



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Science Fair

The annual Charles County Public Schools Science Fair is this weekend, April 9-10 at North Point High School. Judging begins April 10 at 8:30 a.m. and the awards ceremony is at 6 p.m. The fair will be open to the public beginning at 3 p.m., April 10.

Take a magic carpet ride

Henry E. Lackey High School is presenting their annual spring play, "Curtains," on April 16-17, 7:30 p.m., and April 18, 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, and \$7 for students, senior citizens and military members. Children under the age of five will be admitted free of charge. School system staff can also attend free of charge with their id badge.

La Plata High School is presenting Disney's "Aladdin," on April 29-30, and May 1-2. Performance time for April 29-30 and May 1 is 6:30 p.m. The May 2 performance starts at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. School system staff can attend free of charge. Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting Jennifer Joyner at jjoyner@ccboe.com.

Computer Bowl winners

The La Plata High School Computer Bowl team recently placed first in the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) 21st regional Computer Bowl.

La Plata was one of 23 teams from 11 Southern Maryland high schools that competed in challenging literacy and programming tests in the annual event, which was held March 6. The team, composed of Mike Diley, William Hicks, Matt Koontz and Alex Smith, received \$500 performance awards to be used for courses at the College of Southern Maryland, computer backpacks from Booz Allen Hamilton, trophies, U.S. Savings Bonds as well as a school trophy and plaque.

Baker named 2010 Principal of the Year

General Smallwood Middle School Principal Cynthia Baker is known as a change agent with a positive attitude and strong personality. It's that positive attitude, her Smallwood "family" says, that has caused enormous changes in community perception, student achievement and staff morale at Smallwood since Baker became principal four years ago.

Baker has a strong commitment to children, or her "babies" as she calls them, and that dedication has earned Baker this year's title of Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year and the *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leader award.

While Baker says collaboration, team work and a sense of family has helped make her successful as a principal, her students, staff and parents say it is her passion for excellence, respect for others and school spirit that fuels their love for their principal. "Who has heels on every day, comes to school with a smile and loves us? If you are thinking of Mrs. Baker, then you are correct. You should choose Mrs. Baker as Principal of the Year



Cynthia Baker

because she is always organized, fair and loving," Sierra Beatty, a sixth-grade student, wrote in a nomination letter.

Sixth-grader Melissa Blevins agrees. She wrote, "Mrs. Baker is a kind, sweet, and caring person and loves all her students. She

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Jowdy named 2010 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher

Pirate Ship is one of the most popular student activities in the Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School gymnasium. Students are separated into teams and their goal is to retrieve treasure, which is carefully guarded by Higdon's physical education teacher, Jill Jowdy. As she stands in the middle of the gym, armed with a long foam swimming noodle, Jowdy calls students from each team into the center to attempt to "rob" her. The goal is for students to exercise, have fun and work together.



Jill Jowdy

The passion Jowdy has to teach students healthy habits and build their confidence

levels is evident when she interacts with each child. She encourages self esteem and believes in her students, and it shows in her daily lessons. Not only does she teach her students to live healthy lifestyles, but she incorporates reading, mathematics, science and writing curriculum into each lesson. She has high expectations for her students and encourages them to do their best. It is these qualities, and her ability to challenge students to be the best they can, that earned Jowdy the

2010 *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for Charles County.

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On the cover

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education March 9. Pictured, from left, are: Mary Bilmanis, college and career advisor, Thomas Stone High School; Jeffrey Lambert, physical education teacher, General Smallwood Middle School; and Cheryl Ervin, Reading Recovery teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School.

Teacher of the year

Nominations for the Charles County candidate for Maryland Teacher of the Year are due by April 16 to the office of program support. The nominated teacher must be a classroom, resource, or media teacher who spends the majority of his or her time teaching and must have completed a minimum of five years teaching. There can only be one nominee per school. For additional information, contact Jevonna Willis at 301-934-7280 or jwillis@ccboe.com.

There is a two-tiered process for the selection of the candidate for the Maryland Teacher of the Year. The first step is at the county level where applications are received and one candidate is selected to represent the Teacher of the Year for Charles County. Each Maryland county and Baltimore City selects one teacher and sends that completed application to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The applications are then scored and tallied, interviews are conducted, and the Maryland Teacher of the Year is selected through MSDE.

Early Childhood Registration

Registration for the three's program, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten begins on Monday, April 19. Application packets are available on the school system Web site at www2.ccboe.com/register/register.cfm#prek.

Student skills on display

Student engineers, scientists and mathematicians will put their skills on display as part of the upcoming regional Maryland Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) competitions. The elementary-level competition is 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 12 at North Point High School. The secondary-level competition is 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 20 at North Point.

Agnes Meyer

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Jowdy has spent her 30-year career with Charles County Public Schools as the physical education teacher at Higdon. She was hired in 1980 when Higdon was formerly known as Glasva/Wayside Elementary School. Higdon Principal Peggy Mertes said Jowdy is an outstanding teacher who goes far above and beyond the expectations for a teacher to help children excel in life.

"She is deeply committed to this school – to the students, staff, parents and community. Her efforts in supporting children should be recognized as she will do what it takes to make each child successful. Her efforts for this school all show that her beliefs are to have our school exist for children first," Mertes said in a nomination letter.

Jowdy was "astounded" that she was nominated for the *Post's* Agnes Meyer award. "I am both honored and humbled to win this award. I was shocked that I was nominated, since most nominees are classroom teachers, but I am very honored that I was selected. It makes me very proud of my profession," she said.

Jowdy said her desire to teach physical education began when she was in middle school. It was the first time she took physical education, and her teacher would always pick the best students to participate in class activities. "I recognized that there was a different way of teaching physical education to include all students. I realized that I

wanted to teach basic physical skills so all children could participate and have confidence in their athletic skills," Jowdy said.

Higdon parent Julie Chapman has been a part of the Higdon community for 14 years and said Jowdy is an exceptional teacher. "She has always encouraged my children to put forth their best effort. She stresses teamwork, sportsmanship and having fun," Chapman wrote in an award nomination letter.

Higdon fifth grader Cameron Warfield said Jowdy taught him strategies to use to become better in soccer. "I think she is the best P.E. teacher in the world. We always have so much fun playing basketball and hockey," he said in a nomination letter.

Jowdy obtained her master's degree in guidance and counseling from Bowie State University in 1987. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1980 from Frostburg University, where she majored in health and physical education.

The goals of the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, which is sponsored by the *Washington Post* Company Educational Foundation, are to recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education. The *Post* will honor Jowdy during a May 11 reception, and the Board of the Education will honor her at the June 1 meeting.



School system to honor outstanding vice principal

Charles County Public Schools is looking for outstanding vice principals.

The school system is accepting nominations for its annual Outstanding Vice Principal Award to be presented to a vice principal who has exemplified excellence. Teachers, parents, students and administrators may submit nominations. Employees may not nominate themselves.

The winner will be announced at a ceremony at the Board of Education meeting on June 1.

Nominees must be full-time employees, and employed by Charles County Public Schools as a vice principal for a minimum of three years. Nominees must meet criteria establishing their educational

leadership ability, their ability to resolve complex problems, their dedication to continued professional growth of themselves and others and their community service.

Nomination materials must include:

- a minimum of three statements of support (must be current);
- a brief career summary; and
- a description of contributions in each area of the nomination criteria.

Nomination packets should be forwarded to the division of human resources by April 27. A committee composed of administrative personnel will make the final selection.

For more information, contact the Human Resources Division, 301-934-7356.

Principal

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calls us her babies. We are like a big family here at General Smallwood.”

Baker uses the Power of One to mobilize staff and students and to shift everyone toward working together for success. “Last year, we missed making Adequate Yearly Progress by 1.23 percent, which is equivalent to one person. Therefore, we decided to create a theme that reflects what happens when we become one, working together on one accord. We also want to send a very strong message that each one makes a difference,” Baker said.

Described in her nomination as a champion for student success, parents describe Baker as an excellent communicator who puts the best interests of their children first. “She does not miss an opportunity to teach or redirect any one of her Bulldogs so they can meet the high expectations she has for her students. Baker makes an obvious effort to find potential in her students that often times they, or their parents, don’t see,” fellow principal and Smallwood parent Thadine Wright wrote.

Staff members said Baker is enthusiastic, passionate and has instilled professionalism and a sense of belonging for all staff and students at Smallwood. Teachers describe her as a visible principal who makes morning announcements, visits classrooms and eats lunch with students. Her devotion to Smallwood, its students and staff, has created a school that students are proud to attend and where her teachers are proud to work.

“The most endearing quality of Ms. Baker is that she loves each and every one of her kids and has a concurrent ability to relate not only to them, but also to every employee that walks into her school ... It is with this dedication that every student that walks through the doors of Smallwood knows they have an equal learning opportunity that awaits them,” Bethany Barthelmes, teacher, wrote.



Smallwood Principal Cynthia Baker, pictured left, greets two of her students as they arrive at school. Baker is the 2010 Principal of the Year for Charles County.

Baker is a 35-year veteran educator who began her career as a social studies teacher at La Plata High School where she taught from 1974-1997. She served as an administrative intern at Milton M. Somers Middle School during the 1997-98 school year and as vice principal at Somers from 1998-2004. In 2004, Baker was named as Charles County Public Schools Vice Principal of the Year. Baker was promoted to the principal position in 2004 at Piccowaxen Middle School. She transferred to Smallwood as principal in 2006. Baker earned her bachelor of science in secondary education social studies in 1974 from Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina and her master’s degree in school administration and supervision from Bowie State University in 2001. “Even though I’m originally from Elizabeth City, North Carolina, I feel that I am home grown because this is the only real job I’ve had. Teaching is my love; it is my passion,” Baker said.

Baker said she was speechless when told by Superintendent James E. Richmond she was the principal of the year. “This honor of outstanding principal is a culmination of the commitment and dedication of team work from the

entire Smallwood community, composed of students, parents, staff, teachers, administrative staff, instructional leadership team, counseling department, building services, food services and local community stakeholders. We believe in mobilizing and shifting toward success for the benefit of our students.”

The *Washington Post* each year honors outstanding principals through its educational foundation. A school system committee reviews nominations and one principal is chosen to represent Charles County as its Principal of the Year. The *Washington Post* Education Foundation on April 29 will honor Baker during a ceremony for the recipients of the Distinguished Educational Leadership awards.



Nominations for outstanding support personnel awards now being accepted

Charles County Public Schools is accepting nominations for its annual Outstanding Support Personnel Awards. The awards recognize support personnel who exemplify excellence in their positions.

The awards include five categories: Outstanding Building Service Employee, Outstanding Food Service Employee, Outstanding Instructional Support Employee, Outstanding Maintenance Employee and Outstanding Secretary.

To be eligible, the employee must be a full-time support employee, employed by Charles County Public Schools for a minimum of three years and employed in the area for which they are nominated for a minimum of three years.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of three statements of support, a brief career summary and a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria. Nominees must be support

personnel who: are resourceful in seeking and completing job responsibilities; seek new knowledge and skills; know and understand all aspects of the assigned job; utilize technology where appropriate; foster cooperative relationships with students, colleagues and the community; and demonstrate outstanding leadership.

All nomination materials should be submitted to the division of human resources by April 27. Teachers, students, colleagues, parents and administrators may make nominations.

The goals of the program are to recognize exemplary employees and to encourage support personnel to provide creative and quality services that support the schools and the school system.

Recipients will be announced and recognized by the Board of Education on June 1.

School News is published by
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Board of Education announces April 20 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 20, 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 Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week. Program schedules are available at www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm.

Executive session – 11:30 a.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Maurice J. McDonough High School's JROTC unit

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Superintendent's update
- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board member update
- CIP update
- One-room school house update
- High School 2013 update
- Career and Technology Education (CTE)
- Budget update
- Legislative update

- Draft policy 6411.21 – Physical education and athletic programs for students with disabilities
- Unfinished business**
- New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items
- Recognition – 4:30 p.m.**

- Students
- Employees
- Resolutions: *Teacher Appreciation Week; Administrative Professionals' Week; Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week; National Physical Education and Sport Week;* and Cynthia Baker, General Smallwood Middle School principal, *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leader and the 2010 Charles County Principal of the Year

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- SY 2011-2012 calendar

Adjournment



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

NOVEL Facilitator – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, hourly part-time position. Candidates with math and science background and teacher certification preferred; bachelor's degree required. Salary is \$23.80 per hour and facilitator would be needed Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Contact Jackie Plante at 301-932-1003 for more information.

Secondary Instructional Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position.

Speech Language Therapist – Openings at all age levels, 10-month positions.

Gifted Education Resource Teacher – Future openings at Middle School 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.

Staff Notes

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 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.

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.