



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Kiddie Junction

St. Charles High School Kiddie Junction Preschool opens Nov. 14 for three- and four-year-old children. The program runs from 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday until April 12. Cost is \$350 for the duration of the program. Applications are available in the school's main office. For more information, contact Carrie Bier at 301-753-2090 or cbier@ccboe.com.

Relay off on right foot

Charles County Public Schools Relay for Life is holding a fundraiser — Stomp Out Cancer. Purchase paper footprints through Oct. 31 to support the cause.

Footprints can be purchased for \$1 each from Starkey Strong representatives including Linda Ivko in transportation, Arin Bonner in Title I, Judy Addison in R&A and Stephanie Lawson in instruction. Starkey Strong also is seeking new members. Go to <http://bit.ly/2laYGOC> to sign up.

Retirement session planned

Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, the State of Maryland Pension System, along with the office of fiscal services, is hosting a closed retirement planning session 5 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 16 for employees of Charles County Public Schools who are enrolled in the State of Maryland Pension System.

Guest speakers and retirement planning handouts, as well as light refreshments, will be provided. The meeting will be held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 5980 Radio Station Road, La Plata. RSVP by Nov. 3 to 301-934-7289 or BenHotline@ccboe.com.



Kindergartners cast away with PLTW Launch

Mary H. Matula Elementary School kindergartner Lillyan Coates, right, helps craft a cast for Tiersten Heaney. As part of Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch, kindergartners at Mary H. Matula Elementary School created casts for classmates using bubble wrap, string, pom-pom balls and tape. Students work in groups, using their critical thinking skills and exploratory nature to come up with casts that are water resistant, lightweight, strong and comfortable. PLTW Launch is in all Charles County Public Schools for kindergartners through second graders.

Fall, winter productions kick off with 'Game' Nov. 2

Tiaras, chocolate, Peter Pan's backstory and more top the list of fall high school productions happening soon at the seven Charles County Public high schools.

First up in the fall play season is "Game of Tiaras" at Westlake High School. The show runs 7 p.m., Nov. 2-4 and is an adaptation of the production of "King Lear." The show sets stage in a magical kingdom in which tragedy strikes after an aging king decides to split his land among his three daughters. The show features plot twists similar to those found in the television show "Game of Thrones" and includes undertones of Shakespearean trag-

edy. Tickets are \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. Call 301-645-8857 for more details.

The drama department at Maurice J. McDonough High School is hosting "Peter and the Starcatcher" by Rick Elice the weekend of Nov. 9-11. Show time is 7 p.m. with a 2 p.m. understudy show performance also set for Nov. 11. The show features the backstory of the famous boy who could fly, Peter Pan. The plot includes how Peter Pan earned his name, learned to fly and highlights how Captain Hook lost his hand. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, senior citizens and military members, and \$7 for thespians and

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Notebook

On the cover

Lori Sanchez, secretary to the principal at Westlake High School, was honored by the Board during its October meeting; Brent Stum, physical education teacher at La Plata High School, along with two other CCPS physical education teachers, was honored Oct. 20 as a Simon McNeely award recipient by the Maryland Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Read more about the award recipients in the Nov. 10 edition of *School News*; and Monica Halloran, fifth-grade teacher at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, was honored by the Board at its last meeting.

Financial goal seminars set

Financial goal seminars will be Nov. 7 and 8. CCPS partnered with VALIC to offer an educational workshop on retirement income strategies. The seminar addresses the five risks associated with retirement and explains how income planning can help manage the risks. The Nov. 7 seminar is 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata. The Nov. 8 seminar is 4:30 to 6 p.m. at North Point High School at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf.

Apply by Nov. 17 for job fair

A Charles County Public Schools teacher job fair is 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 4. The school system is looking to recruit teachers at all grade levels. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and be able to meet certification requirements established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Applicants can fill out and submit an online application at www.ccboe.com/jobs/apply.php. For an application to be considered complete, required supporting documents and three professional references must be submitted by Nov. 17. Select "CCPS Teacher Job Fair December 4, 2017" as the referral source on the application. Candidates selected to interview at the fair will be contacted by Nov. 29. The fair is invitation only, no walk-in interviews will be considered.

Workshops open

Afterschool workshops in varying subjects are being held through March. To find out more, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com>.

Plays

children under the age 5. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff can attend the show free by showing their school system identification badge. Tickets go on sale Oct. 23 at <http://www.mcdonoughdrama.com/>.

Student actors at Henry E. Lackey High School will present Craig Sodaro's "Death by Chocolate" the weekend of Nov. 16-18 with a show time of 6:30 p.m. The show features drama, comedy, murder, mystery and romance, and takes place in a local coffee shop, the Precious Perks Coffee Shoppe. The show follows the main character Nick, a private detective, as he investigates the death of a man who was poisoned with the shop's signature coffee, Death by Chocolate. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students, senior citizens and members of the military, and \$6 for members of the Thespian Honor Society who show their identification cards. CCPS staff can attend the show free by showing their school system identification badge. Call 301-743-5431 for more information.

North Point High School student actors will present "M*A*S*H" the weekend of Nov. 16-18 with a show time of 7 p.m. nightly. The show follows the members of the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital stationed on the front lines of battle during the Korean War. The plot includes humor, drama and more as the characters turn to one another for friendship as they are surrounded by war. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens. CCPS staff can attend the show free by showing their school system identification badge. Call 301-753-1759 for more information.

Also taking the stage the weekend of Nov. 16-18 are student actors at Thomas

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Stone High School as they present "Greek Story Theatre," featuring Greek poetry classics such as the Odyssey and Oedipus. Show time for all three dates is 7 p.m. The plot features the Odyssey, a Greek poem that chronicles Odysseus and his journey home after the Trojan War and the fall of Troy, and Oedipus, who is destined to bring destruction to his family. Tickets are \$5. Call 301-645-2601 for more information.

La Plata High School student actors are set to take the stage on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1-2 in "Elf Jr." Show time is 6:30 p.m. The show follows the main character Buddy, a young orphan raised by elves at the North Pole. As Buddy ages and realizes he is not an elf, he travels to New York City to find his father and discover his true identity. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. CCPS staff can attend the show free by showing their school system identification badge. Call 301-934-1100 for more information.

Also taking the stage in December are student actors at St. Charles High School. "World War II Radio Christmas" is set for Dec. 1-3 with show times of 7 p.m. on Dec. 1-2 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 3. The show is family friendly and sets stage during World War II. Student actors will recreate the experience of attending a live 1940s radio broadcast on Christmas Eve during World War II. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, and \$5 for students, senior citizens and military members. School system staff can attend the show free by showing their employee identification badge. Call 301-753-2090 for more information.

Stars shine bright at the Science Center

The James E. Richmond Science Center is gearing up for the holiday season with new shows playing in its full-dome theater. The slate includes "Perfect Little Planet" and "We are Stars" showing in November and December. "A Starry Tale" will play in November, with "Let it Snow" and "Season of Light" showing in Decem-

ber. General admission is \$8 for adults and children older than four. Members are admitted free, as are Charles County Public Schools employees with identification. For more information about the upcoming shows, or to buy tickets online, go to <http://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/shows-schedule-2/>.

Charmaine Thompson named Chief of Instructional Technology

Charmaine Thompson has joined Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) as the new Chief of Instructional Technology.

Thompson oversees the technology department and helps to manage the school system's technology infrastructure.

With an extensive background in technology and education, Thompson brings experience in supporting students and staff with advanced digital tools.

Thompson joined CCPS in July and said she is committed to providing students with the technology and programs necessary to maximize student engagement and achievement.

"I am excited to join the Charles County Public Schools family. My goal is to create an instructional technology vision that will foster a seamless integration of technology into the county's teaching and learning environments, and to enhance teachers' innovative uses of technology in order to better prepare our students for the 21st century," Thompson said.

Also assisting Thompson in supporting the technology needs of CCPS students and staff is Lora Bennett, who was recently named as the Executive Director of IT Strategy.

Bennett has worked for the school system for more than 20 years.

Her vision for technology access is one in which students and staff have the tools necessary to achieve success.

"I have helped to make significant changes to our department's approach to technology support for the school system. At the core of the changes has been my belief that we need to provide access to technology resources that enables all students and staff to work and learn efficiently," Bennett said.

Prior to joining CCPS Thompson worked for the U.S. Department of Labor as a chief learning officer, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as the team lead for the Instructional Design and Development Team within the FAA Leadership and Learning Institute.

She worked for three years as an instructional systems specialist with the Department of Defense Media Activity, Defense Information School, and served as the interim director of instructional technology and distance education with the Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering for one year.

Thompson began her teaching career in technology as a computer science teacher with Montgomery County Public Schools in 2001.

She later transitioned to a position in 2005 as the director of academic technology with Sidwell Friends Middle School in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, Thompson has served for nine years as an online adjunct instructor with Kaplan University instructing software applications and introduction to web design courses.



Charmaine Thompson



Lora Bennett

es.

She has a bachelor's degree in business education with a concentration in information technology from East Carolina University, and master's degree in education and human development with a concentration in educational technology leadership from The George Washington University.

Thompson has also completed coursework toward a doctorate degree in educational technology leadership with Walden University.

Bennett was the CCPS director of customer experience in technology for one year and previously served as the IT manager for the school system for 11 years.

She was an integral part in the launch and implementation of the school system's move to Microsoft Office 365.

She also served as a systems administrator for five years, and computer and mathematics teacher both at Thomas Stone High and Benjamin Stoddert Middle schools.

Additionally, she has served as the technology committee chair for the past 15 years and helped to develop the school system's technology plan.

Bennett is a consultant to Mathematica Policy Research as a senior security advisor on projects for the U.S. Department of Labor.

She is a Microsoft Innovative Educator Trainer, and has chaired the test development committee for the Southern Maryland Computer Bowl for the past 10 years.

She has a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a secondary education minor from James Madison University, and a master's degree in management information systems from the University of Maryland.

New website design is ADA-compliant, has a phone-friendly design

Charles County Public Schools recently updated its website to be ADA-compliant.

As part of the update, changes were made to remove out-of-date forms, dates and other information.

There are other changes to streamline the site, and make it more user-friendly for staff, parents and students using desktop computers and phones to access the website.

Among the changes is the elimination of the Staff tab at the top of the page. Now all information, forms and staff development updates are in MyCCPS which can be accessed by clicking on the MyCCPS button underneath the opening slide show.

Principals can find Employee Recognition forms under the About

tab at the top of the page, Careers replaces Jobs and the links once listed in the green sidebar on the front page are now under the Quick Links tab on the far right of the home page.

The majority of forms are on the Student Services website found under the Departments tab. The most-used forms also are listed under the Parents tab for quick access.

Under the Community tab — a new feature — are links to forms community members may need access to and information about distributing materials in schools and charter schools.

The status of school and staff codes also is a new feature and is in the upper right hand corner of the site.

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Share good news with your school's Public Relations Liaison

Each school has a Public Relations (PR) Liaison ready to capture special, fun and educational moments to share with members of the school community and county residents. Via social (Twitter and Facebook) and traditional media outlets, PR Liaisons strive to share good news stories with others while fostering a sense of pride and identity within the school community. School liaisons can be counted on to cover — as their schedules permit — events, activities, guest speakers and cool lessons. They just need a heads up before the event — the more lead time, the better. Each liaison also lists school activities on a calendar shared with communications staff. The following is a list of schools and the PR Liaisons at each:

Elementary schools

C. Paul Barnhart — Joni Rooney
Berry — Nicholas Gardiner
Dr. Gustavus Brown — Donna Fowler
Dr. James Craik — Katie Cooper
William A. Diggs — Joe McMahan
Gale-Bailey — Jennifer Walsh
Dr. Thomas L. Higdon — Sarah Gobe
Indian Head — Andrea Landis
Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer — Deidra Fuller and Taniesha Goulbourne
Malcolm — Christine Chinault
T.C. Martin — Laura Liverman
Mary H. Matula — Patricia Koch
Arthur Middleton — Karen Ferruza

Walter J. Mitchell — Monique Burton and Belynda Jarboe
Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy — Lisa Sweeney
Dr. Samuel A. Mudd — Nathaniel Yake
Mary B. Neal — Katrina Garvey
J.C. Parks — Pelestine Rogers
J.P. Ryon — Laura Metz
Eva Turner — Keith Juarez
William B. Wade — Heidi Furman

Middle schools

Theodore G. Davis — Gregory Bongiorni and Timothy Steelman
John Hanson — Pat Hodson
Matthew Henson — Alexandra Eichel
Mattawoman — Joseph Evans
Piccowaxen — Lisa Sue Smiroldo
General Smallwood — Michelle Mandley
Milton M. Somers — Heidi Mickey
Benjamin Stoddert — Brooke Trivett

High schools

Henry E. Lackey — Heather Alvarez
La Plata — Kevin Barry
Maurice J. McDonough — Kathleen Davis
North Point — Justin Meeder
St. Charles — Matt Helming
Thomas Stone — Darnell Lewis-Russell
Westlake — Holly Dolan

Centers

Lifelong Learning Center — Danielle Webber
Robert D. Stethem — Sandy Rooney.

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

Science Lab Assistant — James E. Richmond Science Center, temporary position. Applicants must be at least 16 and in high school. Preferred education and/or experience include volunteer work at Science Center or a similar venue. Applicants should have prior experience working with children and knowledge of science lab practices and procedures and be self-motivated with the ability to work both independently and in a team environment. Apply by Oct. 27.

Science Center Teacher — James E. Richmond Science Center, part-time position. Applicants should have a master's degree equivalent/Advanced Professional Certificate. A minimum of five years of successful teach-

ing experience with a focus in STEM, math and/or science is preferred. The teacher will work with the center director to develop lessons for the Digital Classroom and Science on a Sphere. Apply by Oct. 27.

Behavioral Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Applicants provide training and support for students receiving special education services with a variety of challenging behavior. The behavioral specialist will develop behavior management plans, train staff and monitor the implementation of the plans. Experience in the school setting is Apply by Oct. 31.

Printing Assistant — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10.5-month position. Printing assistants produces, collates, cuts and binds all printed materials for the entire school system. The job includes performing general maintenance on and operating all installed equipment, maintains inventory of printing

and reproduction supplies and establishes, maintains and prioritizes print jobs and work schedules. Apply by Nov. 1.

Temporary Bilingual (Spanish) Instructional Assistant — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Applicants must have completed two years of higher education study or possession of an associate's or higher level degree, or pass assessment that demonstrates knowledge of and the ability to assist in teaching reading, writing and mathematics. Apply by Nov. 3.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — William B. Wade Elementary School, 10-month position. Applicants must have an interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children, along with excellent human relations skills and good oral and written communication skills. A high school diploma is required, as well as experience working with children. Apply by Nov. 3.