



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Spring forward

Daylight saving time begins on Sunday, March 14. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.

Math, math and more math!

Students in grades three through eight will take the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in math on Tuesday, March 16, and Wednesday, March 17.

Attention history buffs

The annual Charles County Public Schools History Fair is March 19-20 at La Plata High School. The fair is open March 19 for project set up only, and judging will take place at 9 a.m., March 20. The event is open to the public at 5 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony at 6 p.m., March 20.

In the mood for a show?

North Point High School is presenting their annual spring play "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," 7 p.m., March 11-13, and a 1 p.m. matinee show will be held March 13. Tickets are \$8 for adults, and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Employees admitted free with badge.

On the cover

Pictured above are employees from Theodore G. Davis Middle School. Pictured, from left, are: Donna Milstead, food service manager; Charles Ford, building service worker; Delfone Prince, media instructional assistant; and Zachary Marshall, eighth grade math teacher.

American Red Cross

Debra Haan, physical education teacher at Arthur Middleton Elementary School, is seeking toiletry donations for the American Red Cross. Items will benefit soldiers at Andrews Air Force Base. Items in need include travel-sized shampoo, toothpaste, hand cream, tissues and toothbrushes. Send donations to Middleton to Haan's attention.

Board approves waiver; spring break days restored

A three-day state waiver to the 180-day school year is allowing Charles County Public Schools to close schools March 29, 30 and 31, and restore the days to spring break. The Board of Education on Tuesday voted to accept the state waiver, which closes schools rather than using them as snow makeup days. School and center offices are open March 29-April 1, and closed April 2 and April 5.

Superintendent James E. Richmond received notice from the state superintendent of schools on Monday that Charles County Public Schools was granted a state waiver for three of seven school days missed due to the historic snowfall in February. The school system builds four emergency days into its calendar each year, which are deleted from

the end of the year if not used. All have been used this year, making June 16 the last day of school for students.

Richmond also eliminated six early dismissal days, making up 12 hours of instructional time for students. Students made up their first two hours on March 4. Other two-hour early dismissal days that are now full days for students are: Wednesday, March 24; Wednesday, April 28; Wednesday, May 26; Friday, June 11; and Monday, June 14.

Two-hour early dismissal days on April 8, May 12, June 15 and June 16 remain as early dismissal days for students.

State law requires students to attend school for 180 days as well as a certain number of hours each school year. In late February, the

See Waiver, Page 2

State Comptroller tours John Hanson

State Comptroller Peter Franchot recently visited John Hanson Middle School to see how the school is using state capital improvement funding.

The state Board of Public Works, on which Franchot serves, recently approved \$2 million to replace failing rooftop units and a boiler at Hanson. Franchot also took the opportunity to tour the school, visit classrooms and talk to teachers. "I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of students, teachers and administrators at John Hanson Middle School. Un-

der the leadership of Superintendent James Richmond, I know this school will continue to serve as a model for others in the state," Franchot said.



Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, center back row, recently toured John Hanson Middle School. Picture with Franchot in the back row are: Sheila Austria, teacher and Deborah Hile, principal. Students, from left, are Bethany Moran, Kamiren Makell and Sierra Pritchett.

Hanson has 12 rooftop units and one boiler, which are original equipment from when the building was constructed in 1972. The equipment is failing, and because of the age of the units, parts are no longer available. Last school year, one boiler failed and was replaced as an emergency purchase. The remaining equipment is being replaced as part of this

See Comptroller, Page 3

Harris honored through Hopkins fellowship program

Stephanie Harris, a seventh-grade language arts teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School, was recently honored by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Sarah D. Barder (SDB) Fellowship program.

Harris was chosen as an SDB Fellow and joins more than 20 educators nationwide in the 2009 program, which recognizes outstanding teachers who are nominated by students for recognition. Harris was nominated by Somers eighth grader Jessica Burroughs, who submitted a nomination essay and said that Harris was the best role model a student could ask for.

“She is the one person who truly pushed me into doing better than what I thought was possible of myself. Her belief in me is what made me finally achieve an A in her class. The best thing is that I know her door is always open, ready to help yet again. It would be an understatement to call her my hero,” Burroughs wrote in her nomination letter.

Hopkins CTY programs focus on students with exceptionally high academic capabilities, and offer gifted students opportunities for educational enhance-

ment, peer interaction, and personal development. Each year, students in grades 6 through 12 who attend one of the CTY programs are invited to nominate a teacher for recognition as an outstanding educator.

“Being nominated for recognition by one of my students is a great honor. My goal in teaching is to make a difference in the lives of my students. Jessica’s nomination and essay has encouraged me and deeply touched me. I teach to make a difference and this recognition is

a tangible example of that. Knowing that I am only one of 15 teachers selected to be a CTY fellow is a humbling and exciting distinction and honor,” Harris said.

Charles Rowins, deputy to the executive director of Hopkins CTY program, presented Harris with a recognition certificate on Feb. 4 during a Somers staff meeting. Harris’ parents were also present.

A committee reviews nominations and selects 15 to 20 teachers for recognition. As a SDB Fellow, Harris will receive an all expenses paid trip to the annual SDB conference, as well as \$500 to be used for classroom materials.



Milton M. Somers Middle School teacher Stephanie Harris, center, receives a John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Fellow recognition certificate from Charles Rowins, deputy to the executive director, left. Harris was nominated for recognition by Somers eighth grader Jessica Burroughs, right.

Waiver

Maryland State Board of Education gave State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick the authority to grant up to five days for school systems closed due to severe weather and approve requests for adjustments in local school calendars. In granting the three-day waiver to Charles County Public Schools, Grasmick wrote, “Your school calendar presently exceeds the minimum state hour requirements ... Further, you indicate that you have already converted six, two-hour early dismissal days for students into full

days of instruction, restoring 12 hours of lost instructional time.”

Richmond also asked for, and received from the state, a conditional waiver of up to two more days to be used only if further inclement weather requires additional school closings this school year.

The Board of Education of Charles County, which sets the school calendar, voted Tuesday six to one to apply the three-day waiver to spring break.



National Board Certification

Teachers and specialists who hold a Standard or Advanced Professional Certificate and have a minimum of three years successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification. Applicants must submit a candidate packet, which includes a letter of interest, one-page essay indicating why they want to pursue National Board Certification and how it will enhance their teaching career, a letter of recommendation from their principal or supervisor and a current resume. Candidates are screened by a review committee to determine who will represent Charles County Public Schools in the 2010-11 fee incentive program. MSDE limits the number of applicants for CCPS to 10, and the \$2,500 application fee is fully funded by MSDE and the school system.

An information session for interested applicants is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Current National Board Certified teachers will be available to speak with possible candidates about the application process. To attend, send your RSVP by March 22 via e-mail to Evelyn Arnold, La Plata High School principal, at earnold@ccboe.com.

Teachers choosing to pursue National Board Certification must complete a demanding two-part demonstration of their knowledge and skills by developing a portfolio that reflects various aspects of their teaching and attend an assessment center during the 2010-11 application cycle, where they will complete six intensive, timed exercises. There are 25 certification areas and educators who earn National Board Certification earn six approved CPD credits, an annual \$1,000 stipend from MSDE and \$2,500 from Charles County Public Schools.

Applicants must submit completed candidate packets to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, by 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 16. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. For more information, visit the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Web site at www.nbpts.org or call 301-934-7241.

Japanese students learn about American education

Japanese student teacher candidates said farewell to host families and Charles County Public Schools on Feb. 25 during a sayonara party that ended a two-week educational visit to learn about American education.

During the sayonara party held at North Point High School, the education students from Bunkyo University provided school officials and host families with cultural performances including traditional Japanese dances, comedy, songs and a fashion show. Bunkyo University President Ohashi Yukako, who made the trip to the United States this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the program, said she has seen many overseas program, but none come close to the quality offered by Charles County Public Schools. Over the past 20 years, Yukako said, more than 600 students have experienced Charles County's hospitality and benefited from the intense work experience provided.

Charles County Public Schools Superintendent James E. Richmond told the students he hopes the visit provided them with information and cultural experience not available in books or the classroom. He talked about the future of the program and said as the economy improves, he hopes to expand the experience through Telepresence and more contact with students.

The two-week visit began with an introductory meeting at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The student teachers received system identification badges, information and tote bags, as well as a special Bunkyo University/CCPS partnership sweatshirt. During the first week of their visit, the group visited the College of Southern Maryland to speak with American education students, paired up with students at

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School and Thomas Stone High School, toured both North Point High School and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, and visited the One-room School House.



Students from Bunkyo University perform a skit during a Sayonara Party in February. Pictured, from left, are: Saori Fukuda, Eriko Qgawa, Noriko Tawada and Moeko Suzuki.

Richmond also hosted an ice cream social for the group on Feb. 17 at the Clarion Inn in Waldorf. During the second week of their visit, the student teachers helped teach lessons in classrooms across the county, including Dr. James Craik, Mary B. Neal, T.C. Martin and J.C. Parks elementary schools, as well as at Milton M. Somers and Theodore G. Davis middle schools. The group also had the opportunity to visit the University of Maryland, College Park, and to do some sight-seeing in Washington, D.C.

Yuko Floyd, who serves as the interpreter for the Bunkyo visit each year, said the student

teachers can begin applying for the partnership program during their freshman year, but the majority of students selected are sophomores or juniors. Each year, Bunkyo selects 20 to 35 students to participate, depending on the number of students who can financially support the trip.

Started in 1987, the Japanese teacher candidates attend seminars, visit classrooms and co-teach lessons. The purpose of the program is to provide the students the opportunity to identify similarities and differences between American and Japanese education; offer mini-lessons on Japanese culture and language for CCPS students; experience American family life; reflect on the relationship of American culture to practices in education; and practice English as well as for CCPS teachers and students to acquire better knowledge of Japanese language and customs. Students spend one of their two weeks living with volunteer host families from around the county.

Comptroller

Continued from page 1

project, which totals \$3 million and is partially funded with local money.

Franchot spent time talking to Hanson Principal Deborah Hile, teachers and students to learn what is being done locally to modernize some of the county's older schools. He visited a classroom to learn more about how Smart Boards are used and talked with Daniel Meltner, the computer technology teacher, about donations of computers that have been used to upgrade technology for teachers and students.

The state Board of Public Works recently voted to approve \$187.5 million in construction funds for school systems throughout the state.

Franchot travels across the state to spend time at schools to see how systems are dealing with issues such as overcrowding, modernization of buildings, and making schools more energy efficient. He spent time at Hanson to see the recent upgrades, including storefront walls that enclose much of the former open space classrooms, furniture and security cameras. Upgrades were made in the summer of 2008 and paid for by the school system with nearly \$200,000 of end-of-year fund balance.

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One Thing, Two Things ...

Staff at John Hanson Middle School celebrated Read Across Charles County by dressing as infamous Dr. Seuss book characters. Dressed as "Things" from the book "The Cat in the Hat" are staff members, back row from left, Virginia Evey, Megan English, Diane Morgan, Joan Parochetti, Kathryn Neiles, Sonia Jones, Diane Matlock, Mark Rapson, Cynthia Corbett and Brenda Vitanovec. Front row, from left, are Linda Buffalo, Mary Butkiewicz, Charlotte Kelton, Hanson Principal Deborah Hile, dressed as the cat, Darlene Davoy and Jennifer Connelly. The school system celebrates the event in conjunction with the National Read Across America each year to support literacy.



Personnel

Apply for positions online at 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

Purchasing Assistant – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by March 12.
Building Service Worker – T. C. Martin Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by March 15.
Food Service Substitutes – Openings at all schools, hours and locations vary. Apply by March 12.
Special Education Instructional Assistant – William B. Wade Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by March 17.
Family & Consumer Science Teacher – High school level, 10-month position.
Physics Teacher – High school level, 10-month position.

Summer Academy Administrators, Elementary and Middle school levels – Locations to be determined. Applicants must be a current vice principal or administrative assistant at a Charles County public school. Apply by March 19.
Summer Academy Program Coordinators, Elementary, Middle and High school levels – Locations and hours to be determined. Applicants must have a master's degree or advanced professional certificate; a minimum of three years of satisfactory teaching experience; a minimum of two years of experience in leadership roles; and two years of Summer Academy experience. Apply by March 19.
Summer Academy Site Coordinators, Elementary, Middle and High school levels – Locations and hours to be determined. Master's degree or an advanced professional certificate required; a minimum of three years of satisfactory teaching experience; two years of experience in leadership roles; and one year of Summer Academy

experience is preferred. Apply by March 19.
Business Teacher – Westlake High School, 10-month position.
Technology Education Teacher – Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position.
English Teachers – Westlake and Thomas Stone high schools, 10-month positions.
Special Education Teacher of the Emotionally Disturbed – F. B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position.
Special Education Infant & Toddler Teacher – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position.

Extra pay positions

Westlake High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity cross country coach
- Head varsity field hockey coach
- Head junior varsity girls' soccer coach
- Head varsity boys' soccer coach

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