



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Spring break

Spring break for students and teachers is March 29-April 5. Schools reopen on Tuesday, April 6. Administrative offices are closed Good Friday, April 2, and Easter Monday, April 5. Office hours during spring break are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Visit the Garden of Eden

Maurice J. McDonough High School is presenting their annual spring play, Stephen Schwartz's "Children of Eden," on April 9-10, 7 p.m., and April 11 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and \$7 for ITS members. Discounted tickets can be purchased online at [www.mcdonoughdrama.com](http://www.mcdonoughdrama.com).

Thomas Stone High School is presenting their annual spring play, Andrew Drewe's "Honk," on April 8-10. Performance time for all three dates is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Tickets will be sold at the door 30 minutes prior to the start of each show.

### Board to name high school

The Charles County Board of Education is seeking community input and suggestions for a name for a new high school that will open in 2013 and will be built off Piney Church Road in Fairway Village in St. Charles.

Board of Education policy requires that schools shall have names of either deceased persons or places of significance to Charles County.

Anyone wishing to recommend a name to the committee must present written documentation, not to exceed one typewritten page, front and back, of the significance of the proposed name. Supporting documents may also be included, but please do not send original copies. No materials will be returned. Send proposals no later than April 23 to [board-mail@ccboe.com](mailto:board-mail@ccboe.com).

## What Counts II followup

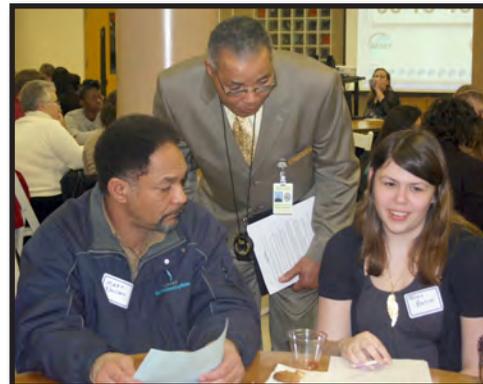
Highly trained, effective teachers top parents and students' list of what is most important to education.

More than 70 people had the opportunity recently to tell the Board of Education what they think counts in education in a community forum called "What Counts II."

The goal of the forum was simple. Board members wanted to expand conversation started in 2008 at the first What Counts where residents compiled their top 10 priorities about what matters most in education. Participants also explored how the effectiveness and quality of public schools should be measured.

Participants shared their ideas for safe schools, quality teachers and class sizes in a two-hour, kitchen-table style forum where each group came up with their top three priorities for education.

See What Counts, Page 2



Board of Education member Charles Carrington, center, talks with Thomas Stone High School parent Mark Woodland, right, and Maurice J. McDonough High School junior Melissa Bortner, left, about what is important in education during What Count's II held Feb. 18 at Westlake High School.

## MASC honors North Point High School, John Hanson teacher

Mark Brashears, student government advisor and social studies teacher at John Hanson Middle School, is the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) 2009-10 Middle School Advisor of the Year.

He was honored at the MASC annual convention held last month in Ocean City for his contributions in promoting middle school involvement at the school, regional and state levels, and for ensuring student council participation and success. Brashears was selected for the award by an awards committee, which includes a regional MASC president, a middle school student representative, the Student Member to the State Board of Education, MASC elected officers and the MASC executive director.

The MASC Middle School Advisor of the Year award was created to recognize the special contributions of middle school advisors in promoting middle school involvement at the school, regional, and state

levels. While the award singles out an individual on the state level, the purpose of the award is to highlight the many contributions made by all student council advisors throughout the state, according to MASC.

Additionally, North Point High School was recognized as a 2008-09 recipient of the Felix Simon award, which recognizes individual school-based student council groups for outstanding and effective activities, school involvement and improvement, and communication. During last year's state convention, North Point was inadvertently not recognized.

The mission of MASC is to foster a statewide environment for all secondary school students to express and exchange opinions and ideas, develop leadership skills, and to promote student representation and involvement in all groups and organizations impacting the lives of students.



Mark Brashears



**On the cover**

Pictured on the cover are employees from J.P. Ryon Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Tracy Blake, reading resource teacher; Wanda Chesley, building service worker; Benjamin Harrington, special education teacher; and Octavia Butler, kindergarten teacher.

**MSA results honored**

Eight Charles County public schools were recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education in the 2009 Maryland School Performance Recognition Program, which honors schools for achievement and improvement on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) or the High School Assessment (HSA).

Dr. James Craik and William B. Wade elementary schools, and Milton M. Somers Middle School were honored for overall achievement. Craik, Dr. Gustavus Brown, William A. Diggs, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Malcolm, and Mary H. Matula elementary schools, and Somers Middle School, were recognized for subgroup improvement

The School Performance Recognition Program recognizes elementary, middle and high schools annually for achievement and subgroup improvement based on the MSA and HSA. The program provides an incentive for schools to continue to make academic improvement and gives schools public recognition.

**2010 teacher of the year**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2010 Charles County Teacher of the Year. Nominees must be a classroom, resource or media teacher who has spent the majority of time teaching in the classroom. Only one nominee can be submitted per school and nominees must have completed a minimum of five years of teaching. Additional nomination information, and the application, is available on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at <http://www2.ccoeb.com/staffdev/TOY.cfm>.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Friday, April 16. Contact Jevonna Willis, instructional specialist for staff development, at [jwillis@ccoeb.com](mailto:jwillis@ccoeb.com) or 301-934-7280 for more information.

**Board honors employees for years of service**

Thomas Weirich, principal of the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, and James Cornette, an assistant in school administration and operations for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), were honored by the Board of Education for 45 years of service to the school system and children during a Feb. 24 ceremony.

Weirich began his career with CCPS in 1964 as a physical education teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School. He was named vice principal at Lackey in 1971 and was promoted to principal at La Plata High School in 1976, where he held the position for nine years. He also served as principal at Thomas Stone High School from 1985 to 1991 before taking a position as principal of special programs at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.

In 1994, Weirich was named the coordinator of adult education and alternative programs for the former evening high school program, otherwise known as NOV-EL, which was located at the Radio Station Road Academy site before relocating to the



**James Cornette, assistant in school administration and operations, left, and Thomas Weirich, principal of the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, right, were honored by the Board of Education for 45 years of service to the school system and to children in Charles County during a years of service ceremony held Feb. 24. The Board also honored 82 other CCPS employees.**

Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

Cornette also began his career with the school system in 1964 in the social studies department at La Plata High School, where he taught for eight years. He was named vice principal at Lackey in 1972 and was promoted to principal at General Smallwood Middle School in 1976, a position he held for nine years.

Cornette was named principal at Lackey in 1985 and took over the principal position at Maurice J. McDonough High School in 1991.

Cornette served as McDonough's principal for six years before taking an administrative position at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in the administrative services/hearing department. In 2001, Cornette was named an assistant in school administration and operations.

Additionally, the Board of Education honored 82 other Charles County Public Schools employees with 40, 35, 30 and 25 years of service. Each year, the Board honors employees for their service to children and the school system.

See Service, Page 3

**What Counts**

The top three priorities in 2010 are:

- Teachers who are well trained and knowledgeable about how to teach effectively;
- High parental involvement; and
- Wide range of academic programs.

Facilitator and Board Member Pam Pedersen told the audience that they had just validated the Board of Education's budget request to the commissioners. Nearly 80 percent of the Board's budget is dedicated to employee salaries. The only addition in the Board's 2010-11 budget request is to honor negotiated step and level increases for employees.

**Continued from page 1**

The starting point for discussion was a top 10 list of school quality signs developed in September 2008 by parents, students and community members.

Board Member Maura Cook said, "The forum allowed us to hear opinions on what people expect of schools, especially in these times of tight budgets and high accountability."

Held Thursday, Feb. 18 at Westlake High School, the forum was a continuation of efforts the Board of Education is making to better communicate with the public and gather input.

**Employees who have completed 40 years of service are:**

- David Anderson, teacher/athletic director, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Garnet Anderson, school counselor, John Hanson Middle School;
- Van Connor, pupil personnel worker, General Smallwood Middle School;
- Daniel Fenwick, truck driver, warehouse – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building;
- Patricia Hart, reading kindergarten instructional assistant, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Rosalee Reeves, teacher, J. P. Ryon Elementary School;
- Joyce Steele, food service worker, Lackey;
- Barbara Tillman, secretary to the principal, Berry Elementary School;
- Concitta Walls, college and career advisor, Lackey; and
- Mary Young, accounting assistant, Starkey.

**Employees who have completed 35 years of service are:**

- Mary Amey, language arts teacher, Hanson;
- Cynthia Baker, principal, Smallwood;
- Annie Blount, principal, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy;
- John Brown, carpenter, Radio Station Annex Building;
- Roy Butler, building service manager, Berry;
- Sarah Cox, kindergarten teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School;
- Barbara Devane, secretary to the principal, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School;
- William Fisher, technology teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School;
- Patrice Graff, teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School;
- Kathryn McGowan, kindergarten teacher, Turner;
- Lucile Rice, instructional specialist, Picco-waxen Middle School;
- John Sams, director hearing officer/court liaison, Starkey;
- Robert Taylor, warehouse foreman, Starkey;
- Joseph Thomas, English teacher, La Plata High School;
- Sheila Thompson, building service manager, North Point High School; and
- Mary Woodland, special education instructional assistant, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.

**Employees who have completed 30 years of service are:**

- Maria Arevalo, language arts teacher,

- Smallwood;
- Carol Briscoe, kindergarten instructional assistant, T. C. Martin Elementary School;
- Bonnie Brown, science teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School;
- Elizabeth Brown, president, Educational Association of Charles County;
- Linda Buffalo, language arts teacher, Hanson;
- Joyce Campbell, gifted education resource teacher, Starkey;
- Doc Carroll, building service manager, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Center;
- Linda Cecil, job placement coordinator, North Point;
- William Chichester, physical education teacher, North Point;
- Debra Coulby, special education instructional assistant, Berry;
- Daniel Devitis, school counselor, La Plata;
- Mary Fenton, kindergarten teacher, J.C. Parks Elementary School;
- Mary Hasemeier, social studies teacher, La Plata;
- Judith Howell, mathematics teacher, La Plata;
- Mark Howell, social studies teacher, West-lake High School;
- Arlene Hunt, teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Hig-don Elementary School;
- Drew Jepsky, director of instructional as-sessment, Starkey;
- Paul Jones, general maintenance worker, Annex Building;
- Peter Mahon, social studies teacher, La Plata;
- Mary McCauley, teacher, Martin;
- Varlenia McCoy-Scott, business education teacher, Lackey;
- Diane Morgan, language arts teacher, Hanson;
- Sylvia Neale, kindergarten instructional as-sistant, Mary B. Neal Elementary School;
- Shirley Olup, kindergarten instructional assistant, Mitchell;
- Debra Patterson, kindergarten teacher, Mitchell;
- James Puffenbarger, painter, Annex Build-ing;
- Davis Rice, Latin teacher, Maurice J. Mc-Donough High School;
- Anita Riggans, special education teacher, Smallwood;
- Carol Russell, pupil personnel worker, Westlake;

- Kim Taylor, kindergarten teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School; and
- Jane Thoman, instructional specialist for elementary math, Starkey.

**Employees who have completed 25 years of service are:**

- Sandy Andrews, secretary to the principal, Gale-Bailey;
- Diane Bowling, senior student data ac-counting clerk, Starkey;
- Mary Carroll, building service worker, Lackey;
- Jean Collins, Life Skills instructional as-sistant, Thomas Stone High School;
- Marilou Cooper, Reading Recovery teacher, Ryon;
- Carolyn Crouse, food service manager, Neal;
- Marsha Dawes, special education instruc-tional assistant, Stone;
- Donna Dickson, special education teacher, McDonough;
- Aeronita Dillard, administrative assistant, Stone;
- Mary Downs, business education teacher, Lackey;
- Shirley Farren, secretary to supporting ser-vices, Radio Station Site-Building 101;
- Susan Heath, secretary to the principal, Stethem;
- Gerald Higdon, stock keeper, Annex Building;
- Patricia Hoffman, mathematics teacher, La Plata;
- Linda Hollomon, elementary teacher, Mal-colm Elementary School;
- Richard Kelly, special education teacher, Mattawoman Middle School;
- Clifford Nagle, teacher/athletic director, La Plata;
- Vivian Nelson, special education teacher, Stone;
- Pomie Radcliff, physical education teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School;
- Elaine Reynolds, science teacher, La Plata;
- Stephanie Roberts, special education teacher, McDonough;
- Mary Springer, technology facilitator, Hig-don;
- Louis Sweetney, building service assistant manager, North Point;
- Joy Thompson, reading teacher, Somers; and
- Carolyn Wentworth, Reading Recovery teacher, Matula.

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## System receives grants for Gateway Academies

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Education Foundation recently awarded Charles County Public Schools \$16,000 in grant funds in support of implementing the weeklong summer pre-engineering Gateway Academy at each county middle school.

The Gateway Academy, developed by the SME-Education Foundation and Project Lead The Way (PLTW), is a project-based experience designed to introduce middle school students to the fundamentals of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). As part of the Academy, students will work together using technology to learn about robotics, aeronautics and computer design. The Academy is also specifically aimed at girls and minorities and gives middle school students the opportunity to prepare

for the rigor of high school and college.

Charles County Public Schools plans to host eight Gateway Academies this summer, and each site will receive \$2,000 from the grant. The school system was selected as a grant recipient because three out of six county high schools – Henry E. Lackey, La Plata and Maurice J. McDonough – offer PLTW high school engineering classes to students. Additionally, all eight middle schools offer students the opportunity to participate in the Gateway to Technology (GTT) program, a version of PLTW for sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Charles County Public Schools also plans to offer PLTW classes to students at Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools next year, and has 16 certified PLTW teachers.

## Two students earn national education awards

Two Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students, Milton M. Somers Middle School eighth grader Georgette “Synade” Beason, and Henry E. Lackey High School junior Tyler Warner, recently received national awards through the 2010 Future Educators Association (FEA) Leadership Conference, held Feb. 18-20 in Atlanta.

Beason won first place in the 2010 Writing

Prompt Essay Competition. Her essay discussed technological advances and their implications on the teaching profession. Warner received a certificate of participation in the FEA Moment Competition.

This competition highlights students' FEA experience, and how their participation in the club has impacted their decision to become an educator.

## Personnel

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

### Job Openings

**Building Service Assistant Manager** – Maurice McDonough High School; 12-month position. Apply by March 31.

**Food Service, Assistant Manager** – Location to be determined; 10-month positions. Apply by March 26.

**Long-Term Substitute Teacher-Support** – High school level; 10-month position.

**Secretary to the Principal** – J. P. Ryon Elementary School; 12-month position. Apply by March 31.

**Title I Instructional Specialist for Technology** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 11-month position.

**Secretary-12 month** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Apply by April 2.

**Title 1 Secretary** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Apply by April 2.

**Instructional Specialist** – Future openings – all levels; 11-month positions.

**Gifted Education Resource Teacher-Middle School** – Future openings; 10-month positions.

**Speech Language Therapist** – All age levels; 10-month positions.

**Family & Consumer Science Teacher** – High school level; 10-month position.

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

**Technology Education Teacher** – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position.

**English Teacher** – Westlake and Thomas Stone high schools; 10-month positions.

**Gifted Education Resource Teacher** – Future openings, all levels; 10-month positions.

**Reading Resource Teacher** – Future openings, all levels; 11-month positions.

**Science Teacher** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; 10-month position.

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

**Library & Media Specialist** – Elementary school level; 10-month position.

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

**High School Instructional Resource Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position.

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

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

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