



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Fall chess tournament

The Charles County Public Schools annual fall chess tournament is Saturday, Oct. 27, at Westlake High School. Registration starts at 8 a.m., and the tournament begins at 9 a.m. Call the gifted education department at 301-934-7457 for more information.

PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 30, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Call 301-934-7364 for details.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Oct. 31.

First marking period ends

The first marking period ends Wednesday, Oct. 31, and the second marking period begins on Thursday, Nov. 1. Report cards will be issued to elementary students on Nov. 6-7, and mailed to middle and high school students on Nov. 7.

Fall back

Standard time begins on Sunday, Nov. 4. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

Staff in-service day

Schools will be closed for students only on Tuesday, Nov. 6 for a staff in-service day. In-service schedules are posted on the school system website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffdev/in-service/>.

MAC meeting

The next Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 7, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.



Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lillian Lowery, center, visited North Point High School Tuesday and toured the school. During the visit, Lowery helped prepare chocolate ganache desserts with Culinary Arts Assistant Kathleen Dodson, right, as Board member Patricia Bowie, left, looks on.

Lowery gets a few hands-on lessons from students

Students at North Point High School put their skills to the test and their knowledge on display for a special visitor at the school on Tuesday, Oct. 23 – Dr. Lillian Lowery, the new Maryland State Superintendent of Schools. Lowery, who became the head educational leader in Maryland this past July, visited the school to learn more about what Charles County Public Schools offers students, as well as to tour the Science, Technology and Industry (STI) programs available at the school.

Two students – seniors Azeezat Adeleke and Aaron Harper – served as tour guides and took Lowery to several classroom areas, including the culinary arts, auto technology and engineering program classrooms, and the bio-technology and health occupations labs. Included in the day's agenda were several hands-on activities for the State Superintendent to try, including baking. In the culinary arts kitchen, Lowery and other attendees assisted a group of students in creating a chocolate ganache dessert. Kathleen Dodson, a culinary arts program assistant,

demonstrated the proper technique in rolling, baking and covering the ganache in whipped chocolate.

Next on the tour included a stop in the auto technology classroom area, where students talked about repairing brakes and engines, as well as using up-to-date technology such as a snake-like camera to study the make-up of a car engine. Lowery assisted North Point senior Ben Allston in torquing an engine and was eager to learn from the students, who not only provided visual representations of class assignments, but explained them in detail. Lowery said she was impressed with the students' ability to break down what they were doing into non-technical terms. "It is one thing to be able to do things like this, but to have the skills to be able to explain it is another thing. These students are very impressive," she said.

In Cheryl Swartzwelder's engineering classroom, students demonstrated several concepts including a vector robotics remote-controlled activity, a computerized exercise using slope and speed and how to learn prin-

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On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education in October. Pictured, from left, are Gunnery Sgt. Clive Bailey, ROTC instructor, La Plata High School; Shirley Turner, first-grade teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School; and Nina Ogasawara, school counselor, Gale-Bailey Elementary School.

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices are closed on Monday, Nov. 12, in observance of Veterans Day.

Board to meet Nov. 13

The next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 13. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. Staff and student recognition starts at 4:30 p.m. A complete agenda is posted at www.ccboe.com/pr a week prior to each regular Board meeting.

Now showing...

Airing this week on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, a feature show that highlights Charles County Public Schools students and staff. This episode features Pro Football Hall of Fame player Darrell Green visiting Henry E. Lackey High School to honor an outstanding student, activities associated with Bullying Prevention Month and highlights from the Board of Education's October meeting. Visit the school system website at www.ccboe.com for a schedule.

Apply to become Green

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is seeking schools to participate in the National Green Ribbon Schools Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The program encourages schools to: implement energy conservation measures; undertake environmental and behavioral changes in schools; and promote environmental education that supports students' strong civic skills, environmental stewardship, and workforce preparedness. Public and private schools are eligible to apply and MSDE will nominate up to four schools to the U.S. Department of Education for the designation. The application is available at <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/environment/grs>.



T.C. Martin Elementary, John Hanson Middle and Westlake High schools were recognized Oct. 10 for their increased campaign contributions to the 2011 United Way of Charles County. Dottie Harper, president of the United Way of Charles County, pictured right, presented certificates to, from left, Principals Chrystal Benson of Westlake, Gregory Miller of Martin and Kathy Kiessling of Hanson.

United Way names system top 2011 donor

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees were recently named the top 2011 campaign donors to the United Way of Charles County. School system employees pledged more than \$100,000 to the 2011 campaign, and has been one of the top campaign contributors for the past six years.

Dorothy L. Harper, president and CEO of the local United Way, said Charles County Public Schools employees surpassed the goal set last year by Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond. "The total amount pledged last year was \$100,421. I feel that those who contribute to United Way know and understand that their contributions are helping some of the same families and children they see on a daily basis," Harper said.

This is the sixth consecutive year that the school system has been the United Way's top fundraiser in Charles County. Contributions to United Way support 37 partner agencies in Charles County, of which many are child oriented and assist special populations. Several schools were recognized at a monthly principals meeting held Oct. 10 for an increase in donor participation and funds raised. The following schools were recognized as top donors for 2011:

- Westlake High School – top donor with \$8,479.17;
- Mary B. Neal Elementary School –

second highest donor with \$4,407.60; and
 • Mattawoman Middle School – third highest donor with \$3,038.

T.C. Martin Elementary School, John Hanson Middle School and Westlake were honored for having the largest monetary donation increases from 2010 to 2011. Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School was recognized as the school with the highest increase in donor participation for 2011, followed by Hanson and Maurice J. McDonough High School. Additionally, the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center was honored as the largest donor out of the school system's educational centers, administrative offices and annex buildings.

"The level of support shown by school system employees for organizations such as the United Way is outstanding. I am honored to work with such a caring group of people who know the importance of giving back to their community. The fact that the system surpassed a \$100,000 goal speaks to the dedication our staff has in helping those in need," Superintendent James E. Richmond said.

The United Way's 2012 campaign officially began Sept. 1 and individual schools and centers will kick off their campaigns this month. Charles County Public Schools provides employees opportunities to support the campaign through payroll deduction and direct donations.

School system works together to find best fit for next superintendent

More than 106 Charles County Public Schools employees met in early October to discuss what is great about Charles County and what characteristics and qualifications the next superintendent of schools should possess.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) hosted a series of forums in October to hear what parents, residents and employees have to say about what qualifications and characteristics the Charles County Board of Education should look for in a new superintendent.



North Point High School's Linda McLaughlin, World Language teacher, left, and Simone Young, resource teacher, right, discuss qualities of Charles County and the characteristics they think a good superintendent candidate should possess.

About 30 community members also weighed in during the seven discussions. Using the feedback from the forums, the Board is creating advertisements and specifications for candidates to apply for the school system's top position, which will open July 1 when long-time Superintendent James E. Richmond leaves. Richmond, who is serving his 17th year as superintendent, announced last school year that he would not seek

renewal of his contract when it expires. The Board will publish the advertisement for a new superintendent beginning on Nov. 1.

Employees attended two of the seven forums, and told the moderators they hope the next superintendent is someone who is collabora-

tive, values teachers, has a strong and diverse educational experience and can work with diverse populations.

Employee groups also said they want a new superintendent with vision, someone with a plan that involves everyone and embraces the challenges of the 21st century. Employees said they hope for someone to continue Charles County's educational vision for the future and who is open-minded with a passion for learning and students. Employees want a new superintendent who is flexible, yet decisive, and approachable. The new superintendent, employees said, should be someone who builds on our strengths and understands and respects all employees and positions.



Groups discussed and highlighted important points to provide the Board of Education feedback about what they think is important during the superintendent search.

Employees also said they hope the superintendent has experiences at all levels, strong classroom experiences, a solid instructional background and familiarity with the Maryland educational system, proven success at closing the achievement gap and demonstrated successful experiences.

Challenges for the next superintendent, according to employees, include shrinking budgets, population growth, implementation of Common Core and new teacher evaluations, quality professional development, teacher workload and transition and adjustment to new leadership – which could include a superintendent, high turnover at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building and the retirement of many eligible teachers.



State superintendent

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principles embedded into engineering through the use of a tuning fork. Lowery spoke with several students, including senior Gaston Lopez, about what their favorite projects were so far this school year. In the electrical construction classroom area, student Devon Meyers explained how the program teaches students to wire houses and other commercial buildings, and prepares students for a job immediately upon graduation.

The tour concluded with a stop to Tara Johnson's bio-technology classroom, where Lowery assisted in the cloning of an African-violet flower, and the health occupations clinical lab, where students helped Lowery with her first "open heart" experience. As part of the program, students are required to sculpt life-like organs using blue and red clay and attach them to a model skeleton. Lowery said it was amazing that high school age students have these types of learning opportunities. "These programs are just amazing... it is amazing what skills these children are learning," she said.

This is the second time this school year that Lowery has visited Charles County Public Schools. In July, Lowery met with Charles County Superintendent James E. Richmond and members of the Board of Education during her tour of each county in Maryland. Richmond said it was an honor for Lowery to visit Charles County, and North Point, to see what exciting opportunities are offered to students. "It was an honor to have Dr. Lowery here today to see how we are making learning fun, exciting and challenging for students. Our goal is to teach our children the skills and technology necessary to be successful in the future. I look forward to working with Dr. Lowery and hope she can visit our school system again," he said.

Richmond, Board of Education Chairman Roberta S. Wise, North Point Principal Kim Hill, Board Vice Chairman Maura H. Cook and members Patricia Bowie and Pamela A. Pedersen and Maryland Del. Peter Murphy joined Lowery on the tour.

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301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

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James E. Richmond

Editor/Writers

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

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Stone named 2012 Maryland State School of Character

The Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE) recently honored Thomas Stone High School as a 2012 School of the Year award winner. Schools are selected annually for implementing comprehensive character education initiatives within their school communities. Stone, along with 38 other Maryland schools, was honored Oct. 4 at a special ceremony held at Stevenson University.

The MCCE selects schools for the state award based on their demonstration of the Character Education Partnership's 11 principles of Effective Character Education. The principles focus on the promotion of ethical values and a caring school community, fostering students' self-motivation and engaging school staff to help with character-build-



Thomas Stone High School was honored Oct. 4 as a 2012 School of the Year by the Maryland Center for Character Education. The school received a display banner pictured above with Vice Principal Carl Pascarella, left, Principal Mike Meiser, right, and students Aaliyah Chisley and Daylon Sims, center.

ing efforts. This is the fourth consecutive year that the MCCE has recognized Stone for their character education initiatives.

As part of their state recognition, Stone received a 2012 School of the Year banner to display in the school. Over the past decade, Stone's staff has implemented several character education initiatives within their school community. These initiatives include the launch of the

“Capturing Kids Hearts” program, in which staff focus on engaging students in their school community, as well as providing encouragement and positive reinforcement.

For more information on the MCCE and character education initiatives, visit <http://www.mdc-trcharacter.org/>.

Personnel

Job Openings

Job Placement Coordinator – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 26.

Intensive Inclusion Support Integration (IISI) Instructional Assistant – F.B. Gwynn Education Center, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 29.

Building Service Worker – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Nov. 5.

Media Specialist – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position.

Coordinator of Career Technology Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and certification as an Administrator I in Maryland are required. A minimum of five years teaching experience and three years of administrative/supervisory leadership is required.

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

Early Childhood Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position. MSDE certification required.

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

Technology Education Teacher – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position.

Computer Applications Teacher – General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position.

Math Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Occupational Therapist – Location to be determined, 10- or 11-month position.

Speech Therapists – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Masters degree in speech pathology required.

Instructional Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years teaching experience required.

School Counselor – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, part-time position.

School Counselor – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Master's degree in school counseling required.

Extra pay positions

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Head girls' basketball coach
Contact Steven Lee, athletic director, 301-645-2601, to apply.

Staff Notes

Open enrollment Oct. 29-Nov. 16

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is holding open enrollment from Oct. 29 through Nov. 16. CCPS is moving the health care plan from a fiscal year schedule to a calendar year schedule. The change requires the system to offer open enrollment to all eligible employees. The enrollment will be paper based, and forms will be available on the staff services page of the CCPS website next week.