



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools closed for MLK day

Schools and offices are closed Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

SECAC meeting

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Call 301-934-7456 for more information.

Second marking period ends

The second marking period ends on Wednesday, Jan. 21; the third marking period begins on Thursday, Jan. 22.

Semester break

Schools are closed for students only on Monday, Jan. 26, for a semester break.

PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Call 301-934-7365 for details.

Mid-year orientation

The mid-year new teacher orientation is Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7253 for more information.

Student leaders unite

The next Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) meeting is Thursday, Jan. 29, at Thomas Stone High School. High school students meet at 9 a.m.; middle school students meet at 11 a.m. See page 18 of the 2014-15 Parent Handbook/Calendar for more information on our student leaders.

McGraw, Lukas selected to lead new Board

The Board of Education of Charles County elected Virginia McGraw as chairman and Michael Lukas as vice chairman at its Jan. 13 meeting. The Board elects a chairman and vice chairman each January, and officers serve one-year terms.



Virginia R. McGraw

"I am very grateful to have been chosen chairperson of our Board of Education," McGraw said following her election. "I have an enormous amount of pride in having been a Charles County Public Schools employee, which allowed me the opportunity to work

with amazing individuals at all levels. I hope that the demonstration of professionalism, honesty and fairness in my career is what has allowed me to be elected as a Board member, and now, as its chairperson. I look forward to working with my talented Board colleagues to represent all students and staff in Charles County," McGraw said.

McGraw, a former Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) principal, is a new Board member, elected to her first term in November. She retired from CCPS in June following a 25-year career as a teacher, vice principal and principal. McGraw was the

2009 CCPS Principal of the Year, and is an active member of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church. She has served as past president and recording secretary of Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Sorority, and is also a member of the Charles County Retired School Personnel Association. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary special education and her master's in special education. McGraw is a resident of Waldorf.



Michael Lukas

Lukas is serving his second term on the Board and first as vice chairman. He is an engineer and branch manager at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division. Lukas works with the Boy Scouts and enjoys playing and coaching soccer. He has volunteered with several community organizations, including the Greater Waldorf Jaycees, Waldorf Kiwanis, Christmas in April and Relay for Life. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and has completed graduate studies in systems engineering at George Mason University and the Naval Post Graduate School. Lukas lives in La Plata with his wife and son. First elected in 2010, he was re-elected in November 2014.

Two teachers join ranks with national certification

Two Charles County Public Schools teachers, Laura Buzzell at Henry E. Lackey High School, and Deborah Simmons at Milton M. Somers Middle School, recently joined the ranks of accomplished teachers nationwide who achieved national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Both teachers completed a yearlong performance-based assessment series to become National Board Certified Teachers. The assessment is designed to measure

what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. The process requires teachers to demonstrate how their activities strengthen student performance and student achievement.

Buzzell and Simmons join 31 other Charles County Public Schools teachers who hold current national certification status. Buzzell is a mathematics teacher at Lackey and earned her certification in the area of young adulthood. She began her career with the school system in 2007 at

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On the cover

Pictured on the cover are staff members honored at the Jan. 13 Board of Education meeting. Pictured from left, are Nathaniel Yake, technology facilitator, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; Doreen White, special education instructional assistant, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; and Stephen Fitzgerald, media specialist, Matthew Henson Middle School.

Nominate an outstanding leader

Charles County Public Schools is accepting nominations for its 2015 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 years experience as a principal and three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Principals may not nominate themselves. Nomination materials are posted on the system website at <http://www.cbocoe.com/jobs/emprec.php>. Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 30.

Science Center Spirit Nights

The James E. Richmond Science Center is hosting elementary school spirit nights in which members of a specified school community can take advantage of special opportunities. Attendees have access to discounted ticket prices, a double feature movie of their choice (selected by audience), discovery activities and more. The following school spirit nights are scheduled and will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. They are Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, Jan. 20-21; J.C. Parks Elementary School, Jan. 23; Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, Feb. 10-11; Dr. James Craik Elementary School, Feb. 18; Gale-Bailey Elementary School, March 5; and Eva Turner Elementary School, March 11. Contact the Science Center at 301-934-7464 or email JERScienceCenter@ccboe.com for more information about special events.

National Board Certified Teacher



Pamela Mengel



**National Board Certification Area
Generalist/Middle Childhood**

Position held: Third-grade teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School

Years of teaching experience: 10

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 10

Education:

Master's degree in elementary education from College of Notre Dame of Maryland, bachelor's degree in Russian from Bryn Mawr College



NBCT

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Lackey and currently teaches Algebra I, Advanced Placement (AP) calculus and the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) course for juniors. Buzzell has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and Spanish from Susquehanna University, and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from McDaniel College.

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.



**Deborah
Simmons**

Simmons is a mathematics teacher at Somers and earned her certification in the area of mathematics/early adolescence. She began her career with Charles County Public Schools in 2002 at John Hanson Middle School, and has been teaching at Somers

These teachers join more than 4,000 teachers nationwide who were certified in 2014. Certification is valid for 10 years, after which a teacher may complete the renewal process. Maryland has 2,760 teachers who are nationally certified and is one of the top 10 states with the highest participation in the certification process.



**Laura
Buzzell**

since 2005. Simmons teaches all of the seventh-grade accelerated math students. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and mathematics from West Liberty State College, and a master's degree in middle school curriculum and instruction from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

By achieving National Board Certification, Charles County teachers are eligible for a stipend added to their annual salary as long as they maintain their National Board Certification status. 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 the application process is available on the NBPTS website at www.nbpts.org.

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

CCPS offers gym discount; screening to promote employee wellness

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is offering discounted gym memberships at World Gym, health risk assessments and biometric screening to promote employee wellness and in partnership with Calvert Memorial Hospital. A kickoff enrollment session for the benefit, called KeepWell@Work, is scheduled for Jan. 19. Full-time employees (those who are eligible to receive CCPS health benefits) and their immediate family members (ages 12 and up) are eligible to participate. Program participants can also access weight management programs. A program kick-off enrollment session is scheduled for Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the World Gym location in La Plata.

The program features two enrollment sessions per year. The first session starts Jan. 19 and is available through Feb. 14. Another session is planned for July. These are the only two times that program participants can sign up. Eligible family members include any one who could be added to a CCPS-sponsored health benefit plan, such as a spouse and children up to age 26 (including adopted, stepchildren, or a disabled child with benefits who were enrolled prior to age 26). There are requirements for all employees, as well as participating family members.

These requirements include:

- **The completion of an online health-risk assessment.** This is required for everyone signing up and the fee is \$26 per person. Participants must first visit <http://www.calverthospital.org/body.cfm?id=1288> to request the health-risk assessment. The assessment fee is waived for participants who sign up for the 12-month gym membership.

- **All participants must attend an enrollment session.** At this session, participants will complete the biometrics portion of the assessment, sign up for the gym membership (if interested) and complete the payroll deduction paperwork. A link to session information is posted on the CCPS employee portal, InsideCCPS. Participants can bring cholesterol and glucose screening information to the enrollment session to include it in their biometric screening. Results must not be older than three months prior to enrollment.

- **The gym membership is not required.** However, participation in an enrollment session and payroll deduction for the health assessment fee is required. The \$26 health assessment fee will be paid through payroll deduction at \$1.09 twice a month for 24 pay periods.

- **Completion of all requirements by the enrollment deadline of Feb. 14.** Participants who cannot attend any of the scheduled enrollment sessions can contact the Keep Well Center at Calvert Memorial Hospital to complete the sign-up process. Call 410-535-8233.

Total cost of the gym membership is \$240 annually per person, which would be charged at \$20 per month, per person, and paid for through payroll deduction at \$10 per pay for 24 pay periods. Deductions begin in March (for those who enroll in the first session) and September (for those who enroll in July). During months where there are three pay dates, no deduction will be made on the third pay date. All health-risk assessment and membership payments must be processed through payroll deduction. There is also a \$26 gym membership enrollment fee per person that must be paid at the enrollment session. Accepted forms of payment include cash, check or a credit card.

There is no limit to the number of family members that can sign up; however, once the deductions are processed they cannot be canceled until the end of any gym contracts. Employees who participate in the program must renew their program participation during the KeepWell@Work enrollment period with CCPS held annually. Those interested in continuing with the program after the initial one-year period must also undergo a new health-risk assessment.

As part of the gym membership, participants are eligible for a fitness orientation with a personal trainer who will help them develop an exercise program. The gym membership is for use at the following World Gym locations: La Plata, Waldorf, Prince Frederick, Owings, California, Lexington Park, Leonardtown and Lusby.

Employees who already have a current gym membership/contract at the listed World Gym locations can sign up through the KeepWell@Work program to access the reduced rate of \$20 per month. The existing gym contract will be updated with a new start date at the time of enrollment, and will continue with the new cost of \$20 per month for 12 months. These employees will also receive a new key tag for their new membership. The enrollment fee of \$26 will only be waived for employees who already have a long-term contract with World Gym (one year or longer).

Important notes about the program:

- Family members are only able to participate if the CCPS employee in their family participates.

- Full-time employees only have to be eligible for CCPS-health benefits to participate in the program – they do not have to use them to participate. CCPS employees are eligible for health benefits if they are hired in a permanent position and work at least 20 hours per week.

- Full-time employees who want to participate but do not use CCPS-sponsored health benefits must contact Lori Gibson at lrgibson@ccboe.com in the office of human resources to be added to the participant list in order to sign up.

- Employee participation is a minimum of completing the online health-risk assessment, attending an enrollment session, completing the biometrics and signing up for payroll deduction (for the assessment fee if the gym benefit is not used).

- The CCPS employee must be present at the enrollment session for any family member to sign up.

- Gym membership includes unlimited access to the eight listed World Gym facilities, including fitness classes. Memberships do not include daycare fees.

- All program participants will receive a personal wellness profile report about two to four weeks after the enrollment period ends.

- Any gym membership for employees (or their family members) who ends their employment with CCPS will be terminated.

- Gym memberships do not renew automatically.

The goal of the program is to provide CCPS employees with opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles and keep health care costs and claims low. Additional information is posted on Calvert Memorial's website at <http://www.calverthospital.org/body.cfm?id=1286>. Questions can be directed to keepwell@cmhlink.org or 410-535-8233.



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Nominate an outstanding teacher for Post's award

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for the *Washington Post's* 2015 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. The annual award honors exemplary teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching and outstanding leadership, encourage creative and quality instruction, and contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education.

Nominees must be full-time teachers in grades prekindergarten through 12 and have a minimum of five years teaching experience. Three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Teachers, students, former students, administrators or community members may submit nominations. Teachers may not nominate themselves. Nominees must also maintain their teaching position throughout the 2015-16 school year.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of four statements of support, one of which must be from a professional educator; a career summary; a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria categories, and a vertical headshot color photograph of the nominee (submitted both on a disc and printed out). These materials must be included in a presentation binder and not exceed 40 pages total.

Nominees must be teachers who:

- instill in students a desire to learn and achieve;

- understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents and foster their self-esteem;
- demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and the ability to share it effectively with students;
- foster cooperative relationships with their colleagues and the community;
- demonstrate outstanding leadership; and
- maintain their teaching position throughout the 2015-16 school year.

Charles County's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award recipient will be one of 21 recognized by the *Post*.

Nomination packets are due Friday, Jan. 30. Materials should be sent to Pam Mucciolo, Office of Human Resources, Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

The winner will be selected by a screening committee and kept confidential until the *Washington Post* announces each winner from all counties. Additional information about the nomination process is available on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/emprec.php>.

The *Post* established the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards in honor of Agnes Meyer, a supporter of public education who was the wife of Eugene Meyer, who purchased the *Post* in 1933.

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job Openings

Guidance Secretary – Piccowaxen Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 16.

Building Service Worker – St. Charles High School, 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Technology Facilitator – Eva Turner Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Principals – Locations to be determined, 12-month positions. A master's degree, three years of teaching experience, three years of vice principal experience, a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator II endorsement and three current references required. Apply by Jan. 31.

Vice Principals – Locations to be determined, 11- and 12-month positions. A master's degree, three years of teaching experience, a

Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator I endorsement and three current references required. Apply by Jan. 31.

School Psychologist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10.5-month position. A school psychology certification in Maryland is required. A Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential is preferred.

Special Education Teacher – Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10-month position.

French Teacher – St. Charles High School, 10-month position.

English Teacher – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position.

Library Media Specialist – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

Mathematics Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position.

Prekindergarten Teacher – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position.

Reading Recovery Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in early childhood education or reading, evidence of completion of a Reading Recovery training program and three years teaching experience at the primary level required. Experience with Reading Recovery preferred.

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

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

Technology Education Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position.

Instructional Resource Teacher for Life Skills – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position.

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

Food Service Substitute – Location to be determined, hourly position.

Bus Driver Substitute – Location to be determined, hourly position.