

 *Where success is measured
one student at a time*



Charles County Public Schools

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools/offices closed

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

Thanksgiving closures

Schools and administrative offices will be closed Nov. 21 through Nov. 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday break.

SECAC meeting

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7456 or e-mail fps@ccboe.com for more information.

Don't wait for snow

Sign up now to receive instant e-mail or text message notification of Charles County Public Schools inclement weather, school closings and breaking news from the Charles County Citizens Notification Service (CNS). Visit www.ccboe.com, and select the CNS logo pictured on the left-hand side of the home page. E-mail service is free, and cell phone text message notification is available. Cell phone carrier text rates apply.

Airing now on Channel 96

Airing now is a new episode of News-Break 96, a monthly show produced by the communications department that highlights school system staff and events. This episode features a special guest to Charles County Public Schools as well as important calendar information, and how the school system communicates school closings and delays. The show airs on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is also available on the school system website. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm> for a complete viewing schedule.



Students unite to teach others about bullying

As part of Bullying Prevention Month in October, several Charles County Public schools coordinated activities to teach students about bullying prevention and awareness. Piccowaxen Middle School held an activity in which students such as sixth grader Hailey Irvin, pictured above, created anti-bullying posters and poems to display in the school. Students countywide were also encouraged to wear orange on Oct. 12 to show support of students who have been bullied.

Redistricting process starts with parent comments

Nearly 100 parents and residents attended the first of three redistricting meetings on Nov. 5 to discuss and ask questions about the upcoming high school rezoning. On Nov. 13, the redistricting committee begins its work, which includes researching and developing proposals that will provide the Board of Education with options to create a new high school zone for St. Charles High School and balance student population numbers at the six existing high schools.

"There are no predetermined areas that will be redistricted and each and every high school zone will be reviewed and most likely modified," Board Chairman Roberta Wise stressed as she opened the meeting.

Wise also told the audience that the Board listened to parents during the recent elementary and middle school redistricting hearings, and a number of changes were made as a result of parent suggestions.

Wise said the Board reviewed and revised their policies, conducted a comprehensive and well-advertised committee selection process and conducted student enrollment audits at two of the more crowded high schools. Additionally, the numbers and methodology used for redistricting was reviewed and changed as needed.

The high school redistricting plan, once complete, will shift students entering grades 9, 10 and 11 in August 2014 and will impact students across the county. No rising seniors will be moved through redistricting, allowing them to graduate from the school they have been attending.

Tentative redistricting timeline

- Starting this month, the redistricting committee meets weekly at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata for as long as it takes to develop two different proposals for the high school redistricting.

See Redistricting, page 2



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Arthur Middleton Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Jennifer Elder, science teacher; Shiquita Walker, instructional specialist; and Linda Foshee, food service manager.

Annual high school fall plays

Several Charles County high schools are presenting their fall plays this month. North Point High School is presenting “You Can’t Take it With You,” on Nov. 8-10, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. School system employees are admitted free with their identification badge.

Maurice J. McDonough High School is presenting “A Midsummer Nights’ Dream,” Nov. 8-10 at 7 p.m., and again on Nov 10-11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$7 for thespians and children. System employees can also receive one free ticket by showing their identification badge.

Westlake High School is presenting “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,” on Nov. 15-17 at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students, and \$6 for thespians and senior citizens. School system staff is admitted free with their identification badges.

Henry E. Lackey High School is presenting “The Crucible,” on Nov. 16-17 at 7 p.m, and Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students, senior citizens and military members, and \$6 for thespians. School system employees can receive two tickets by providing their staff identification badge.

Thomas Stone High School students are providing an evening of theater and fun with “While Shakespeare Slept,” at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16-17. After the performances, there will be theater games with guest performers and a silent auction with food. Tickets are \$3. Call 301-645-2601 for more information.

Open enrollment ends Nov. 16

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is holding open enrollment through Nov. 16. The health care plan is moving from a fiscal year schedule to a calendar year schedule. The enrollment is paper based. Forms are available under the benefits section of the staff services page at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffservices/benefits.cfm>. Call 301-934-7459 for more information.

System looking for an award-worthy principal

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for its 2013 Principal of the Year and the *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award (DELA). The annual award honors exemplary principals and recognizes those who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their position to create an exceptional educational environment.

Teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators, or community members may submit nominations. Nominees must have a minimum of five year’s experience as a principal and three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Principals may not nominate themselves.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of four statements of support, one of which must be submitted by a professional educator; a brief career summary; and a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria categories.

The nomination criteria are:

- manage effectively;
- school must have made AYP for the last two years under the principals leadership;
- demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation;
- foster cooperation between the school

and the community;

- maintain a continuing dialogue with students and parents as well as faculty and staff;
- keep abreast of developments in the field of education;
- encourage team spirit;
- demonstrate leadership and exemplary commitment;
- continue to play an active role in the classroom;
- maintain their position as principal throughout the 2013-14 school year; and
- attend the four day DELA seminar to be held July 18-21, 2013.

Charles County’s 2013 Principal of the Year will be one of 21 recognized by the *Post* from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 11. Materials should be sent to: Charles County Public Schools, Attention: Jeanette Sudik/Human resources division, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Md., 20646.

Award recipients will be announced later this school year. Complete nomination information is posted on the school system website at http://www2.ccboe.com/employment/emp_rec.cfm.

Redistricting

continued from page 1

The tentative recommendations for the 2014 redistricting will be presented to the community at two public meetings. The meetings will be scheduled in the spring and after the recommendations are complete. Tentatively, the committee will present its proposal to the Superintendent at the April 9 Board of Education meeting. A public hearing on both proposals will be held shortly after that presentation.

The Superintendent’s recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education the following month, on May 14. The Board will schedule a public hearing prior to approval of the boundary changes and following the Superintendent’s recommendation to the Board.

The Board will approve the school attendance areas for the 2014-2015 school year at its June meeting. The redistricting

decision occurs one year prior to the opening of St. Charles High School in August 2014. Students affected by the redistricting change schools in August 2014.

- This timeline may change depending on the length of time it takes the committee to develop its alternatives.

Throughout the process, information will be provided through phone calls and e-mails, mailings/backpack fliers, Charles County Public Schools television stations Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS 12, and the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. The Board is also accepting written comments. E-mail them to redistrict@ccboe.com or mail them to Charles County Public Schools, Redistricting, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/transportation/hsredistricting.cfm> for more information.

Dr. Mudd's youngest students learn about STEM through performing arts

Recently in the prekindergarten and kindergarten classrooms at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, the school's youngest students learned about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills through activities centered on a popular fall fruit: a pumpkin.

During the week of Oct. 22-26, students in five classes participated in activities ranging from learning a song and dance about pumpkins and the growth-cycle of the fruit, to testing their five senses – sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell, with an actual pumpkin. The activities were part of the Wolf Trap Early Childhood STEM Learning Through the Arts program. Wolf Trap Teacher Artist Paige Hernandez visited each of the five classrooms daily throughout the week and focused on introducing one STEM-related concept at a time through the use of dance, music, storytelling, poetry, singing, and sign language.

Staff from the Judy Centers, which provide comprehensive services for Title I school children and their families, applied for the program earlier this year. Dr. Mudd was one of 10 schools selected nationwide to be offered the program. The program specifically targets early childhood education in order to reach younger children through arts-based teaching strategies and activities.

One of the more popular activities among student participants focused on role playing in which students were 'scientists' and examined a pumpkin using their five senses. Students in each class gathered in a circle to 'test' their subject and were asked to verbalize

their thoughts based on their five senses. The program also sponsored a "Keep It Moving" workshop for teachers on Oct. 22 that covered using performing arts to create creative classroom management techniques, and a family night on Oct. 24 for all Judy Center families.

Throughout the week, Hernandez met with each classroom teacher after working with their students to talk about the highlights of that day's particular lesson and how she planned to incorporate new skills into the activities to follow. Additionally, each pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teacher received lesson planning materials and books to use with their students to continue building their STEM-related skills through fun and exciting hands-on opportunities.

The program was launched in 2010 to schools in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and the opportunity was then extended to schools nationwide. It is sponsored by the Northrop Grumman Foundation. Northrop Grumman partnered with Wolf Trap to offer a national early childhood education STEM initiative for preschool-aged children and students in kindergarten.

The Wolf Trap Institute provides innovative arts-based teaching strategies and services in more than 1,000 classrooms serving 35,000 children. For more than 30 years, the Institute has integrated the arts into preschool and kindergarten curriculum to enhance language, literacy, math and science learning. For more information on the program, and the Wolf Trap Institute, visit www.wolftrap.org/stem.



Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School kindergartners, pictured above from left, Aaliyah Ignat-James, James Brown and Colbie Miller, watch as Wolf Trap Teacher Artist Paige Hernandez, second to right, demonstrates how to use her hands to feel the make-up of a pumpkin. As part of the Wolf Trap Early Childhood STEM Learning Through the Arts program, Hernandez worked with students in the prekindergarten and kindergarten classes at Dr. Mudd to teach them how performing arts can help them learn about STEM concepts.

Some certificated employees receiving a one-time payment today

Some employees will receive an extra check today, which is a one-time payment for those certificated staff that were not eligible for a grade or step increase in July. The payment, which could be up to \$1,000, was negotiated with the Education Association of Charles County (EACC). Full-time certificated employees who did not receive a grade or step increase will receive \$1,000, with the amount prorated for part-time employees based on the employee full-time equivalent, or the number of hours worked each week. For example, a half-time employee would receive \$500.

Eligible employees include certificated staff who did not receive

a pay increase in July and who were employed prior to June 30, 2012, and who are still currently employed by Charles County Public Schools. The \$1,000 one-time payment does not apply to classified staff. Support staff, represented by the Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), received a step or grade increase, if eligible, in July.

Payment will be made by a separate check or direct deposit and is subject to all federal and state withholding taxes. Call the Human Resources Division at 301-934-7255 if you have questions after the payment is made on Nov. 9.

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Board of Education announces November 13 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 13 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 website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/>.

Executive session - 12 p.m.

Call to order - 1 p.m.

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

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 and Operations update
- CIP update
- One-room school house
- Mock trial
- Recruitment and retention
- Legislative update

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition - 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Staff

Public Forum - 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Gifted and Talented Education Month resolution
- Policy #5171.1 - Epi-pens
- 2013 Legislative positions

Adjournment

Agendas for Board of Education meetings are posted on the Charles County Public Schools website, www.ccboe.com, a week prior to the meeting. Board meetings are also added to the school system website's On Demand page the day after they are televised. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/> to view the meetings.



Personnel

Job Openings

Special Education Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Nov. 14.

Building Service Workers – Openings at Milton M. Somers and Mattawoman middle schools, and at the Lifelong Learning Center, 12-month positions. Apply by Nov. 15.

Pupil Personnel Worker – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Master's degree in pupil personnel or a related field is required. A minimum of three years teaching experience and three semester hours in inclusion or special needs is required. Apply by Nov. 15.

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

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

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.

Special Education Teacher – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

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

Speech Therapists – Locations to be determined, 10-month positions. Master's degree in speech pathology required.

School Counselor – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, part-time position. Hours range from 3 to 7 p.m.

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

Staff Notes

Thomas Stone is full of character

Thomas Stone High School was recently announced as the "November 2012 Best Practices of the Month" school by the Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE). Stone was also selected to be featured on the center's website, www.mdctrcharacter.org/, and in their monthly newsletter for their strength of character education programs. Stone is a 2012 School of the Year award winner and was recently recognized statewide as a 2011-2012 Character Education school. Last year, Stone received a School of Character honorable mention award and was named an Emerging School of Character in 2010. In 2009, the MCCE honored Stone with a Maryland State School of Character award. Stone staff has implemented several character education initiatives within their school community including the "Capturing Kids Hearts" and "Cougar Pride" programs.