso, left, greets ninth-grade student Avery Briscoe, left, with a handshake before class Thursday, March 12.

have positive role models and relationships with adults. "If you have a child's heart, you have their head," said Stone Principal L.C. Martin.

Capturing Kids' Hearts is a voluntary program started at Stone this year and it is intended to energize and excite teachers about their students. With a third of the Stone staff trained, Martin says it is making a difference, and as staff members change their own behaviors, the students follow.

Martin was among the first to participate in the training provided by the Flippen Group, the developer of the program, and he is passionate about Capturing Kids' Hearts. "We share the good news," he said.

Students share their lives with staff, and staff with them. "I have long believed that student success

is related to relations between adults and students at the school," Martin told the Board of Education members at a recent meeting.

Statistics back Martin's enthusiasm. Suspensions between August and January decreased 37 percent compared to the same time a year ago. This school year, daily attendance has increased 1 percent or more each month.

Aeronita Dillard, a special education **See Heart, Page 2**

Board of Education votes to change Public Forum time

The Board of Education of Charles County voted unanimously on March 11 to change Public Forum to 6 p.m., beginning with its April meeting.

The Board's regular business meetings begin at 1 p.m. with the public portion of the meeting, including information items and reports. Executive session, which is closed to the public, begins at noon. Recognition is at 4:30 p.m. and Public Forum will start at 6 p.m.

Public Forum is a time during the meeting where community members may address any education-related items. Speakers are limited

to three minutes and must sign up a half hour prior to the start of Public Forum.

Board meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Channel 96, the school system's educational television station. The meetings are also rebroadcast on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; Fridays at 9 a.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.

The Board also hosts work sessions the fourth Monday of the month as needed. Work sessions begin at 6 p.m. with Public Forum. Agendas for all meetings are posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com.

403 (b) provider bids

The CCPS budget and finance department is accepting proposals for a possible change in Tax Sheltered Annuity (403b) providers.

Tax Sheltered Annuity plans are optional retirement plans available for non profit organizations, such as the school system.

Any changes made in providers for CCPS employees will be announced at a later date. Call 301-934-7350 for more information.

Spring Break schedule

Spring Break for students and teachers is March 21-28. Schools reopen for teachers and students on Monday, March 31. Offices are closed March 21 in observance of Good Friday. Offices are also closed Monday, March 24.

College Savings workshop

Charles County Public Schools will host an additional College Savings Plans of Maryland workshop at J.C. Parks Elementary School on Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m.

The workshop informs parents of opportunities to prepare for their child's college expenses and will cover two college savings plans being offered by the Maryland Savings Plan: The Maryland Prepaid College Trust plan and the Maryland College Investment Plan.

Three other workshops were recently held at J.P. Ryon and Gale-Bailey elementary schools and Benjamin Stoddert Middle School. For more information, visit www.collegesavingsmd.org or contact Jeanette Kaufmann, supervising counselor for CCPS, at 301-934-7314.



Notebook

CCPS launches news show

Charles County Public Schools recently released a monthly news program on Channel 96, the school system's educational television station. NewsBreak 96 is a news program that highlights school system accomplishments.

Each episode features segments of schools in action, interviews with students and staff, sports highlights and upcoming news and events. Broadcast times for NewsBreak 96 can be found on the school system website at www.ccboe.com under the Public Information and Media section.

Martin to celebrate history

T.C. Martin Elementary School is celebrating its 40th anniversary on Friday, April 18, at the school. The celebration will feature a look at the past 40 years of history at Martin from past and present students, faculty and staff, activities involving school groups and refreshments. The celebration is open to the public. For more information, contact the school at 301-923-4442.

Kindergarten registration

Registration for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students begins Monday, March 31.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from John Hanson Middle School. Pictured, from left, are: Lila Tribett, instructional assistant; Emily Sasscer, science teacher; Mary Amey, language arts teacher; Kathy Kiessling, vice principal; and Bernard Barnes, building service manager.



The Cat in the Hat at Dr. Mudd

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond visited Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School on Monday, March 3 as part of the school system's Read Across Charles County events. Congressman Steny Hoyer also visited Mudd and read the book "One Foot, Two Foot," by Theodor "Ted" Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, to a group of kindergarten students. Pictured, from left are Mudd staff members Mary Whetzel, Sarah Pulaski, Lisa Cooper, Richmond, Leah Halman and Natalie Hannah.

Heart

Continued from Page 1

teacher, said that when she changed, she saw changes in her students. "Fear is behind inappropriate behavior," she told the Board, and the training helped her learn how to eliminate fear by creating a safe environment. The result is a culture that breeds respect and does not allow put downs in the classroom. She says it has made a difference, and her students enjoy coming to class.

James Nasso, a math teacher, took a little longer to convince. A self-professed, change-resistant teacher with an attitude about attending the program, he was quickly convinced of the value of Capturing Kids' Hearts. "It teaches you how to look at each student as a person," he said. And, he added, it works. Each class period, he stands at the door, smiles and shakes each student's hand as they enter class. He thanks them for arriving on time. "You are smiling. They are smiling, and they can't wait to be there. ... For me, it shows the students you truly care about them and that's what they need to know." It has made him a better teacher, he said.

Student Asiah Cauley says students are experiencing more respect from their teachers and other students. Shaking hands before every class and developing social contacts as a class makes the students feel respected as young adults.

Student Ryan Armstrong says the change in teachers has changed the classroom atmosphere and made the transition from middle to high school easier. He said students are acting better because of the positive attitudes of the teachers.

"There is a new spirit, a new attitude at the school and it speaks to itself," Martin said.

Superintendent James Richmond said he believes the program works because he saw an immediate change in Principal Martin following the training. "Good programs – they spread – you don't have to

force them," he said.

At Stone, participation in the program and attendance at the training is voluntary. Martin said he has a waiting list of teachers who would like to participate in the Capturing Kids' Hearts training.



Teachers shaking kids hands is a daily occurrence at Thomas Stone High School as part of the Capturing Kids Hearts program.

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy launches Laptop Checkout Program

In a science classroom on a rainy day last week, students and parents at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School huddled at tables in front of Dell laptop computers. They gathered to participate in the school's Laptop Checkout Program, which was launched earlier this school year.

Diane Karrick, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy's technology teacher, and school administration formulated and implemented the idea. The program was created to allow students in third, fourth and fifth grades exposure to technology they may not have access to at home. The program was also created for students to learn real-world technology. David Hoogerheide, vice principal at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, said the program allows students to continue instruction at home and helps prepare them for middle school.

An additional driving force for the program was the generosity of a Charles County resident. Gordon Croft, an alumnus of John Hopkins Engineering School and Port Tobacco native, contacted the school and was interested in how he could give back to the school and students. Croft donated 35 Dell laptops and 10 Smart Boards to Mt. Hope, a donation worth more than \$75,000.

Hoogerheide said students are surveyed for participation in the program. "The kids who don't have computers in the home were surveyed for participation in the program. This is a great program. We are extending it to kids who may have access to computers in the home but they may be broken or unusable," he added.

There are parent and student requirements for program participants. Parents must attend a training session with their child and sign an acceptable use policy, along with their child. Karrick said the program focuses on placing personal responsibility on the students, but parents should also know what is expected of their child. The sessions provide hands-on training for both the parent and student that include opening the computer, how to use the mouse, how to operate the system, how to charge the computer and how to save work files.



Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School parent Brenda Fowler, left, helps her daughter Samantha Fowler, a fifth-grade student at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, center, and fifth-grade student Patrice Thompson, right, power up a Dell laptop Friday, March 7, during a Laptop Checkout Program training session held at the school.

As part of the program requirements, students must bring their laptop to school each Monday to be checked. Karrick downloads and prints out school assignments for the students. She also checks for inappropriate material, such as software, game or music downloads. Students are required to teach others in the home the usage requirements and may only use the computer for school-related purposes. Karrick said Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy has hosted three training sessions for the program and out of the computers sent home with students, only one computer was taken for misuse. She also said that more and more students are interested in participating. "Kids are constantly stopping me in the hallway and saying Ms. Karrick, Ms. Karrick, how can I get a computer to take home?" she added.

Additionally, the donated Smart Boards have been placed in classrooms, where students can take advantage of learning through interactive technology. Karrick said she remains in touch with Croft, who often calls to see how the students are enjoying the technology, in and outside of the classroom. "It is really fun to be able to give them this opportunity," Karrick said.

Do you know an employee who deserves recognition? Do you have an interesting classroom story?

School News is a Charles County Public Schools' publication for and about CCPS employees. Published every other week on payday, *School News* is produced by the CCPS Communications Department and written and edited by Katie O'Malley-Simpson and Shelley Buter.

Retired employees or community members may receive the publication, free of charge, by e-mailing their name, address and request to komalley@ccboe.com.

Story ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Email ideas to komalley@ccboe.com or sbuter@ccboe.com.

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

Principals – Screening for all levels; eligible for Maryland Department of Education Professional certificate with Administrator II endorsement; five years successful school experience with three in classroom teaching.

Vice Principals – Screening for all levels; 11- or 12-month positions; master's degree and Advanced Professional Certificate by the Maryland State Department of Education required. Must be eligible for the MSDE Administrator I Certificate and have three years of successful teaching experience.

Food Service Substitutes – All schools.

Food Service Manager – Mary B. Neal Elementary School; six-hour position. Three years food service experience required. Apply by March 14.

Food Service Worker – Indian Head Elementary School; four-hour position. Apply by March 14.

Secretary – Mary H. Matula Elementary School; 11-month position. Apply by March 17.

Title I Instructional Specialist for Early Childhood – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply by March 17.

Instructional Specialist – Openings at county elementary and middle schools. Apply by March 17 for elementary level; March 18 for middle school level.

Coordinator of Autism Services – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Master's degree in special education and three years leadership or supervisory experience required. Apply by March 18.

Gifted Education Resource Teacher – Openings at county elementary schools; 10-month positions. Apply by March 17.

Reading Resource Teacher – Openings at county middle schools; 10-month positions. Apply by March 17.

Mathematics Teacher – Mattawoman and John Hanson middle schools; 10-month positions.

Science Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position.

Fifth-grade Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Gifted Education Resource Teacher – Openings at all middle schools; 10-month positions.

Music Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

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

Special Education Teacher for Science – La Plata High School; 10-month position.

Art Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Music Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Library and Media Specialist – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position. Position is open until filled.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at all age levels; 10-month positions.

IEP Facilitator – Openings at all age levels; 11-month positions.

AFJROTC Instructor – North Point High School.

ESOL Teachers – Openings at all age levels.

Music teachers – Opening at all elementary schools; 10-month positions.

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

- Spanish, for future openings
- Mathematics, high school level

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

Board of Education Members
Donald M. Wade, Chairman
Roberta S. Wise, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Collins A. Bailey
Charles E. Carrington
Maura H. Cook
Pamela A. Pedersen
Ashin Shah, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools
James E. Richmond

Editor/Writers
Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Shelley Buter

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.

Charles County Public Schools
Post Office Box 2770
La Plata, Maryland 20646
(address service requested)

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 66

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.