



Civics Mosaics program links students to Russia

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) welcomed three Russian Fellows Oct. 24 – Nov. 7 from schools located in Penza, Samara and Ryazan, Russia, as part of the Civics Mosaic II exchange program.

The program focuses on teachers and students exchanging and sharing principles and applications of civic knowledge. The Russian Fellows who visited CCPS are Elena Tymchenko, Olga Filimoshina, and Yelena Bukhteeva. They were partnered with teachers from La Plata, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools, as well as staff from the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, and coordinated lessons for students.

Lessons included comparisons of Russian and United States history, political and educational systems, and culture. Charles County's partner Fellows are Nicholas Solomon, a social studies teacher at Westlake; Stephanie Moss, a special education teacher at La Plata; Melissa Hatch, a social studies teacher at Stone; and Elaine Tubb, government resource



Evelyn Arnold, right, principal of La Plata High School, presents school memorabilia to Russian fellow Olga Filimoshina, left, during a welcoming ceremony held Oct. 29 at the school.

teacher for CCPS. Charles County Fellows will visit their partner schools in April and will collaborate with the Russian Fellows to teach in classrooms.

The program is funded by a United States Department of Education grant. CCPS was selected to participate in a second mosaics program because of the success of the Civics Mosaic partnership with Penza City Schools in Russia.

Tubb said the goal of the partnership is to enhance communication and learning. "The ultimate goal is to develop strong partnerships between the schools involved in the Civics Mosaic project," Tubb said.

Additionally, Hatch, Moss, Solomon and Tubb said they are looking forward to learning from their Russian partners and students next year.

"Our goal is to continue building a strong relationship with our Russian Fellows and open that relationship up to our students through the use of web cameras and discussions," Moss said.

School system puts a temporary hold on substitute applications

Charles County Public Schools has temporarily stopped accepting applications for substitute teachers.

According to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, there are nearly 900 substitutes available on an as-needed basis to fill an average of 130 jobs a day. Substitute training sessions are scheduled through the end of December for people who have already applied.

"The numbers are becoming too large to handle and the chance to be called for a job has been diminished," Hettel said.

According to Hettel, there are significant increases in the numbers of applicants for all school system openings. Recently, more than 160 people applied for a data entry clerk position at one of the schools, which is an all-time high, Hettel said.

The Division of Human Resources will monitor the substitute staffing situation weekly.

"If the number of substitutes drops, or we are unable to fill openings, the school system will begin accepting additional substitute applications," Hettel said.

All-County concerts

The All-County concerts will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, at Thomas Stone High School. The chorus concerts begin at 2 p.m.; the orchestra concerts begin at 4 p.m.; and the band concerts begin at 6 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Tuesday, Dec. 9.

It's Academic

Teams from all six county high schools will compete in the annual *It's Academic* county competition at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the College of Southern Maryland. The winner will compete in a regional televised competition on WRC TV (NBC 4) to be aired early next year.

FEA hosts food drive

Students at North Point High School donated more than 2,600 canned and non-perishable food items last month to the Peace Lutheran Food Bank. The school's Future Education Association launched the food drive and collection boxes were placed in each English classroom.

Henson hosts a fairy tale

The Matthew Henson Middle School drama club is presenting "Fairytale Courtroom," 7 p.m., Dec. 5-6, in the school's cafeteria. Audience members will serve as the jury to decide if characters, including the Big Bad Wolf and the Wicked Witch, are real villains.

Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for students, and children 5 and under are admitted free.

Notebook

Student pages selected

Four Charles County Public high school seniors were recently selected to participate in the 2009 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Page program.

They are Michael Zick of La Plata High School; Ryan Floberg of La Plata High School; and Griffin Canfield of Westlake High School. Kelsey Pearson of North Point High School is the Student Page Alternate.

These students will have the opportunity to work with the General Assembly as Student Pages for two weeks during the spring 2009 legislative session.

CCPS toy drive

Charles County Public Schools is holding a toy drive to benefit the Charles County Children's Aid Society Christmas Connection. A collection box is in the main lobby of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building for donations. The last collection day is Tuesday, Dec. 16.

State football game to air

The 3A Maryland state football championship game featuring Westlake High School versus Wilde Lake High School of Howard County will be broadcast on Comcast Channel 96 at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8. The game will also be broadcast throughout the week. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm> for a programming schedule.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building warehouse. Pictured, from left, are: Paul Lyons, truck driver; Robert Taylor, warehouse foreman; and Dennis Posey, truck driver.



Relay for Life Superintendent of the Year

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond, left, was presented with the 2007-08 Relay for Life Superintendent of the Year award by Relay for Life of Charles County Event Co-Chairs Cristina Vandroff, center, and Omar Akchurin, right. During the 2007-08 school year, Charles County Public Schools students and staff raised more than \$119,000 for the American Cancer Society. The school system was also the only participant in the regional division to have 100 percent participation. Richmond was chosen for the award by a local Relay for Life committee from participants across five states. The top three schools were Westlake High School, with \$8,180; Dr. James Craik Elementary School, with \$7,642; and Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, with \$7,482.

Warehouse holds public sale of office, classroom items

The Charles County Public Schools warehouse is hosting a public sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Bumpy Oak storage building. Items for sale include desks, chairs, tables, file cabinets and other miscellaneous office and classroom items.

Items must be removed from the building at the time of purchase. Cash and checks will be the only accepted forms of payment and a price list will be posted on the main door. The building is located at 5125 Gwynn Road, La Plata, MD, 20646. For safety reasons, children will not be permitted in the building.

Board meeting agenda - December 9

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Radio Station Road in La Plata. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m. and recognition begins at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and rebroadcast throughout the week. Program schedules for Channel 96 are available at www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance, La Plata High School's JROTC unit

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Superintendent's update
- Correspondence/Board Member updates
 - Library resources presentation
- Education Association of Charles County

- Student Board Member update
- Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) safe driving presentation
- CIP update
- Bridge plan update
- New health curriculum
- Changes in policy series 8000 and 9000

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business

- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students

- Employees

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes

- Personnel

Adjournment

Register now for spring staff development, graduate courses

The Office of Program Support is accepting registration for certified professional development (CPD) courses. Participants enrolled in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) courses can receive CDP credit(s). Additionally, CCPS has partnerships with local universities and colleges. Available courses are listed below.

To register for CPD courses, complete the registration form located on the CCPS Web site, www.ccboe.com/staffdev/courses/index.cfm. To register for graduate courses, contact the college or university directly. Contact Barbara Palko, 301-392-7501, for more information.

McDaniel College

Course: *Assessment for Reading Instruction*, RDG 523

Dates: Jan. 27 – March 24, Tues.

Time/Location: 5 – 9 p.m.,
Thomas Stone High School

Course: *Materials for Reading Instruction*, RDG 524

Dates: March 14 – May 2, Sat.

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.,
John Hanson Middle School

Course: *Curriculum Trends and Issues*,
CUR 501

Dates: March 12 – May 7, Thurs.

Time/Location: 5 – 9 p.m., Stone

Course: *Differentiation and Technology*,
CUR 505

Dates: March 11 – May 4, Wed., face-to-face and online course

Time/Location: 5 – 9 p.m., Stone

Course: *Reading in the Content Areas – Part II*, RDG 534

Dates: March 12 – May 7, Thurs.

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

Course: *School Leadership in the Twenty-first Century*, ADA 505

Dates: March 10 – May 5, Tues.

Time/Location: 4:30 – 9 p.m., Stone

Course: *School Law*, PSI 527

Dates: Jan. 6 – Feb. 24, Tues.

Time/Location: 4:30 – 9 p.m., Stone

Course: *Building Communications and Teamwork in the Classroom*, EDU 515

Dates: Feb. 21 – April 4, Sat.

Time/Location: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Hanson

Course: *Introduction to Research Methodology*, EDU 550

Dates: Jan. 27 – May 5, Tues.

Time/Location: 6 – 8:30 p.m., Stone

Bowie State University

Course: *Human Growth & Development*,
EDUC 507.237

Dates: Jan. 27 – March 24, Tues.

Time/Location: 4:55 – 9:55 p.m., Stone

Course: *Career Counseling & Development*, COUN 608.238

Dates: April 1 – May 20, Wed.

Time/Location: 4:45 – 9:55 p.m., Stone

Course: *Test & Measurement*,
COUN 610.238

Dates: March 31 – May 19, Tues.

Time/Location: 4:55 – 9:55 p.m., Stone

Gratz College/Regional Training Center

Course: *Differentiated Instruction*

Dates: March 13, 14, 15, 28 and 29

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.,
Sat. and Sun.
6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Course: *Assessment Techniques:
Assessing for Student Learning*

Dates: May 1, 2, 3, 16 and 17

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.,
Sat. and Sun.
6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Course: *Styles of Teaching: Personality
type in the Classroom*

Dates: Feb. 13, 14, 15, 28; March 1

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.,
Sat. and Sun.
6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Course: *Skills & Strategies for Inclusion
and Disability Awareness*

Dates: March 13, 14, 15, 28 and 29

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.,
Sat. and Sun.
6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Course: *The Cooperative Discipline*

Dates: Jan. 9, 10, 11, 24 and 25

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.,
Sat. and Sun.
6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

** For more information, visit:

- www.bowiestate.edu
- www.mcdaniel.edu
- www.thertc.net

Met Life to reimburse fees if transfers made by deadline

Charles County Public Schools employees who have elected to transfer funds from a previous tax sheltered annuity (TSA), or 403(b), account to Met Life may incur account surrender fees. Met Life will reimburse employees for surrender fees if the account transfer occurs between Oct. 1, 2008 and March 2009.

Documentation of the exact surrender charges is required for reimbursement. Employees should have received or will receive a statement with surrender charges from their previous plan provider. This

applies to previous Met Life and Travelers contracts, as well as companies outside of Met Life.

As of September, Met Life is the exclusive 403(b) account provider for Charles County Public Schools. If you did not choose an investment allocation fund with a Met Life agent, your funds have been placed in a target date fund based on your age and estimated retirement date.

Contact the Met Life representative for your school or center to make account transfer arrangements. Denise Cantrell,

Victor Maldonado and LaQuita Stancil are the Met Life representatives for the school system. Cantrell can be reached at 703-795-1010 or dcantrell@metlife.com; Maldonado can be reached at 301-609-2747 or vmaldonado@metlife.com; and Stancil can be reached at 301-807-7712 or lstancil@metlife.com.

A listing of Met Life representatives and locations they serve is posted on the staff services page of the school system Web site at www2.ccboe.com/staffservices.cfm.

Personnel

Apply for positions at www.ccboc.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

Secretary to the Director of Program Support – Jesse L. Starkey Building; 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 5.

Technology Facilitator Title I – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; 10-month position. Associate's degree or minimum of 48 college credit hours preferred. Apply by Dec. 9.

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

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

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 Specialists – Future openings at all levels; 10-month positions. Minimum of five years of teaching experience and master's degree required.

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

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

IEP Facilitators – Openings at all levels; 10-month positions.

Special Education Teachers – Elementary school level; 10-month positions.

Language Arts Teacher – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; 10-month position.

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

Special Education Teacher – General Smallwood Middle School and Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; 10-month positions.

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

Third-grade Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary 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 Teachers for Severe and Profound – William A. Diggs Elementary and Henry E. Lackey High schools; 10-month positions.

Building Service Worker – Westlake High School; 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 17.

Building Service Worker – La Plata High School; four-hour, 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 17.

Staff/School Announcements

Jenifer recognized for recycling efforts

Staff and students at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School were recognized Nov. 19 by the Charles County Commissioners for recycling efforts initiated at the school and within the school community. Jenifer Principal Thadine Wright was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her support and encouragement of recycling programs at the school.

At the start of the school year, Jenifer staff arranged for representatives from Charles County's Division of Environmental Resources to visit the school and talk to students about recycling. Jenifer has also implemented recycling into the school's Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS) rules of respect.

Piccowaxen raises funds for holidays

Piccowaxen Middle School's Student Council Association and Principal Advisory Committee recently raised \$750 to support the Charles County Sheriff's Department "Shop with a Cop" program.

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