



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Testing coming up

Charles County Public Schools second-quarter assessments finish on Jan. 13. High School Assessments (HSA) begin on Jan. 9 and run through Jan. 20. For more calendar dates, visit [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

### SECAC meeting

The next Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) meeting is 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11, in the board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call the Parent Center at 301-934-7456 for more information.

### Winter chess tournament

The Charles County Public Schools annual winter chess tournament is Saturday, Jan. 21, at Westlake High School. The tournament is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call the gifted education department at 301-934-7457 for tournament registration details or more information.

### 24-hour information hotline

Charles County Public Schools posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closures and delays, and calendar information on a 24-hour information line. Call 301-932-6656 or 301-934-7410. The line is updated twice a week and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made.

### Follow us on Twitter

Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page. Follow us on [www.twitter.com/CCPS](http://www.twitter.com/CCPS) for system updates, inclement weather announcements, news, facts and more. The site can be accessed from the internal network by selecting the "view for work-related purposes only" under the options area of the Websense page.

## United Way employee donations top \$100,000

Charles County Public Schools employees pledged more than \$100,000 to the United Way of Charles County in 2011, which is a contribution increase of more than \$6,700 from the previous year's campaign and the highest amount of money raised by the school system to date.

When the 2011 campaign was launched at the beginning of the school year, Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond set a goal of \$100,000 for the new campaign and urged employees to help raise funds that support their local communities. "I am so proud of the school system and all of the employees who take the time to support the Charles County community. Charles County Public Schools has supported the United Way for more than 15 years, and I am amazed by the level of increased participation each year," Richmond said.

Charles County Public Schools has also been the United Way's top campaign contributor for the past six years, in which donations increased more than \$25,000 over a five-year period. In 2006, donations totaled \$74,444 and as of December, donations to the 2011 campaign totaled \$100,181.

Westlake High School was the top 2011 campaign contributor at the high school level, with donations totaling \$8,479; Mattawoman Middle School raised the highest amount at the middle school level, with donations totaling \$3,038; and Mary B. Neal Elementary School raised \$4,407, which was the highest amount at the elementary school level.

The system's elementary schools raised the most funds as a whole, with donations totaling nearly \$41,000, followed by the six high schools with nearly \$30,000, the eight

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## Wade honored for leadership, service to community

Col. Donald M. Wade, a longtime resident of Charles County and member of the Charles County Board of Education, was recently honored by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s, Tau Lambda Lambda Chapter with the 2011 Outstanding Charles County Citizen of the Year award. The annual award honors a community member who demonstrates extraordinary leadership at the local, regional and state levels, and service to their communities.

Wade, a third-term Board member who has also served as Board chairman and vice chairman, said he was humbled to receive an award that recognizes him for doing what he loves. "I was surprised, yet honored, to receive this award. I truly enjoy working with children and the community. As a Board member, I am able to let community members be heard, to give a voice to their concerns," Wade said.

Wade was honored by the Tau Lambda Lambda Chapter for his role in the imple-

mentation of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC) program in Charles County's six high schools, and for his service to children as a member of the Board of Education. "During his three terms as a member of the Charles County Board of Education, Wade has worked tirelessly in ensuring all students receive a quality and academically challenging education," said Otis M. Harvey of the Tau Lambda Lambda Chapter.

Wade joined the United States Air Force in 1960 and spent 30 years on active duty. He was an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies at three universities, and a teacher, a department chairperson and a faculty advisor to 21 JROTC units in Prince George's County before retiring in 2006. He was honored at a banquet held in November.



**Donald M. Wade**



**On the cover**

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at the Dec. 13 meeting. Pictured, from left, are Brenda Richards, gifted education teacher, John Hanson Middle School; Laura Buzzell, mathematics teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School; Tina Thomas, secretary, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; and Robynn Mudd, first-grade teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School.

**NewsBreak96**

Airing now on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, an original show produced by communications staff that highlights Charles County Public Schools students and staff. Featured in this episode is footage from the Board of Education's December meeting and New Year's resolutions from students and staff. Episodes of NewsBreak 96 are also available on the school system Web site through the video on demand feature. Visit [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) for more information.

**Staff assistance program**

Charles County Public Schools offers employees the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The program provides confidential, professional counseling services for employees with personal problems that are affecting their abilities to function effectively at work or at home. The program is available to staff members who work 20 or more hours per week and to their immediate family members. Call 866-443-3277 to make an appointment or for more information. A link about EAP can be found on the staff services page of the school system Web site at [www.ccboe.com/staffservices.cfm](http://www.ccboe.com/staffservices.cfm).

**System seeking host families**

Charles County Public Schools is seeking host families as part of the Bunkyo University exchange program. As part of the program, Japanese student teacher candidates will visit the school system Feb. 13 through March 2 and work at an assigned elementary or middle school. Host families provide transportation to the assigned schools and can apply online at <http://database.ccboe.com/bunkyo>. Contact Mary Seremet at 301-934-7566 or [mseremet@ccboe.com](mailto:mseremet@ccboe.com) for more information.

**In Memoriam  
Ronald G. Cunningham**

Career educator and Charles County Public Schools Deputy Superintendent Ronald G. Cunningham passed away suddenly on Dec. 31, 2011. Cunningham, who was a former teacher, principal and regional administrator, served as Charles County Public Schools associate and deputy superintendent for the past 14 years.

"Mr. Cunningham was my colleague and personal friend. He was the person who handled the day-to-day operations of the school system and supervised the principals. Most of all, he was student-centered. He loved children and made sure that the best interest of children was at the core of each decision. Mr. Cunningham was well respected, and we are saddened by his death. This is a tremendous loss for the students and staff of Charles County Public Schools and for Charles County," Superintendent James E. Richmond said.

Mr. Cunningham started his career with Charles County Public Schools in 1994 as a regional administrator. In 1997, he was appointed associate superintendent of schools and in 2005 was named as deputy superintendent.

Mr. Cunningham began his career in education in 1964 as a social studies teacher at Crossland High School in Prince George's County. He also taught at

Surrattsville High School before moving into administrative positions. From 1979 to 1994, he served in various administrative positions in Prince George's County Public Schools, including 10 years as a high school principal. He served as principal at Bladensburg High School from 1984-1988 and at High Point High School in Beltsville from 1988-1994.

Mr. Cunningham earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana State College in Pennsylvania and his master's degree from Georgetown University. Additionally, he earned his administrative certification in education from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Recently, Mr. Cunningham was honored as the 2011 Maryland School Counselor Association (MSCA) Advocate of the Year for his support for counselors and their work.

Mr. Cunningham lived in Charles County for more than 35 years. A Celebration of Life will be held for Mr. Cunningham, 1-4 p.m., Jan. 14, at North Point High School. A brief program will be held at 2 p.m. The family requests that any memorial contributions be sent to the Charles County Scholarship Fund, Ronald G. Cunningham Scholarship, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646.



**Ronald G. Cunningham**



**United Way**

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middle schools with more than \$16,000 in donations, and the administrative offices and educational centers with donations totaling more than \$12,000.

Contributions to United Way support more than 37 Charles County agencies, many of which are child oriented and assist special populations. Some of these agencies include the Center for Children, Inc., the Charles County Children's Aid Society, Tri-County Youth Services Bureau, Inc., and Special Olympics Maryland Charles County.

Employees can opt to donate funds through payroll deduction, one-time donations or through credit card payments. CCPS has been involved in United Way of Charles County fundraising campaigns since 1995. The United Way of Charles County uses funding to address needs and concerns of community members and groups.

Schools and centers also coordinate their campaigns and host special events to raise funds.

## School system students, staff show their giving spirit throughout the holidays

During morning announcements, students at Mary B. Neal Elementary School lined up outside the library and waited their turn to pitch in and make a change – with change. Students showed their giving spirit by collecting loose change from home to bring in to school. Each day, classes collected the contributions, and the earnings were combined in large jars. “My favorite part is wheeling the coins back to the office and hearing the kids commenting, ‘I bet there is a million dollars in there!’,” school counselor Kerrin “Keri” Cavanaugh said. There is no class competition; instead, the focus is on giving and the joy it brings.

This fundraiser is part three of four in a continuation of the Harvest for the Hungry campaign, which started in late October. The first part was a canned food drive. More than 3,000 pounds of food were donated before Thanksgiving. Part two was an organized 5K race. For those who chose to participate in a shorter race, there was also a one-mile walk. Due to rain, the participation was low this year with only 45 registered runners, but this did not stop Neal. They raised \$1,372 for the event. The last event is called the “souperbowl”. The “souperbowl” started at the beginning of January during the football playoffs. Two tables were set up, one for the National Football Conference (NFC) and one for the American Football Conference (AFC), with boxes of the remaining football teams. Students can bring in canned food and vote for the team they hope will win the Super Bowl by putting the cans in the team box of their choice. The day after the Super Bowl, an announcement will be made of the Super Bowl winner and the food drive “souperbowl” winner. Neal has participated in the Harvest for the Hungry campaign since the school opened in 2008. All proceeds were donated to the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

The spirit of giving is also evident in most Charles County public schools. Schools collected money, toys and other necessities and donated food to different organizations and food banks. Some of these schools include: North Point and Thomas Stone high schools, Piccowaxen and Benjamin Stoddert middle schools and Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Arthur Middleton and J.C. Parks elementary schools.

Other schools coordinated their own giving events. Some of these events included:

- La Plata High School planned numerous events. The boys’ basketball team served food to the homeless and the Student Government Association (SGA) provided free baby sitting to give parents the opportunity to shop. Lastly, the Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) group collected mittens and hats.

- Maurice J. McDonough High School has a group called the Divine Ladies who worked with the SGA to make Thanksgiving

dinner for families in need. They also provided a Christmas dinner and gifts for a family in the area. The Key Club donated toys to the Charles County Christmas Connection. The National Honor Society adopted five seniors for the holidays and made holiday food baskets with small gifts inside. Through the Salvation Army, McDonough’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) sponsored an Angel Tree, where they adopted 12 children in Charles County and provided them with necessities and items they wanted for Christmas. Lastly, a staff member and her family collected \$1,000 worth of gifts for a family in the area.

- John Hanson Middle School gave back to the community by giving 17 families Thanksgiving food baskets. Community members and staff donated a large amount of items for their “Moe Market” as part of their PBIS program. Students were able to spend their “Moe Money” on donated items. Megan English, a special education teacher at Hanson, had her class make holiday cards for the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

- T.C. Martin Elementary School has an organization called the K-kids. K-kids is an elementary school level of the Kiwanis Clubs, an international club helping children and communities. These students wrapped donated toys, books and different gifts to students in need. The La Plata facilitator for Kiwanis, Jonnie Mann, asked the club to

donate and was able to receive \$100 for a family to purchase food for the holidays.

- The Lifelong Learning Center, along with Good Shepard United Methodist Church, provided for four caregivers and eight children whose parent(s) have been incarcerated. The children made a wish list and received clothes and a gift. Children also received an angel with a letter from their parent(s). The caregivers were given assorted gifts and gift cards to grocery stores. The Lifelong Learning Center has given to children and their caregivers for more than 10 years.

- Staff at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building donated to the Children’s Aid Society and the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

- Superintendent James E. Richmond and his operations staff adopted a family for the holidays and made a donation to the Southern Maryland Food Bank. As part of the donation, the operations group purchased new clothing and toys for each member of the family. Additionally, they provided grocery gift cards. The gifts are delivered to the family anonymously by a pupil personnel worker (PPW). The \$600 donation to the Southern Maryland Food Bank was used to purchase more than 4,800 pounds of food that will assist more than 200 families, Brenda DiCarlo, director of the Southern Maryland Food Bank, said.



**Mary B. Neal Elementary School counselor Kerrin “Keri” Cavanaugh, left, helps fourth-grade student, Chloe Griffin, right, contribute to the change-for-change coin drive as part of the Harvest for the Hungry campaign which began in October and finishes later this month.**

School News is published by  
Charles County Public Schools  
301-932-6610  
301-934-7220  
Fax: 301-932-6651

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**Editor/Writers**

Katie O'Malley-Simpson  
Shelley Mackey  
Kara Gross  
Laura Hupp

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Patricia Vaira, Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator (students), or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Maryland 20646. 301-932-6610/870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

# Board of Education announces January 10 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 10, 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 student and staff recognition starts at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS 12 and is rebroadcast throughout the week. All televised Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/>.

**Executive session - 10 a.m.**

**Call to order - 1 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance, Henry E. Lackey High School JROTC

**Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

- Superintendent's update to the Board
- Reports of officers/board/committees
- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board member update
- School administration – enrollment update
- CIP update
- ESOL program and Bunkyo trip
- FY 2012 budget update
- Policy #3430, Accounts: opening and closing accounts
- Legislative update

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items

**Recognition - 4:30 p.m.**

- Students
- Staff

Resolutions: *African-American History Month, Career and Technology Education Month and National School Counseling Week*

- La Plata High School Thespian Society
- Nathan Freeman, winner of the 2011 Student Space Flight Experiments Program (SSEP) Space Shuttle Atlantis STS-135 mission patch design contest

**Public Forum - 6 p.m.**

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel

**Adjournment**

**Future Meetings**

Redistricting public hearings are scheduled at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 28, at Thomas Stone High School and 7 p.m., Monday, March 26, at North Point High School.



## Staff notes

**Job Openings**

**Food Service Program Support Manager**

– Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and a minimum of three years experience in food service required.

**Special Education Teachers** – Openings at Dr. James Craik Elementary School, and John Hanson Middle School, 10-month positions.

**Instructional Resource Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Master's degree and five year's experience required.

**Autism Teacher** – Early childhood area/location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Earth Science Teacher** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

**HVAC Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position.

**Pharmacy Technician Instructor** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position, part-time position.

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

**Media Specialist** – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

**New Teacher Mentors in Math, Science and English** – Openings at county high schools, 10-month positions. Master's degree and five years teaching experience and two years of experience in related leadership role required.

**School Counselor** – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10-month, part-time position. Master's degree in guidance and counseling and five years experience required.

**Extra pay position**

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

- Head junior varsity lacrosse coach
- Head junior varsity softball coach

Contact Jason Bursick, athletic director, 301-753-1755, to apply.

**Pay dates for remainder of school year**

The following is a list of Friday pay dates for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year: Jan. 6; Jan. 20; Feb. 3; Feb. 17; March 2; March 16; March 30 (third paycheck of the month – no voluntary deductions are made); April 13; April 27; May 11; May 25; June 8; and June 22. Call the payroll department with questions, 301-392-7564.

**Award nominations due next week**

Nominations for the *Washington Post's* Distinguished Educational Leadership (DELA) and Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher awards are due Friday, Jan. 13. Materials should be sent to Jeanette Sudik/Human Resources Division, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Md., 20646. Nomination criteria for both awards is located on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at [http://www2.ccboe.com/employment/emp\\_rec.cfm](http://www2.ccboe.com/employment/emp_rec.cfm).