



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Take in a show or three

The fall play season is wrapping up with three very different offerings. Thomas Stone High School will make itself known with “Anon(ymous),” written by Naomi Iizuka. Based on Homer’s “The Odyssey,” the play tells the story of a young refugee named Anon as he journeys through the United States. Shows are 7 p.m. Nov. 21 through 23. Tickets are \$5 with CCPS badges honored.

Westlake High School lets it go with “Disney’s Frozen Jr.” Sisters Elsa and Anna learn the meaning of true love in the stage adaptation of Disney’s hit movie. Shows are 7 p.m. Nov. 21 through 23. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and children. CCPS badges are honored with two free tickets per badge.

Leave the candlesticks at home and make a date with Col. Mustard, Mrs. Peacock and the gang for “Clue: On Stage (High School Edition)” at St. Charles High School Dec. 6 to 8. Based on the 1985 cult classic movie, “Clue,” the whodunnit will have audiences guessing up until the end. Shows are 7 p.m. Dec. 6, 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 7 and 2 p.m. Dec. 8. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$5 for students, military members and senior citizens. CCPS badges are honored with one ticket per badge.

Thanksgiving holiday

Schools and offices are closed Nov. 27 to 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Turkey Trot totals

The Turkey Trot 5K held Nov. 9 netted \$5,200 for the Southern Maryland Food Bank. The pantry helps support communities in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary’s counties. More than 230 staff members and their families participated in the Turkey Trot. To donate to the food bank, go to <https://southernmarylandfoodbank.com/>.



PE teachers do their Ommwork at training

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) middle school physical education teachers participated in a professional development session about the benefits of yoga and mindfulness. Headed by Kathi Donnelly, founder of OmmWorks, the training includes basic yoga, meditation and mindfulness exercises that can help students relieve anxiety and manage stress. In one of the exercises, participants sat in a circle and shared their dharma — or purpose in life — with each other. Mattawoman Middle School physical education teachers Tremain Simpson and Ra’ese Hunt, and Luwanne Mebane, PE department chair at John Hanson Middle School participate in an activity.

Students share emotions and move this world

Indian Head Elementary School launched a new program this school year to focus on social and emotional needs of students. Called “Move This World,” the program provides students with strategies to express emotions in a positive way. Students learn about and use 10 “emoger” strategies to display their feelings. The emogers focus on breathing, counting to 10, giving someone a smile, hug or fist bump, walking away quietly, drinking a glass of water, meeting in the middle, putting yourself in another’s shoes, active listening, looking for help, and tightening and releasing muscles.

At the start of each school day, students watch a 5-minute video that features a specific emoger lesson. Classroom teachers then talk with students about the lesson, what they learned and how they can use the strategies at home and at school. At the end of the day, teachers work with students on calming techniques and ask them to reflect on their day. “The lessons talk about stressors but also tie in a positive reflection process,” Shane Blandford, principal at Indian Head, said.

Some mornings, teachers use restorative circles to discuss the Move This World lesson.

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Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are educators honored by the Board of Education of Charles County at its Nov. 12 meeting. From left are Bianca Watson, fifth-grade teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; Renard Barnes, instructional assistant in the Emotionally Adjusted (EA) program at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center; and Christina Trest, learning resource teacher, General Smallwood Middle School.

Hosting duties

Families are needed to host visiting Bunkyo University students for a week in February. University students studying to become educators have visited Charles County Public Schools each year for three decades. They will spend two weeks in the U.S. and bunk with host families during the second week of their visit. While here, students are assigned to an elementary or middle school to observe classes, learn about education in America and will present lessons on Japanese culture or literacy to CCPS students.

Host families will pick up Bunkyo students on Feb. 21 and drop them off at the hotel on Feb. 28. During the week, host families will need to provide transportation for Bunkyo students to attend their assigned school during the week. Staff members interested in hosting a student should apply online by Dec. 6 at <https://tinyurl.com/BunkyoHostFamily2020>. A committee will review student applications to make the best match with a host family. For more information, contact Kimberly Hairston, director of equity and diversity, at 301-934-7245 or khairston@ccboe.com.

Scholarship Fair is Dec. 17

CCPS and the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) are hosting a Scholarship Fair 6-8 p.m. Dec. 17 on the La Plata campus of CSM. High school juniors and seniors, along with their parents, can stop by to learn more about scholarships available for Charles County students. There will also be workshops for parents where they can learn about the college application process and resources available. The fair will be held in the BI Building at 8730 Mitchell Road in La Plata.



Instructors and students involved in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) JROTC program who presented at a recent Board meeting include Gunny Sgt. Clive Bailey of La Plata High School, left, Lt. Col. Linda Ray of North Point High School, La Plata seniors Philip Flores and Emily Dutton, Gunny Sgt. Samyra Rogers of St. Charles High School and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Wagenbrenner of Maurice J. McDonough High School.

JROTC builds leadership skills, instills confidence

More than 860 high school students in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) are enrolled in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs. The JROTC program curriculum is accredited through each military branch and teaches students about military history, leadership, wellness and life skills. Instructors from several high schools presented a JROTC program overview to the Board of Education at its Nov. 12 meeting.

Helping to present were Gunny Sgt. Clive Bailey of La Plata High School, Lt. Col. Linda Ray of North Point High School, Gunny Sgt. Samyra Rogers of St. Charles High School and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Wagenbrenner of Maurice J. McDonough High School.

Each instructor presented facts about the JROTC program and mentioned misconceptions associated with student participation. While some may think the program only teaches students about military service, the mission of the JROTC program is to develop citizens of character who contribute to the community.

Cadets belong to something bigger than themselves, said Bailey, who is a longtime JROTC instructor at La Plata. The program emphasizes service to school, community and the country. "It teaches kids a sense of belonging," Bailey said.

La Plata High School senior Emily Dutton joined JROTC as a freshman and said

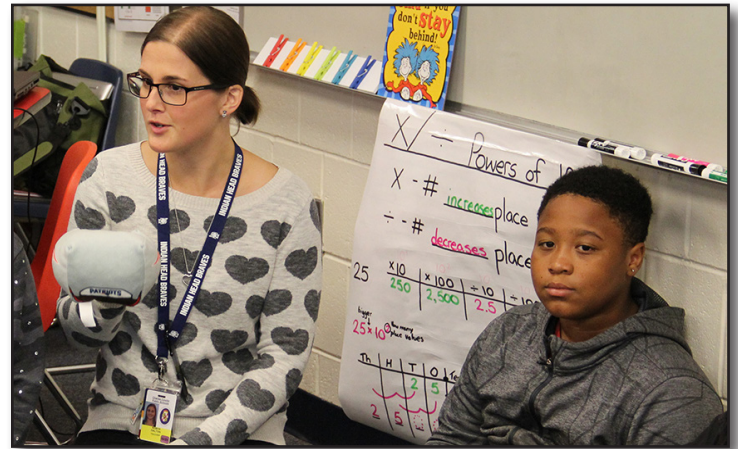
the program has changed her life. "As a freshman I didn't really care about school. I was just in it. ... Now I have a 4.0 [GPA] and I would never settle for anything less. JROTC puts us out in the community, gives us a chance to give back," Dutton said.

Cadets participate in Veterans Day activities and parades, take part in Wreaths Across America at Cheltenham and Arlington military cemeteries and are mentors to other students. They volunteer for Special Olympics, the Charles County Fair and high school graduations.

La Plata senior Philip Flores said his participation in JROTC has been a life changing experience. "It has taught me about leadership and leadership skills. The program allowed me to learn about character," Flores said.

Henry E. Lackey and North Point high schools are U.S. Air Force units; Maurice J. McDonough and Thomas Stone high schools have U.S. Army units; a U.S. Marine unit is at St. Charles High School and units at La Plata and Westlake high schools represent the U.S. Navy.

Rogers said she has watched the program at St. Charles grow over the past few years. "Younger students are excited to see the cadets. The cadets are excited to do things in the community. We instill leadership in them and teach them about a lot of important trades," Rogers said.



Left, Rhonda Slater, a fifth-grade teacher at Indian Head Elementary School talks with Alexandria Sanford. Daevon Gutrick and Isabelle Eanes are also pictured. Above, teacher Robyn Dalton and Jeremiah Keys participate in a Move This World activity.

EMOGER

continued from Page 1

Restorative circles are a group activity designed to improve communication and interactions among students. The circles allow students time to sit down and talk, be heard and positively communicate. “Restorative circles can be used for anything. They give each kid a voice and can be on any topic,” Blandford said.

Fifth-grade teacher Robyn Dalton recently held a restorative circle to work with students on showing gratefulness. During restorative circles, speakers pass a symbolic item to signify whose turn it is to share. Students passed around a stuffed item when it was their turn to speak. Some shared they were grateful for their parents and family, while others shared they are thankful for school and their friends.

Fifth grader Ethan Hatton shared that he is thankful for his family. “They do a lot for me. I am in the band and my mom comes to see me play and helps me practice,” Hatton said. He said he likes the Move This World program because it helps students keep their anger and emotions in check. His favorite lesson so far is the matchmaker theme. During the matchmaker lesson, students pair up with a classmate who is having the same emotions. “It is helpful to see when you are feeling happy or angry that someone else in your class is feeling the same way,” Hatton said.

Indian Head fifth grader Yaliyah Reyes said she uses emogers at school and at home. She often has minor arguments with her siblings and said she likes to focus on the emoger sleep on it to calm down. “It helps me wake up with a better mindset the next day,” Reyes added.

As a result of Move This World, teachers are seeing increased positivity and kindness in the classroom. Second-grade teacher Jasmine Thomas said her class reviewed the emogers during the first two weeks of school, and now she sees students using them daily in class. “Some of my friends in class will tell others when they are not showing active listening. I also have students who are creating their own emoger from a mix of current strategies. Some may need more of a prompt, but the kids are getting creative,” Thomas said.

Indian Head is the only school in Charles County using the program. Blandford said she wanted to address social and emotional



Indian Head Elementary School fifth-graders in Slater's class Gage Ringgold, Danielle Brown, Demaya Harmon and Ayden Kidd in an activity.

learning without adding more work for teachers. “This is an easy way to focus on social and emotional health without adding more to a teacher's plate,” Blandford said.

Indian Head administrators also built the emoger strategies into parent communication. When students are sent home with a behavior communication form, the emoger strategies are listed at the bottom for parent review. The goal is for parents to help reinforce at home what their children are learning at school. “We want our parents to be able to work on strategies at home to help their children better manage emotions both at and outside of school,” Blandford said.

Move This World content features age appropriate material and lessons for students ranging from prekindergarten through fifth grade. As a result of the program, Blandford is seeing positive student gains. “We are seeing lots of students showing strategies during the day. In the afternoon, we focus on calming techniques so students can reflect on their day and leave school on a positive note,” Blandford said.

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On the case with McDonough



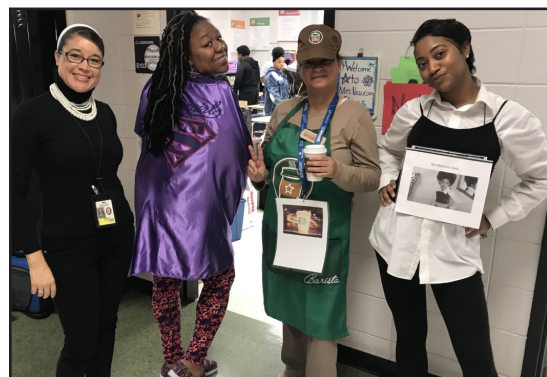
Students in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) program at Maurice J. McDonough High School recently welcomed guest speaker Bobby Stahl, second from left. Stahl, director of operations for the Town of La Plata, stopped by Kelly Bryant's class to talk to students about water management and farming. Pictured with Bryant, left, and Stahl are sophomores Evan Whitten, Melanie Hall, Diego Farmer, Danny Mears and freshman McKenna Gardiner.

Submitted by McDonough's PR liaison Gwendolyn Todd.

True characters

Audrey Hepburn, Superteacher, a barista and a meme of Cardi B walk into Theodore G. Davis Middle School — it must be Spirit Week. Davis staff members language arts teacher Christine Turner, left, instructional specialist Velvet Gipsen, and language arts teachers Wendie Newcamp and Jazamek Price, joined in on the fun.

Submitted by Davis's PR liaison Michelle Malloy.



Personnel

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

Job Openings

Secondary School Counselor — Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 11-month position. A master's degree in school counseling is required as well as least 600 clock hours practicum or experience in counseling in a school setting. Apply by Nov. 29.

Secretary to the Principal — Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 12-month position. High school diploma required and experience working with Quicken or QuickBooks. Apply by Dec. 2.

Dance Teacher — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree and meeting Maryland State of Education certification requirements are required. Knowledge and experience with current dance styles and instruction methods. Apply by

Dec. 27.

Early Childhood Teacher — All elementary schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

Elementary School Counselor — All elementary schools, 10-month position. A master's degree in school counseling is required as well as least 500 clock hours practicum or experience in counseling in a school setting. Apply by Dec. 31.

Principal Pool for Future Openings — All schools, 12-month position. Master's degree required with three years of teaching experience and three years of experience as a vice principal. Apply by Dec. 31.

Reading Recovery Teacher — All elementary schools, 10-month position. A degree in early childhood education, elementary education or reading is required along with three years of classroom teaching experience at the primary level. Apply by Dec. 31.

Social Studies Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by

March 27.

Physical Education Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by March 27.

Mathematics Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by March 27.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position. High school diploma required and an interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children. Position open until filled.

Title I Instructional Assistant for the Three's Program — All elementary schools, 10-month position. The ability to work in an instructional support role with 3-year-old children is required. Position open until filled.

Food Service Assistant Manager — All schools, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required. Position open until filled.