



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

In-service day Feb. 8

Schools are closed for students on Wednesday, Feb. 8, for a teacher in-service day. In-service schedules are posted on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffdev/in-service/>.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Feb. 15.

W-2 Information

All employees should have received a W-2 form through the pony or mail. Employees can also access their W-2 information on the self-service portal. The portal is accessible from the staff services page of the school system Web site.

Airing now

Airing now is a new episode of News-Break 96, a bi-monthly news show produced by the communications department that highlights Charles County Public Schools students and staff. Featured in this episode is the Maryland General Assembly's Student Page program, the Six Picks student art exhibit at Mattawoman Creek Art Center and a La Plata High School student who recently directed his first play. Episodes of News-Break 96 can be viewed on Comcast Channel 96 or Verizon FiOS Channel 12. For a programming schedule, visit the Charles County Public Schools Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/>.

Spellers prepare

The annual Charles County Spelling Bee is Friday, Feb. 17, at Mattawoman Middle School. The event begins at 6 p.m., and the winner will compete in the televised Scripps National Spelling Bee planned for May 27-June 1 in Washington, D.C. For more information about the national event, visit <http://www.spellingbee.com/>.

MD superintendent visits CCPS, views Telepresence

Interim State Superintendent Bernard Sadusky participated in an Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics class on Monday at Westlake High School – and at La Plata, Thomas Stone and Maurice J. McDonough high schools. He learned to solve a problem and talked with students and teachers at each school, and he did it without ever leaving his seat at Westlake.

Maryland's superintendent came to Westlake's Telepresence classroom on Jan. 30 to learn about Telepresence and how Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) uses the technology, which creates a shared presence among people in different locations. He watched a combined class of students and teachers at four high schools work through a confidence interval practice problem and calculator functions. He talked on screen with Kaplan representatives in New York and chatted with principals and teachers across the county about how they are using the technology.

Sadusky said he was impressed. "This is bringing the world to the classroom. Charles County is way ahead of what's going on in many systems in this state," Sadusky added.

Last school year, CCPS installed its first two Telepresence classrooms at McDonough and Westlake. Teachers at the two schools co-taught and piloted an AP statistics class

through Telepresence, which is videoconferencing technology that uses large screens to create a virtual classroom in more than one location. This year, La Plata and Thomas Stone high schools opened Telepresence classrooms and joined the AP statistics class. Henry E. Lackey's High School's Telepresence classroom was completed two weeks ago, and North Point High School is scheduled to also receive Telepresence.

"This is the wave of the future in teaching and education. The question is, can you learn this way?" Sadusky asked the students.

Justin Lawrence, a Westlake senior, said he adjusted to the on-screen class easily and likes that he has access to teachers from other schools. Each teacher explains the material in different ways, making it easier to learn, Lawrence said.

Annemarie Swanson, a mathematics teacher at McDonough and the lead teacher in the demonstration, said she loves working with the other AP teachers and it has led to a

See Superintendent, page 3



Interim State Superintendent of Schools Bernard Sadusky, right, talks with Danielle Rovnak, left, of Westlake High School following a Telepresence demonstration and class.

Schools honored for gifted and talented programs

Two Charles County public elementary schools – Dr. James Craik and William B. Wade – were recently named recipients of the Maryland Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) award. The recognition program honors elementary, middle

and high schools that offer gifted and talented programs that model excellence and focus on improving levels of student achievement.

Craik and Wade are two of only seven schools to be honored with the EGATE designation this year. They will each receive a

See EGATE, page 2

Two teachers earn national board certification

Two Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers recently joined the ranks of accomplished teachers nationwide who achieved national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

The teachers – Marcie Jett and Cary Smith – completed a yearlong performance-based assessment series to become National Board Certified Teachers, according to a December release by the NBPTS. Jett and Smith join 31 other Charles County Public Schools teachers who hold national certification status.



Marcie Jett

Jett is a special education teacher at Piccowaxen Middle School and earned an exceptional needs specialist/early childhood certificate. Jett began her career with the school system in 2001 at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School as a special education teacher and moved to Piccowaxen in 2007.

Smith is an English teacher at North Point High School and earned her certificate in English language arts/adolescence and young adulthood. She started her career with Charles County Public Schools in 2003 as a language arts teacher at Mattawoman Middle School. She transferred to North Point in 2005, when the school opened.

National Board Certified Teachers must complete a rigorous review of their skills and work, which includes teacher portfolios, student work samples, videotapes, and thorough analysis of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning.

Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach that material to students.

Jett and Smith join 6,200 teachers nationwide who were certified in 2011. Certification is valid for 10 years, after which a teacher may seek renewal. As of last month, Maryland has 2,214 teachers who are nationally certified and is one of the top 10 states with the highest participation in the certification process.



Cary Smith

By achieving National Board Certification, Charles County teachers are eligible for a \$2,500 stipend added to their annual salary as well as an annual \$1,000 incentive from the Maryland State Department of Education as long as they remain in the classroom and maintain their National Board Certification.

“National Board Certification is proven to have a positive impact on student achievement, and I commend these teachers for successfully completing the rigorous application process to earn national certification. Their hard work speaks to their commitment to children and academic success,” said Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond.

Only teachers with a standard or advanced professional certificate who have a minimum of three years successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification. Information about NBPTS can be found at the NBPTS Web site, www.nbpts.org.

continued from page 1

EGATE

Governor's citation, EGATE school banner and plaque, and will be recognized at a state reception next month at the John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. Additionally, T.C. Martin Elementary School will be recognized as a program participant.

The program was launched in 2010 by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Advisory Coun-

cil on Gifted and Talented Education. To be considered for the program, schools submit a comprehensive application that includes documentation demonstrating their program is aligned with criteria outlined in the Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Education program guidelines. Visit www.marylandpublicschools.org for additional EGATE information.



Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education on Jan. 10. Pictured, from left, are: Audre Codrington, school psychologist, William B. Wade Elementary School; Velta Williams, secretary to the principal, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; and Michael Forrest, science teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School.

Student art on display

The Six Picks High School Exhibit, which features works from Charles County Public Schools students, is on display now through Feb. 12 at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center. The center is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Call 301-743-5159 or visit www.mattawomanart.org for more information.

Tri-County concerts Feb. 12

The annual Tri-County concerts are planned for Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Mary Harrison Cultural Arts Center located on the Northern High School campus in Calvert County. The center is located at 2950 Chaneyville Road in Owings. The concerts are free and begin at 2 p.m.

Celebrate school counselors

National School Counseling Week is celebrated Feb. 6-10, and highlights the impact school counselors have on helping students achieve success and plan for a career. The theme for 2012 is “School Counselors: Helping Students Be Brilliant.” National School Counseling Week is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA).

Dillard named finalist

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recently named Felicia Dillard, a Westlake High School senior, as a finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. As one of more than 800 national finalists, Dillard will receive a one-time \$2,500 scholarship award.

She was selected for high academic performance, student and community leadership activities, principal recommendation and SAT scores. Dillard was recently accepted to attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall.

Experiment created by Lackey student to be tested in space

Science experiments at Henry E. Lackey High School are out-of-this-world. For the second consecutive year, an experiment created at Lackey is headed for outer space through the national science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program called the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP). Experiments are entered nationwide. Lackey junior Paul Warren, who was a member of Lackey's spacebound experiment team in 2011, created this year's experiment, which will fly on the first commercial spacecraft, the SPaceX-Dragon.

Warren plans to conduct identical experiments - one on the shuttle and one at school. His experiment will compare the structural differences between *Caenorhabditis elegans*, a round worm, with radiation on earth and in space, and to isolate the effects of microgravity on radiation. The experiment, "Physiological effects of microgravity and increased levels of radiation on wild type and genetically engineered *Caenorhabditis elegans*," is one of 15 nationwide that will be conducted by astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

Jeff Goldstein, center director of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESS) and director of the SSEP, expressed the importance of science and how the commercial space flights are a new turning point in history. The experiments were originally due to take off on March 30 from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan on the Russian Soyuz 30, but the spaceship failed a critical flight test and has been postponed indefinitely. Therefore, the experiments will go aboard the SPaceX-Dragon vehicle, the first commercial spacecraft to dock with the International Space Station. The launch date has not been set.

Lackey science teachers Lara North and Romulo Gabriel are Warren's mentors for the project. Warren submitted his proposal on Nov.

22 and presented his first-place experiment at the awards ceremony held at Maurice J. McDonough High School on Jan. 30. Warren's experiment was among the 24 Charles County Public Schools team submissions. Teams from Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School and La Plata High School were also selected as finalists.

In October, teachers and students in grades 5-12 were asked to develop experiment proposals covering a diverse range of fields including the effects of microgravity on cement and on rotting fruit. A local panel of educators, scientists and engineers, reviewed all student proposals. Experiments from Higdon, La Plata and Lackey were selected for final review by NCESS, which made the selection on which experiment would fly.

In a second part of the program, 53 students designed mission patches to compete for two flight spots on Dragon. The patch design competition was open to students in kindergarten through grade 12. Patches were displayed in the lobby of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building and selected by open public voting. Lauren O'Neil, a fifth-grade student at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, and Nathan Freeman, a senior at La Plata High School, created the winning elementary and secondary space patches. Freeman is a repeat patch design winner, and his first patch flew aboard the last flight of the U.S. Space Shuttle program, the flight of Atlantis (STS-135).

SSEP is undertaken by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, a project of the 501(c) (3) Tides Center, in partnership with NanoRacks, LLC. This on-orbit educational research opportunity is enabled through NanoRacks LLC, which is working in partnership with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.



Jeff Goldstein, director of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, left, congratulates Lackey junior Paul Warren, right. Warren's experiment was selected to go aboard the SPaceX-Dragon vehicle later this year.



Superintendent

continued from page 1

positive exchange of activities and ideas. "The amount of resources instantly doubled for us," Swanson said.

"This is about pushing better instruction and more rigor. Technology does not drive what we do; it is the vehicle we use to get there," CCPS Superintendent James E. Richmond said.

Principals also shared other uses for Telepresence. Evelyn Arnold, principal of La Plata, said it is used for staff development and to globally connect students.

Kevin Barry, AP Human Geography teacher at La Plata, has used Telepresence to connect students to people with expertise in study areas, such as sovereign land rights. "We are going places we can't go in a school bus. By using Telepresence we have been able to expand our classroom borders."

L.C. Martin, principal at Thomas Stone, said they have used the technology for in-service on common core, as a testing site, for systemwide meetings with administrators and other student programs. "This is a special room, and when students come here, they know they are going to learn and see something unique." Martin said he sees never-ending possibilities for student and staff use.

Sadusky credited Richmond with creating a culture shift in the way schools are doing business, and how students learn in the future. "This is the new learning style," Sadusky said, calling the demonstration "problem solving on the flat screen."

"Charles County Public Schools is ahead of the curve in technology," Sadusky said, and commended Richmond and the Board of Education for making wise decisions and investments in technology.

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

Board of Education Members

Roberta S. Wise, Chairman
Maura H. Cook, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Patricia Bowie
Michael K. Lukas
Pamela A. Pedersen
Donald M. Wade
Taylor Brooks, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools

James E. Richmond

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 Dr. 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) 392-7587 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

Board of Education announces February 14 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 14, 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 Channel 12 and is rebroadcast throughout the week. The meeting is also streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools Web site. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/> to watch the meeting.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

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

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Student transfer rules
- Athletic trainers
- CIP update
- Redistricting update
- Educational Showcase
- Policy #3420: accounts (opening and closing accounts)

- Teacher evaluation pilot
- Legislative update
- Non-discrimination policy

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees
- Resolutions: *Read Across Charles County; Women's History Month; and Fine and Performing Arts Month*

- Rotary Clubs of Waldorf and La Plata; recognition of dictionary donations to schools

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

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.



Personnel

Job Openings

Food Service Manager – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 3.

Building Service Worker – Eva Turner Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Feb. 10.

Secretary in Instruction – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Feb. 10.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, Life Skills – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 10.

Building Service Worker – T.C. Martin Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Feb. 12.

Principals – Possible future openings, 12-month positions. Master's Degree, eligibility for an administrative certificate, five years of teaching experience and two years in a leadership role required.

Vice Principals – Possible future openings, 12-month positions. Master's Degree, an Advanced Professional Certificate and three years of teaching experience required.

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

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

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

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

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

Special Education Teachers – Openings at Dr. James Craik and Mary B. Neal elementary schools, and Westlake High School, 10-month positions.

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

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

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

Extra pay positions

Westlake High School has the following opening:

- Junior varsity girls' lacrosse coach
Contact Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, 301-645-8857, to apply.

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following openings:

- Head boys' lacrosse coach
- Varsity cheerleading coach
- Junior varsity cheerleading coach
Contact David Anderson, athletic director, 301-743-5431, to apply.