



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Memorial Day closure

Schools and offices are closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

Graduations are here

Charles County Public Schools Class of 2013 graduates on June 3 and June 4. Thomas Stone, Maurice J. McDonough and Henry E. Lackey high schools will have their graduation ceremonies on Monday, June 3, at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro. The ceremony for Stone is at 9 a.m., McDonough's ceremony is at 2 p.m. and Lackey's graduation is at 7 p.m. Graduation ceremonies for La Plata, Westlake and North Point high schools are Tuesday, June 4. The ceremony for La Plata is at 9 a.m., and 2 p.m. for Westlake - both at the Show Place Arena. The ceremony for North Point is 7 p.m. in the school's gymnasium.

Last day of school

The last day of school for students is Friday, June 14. The last day for teachers is Monday, June 17. Report cards are issued to elementary school students on June 14. Middle and high school report cards will be mailed on June 21.

Camp discount for staff

The Henry E. Lackey High School Summer Youth Camp offers full-time school system staff a 50 percent enrollment discount for their children. The camp will be held June 17 to July 12 and provides supervised activities including soccer, touch football and swimming. A brochure and registration materials are posted on the school system website at http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/lackey_youth_camp.cfm.

Employees should include their identification number and the amount of the discounted price on each registration form. Contact Don Layton, program coordinator, at 301-753-5431 for more information.

Richmond honored by colleagues for accomplishments

Last week was full of surprises for Superintendent James Richmond, who wraps up his 47-year career in education with Charles County Public Schools in five weeks. The first surprise awaited him at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center on Tuesday, May 14. The Parent Center, which was expanded during recent renovations at the Gwynn Center, was named in Richmond's honor to recognize his efforts in advancing educational opportunities for all levels of learners in Charles County.

Colleagues and Board of Education members greeted Richmond as he arrived at the surprise ceremony. Board Chairman Roberta Wise then spoke of Richmond's hard work to make the Parent Center successful. "He will tell you in order for students to be successful, parents must be very involved in the education of their children. This Parent Center plays an important role in providing parents with the tools to help their children succeed," said Wise.

Parents were also invited to speak about how the Parent Center has helped them with their children. Mary Kiessling shared words of gratitude with Richmond, thanking him for

the opportunities he has given to her children. "The time I have spent in the Parent Center has been a therapeutic break in my day. It has worked as a support group for me as I would share stories and struggles of my child's disability with other parents who may share the same struggles," she said.

The idea behind naming the Parent Center in honor of Richmond originated with Charles Wineland, assistant superintendent for supporting services, who worked with school system staff, Board members and Todd Wonderling, coordinator of special programs at Gwynn. Richmond said he was humbled by the recognition and credited school system staff, parents and students with helping him make the Parent Center beneficial to the community.

The second surprise ceremony awaited Richmond at North Point High School on May 15 in the school's memorial garden. Guests invited to honor Richmond included Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lillian Lowery, Board Chairman Wise, Richmond's wife, along with his daughter and grandchildren. Board members, princi-

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The Parent Center was recently named in honor of Superintendent James E. Richmond.

Mary B. Neal is a National School of Character

Mary B. Neal Elementary School was named a 2013 National School of Character by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). Neal is one of 18 nationwide public elementary schools selected for the award, and is the only Maryland school selected for the designation. National Schools of Character demonstrate growth in academics, behavior and climate. Additionally, these schools have created caring and supportive school communities that meet the needs of students.

Neal Principal Carol Leveillee said character education at Neal is not just a program, but a way of life. "Since the spring before Neal opened in 2008, character education has been the foundation of our building. Character education is not a program at Mary B. Neal; it's a way of life. I can't begin to tell you how very proud I am of the students, staff, parents and the community that supports us," she said.

Neal underwent an intensive screening
See School of Character, page 3

Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at the May 14 meeting. Pictured, from left, are Patricia Changcoco, mathematics teacher, Mattawoman Middle School; Jill Bodamer, health occupations teacher, North Point High School; and Catherine Curtis, instructional assistant, Mary B. Neal Elementary School.

Airing now on Channel 96

Airing now 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. Featured in this episode is the Wetlands Celebration Day event held at Arthur Middleton Elementary School, and Dr. Lillian Lowery, Maryland's state superintendent of schools, and her recent visit to Maurice J. McDonough High School. Visit the school system website at www.ccboe.com for a complete programming schedule.

Summer school registration

Registration for the 2013 Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Summer School program is June 26-27. Summer school begins Tuesday, July 2, at Westlake High School. Walk-in registration times are Wednesday and Thursday, June 26-27, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Registrations will not be accepted after 7 p.m. on June 27. Registration forms, as well as copies of the summer school rules and procedures, are available at all middle and high school counseling offices. For more information, visit our website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/summerschool/>.

School News information

The June 7 edition of *School News* is the last printed edition for the 2012-2013 school year. Limited copies will be provided this summer for 12-month employees. That doesn't mean we are taking a hiatus until August. Staff members can keep up with the latest school news with online editions of *School News*, which are posted on the Staff Services page of the school system website on pay dates. Publications will feature job openings, changes, calendar items and staff information. We will send *This Week* messages to your school system e-mail throughout the summer, depending on the relevancy of the information.



Superintendent James Richmond, left, accepts a plaque on behalf of the school system that will list future recipients of the James E. Richmond Leadership Excellence Award from Board member Donald Wade, right, at a May 15 ceremony.

Superintendent

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pals, school system staff and students from several Charles County public schools were also in attendance to honor the longtime superintendent.

As Richmond entered the gardens, guests in attendance provided him with a standing ovation. The event was held to introduce the James E. Richmond Leadership Excellence Award. The annual award will be given to a school system leader who exhibits the standards of leadership and excellence demonstrated by Richmond during his career.

During her opening remarks, Wise fought back tears as she recounted important successes made for children under Richmond's leadership. "Through the passage of time, the lists of programs and educational opportunities have grown because Mr. Richmond led with passion, vision and the willingness to take risks to benefit children and to make Charles County Public Schools better. Mr. Richmond, I know I speak for everyone when I say thank you for always putting Charles County's children first," she said.

The idea behind the award came from Board member Donald Wade, who felt it was the perfect way to honor Richmond for his service to Charles County Public Schools. Wade worked with Kimberly Hill, who takes over as superintendent July 1, to plan the ceremony. The Board of Education also approved a resolution to establish the award in Richmond's name. Hill said Wade insisted the award honor Richmond. "Col.

Wade was not going to let you go without highlighting your service to Charles County," she added.

The ceremony included performances from groups of students who benefited from programs Richmond helped launch. Students in the North Point orchestra performed, which is part of the strings program Richmond launched at all schools. A group of students from C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School performed a reading to show how the reading program, also launched by Richmond, helped them learn to read. The ceremony also opened with the presentation of colors by North Point's Air Force JROTC, which was made possible by Richmond's belief that JROTC programs be available in all high schools.

Lowery was named state superintendent in July, and said one of the first things she was told by colleagues was to get to know Richmond. "People told me to get to know Jim Richmond, and talked about your reputation and character. I have spent a lot of time in Charles County to see the fruits of your labor. You have been an inspiration in ways you probably don't even know," Lowery said to Richmond.

Richmond humbly accepted the honor and credited staff with helping him be a successful leader. "I want to acknowledge each and every person that stayed with me during tough times. It is you – the people – who make the difference in the life of a child. I am deeply humbled by all of this recognition," Richmond said.



Robert Bingham



Brian Colaizzi



Crystal Holm



Darleane Lowe



Kristin Steger

SMECO honors five teachers for accomplishments in science, math

Five Charles County Public Schools teachers were recently honored by the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) for their accomplishments in the area of mathematics and science.

Honored as Outstanding Mathematics Teachers of the Year were: Darleane Lowe, Eva Turner Elementary School; Crystal Holm, Milton M. Somers Middle School; and Kristin Steger, Thomas Stone High School.

Honored as Outstanding Science Teachers of the Year were: Brian Colaizzi, Piccowaxen Middle School; and Robert Bingham, La Plata High School.

Lowe teaches general mathematics to kindergartners and uses a variety of teaching techniques to reach all learners. She maintains positive relationships with her students, which creates a sense of excitement in her classroom and her students are always eager to learn. Lowe also participates in math-based workshops, ranging from math investigation and questioning strategy workshops to technology-based learning.

Holm teaches sixth grade on-level and accelerated math courses and incorporates technology into her lessons to excite her students. She strives to ensure that all of her students understand math concepts and uses student data to guide her lessons. Holm serves as the sponsor of the LEGO Robotics team, the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) team and works with students in the Sea Perch underwater robotics program.

Steger teaches algebra and foundations of algebra and uses a unique and stimulating teaching approach to enhance her lessons. She

holds high expectations for her classes and maintains a positive rapport with students. Steger regularly incorporates the use of technology into her lessons and holds training sessions on the use of Smart Boards, Smart Notebook software and Study Island.

Colaizzi has taught several science courses ranging from earth science and biology to anatomy and physiology and Advanced Placement (AP) biology. He also spent several years teaching at the high school level before joining the science department at Piccowaxen. He displays passion for learning and science in his classroom and his students are eager to learn from him. Colaizzi has completed several courses through the Space Discovery Institute offered annually by Charles County Public Schools.

Bingham teaches biology and previously taught classes in earth and life sciences, physical science and chemistry. He is well known among La Plata staff as a hardworking teacher who goes above and beyond to reach all levels of learners. His lessons are fun and interactive for students, who then strive to achieve excellence in his class. Bingham has participated in the Charlotte Danielson Framework observation/evaluation pilot program, which involves teacher observation and focuses on teacher effectiveness.

The teachers were nominated for the award by staff, students and parents. Each was chosen for their outstanding performance in the areas of creativity, rapport with students, enthusiasm for teaching, professionalism and innovative teaching methods. They were honored by SMECO during a May 2 ceremony.

School of Character

Continued from page 1

process as a finalist that included school visits, and an analysis of the impact of their character education program on academics, behavior and school culture. Earlier this school year, Neal was chosen as a 2013 Maryland School of Character award recipient by the Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE) at Stevenson University. As a state award winner, Neal was eligible for consideration in the National Schools of Character program.

There are several character education initiatives in place at Neal. The school fosters a partnership with Andrews Air Force Base in which military members visit the school once a week to mentor students. The school coordinates community service-oriented projects such as annual food drives and a 5K race to support the Southern Maryland Food Bank. The Maryland State Department of Education has recognized Neal for the past four years for their food drive efforts.

Schools are selected for the state award based on their demonstra-

tion 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-building efforts. Schools are required to apply for character education awards annually.

Neal was also honored in 2010 as a Promising Practices in Character Education National award winner. As part of the National Schools of Character awards program, the Character Education Partnership gives Promising Practices awards to schools for implementing unique and specific strategies in character education.

Neal, along with other National Schools of Character, will be featured at the National Forum on Character Education Oct. 24-27 in Washington, D.C. For more information on the National Schools of Character Education program, visit <http://www.character.org/>.

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School system sponsoring 2013 Space Institute

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is offering free courses through the 2013 Space Institute this summer to interested teachers. Participants can learn about space-related topics through exciting lessons and hands-on opportunities. Topics featured include meteorology and weather in space, space exploration, the future of space and space technologies in the classroom. The school system is sponsoring the courses through its partnership with the Colorado Springs based Space Foundation.

The institute is available for CCPS teachers and certificated staff, and will be held at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. The courses will be held July 22-26, and July 29-Aug. 2. The sessions run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the schedule is as follows:

- **Meteorology and Space Weather** – July 22-26; participants of this course will learn the different areas of meteorology and how to incorporate them into their classroom. Participants will also learn about Doppler Radar technology, pressure currents and vectors, and cloud types and what they mean. The course will also touch on the future of weather prediction.
- **Lunar/Mars Space Exploration** – July 22-26; this course features information on what it will take to establish and maintain human life on the moon or Mars. Participants will also design and build a model of a sustainable lunar or Mars base.

- **Space History and Future of Space Flight** – July 29-Aug. 2; participants will learn about the history of rocketry and space exploration, and will build various rockets to use in the classroom with students. The course will also demonstrate the structure and design of rocketry, Newton's Laws of Motion and aerodynamics.

- **Space Technologies in the Classroom** – July 29-Aug. 2; this course examines uses of space technology and transportation, design, robotics, communications, space power and space structures. Participants will also take a field trip to Goddard Space Flight Center and construct a programmable robot.

The sessions are open to CCPS teachers across all subjects and grade levels. There is a \$50 deposit required to hold a seat in a course. Upon course completion, participants will be refunded the deposit and earn three professional development credits at no cost. Deposits are due by Monday, June 24.

Deposits should be sent to the attention of Monique Wilson, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 5980 Radio Station Road, La Plata, Md., 20646. Checks should be made payable to Charles County Public Schools and include "Space Institute Deposit 2013" in the memo area of the check. Contact Wilson at mwilson@ccboe.com for more details.



Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.com/hur. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a Bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job Openings

Special Education Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Master's degree in special education or dual certification and a minimum of five years of experience in a teaching position required. Apply by May 24.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – Emotionally Adjusted Program – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by May 30.

Library Media Specialists – Openings at the high school and elementary school levels, 10-month positions.

Science Teachers – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

Spanish Teachers – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

Math Teachers – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

Technology Education Teachers – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

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

Speech and Language Pathologist – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in speech pathology and a Maryland state license in speech and language pathology.

School Psychologist – Location to be determined, 10.5-month position. School psychology certification in Maryland required and Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential preferred.

Occupational Therapist – Location to be

determined, 10- or 11-month position. Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and a Maryland state license required.

Extra pay positions

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following openings:

- Junior varsity girls' soccer coach
- Junior varsity fall cheerleading coach
- Assistant wrestling coach

Contact Jason Bursick, athletic director, 301-753-1755, to apply.

Staff Notes

Employee Portal

The Charles County Public Schools employee web portal features payroll information a week prior to the actual pay date. Through the portal, employees can also access employer forms, education and teaching certificates, and benefits details. Access the portal through the staff services page of the system website, www.ccboe.com. E-mail EP@ccboe.com with questions.