

# School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

• December 4, 2009 •

R-331



## Happy Thanksgiving friends!

More than 60 kindergartners at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School celebrated friendship and Thanksgiving during a feast held Tuesday, Nov. 24. Students prepared the food with the assistance of their classroom teachers and baked pies to share with one another. Kindergartners Olaronke Afolabi, pictured above left and Kyla Guthrie, pictured above right, share in the tradition of friendship and Thanksgiving by shaking hands with one another. During the feast, students were seated next to children from another class and were asked to introduce themselves to new friends.

## Board hosts legislators to discuss budget concerns

State legislators and Board of Education members met this week to discuss budget cuts and legislative concerns.

Board vice chair Roberta Wise told legislators, including Sen. Thomas “Mac” Middleton and delegates Murray Levy, Sally Jameson and Peter Murphy, the Board has concerns about possible changes to maintenance of effort, teacher retirement and binding arbitration laws.

Board member Pam Pedersen said the school system is in a perfect storm, the target of local and state officials for major budget cuts during a time when the school system is beginning to see results from previous investments in education. “We have made positive

strides in educating our children,” Pedersen said. She pointed to increases in advanced placement classes and participation, reduction in class size and minority achievement as major accomplishments.

“We don’t want to lose the gains we have made,” Board member Maura Cook said while urging officials to look at a good school system as the economic engine the county needs to grow and prosper.

Board members provided legislators a listing of cuts already made by the school system, including elimination of nearly 30 administrative positions, changes to the prescription plan, downsizing of programs and consolidating

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### *Payroll announcement*

The first scheduled pay date for 2010 will be Monday, Jan. 4. Normally, the biweekly pay date would fall on Friday, Jan. 1; however this is a bank holiday and payroll cannot be submitted to the bank to post on a holiday.

### *Interims issued*

Interim reports will be issued to students on Monday, Dec. 7.

### *All-County concerts*

The All-County middle and high school concerts will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, at Westlake High School. The chorus concerts begin at 1:30 p.m.; the band concerts begin at 4 p.m.; and the orchestra concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

### *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. 9, at the College of Southern Maryland. The competition will be held in the fine arts building. The top two winning teams will compete in a regional televised match to be aired on WRC TV (NBC 4) early next year.

### *Vaccination clinic*

Charles County Public Schools and the Department of Health will offer a free H1N1 vaccination clinic from 3 to 7 p.m., Dec. 7, at La Plata High School. The clinic is open to children ages 3-19 and an adult must accompany children under the age of 18. Call 301-609-6900 or visit [www.charlescountyhealth.org](http://www.charlescountyhealth.org) for more information.



## Notebook

### *Toy and food drive*

Charles County Public Schools is hosting a toy and food drive to benefit the Children's Aid Society and the Southern Maryland Food Bank. Donation boxes are located in the main lobby of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building until the last collection day, Dec. 16.

### *MetLife meetings*

MetLife advisors will be at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in room 116. Representatives will be available to review account information, schedule appointments, set up new enrollments or answer any questions. A list of school assignments and advisor information is available on the school system Web site under the staff services section.

### *Airing this weekend*

Airing this Friday is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, a monthly show produced by the communications department that highlights school system events. This episode features coverage of the Board of Education's Legislative meeting, the fall regional art show, and important calendar information for December. The show airs on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Fios Channel 16.

### *On the cover*

Pictured on the cover are employees from the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center. Pictured, from left; are: Nancy Marth, secretary for Early Intervention program; Joyce Yates, multiple intensity teaching instructional assistant; Seth Rak, adaptive physical education teacher; and Wendy Proctor, building service worker.

## In Memoriam

### Antoinette McClary



Antoinette McClary

Chief Antoinette D. McClary, NJROTC instructor at Westlake High School, passed away on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009. She began her career with Charles County Public Schools as a substitute in 2006. She was hired full time at Westlake in April 2009.

Chief McClary grew up in Maryland and graduated from the University of Phoenix in May 2006 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Chief McClary was a member of the United States Navy and served as a recruiter for more than 20 years. She lived in Waldorf, and is survived by her two daughters.

Funeral services were held Dec. 3 at Mt. Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton.

## Board of Education meeting agenda - Dec. 8

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 8 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 Public Forum is at 6 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Fios Channel 16, and also rebroadcast throughout the week. All televised Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system Web site at [www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/](http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/).

**Executive session** – 12 p.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – La Plata High School's JROTC unit

**Superintendent's update to the Board**

### **Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County
- Student Board member update
- CIP update
- Charles County Library, CCPS resources for students and parents
- Legislative update

### **Unfinished business**

### **New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items

**Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

### **Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel

**Adjournment**

## Nominate an outstanding parent volunteer for recognition

Comcast and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) are sponsoring the third annual Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Award program. The award recognizes parents and guardians whose contributions have led to improvements in Maryland public schools.

The program was created to highlight the positive impact parents have on public schools and to encourage parent involvement. Nominees must be a parent/legal guardian of a child in a Maryland public school, and a consistent advocate of public education.

Nominees must have also demonstrated involvement in one of the five following areas within the last 24 months: communica-

tion; volunteering; learning; decision making; and/or community collaboration.

Nominations must include three letters of recommendation, a two-page narrative essay describing the nominee's contribution to public education, and completed nomination forms.

Nomination information and forms are available on the MSDE Web site, [www.marylandpublicschools.org/pima](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/pima). Nomination packets must be postmarked by Jan. 20 and should be sent to: Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Academic Policy, 7th Floor, Attention:PIMA, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

## Students learn leadership, teaching skills at local FEA conference

Charles County Public Schools held its second annual Future Educators Association (FEA) local conference on Friday, Nov. 20, at the College of Southern Maryland's La Plata campus. More than 125 students participated in the event, which consisted of guest motivational speakers and workshops hosted by school system teachers and administrators.

Students participated in two 30-minute workshops, which ranged from learning about classroom management techniques and how to dress for success, to how to write a winning essay and implementing fun mathematics activities in the classroom. Students were able to choose from more than 13 workshops.

The event's keynote speaker, Ben Glenn, otherwise known as the "Simple ADHD expert," spoke to participants about the teaching profession and his experiences in the classroom. Glenn's presentation focused on student leadership in which he stressed the importance of teachers acting as role models. "The best way you can be a leader and be an example for your students is to be a role model. My hope is that students will learn from the experiences that you have been through," he said.

Students were also given an opportunity to fill out event evaluations, which included comments on workshop content, guest speakers and the connection to the teaching profession to assist the



**Danielle Hall, center, a CSM student and member of the school's Future Teachers Club, works with Mattawoman Middle School student Ashley Marshall, left, and North Point High School student Monique Williams, right, during the Egg Drop Culture Shock workshop at the CCPS Future Educators Association conference held Nov. 20**

school system in planning for next year's conference.

Awards were also handed out during the conference in three categories: centerpiece designs, essay writing and scrapbook competitions. Student teams from participating schools created centerpieces and scrapbooks, while the essay contest was judged on an individual basis.

Each Charles County Public middle and high school has an FEA chapter for students in grades 6 – 12 who are interested in becoming educators. Student members are asked to pledge to serve as role models for their participation in FEA by promoting a positive attitude toward education to enhance the quality of educational programs.

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School has the largest FEA participation with more than 40 members. Maurice J. McDonough High School has the second largest FEA chapter, with more than 35 members, followed by the Milton M. Somers Middle School FEA chapter, with 38 members.

The FEA aims to motivate middle and high school students from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in education while studying teaching. Through hands-on career exploration opportunities, FEA members assume leadership roles and develop professional skill sets that will serve them throughout their careers.

## Meeting

Continued from page 1

services, such as printing, to reduce costs. Additionally, employees did not receive salary or step increases.

The Board opposes any efforts to waive or suspend the maintenance of effort requirement that guarantees that local education funding amounts be no less than the previous year's level.

Middleton said he does not support eliminating the maintenance of effort law; however, he does think the process needs a change. Levy agreed; however, he said he did see a need to provide counties temporary relief as they have been disproportionately hammered by state cuts while their own revenue sources are declining. He suggested the Board work with the County Commissioners or "You will be strangled forever with maintenance of effort."

Jameson reminded Board members that the state has been through its own perfect storm, but applauded the Board for its efforts on behalf of children and for cuts and reductions it has already made. Murphy warned that when agencies get in tight fiscal situations, they should look at things differently, but be careful and clear that some changes are only temporary.

Middleton acknowledged that Bridge to Excellence funding helped Maryland become the top rated school system in the nation, which has benefits for the state. However, he said the hearts and souls of other agencies have already been cut and the state needs to look at all expenditures while cutting, including education.

Legislators said that passing teacher pensions to the counties is being looked at,

but Levy said he thinks counties will be asked to pick up future increases. The Board opposes any efforts to amend current law providing for full state funding of teacher retirement costs.

Middleton addressed the Board's concern about binding arbitration saying he is going to cosponsor a bill this year that will create a new Public School Labor Relations Board.

The Board opposes the creation of a public school labor relations board, which they believe would remove the interests of students and parents from the negotiation table. The Board also opposes granting the labor relations board binding arbitration authority, which would allow the labor relations board to mandate policy and funding decisions on local boards of education.

## Personnel

Apply for positions online at [www.ccboe.com/hur](http://www.ccboe.com/hur). Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

### Job openings

**Special Education Instructional Assistants** – Openings at Henry E. Lackey High School and General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month positions. Apply by Dec. 7.

**Food Service, Assistant Manager** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 15.

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

**Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Certificated** – High school level, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher of the Emotionally Disturbed** – F. B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position.

**Life Skills Teacher** – Piccowaxen Middle School, 10-month position.

**Elementary Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Kindergarten Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher for Science** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

**Special Education Resource Teacher, Middle school level** – Two-year position to support students with disabilities; 10-month position.

**Special Education Resource Teacher, Elementary school level** – Two-year position to support students with disabilities; 10-month position.

**Library & Media Specialists** – Elementary school level and Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month positions.

**Reading Recovery Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Gifted Education Resource Teachers** – Future openings at all levels, 10-month positions.

**English Teacher** – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

**Spanish Teacher** – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position.

**Physics Teacher** – High school level, 10-month position.

**Chemistry Teacher** – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

### Extra pay positions

**Maurice J. McDonough High School** has the following openings:

- Varsity tennis coach
- Junior varsity field hockey coach

Contact Principal Jervie Petty, 301-753-1755, for details.

**La Plata High School** has the following opening:

- Varsity football coach

Contact Principal Evelyn Arnold, 301-753-1754, for details.

**Henry E. Lackey High School** has the following opening:

- Pom pons coach

Contact Principal James Short, 301-753-1753, for details.

School News is published by  
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## Nominate an outstanding teacher for *Post's* Agnes Meyer award

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for the *Washington Post's* 2010 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. The annual award honors exemplary teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching, encourage creative and quality instruction and contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education.

Nominees must be full-time teachers in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 and have a minimum of five years teaching experience. Three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Teachers, students, former students, administrators or community members may submit nominations. Teachers may not nominate themselves.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of four statements of support, one of which must be from a professional educator; a career summary; and a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria categories.

Nominees must be teachers who:

- instill a desire in students to learn and achieve;
- understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents and foster their self esteem;
- demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and the ability to share it effectively with students;
- foster cooperative relationships with their colleagues and the community;
- demonstrate outstanding leadership; and
- maintain their teaching position throughout the 2010-11 school year.

Charles County's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award recipient will be one of 21 recognized by the *Post* from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Nominations are due Friday, Dec. 11. Materials should be sent to Dawn Schaeffer, Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Md., 20646.

*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.*