

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

October 24, 2008

R-305



Stone, North Point students and staff 'Dig Pink'

The Thomas Stone High School volleyball teams hosted a "Dig Pink" night on Oct. 2 at the school to help support breast cancer awareness. The student teams hosted the North Point High School Eagles and helped raise more than \$2,050. Pictured above are the Thomas Stone cougar, left, and Stone social studies teacher Brian Reip, right. The donations were given to the Side-Out Foundation, an organization that supports breast cancer research.

Student enrollment grows by 51 students

Charles County Public Schools grew by 51 students this school year, according to preliminary enrollment counts for the 2008-09 school year.

Enrollment is 26,727 students, up from 26,676 last school year. The increase is the lowest in two decades, down from triple-digit enrollment gains several years ago. This is the second consecutive year that enrollment increases have been less than 100 students. The enrollment count, taken on Sept. 30, is not official until it receives final verification by the Maryland State Department of Education. Maryland school systems take official student counts for the year on the last school day in September.

While the gain of students was 51, there were 3,192 students new to Charles County Public Schools this year. Of those, 1,436 students are attending school for the first time, such as prekindergarten and kindergarten stu-

dents. The other 1,756 students are spread across schools and grade levels and have transferred into CCPS from a number of different places. There are 560 transfer students from Prince George's County; 386 from private schools; 354 from other states; 172 from Maryland other than Prince George's and Southern Maryland; 102 from Washington, D.C.; 52 from other countries; 47 from Virginia; 33 from St. Mary's County; 25 from home-school instruction; and 15 from Calvert County.

The three schools located on the North Point educational complex report the highest enrollments. North Point High School added a senior class this year and grew to the largest high school with 2,161 students. Theodore Davis Middle School, with 1,112 students is the largest middle school. William A. Diggs Elementary School has the highest elemen-

See enrollment, Page 2

CCPS hosts food drive

Charles County Public Schools is hosting a food drive to benefit the Southern Maryland Food Bank. A donation box is located in the main lobby of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building for canned and non perishable food donations. All donations can be dropped off at the Starkey Building during the normal operating hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Donations should not be sent through the pony. Call 301-934-7220 for more information.

Alo receives art grant

Theresa Alo, an art teacher and fine arts department chair at North Point High School, recently received a \$650 grant from the Charles County Arts Alliance. Alo will use the grant to create a tile installation project that will depict an art timeline. She will work with a local tile artist, Parran Coltery.

Schools closed for elections

Schools are closed for students and teachers on Tuesday, Nov. 4, for primary election day. Administrative offices are open for normal operating hours.

La Plata fall festival

The town of La Plata is hosting a fall festival on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 12 - 5 p.m. at the La Plata Town Hall. The festival will feature the "Taste of La Plata" and the annual "Festival of Scarecrows."

Time to fall back

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, Nov. 2, as standard time begins.



Notebook

Mudd's day made better

Robyn Mudd, a first-grade teacher at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, was recently selected as one of 1,000 teachers nationwide to receive OfficeMax's "A Day Made Better" award. Staff from the Waldorf OfficeMax presented Mudd with \$1,000 in classroom supplies, and a new desk chair, on Oct. 1 at Barnhart.

Marking period ends

The first marking period ends on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

Shah is state AP scholar

Ashin Shah, a 2008 Thomas Stone High School graduate, was named the Maryland State AP Scholar by the College Board. Each year, the state scholar distinction is awarded to one male and one female in each state and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP exams, and then the highest average on all AP exams.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Thursday, Oct. 30.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education at its Oct. 14 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Michael C. Swann, algebra teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Janet Malherek, secretary to the principal, Mary H. Matula Elementary School; Dawn Williamson, third-grade teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School; and Kimberly King, instructional specialist, Milton M. Somers Middle School.



Cox honored at stadium dedication ceremony

Dr. John H. Cox, the first principal of Westlake High School and a former assistant superintendent of instruction for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), was honored on Thursday, Oct. 16, by the Westlake community as well as CCPS staff and students. The stadium at Westlake was dedicated as the "Dr. John H. Cox Memorial Stadium" for his contributions to the school, including the "Light the Night" event, which raised more than \$100,000 for stadium lighting. Dr. Cox passed away in October 2007. Pictured above are members of the Cox family, including Cox's son Alex, left, his daughters Jeni, second from left, and Gretchen, far right, with his wife, Sally, second from right. During the ceremony, Dr. Cox was remembered by guests, including Maryland State delegate Murray D. Levy, members of the first graduating Westlake class, the Class of 1996, and James Richmond, superintendent of schools.

School system sponsors scholarship workshop

Charles County Public Schools is sponsoring "The Scholarship Workshop," an interactive session hosted by author Marianne Ragins, on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at La Plata High School.

The workshop is designed to help students successfully complete the college scholarship search and application process. Ragins is a one-time recipient of more than \$400,000 in scholarship offers and author of "Winning Scholarships for College." The workshop covers: resources to use to find scholarship opportunities; easy guidelines for writing scholarship-winning essays with examples; helpful tips on using the Internet

to research scholarships; an inside look at obtaining positive recommendations; helpful tips on how to stand out against other scholarship applicants; ways to highlight your personality and achievements during interviews; and last-minute strategies helpful in obtaining funds for college.

The seminar is free and is open to county high school students, parents and guardians. Space is limited and reservations are required. Registration is open until Nov. 5. To register, visit the CCPS Web site at <http://www2.ccoeb.com/instruction/scholarshipworkshop.cfm>. Call 301-934-7360 for more information.

Enrollment

Continued from Page 1

tary enrollment with 958 students.

Thomas Stone High School, with 1,561 students has the second largest high school enrollment. Mattawoman Middle School with an enrollment of 1,019, is the second largest middle school. Berry and William B. Wade elementary schools had 975 and 784

students respectively, making them the second and third highest enrolled elementary schools.

Enrollment data by school for this year and last are on the CCPS Web site at www2.ccoeb.com/aboutus/fastfacts.cfm on the Fast Facts page.

Winter weather can affect school schedule

Who reports to work and at what time when schools close?

If weather conditions pose a potential hazard, school officials may dismiss early, delay opening schools or close schools for the day. If no announcement is made, schools open at regularly scheduled hours and all employees are expected to arrive at work on time.

The chart below explains the code system for employees. Please note that teachers and instructional assistants follow the student schedule and do not follow inclement weather codes.

Delayed openings and early dismissals

A delayed opening applies only to schools. All administrative office personnel report at their normal starting time unless a code accompanies the delay notification (see chart). All non-teaching personnel are expected to work for the full business day unless an announcement is made. If an employee is unable to arrive on time or needs to leave early, he or she must contact his or her immediate supervisor and submit a leave slip.

How to stay updated

Employees should call the 24-hour information line at 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6656 to determine whether they must report to work. Employee information is also provided to radio and television stations listed on page 10 of the Parent Handbook/Calendar; however, the stations do not always run the employee codes. Employees may also check their voicemail. An announcement is placed on every employee's voicemail extension.

E-mail notification available

Employees and parents of Charles County Public Schools students can now be notified by e-mail when inclement weather or other events cause unscheduled delays, early dismissals or closings. Those interested can log on to www.schools-out.com and register to receive automatic e-mails whenever a change to the

regular school schedule occurs. Parents and students can also log on to the site at any time to check the latest status for all schools. Parents and staff can also sign up for the Charles County Public Schools press release subscriber list to receive an additional e-mail notification.

Visit www.ccooe.com/pr to subscribe to the service. Weather alerts are posted under the press releases section within minutes of decisions being made.

How decisions are made

The school system's transportation department monitors road conditions and weather reports; school employees regularly contact the state and county roads department, Charles County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police and the National Weather Service for assessments of roads and weather.

Every effort is made to make the decision to close or delay the opening of schools by 5 a.m. and, when possible, earlier. Once that decision is made, school officials place the information on the 24-hour information line, and the CCPS Web site, as well as notify the Washington metropolitan area radio and television stations. If it is necessary to close schools during the day, local radio and television stations are notified and asked to make the announcements, usually by 10:30 a.m.

No announcements will be made when schools are open.



What happens when the weather is bad?

Codes	Who reports to work	When	Exceptions
Code 1	All personnel report	1 hour late	Emergency personnel on time*
Code 2	All personnel report	2 hours late	Emergency personnel on time*
Code Red	Emergency personnel*	On time	
No code/ Schools closed	10.5-, 11- and 12-month personnel	On time	

*If emergency personnel are unable to report to work on time, they must submit a leave slip. Emergency personnel include operations supervisory staff, building service managers, assistant building service managers, building service workers, maintenance supervisory staff, all maintenance staff, security personnel and transportation supervisory staff.

*10.5 and 11-month employees are expected to fulfill their contract days at the discretion of their supervisor. If they do not report to work and take liberal leave, they must submit a leave slip.

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

Coordinator of Autism Services – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Candidates must have three years of experience with autism at the system level and must be pursuing a master's degree.

Instructional Specialist – Location(s) to be determined; 10-month position.

Certified school psychologist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10.5-month position. Candidates must be eligible for MSDE certification.

Test Development Specialist in Assessment – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Nov. 5.

Manager of Planning, Department of Planning and Construction – Maintenance Shop/Annex 101 Building; 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and experience required. Position is open until filled.

Science teacher, NOVEL program – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, part-time position, two-evenings per week. Position requires certificated teacher and pays \$23.80 per hour. Call Jackie Plante, 301-932-1003, for more information.

Behavior Specialists, support – Openings at all levels, 10-month positions.

Behavior Specialists, certificated – Openings at all levels, 10-month positions.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 30.

English Teachers – Future high school level openings; 10-month positions.

Special Education Teacher for Mathematics – Thomas Stone High School; 10-month position.

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

Special Education Teachers for Inclusion and Resource – Future high school openings; 10-month positions.

Special Education Teacher of the Emotionally Disturbed – High-school level; 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher for Inclusion – High-school level; 10-month position.

Life Skills Teacher for Severe and Profound – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Life Skills Teachers for Severe and Profound – Future high school openings; 10-month positions.

Special Education Teacher – Robert D. Stethem Education Center, 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher – General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position.

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

Third-grade teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Kindergarten teacher – Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; 10-month position.

Mathematics Teacher – Future middle and high school openings; 10-month positions.

NJROTC Instructor – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

Extra pay position

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity boys' lacrosse coach
- Head varsity wrestling coach
- Assistant wrestling coach

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

Westlake High School has the following opening:

- Head varsity softball coach

Call Principal Chrystal Benson, 301-753-1758, to apply.

Staff Notes

Benefits announcement

Charles County Public Schools benefits program, which includes health insurance, retirement and AFLAC, has been consolidated in one office. John Felicitas, human resources specialist, is coordinating all benefits. Call extension 7345 for assistance.

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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.