



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Congratulations North Point

Congratulations to the North Point High School varsity boys' basketball team, which earned the Maryland Class 4A state championship title. The team defeated Patterson High School with a score of 76 to 72 on Saturday, March 12, in a finals game held at the University of Maryland. The Eagles team finished their overall season undefeated.

Work session agenda

The Board of Education is holding a public work session to discuss the status of St. Charles High School on Monday, March 21, 6 p.m., in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The meeting will be aired live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12. It is also broadcast live on the school system Web site at www2.ccoeb.com/boe/live/. Portions of the meeting may be closed as permitted by State Government Article 10-508 (a).

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, March 23.

Calling all history buffs

The Charles County Public Schools History Fair is March 26 at Maurice J. McDonough High School. Judging begins at 9 a.m., and the awards ceremony is at 6 p.m.

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 event is 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 30, at North Point High School. The secondary event is 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 31, at North Point.

Employees rally for pensions and education funding

More than 500 Charles County Public Schools teachers and support staff rallied in Annapolis Monday night urging legislators to fund pensions and education.

Teachers are protesting budget-balancing plans that would change pensions by increasing employee contributions, adding years on the job before an employee becomes vested and extending the early-retirement age from 55 to 60. Governor Martin O'Malley's budget proposal also cuts operating funds to school systems by reducing per pupil funding levels.

Chanting "Keep your promise," Charles County Public Schools employees boarded 13 buses and marched along with thousands of school employees from around the state to the Lawyer's Mall in front of the State House. Clapping thunder sticks and ringing bells,

members of the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) called proposed education funding and pension cuts short sighted.

Liz Brown, president of the EACC, says it's no accident that Maryland's schools have been ranked first in the nation for three consecutive years. She is pleased with the turnout and hopes the rally made a difference. "I hope our elected officials keep their campaign promises and restore funding," Brown said.

"On the issue of school funding, considering our ranking, it's hard to argue that the infusion of money from the Thornton Formula was not well spent – our students are getting the best education

in the country. Great public schools raise property values, attract businesses, and im-

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La Plata High School instructional assistant Thomas Hutchinson, left, and Phyllis Hutchinson, right, a La Plata substitute, were among more than 500 Charles County Public Schools employees who rallied in Annapolis on Monday.

State honors schools for academic improvement

Sixteen Charles County schools earned recognition in the 2010 Maryland School Performance Recognition Program, which honors schools for academic achievement and subgroup improvement on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA).

The Maryland State Department of Education recognition program honors schools for performance on the 2010 MSA or the High School Assessments (HSA), and for improving the performance of special populations of students. Only schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2009-10 school year were eligible for recognition.

Five schools were honored for overall academic achievement and subgroup

achievement. They are La Plata High School, Milton M. Somers Middle School, North Point High School, Piccowaxen Middle School and T.C. Martin Elementary School.

Dr. James Craik Elementary School and William B. Wade Elementary School were honored for overall academic achievement.

Arthur Middleton Elementary School, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, Gale-Bailey Elementary School, J.P. Ryon Elementary School, Mary B. Neal Elementary School, Matthew Henson Middle School, Maurice J. McDonough High School, Westlake High School and William A. Diggs Elementary School were honored for subgroup achievement.

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On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education March 8. Pictured, from left, are: William Marchione, school counselor, Piccowaxen Middle School; Carey Rohrbaugh, first-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School; and Jason Peer, school counselor, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.

Let your imagination run wild

Student teams will let their imagination run wild Saturday, March 19, at the regional Destination Imagination tournament. The event starts at 7:30 a.m. at Henry E. Lackey High School.

State Retirement Estimates

Charles County Public Schools was recently notified by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) that the State Retirement Agency (SRA) is experiencing a high volume of retirement benefit estimate requests, as well as a significant increase in applications. The processing and response time for all estimates and applications is 16 weeks. MSDE is recommending that employees interested in obtaining an estimate for retirement in 2011 file their request, using form 9 located on the SRA Web site, as soon as possible. For more information and to obtain an SRA form 9, visit the SRA Web site at www.sra.state.md.us. For information regarding retirement benefits, contact Christeda Warner at 301-934-7459.

Outstanding teachers wanted

Charles County Public Schools is seeking nominations for the 2011 Charles County Teacher of the Year candidate. Nominees must be a classroom, resource or media teacher who spends the majority of his or her time teaching and has a minimum of five years teaching experience.

There can only be one nominee per school. Nominations are due by March 31 to the office of human resources. Application information is located on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at www2.cbcoe.com/TOY.cfm.

For more information, contact Jeanette Sudik at 301-934-7356 or jsudik@cbcoe.com.

Jenkins receives grant to bring technology into lessons

Pamela Jenkins, counselor at Malcolm Elementary School, was recently selected as a 2010-11 grant recipient from the Maryland Society for Educational Technology (MSET). She received \$700 for use towards a technology program she launched at the school called "iCan with iPads! A Visual Approach to Improving Social Skills."

More than 32 applications were submitted, and Jenkins received one of 18 grants awarded for this school year. With the funds, Jenkins purchased an iPad and a mini projector to work with small groups of students on social skills development. Educational applications, known as "apps," are available for download on the iPad, and Jenkins uses specific ones to develop social stories using images of the students. "The goal for the project is for the students themselves to create stories to strengthen their skills," she said.

Jenkins also uses the iPad for other educational activities, such as grade level group guidance lessons. For example, Jenkins created a lesson using the SmartBoard

that focused on kindergarten students spinning an imaginary wheel that would land on a specific profession. Each student has to then come in front of the class, state why they would like to do that job or not, and then use the iPad to select the next classmate to take a turn spinning the wheel. She



Malcolm Elementary School counselor Pamela Jenkins, pictured right, works with kindergartner Javon Washington, pictured left, and other kindergarten students during a group guidance lesson about career choices on Feb. 25.

said she found out about the grant program when she was searching for ways to support technology needs for the school.

"This is actually my second time receiving the grant – the first time was during the 2008-09 school year when I applied to receive flip cameras for our school. The nice thing about this grant program is that even though

I applied for funds to use with a specific project, I have found many uses for the iPad on a daily basis," Jenkins said.

As a grant recipient, Jenkins was invited to present a poster session at the MSET annual conference in Baltimore next month. She will also present a session on infusing technology into counseling programs at the National Conference for Innovative Counseling in June.

Rally

prove our neighborhoods," Brown wrote in a recent letter.

At the end of the rally, O'Malley spoke briefly to employees. "We've got tough decisions ahead of us. None of us has all the answers, but you know what? We are committed to stay at the table and to figuring this out, and moving together as one Maryland," O'Malley said.

"Our teachers have kept their promises – we've made Maryland schools number one, we've agreed to pay more out of pocket to keep our pension system sustainable,

we have kept working incredible hours, despite position losses, increased class sizes, and salary cuts and freezes, so that our children can get a great education. Now, the governor and the state senators and delegates need to keep their promises to Maryland's students and teachers," Brown said.

The EACC president said it is too early to know if lawmakers heard the teachers' pleas not to cut public school funding while fixing Maryland's budget shortfalls. No final funding decisions are expected until the legislative session ends in mid April.

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Colleen Erickson



Joann Jenkins



Marcie Jett



Michael Walters



Billie Williams

Charles County Public Schools staff honored by Jaycees for work with children

Five Charles County Public Schools staff members were recently honored by the Greater Waldorf Jaycees through the Distinguished Service Awards program. The awards recognize those who provide outstanding contributions and service to the community in their respective fields.

Those honored include: Michael Walters, physical education teacher, Mary B. Neal Elementary School; Marcie Jett, special education teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School; Billie Williams, Life Skills program instructional assistant, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; Joann Jenkins, special education instructional assistant, Life Skills program, Ryon; and Colleen Erickson, family and consumer science teacher, Thomas Stone High School.

Walters received the award in the elementary education category and was nominated for the award by Neal Principal Carol Leveillee. He has been teaching at Neal since the school opened in 2009 and previously taught at Mary H. Matula Elementary School. He was nominated for organizing school and community events, sponsoring the school athletic and Just Say No clubs and for serving as a role model for Neal students.

“Each year Walters organizes the Harvest for the Hungry community run and the annual food drive. He also organizes our fitness night each year and all of his students look up to him as a role model for his ability to demonstrate leadership and care in all that he does to support children and the Neal community,” Leveillee said in a nomination letter.

Jett received the award in the middle school special education category and was nominated for the award by Laura Coffren, vice principal at Piccowaxen. Jett has been teaching at Piccowaxen for the past four years and was nominated for her passion for students, for mentoring staff members who need guidance and support, and for being an advocate for children.

“Ms. Jett always has the best interest of her students in mind whether it’s emotionally, socially or academically. She has a true passion for students and is always willing to help provide additional

teaching time to students in our after-school program and works during our Saturday School and Summer Reading Academy,” Coffren said in an award nomination letter.

Williams and Jenkins both received the award in the elementary special education category and were nominated by Alayna Effinger, Life Skills teacher at Ryon. Effinger has worked with both Williams and Jenkins for the past three school years. She nominated them for their dedication to the Life Skills program, for striving for excellence in the workplace and for challenging themselves to learn more about the field of special education.

“Both of these ladies are conscientious and highly dependable paraeducators who have a broad knowledge of the curriculum at various grade levels. They strive to work with delivering instruction in multi-modal ways to benefit the students. They not only love their job, but they love their students,” Effinger wrote in a nomination letter.

Erickson was nominated for the high school education award by Michael Meiser, vice principal at Stone, for demonstrating pride in her work and providing her students with lifelong lessons. For the past few school years, Erickson has worked with her students on several community projects to benefit others, such as making clothing for wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and gift bags for soldiers at Andrews Air Force Base. Meiser said Erickson always demonstrates selflessness towards others.

“It is clear that Ms. Erickson has conveyed her selfless mentality on to her students. In a world that focuses on self-promotion, it is refreshing to see people like Ms. Erickson and her classes doing acts of kindness to make the world a better place. It is great to know that her impact on her students will continue to ‘pay-it-forward’ with their acts of kindness as they enter our community as productive citizens,” Meiser wrote in an award nomination letter.

The awards program is sponsored by the Greater Waldorf Jaycees and each winner was presented with a crystal trophy by Alex Kratik, president of the Jaycees.



MSA

Subgroups are special populations that include race/ethnicity, special education, limited English proficiency, and students receiving free or reduced-price meals. The program was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1996, and is now required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

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“The School Performance Recognition Program allows us to highlight the work and efforts of our staff and students to reach higher goals each year. The standards set by No Child Left Behind are difficult, and our students continue to improve each year,” Superintendent James E. Richmond said.

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School system to honor outstanding vice principal

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, and employees cannot nominate themselves.

The winner will be announced at a ceremony during the Board of Education's June 14 meeting.

Nominees must be full-time employees, employed by Charles County Public Schools as a vice principal for at least three years, and have not received this award in the past five years. Nominees must meet criteria in the following areas:

- Educational leadership – Nominee implements strategies for improving teaching by putting programs and improvement efforts into action; involves teachers and other staff members in achieving the goals of the school; and assists in ensuring school climate is positive and functions effectively as a member of the school leadership team.
- Resolving Complex Problems – Nominee maintains awareness of current and emerging issues, manages time and tasks efficiently, and utilizes technology to address educational situations.

• Developing Self and Others – Nominee is committed to continued professional growth, teaches, coaches and helps others, and demonstrates and fosters creativity and imagination.

• Community Service – Nominee involves the community in school events and uses community resources for students, and establishes partnerships with community groups to strengthen programs and support school goals.

Nomination materials must be submitted in a three-ring binder and 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 Tuesday, May 3. A committee composed of administrative personnel will make the final selection. The recipient of the award will be awarded \$2,000 and will be registered as a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

For more information, contact Jeanette Sudik at 301-934-7356 or jsudik@ccboe.com.

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

Special Education Teacher for Inclusion and Resource – Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 10-month position.

Science Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

Speech Language Therapist – Elementary school level, 10-month position.

Staff Notes

National Board Certification

Teachers and specialists who hold a Standard or Advanced Professional Certificate and have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification. Applicants must submit a candidate packet,

which includes a letter of interest, a one-page essay indicating why they want to pursue national certification and how it will enhance their teaching competencies and effectiveness, 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 (CCPS) in the 2011-12 fee incentive program.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) limits the number of applicants for the school system to 10 candidates, and the \$2,500 application fee is funded by MSDE and CCPS.

An information session for interested applicants is set for 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, in the cafeteria at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Current National Board Certified teachers will be available to speak with possible candidates about the process. To attend, RSVP by March 25 to

Luci Kidwell at lkidwell@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 2011-12 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 professional development credits, an annual \$1,000 stipend from MSDE and \$2,500 from the school system.

Applicants must submit completed candidate packets to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29. 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.