



CCPS, Civista stage mock bus accident for training

Charles County Public Schools, along with Civista Medical Center, coordinated a mock school bus accident drill on Monday, May 4, to better prepare pupil personnel workers (PPWs) for emergency situations. In the event of a serious bus crash, the school system dispatches PPWs to assist with the supervision of students, to assist hospital staff in communicating with parents, to assure hospital staff has student emergency information, and to comfort and reassure students.



Irene Posey, a CCPS pupil personnel worker, left, checks the emergency card information for Milton M. Somers students Elizabeth Colburn, right, and Jessica Carter, second from right, during a mock bus accident drill held May 4 at Civista.

Included in the drill were 27 students from Milton M. Somers Middle School, who acted as crash victims. Each student selected to participate wrote an essay about school and bus safety. Each student was given information about their "injury" to provide a realistic drill. Some students had stomach and head injuries, while others suffered from broken bones and scratches. A group of Somers parents also participated and were staged in the emergency room waiting areas.

Keith Grier, director of student services for CCPS, said these types of drills are necessary in order to maintain a high degree of readiness to effectively respond to any and all potential emergencies that might affect a school, such as a bus accident. This is one of several drills carried out by student services staff each year.

In a real bus accident, students would be evaluated by Civista staff, separated by severity of injury, treated and released, admitted or transported to other facilities, based upon need. PPWs would communicate with the home school, central office, and most importantly, the parents in an attempt to keep everyone informed of the latest information.

Swine flu fears calm as officials learn more about virus

News concerning the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, changes daily and health officials say the pandemic is not as severe as they once feared.

On Wednesday, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) revised its recommendation from closing schools with students or staff with probable swine flu, to using discretion based on the impact of school absenteeism and staffing shortages. Instead, schools will now focus on early identification of ill students and staff and good cough and hand washing etiquette.

The school system has worked closely with the Charles County Department of Health to keep parents and staff updated on the latest information about the flu. The school nurses

and the school system's communication department have developed a number of informational items about H1N1 virus, including a Web site linked to the school system's home page, www2.ccboe.com/health/notices/swine-flu.cfm. The Web site includes fact sheets, a video message, a letter to parents, helpful hints, questions and answers, and related links. The site is updated regularly.

Swine flu is a respiratory virus that started with pigs, but has spread to humans.

Symptoms include fever greater than 100 degrees, sore throat, cough, stuffy nose, chills, headache and body aches and/or fatigue. If students present any of these symptoms to a school nurse, parents will be contacted and

Swine flu, see page 2

Last day of school approved

The Board of Education approved the last day of school for students as Friday, June 12. The last day of school for teachers is Tuesday, June 16. June 9, 10, 11 and 12 are two-hour early dismissal days.

Sensory room open house

The Charles County Parent Center and the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee are hosting an open house event 6:30 - 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, to showcase the sensory room at J.P. Ryon Elementary School. The event is for all teachers and parents who are interested in learning about techniques that can be used for children with developmental or learning disabilities who have unusual responses to sensory experiences.

The event is open to the public, but reservations are suggested. To RSVP call 301-934-7456 or e-mail pfs@ccboe.com.

Schools receive literacy grants

Seven Charles County public schools recently received \$3,000 grants from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation program. Gale-Bailey, Indian Head, J.C. Parks and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy elementary schools, General Smallwood and Matthew Henson middle schools, and Henry E. Lackey High School received the funds April 28.

The program is funded directly through store donations and the Bryans Road store collected more than \$30,000 in 2008. These Charles County public schools were chosen as grant recipients because they are located in the Bryans Road and Indian Head areas.



Notebook

Two schools become green

Arthur Middleton Elementary School and Milton M. Somers Middle School were recently named Maryland Green Schools through the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Maryland Green School awards program.

Both schools completed a two-year application process earlier this school year to become a Maryland Green School. The process includes documented classroom integration of environmental issues, a demonstration of conservation practices and evidence of existing community partnerships that help enhance environmental learning.

Both schools will be honored June 2 at a ceremony in Calvert County.

County Government Day

The Charles County government is hosting County Government Day from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at the county government building in La Plata. Charles County Public Schools is hosting an information booth for attendees to receive information about the school system. Call 301-638-2402 for more information.

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees honored at the April Board meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Timothy Emhoff, science teacher, Indian Head Elementary School; Fabian Carroll, building service assistant manager, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; Gwen Lilly, food service manager, J.C. Parks Elementary School; and Benjamin Kohlhorst, mathematics teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School.

Keesler is 2009 District Nurse of the Year

Betsy Keesler, the school nurse at J.C. Parks Elementary School, was named Nurse of the Year on Monday, May 4 by the Maryland Nurses Association, District 9. Tammy Dilling, the school nurse at Maurice J. McDonough High School, was also awarded the Joanne Zwick Caring Award.

The Nurse of the Year award recognizes those who demonstrate excellence in nursing. The Joanne Zwick Caring Award recognizes registered nurses who provide an outstanding excellence in bedside



Two school nurses, Tammy Dilling, left, and Betsy Keesler, right, were honored by the Maryland Nurses Association, District 9, at ceremony held May 4.

nursing care and professionalism within the community. Nominees for both awards are submitted by members of the community. Both Keesler and Dilling were nominated by school staff.

Lucy Wathen, school nurse at General Smallwood Middle School, and Natasha Williams, school nurse at Benjamin Stodert Middle School, were also nominated for awards by

school staff. District 9 includes Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's and Southern Prince George's counties.

Swine flu

asked to immediately take their child home. Staff should also follow the same guidelines and remain at home if they have flu-like symptoms.

School employees are reminding students of proper hygiene practices and conducting frequent supervised hand washing in elementary schools. Teachers are reminding students at secondary schools that hand washing is the best flu prevention measure.

All public schools in Charles County use

appropriate measures to limit the spread of infection. Some of the daily cleaning done by our building service workers includes disinfecting bathrooms and other areas with hospital-approved cleaners.

Additionally, the school system is monitoring attendance at each school and will investigate any spikes or unusual occurrences. Contact the school nurse or the Charles County Department of Health at 301-609-6900, ext. 6025, for more information.

From Page 1

Board agenda - May 12

The Board of Education's monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 12, 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, Thomas Stone High School's JROTC unit

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Superintendent's redistricting recommendation
- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County

- Student Board member update
- Maryland TELL survey
- Educational facilities master plan
- Title I update
- Out-of-county tuition fees
- Budget update on state funding
- Policy series 1000 update
- Policy 5117, bullying update

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

Neal Elementary School makes it official in formal dedication ceremony

Staff, students, community and family members of Mary Burgess Neal celebrated the opening of Mary B. Neal Elementary School in a formal ceremony held Friday, April 24, at the school.

The ceremony included performances from the Neal fifth-grade band, chorus and orchestra, and remarks from Don Neal, Neal's grandnephew, and Eva Chesley, a retired Charles County Public Schools teacher. Members of the Maryland Senate and the Southern Maryland Delegation, as well as the Charles County Commissioners, also presented resolutions and proclamations to school staff.

The ceremony also included a shadow box presentation, in which Neal staff commemorated the first half of the school year through photographs, staff and student accomplishments, and a traditional key passing ceremony to signify those involved in planning, building and operating the school.

Neal Elementary School opened on August 25, 2008. It is 86,880-square feet, and designed as a two-story building. The \$19.5 million cost of the school was funded by the Charles County Commissioners and the state of Maryland. Carol Leveillee is the first principal of the school.

The school was named after Mary Burgess Neal, who was a Charles County Public Schools teacher, principal and supervisor. She began her career at Bel Alton School, where she was later named principal. Neal also served as principal of the Port Tobacco School and was appointed supervisor of elementary schools in 1961. She retired from that position in 1975.

Neal also worked with the Children's Aid Society in Waldorf and chaired numerous committees within her church.

The building was designed by SHW Group, Inc. and the construction management firm was Hess Construction.



Mary B. Neal Elementary School Principal Carol Leveillee, right, passes the ceremonial key during the school's formal dedication April 24 to Neal secretary Lisa Charity, second from right, back, and Neal prekindergartner Mahi Shah, second from left, back, and Neal first-grade student Casey Allen, third from left, back, and third-grade student Christina Best, far left, wait for the key to be passed. The key passing ceremony included representatives from the school, school system, construction group, county government, state delegation and the Neal parent-teacher organization.

Comptroller says Neal Elementary School is a model for the state during visit



Mary B. Neal Elementary School Principal Carol Leveillee, right, and Charles Wineland, the assistant superintendent for supporting services, center, greet Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, left, upon his arrival at the school April 23. Franchot toured the building to learn more about its energy efficient design.

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot visited Mary B. Neal Elementary School on Thursday, April 23, to tour Charles County's newest public school, its classrooms and to learn more about the school's energy efficient design aspects.

Neal Principal Carol Leveillee guided Franchot on a 45-minute school tour, where he visited students in kindergarten, first and second grades, and spoke to a group of students during their science class. He told students that they "are lucky to attend such a great school that is a model for the state."

Franchot was intrigued by the school's air filtration system and day lighting aspects. He also commented on the school system's Reading Recovery program, and supported the idea of communities having schools in which students can walk to.

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond also talked to the comptroller about Charles County Public Schools efforts to further involve children in mathematics and science through learning initiatives such as the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) and robotics programs.

At the end of his tour, Franchot said he was excited to discuss his visit at Neal with his colleagues at the next state meeting.

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

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

Special Education Teacher for Math – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher – Indian Head Elementary School, 10-month position.

Counselor, Secondary – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Long-term Substitute Teacher, Certificated – High school level Spanish, 10-month position.

IEP Facilitator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Apply by May 8.

Athletic Director – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 11-month position. Bachelor's degree and a minimum of five years teaching and three years coaching experience required. Apply by May 20.

Long-term Substitute Teacher, Support – High school level Spanish, 10-month position.

Building Service Worker – La Plata High School, 12-month position. Apply by May 8.

Accounting Assistant – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Associate's degree and accounting experience required. Apply by May 15.

General Maintenance Worker I – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position.

Food Service Worker – Openings at county schools, three- and four-hour, 10-month positions. Apply by May 20.

Certified School Psychologist – Future openings at all levels, 10.5-month positions.

Pupil Personnel Worker – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Master's degree in related field and minimum of three years teaching experience required. Apply by May 19.

Extra pay positions

Westlake High School has the following openings:

- Assistant varsity boys' basketball coach
- Head junior varsity boys' basketball coach
- Head freshman boys' basketball coach

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

Teachers needed for Civics Mosaic

Civics Mosaic II, an international comparative program for high school social studies teachers, is looking for two educators who seek to connect civic knowledge and civic engagement with classrooms in Russia. The program emphasizes and com-

pares civic concepts applied to current policy issues in Russia and the US.

Teachers must have three or more years of successful teaching experience, are willing to host a colleague from Russia in their school, travel and teach in Russia, attend professional development sessions and share what they learn as part of the CCPS social studies program. All expenses and a stipend are included.

Prospective applicants should request an application from Jack Tuttle, content specialist in social studies, or his assistant Laura Vigneault, at 301-934-7322 or lvigneault@ccboe.com. Applications are due by Thursday, May 28.

Direct billing available through Towson

Towson University now offers direct billing, starting with the summer semester, for graduate level course work. To be eligible, teachers must be enrolled in a master's degree program approved by human resources or enrolled in course work beyond a master's degree pre-approved by human resources. Contact human resources, 301-934-7255, for a pre-payment form, which must be submitted along with the application for tuition reimbursement. Paperwork must be submitted no later than two weeks from the first day of a semester. The maximum allowance for tuition reimbursement for teachers is \$2,225.

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.