

School News



Important Dates Coming Soon

Elementary Math Challenge

The Elementary Math Challenge is April 26 at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. The competition starts at 8:45 a.m. and the awards ceremony begins at 11 a.m.

History Day competition

More than 30 Charles County Public Schools students will compete in the Maryland History Day event on April 26 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Results will be posted on the CCPS website, www.ccboe.com, next month.

Candidate forum

The Thomas Stone High School student government association (SGA) and dance team are hosting a forum for Charles County Board of Education candidates on Tuesday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. The event begins in the school auditorium and is open to the public.

PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 29, in the boardroom at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Call 301-934-7364 for details.

All-county concerts

The All-County Elementary Band, Chorus and Orchestra concerts are scheduled for the first week of May. The All-County Chorus concert is Thursday, May 1, at North Point High School. Concerts for both the All-County Band and Orchestra groups are broken up into two events: one event for schools on the west side of the county, and another for schools on the east side of the county. The west All-County Band and Orchestra concert is Tuesday, May 6, at Henry E. Lackey High School. The east All-County Band and Orchestra concert is Wednesday, May 7, at Westlake High School. All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

Kristin Shields is the 2014 Principal of the Year

School pride, hard work and the belief that all children can learn are key messages at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School. Each morning, Principal Kristin Shields welcomes her students and staff with a positive, upbeat morning announcement or is at the main school doors greeting those who enter with the school motto of "beavers are ready, responsible and respectful." Her passion for children is evident in all that she does, from helping with lunch duty or consoling an upset child to exploring creative and exciting ways for children to learn.

Shields' strong commitment to children and her ability to lead by example have earned her this year's title of Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year and the *Washington Post's* Distinguished Educational Leadership award. According to Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy staff, Shields provides her staff with the tools and ideas to encourage students to do their best. She maintains an open-door policy and consistently acknowledges staff for their hard work. Shields said she is humbled with the recognition and credits the award to the partnership between parents, the

school and community.

"I am honored to receive this award; it is not the effort of one individual. This award is a reflection of the partnership between the home, school and community. Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary is an outstanding school and I am so happy that this award recognizes our phenomenal students, staff, parents and community," Shields added.

As principal of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy for the past three school years, and a former vice principal at the school for five years, Shields is familiar with the needs of her students and fosters a strong, collaborative relationship with the Nanjemoy community. Parent Teri Walker said Shields regularly expresses the importance of the school to home partnership, and credits her with helping students reach personal and academic goals.

Building strong relationships with students, staff and parents was important to



Kristin Shields

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Carol Eaton named Agnes Meyer Award winner

Gale-Bailey Elementary School first-grade teacher Carol Eaton was introduced to teaching when she was an elementary school student. A teacher at her school took a leave of absence and Eaton, who was a fourth grader at the time, was asked to assist the substitute during reading lessons for first graders. She said although she knew from a young age that she wanted to be a teacher, that experience solidified her desire to have a career in education. "That experience confirmed my love of teaching and I have never wanted to do anything else," Eaton said.

She strives to inspire children to love reading, make connections with mathematical concepts in their daily activities and become lifelong learners. Eaton's passion for teaching is evident in her classroom, and she

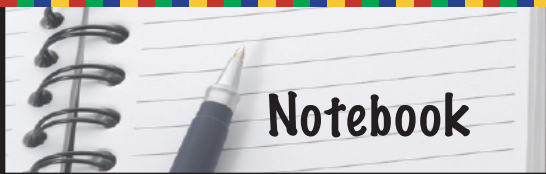
is well known among her colleagues for bringing out the best qualities in her students. For these qualities, Eaton was selected for recognition among her colleagues and was chosen as this year's 2014 recipient of the *Washington Post's* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.

Eaton said she was honored just to be nominated by her colleagues. "To me, finding out that my colleagues at Gale-Bailey thought enough of my contributions to our team to nominate me was a great honor. It is amazing to be recognized and reward-



Carol Eaton

See Eaton, page 3



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees who accepted the Teacher Appreciation Week resolution at the April Board meeting. Pictured, from left, are Camille Calloway, special education teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School; Samantha DeNardo, English as a Second Language (ESOL) teacher, William A. Diggs and Mary B. Neal elementary schools, Theodore G. Davis Middle School and North Point High School; and Corey Specht, fourth-grade teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School.

Catch a great show

La Plata High School presents "Copacabana" the weekend of May 1-3 at 6:30 p.m. and May 4 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. CCPS employees can receive one complimentary ticket with their identification badges. Call 301-934-1100 for more information.

CCPS celebrates teachers

Charles County Public Schools will honor educators and acknowledge the crucial role teachers play in making sure every student receives a quality education on Tuesday, May 6, as part of National Teacher Appreciation Day.

Celebrate school nurses

National School Nurse Day is Wednesday, May 7. Be sure to thank the nurses in your schools and centers for all of their hard work and concern for student and staff health. This day is used to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. The school nursing partnership formed between Charles County Public Schools and the Health Department in 1997. The program, which started as a pilot and expanded to all schools, provides ongoing health services to students and staff.

This week on Newsbreak 96

Airing this week on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96. This episode features projects from North Point High School's welding students and information on a new program called Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). Visit the school system website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96> for a programming schedule.



Artwork brings Franchot to Charles County Public Schools

La Plata High School senior Abigail "Abby" Belote, right, unveils her artwork to Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, left, during an April 23 ceremony held to honor three Charles County Public Schools students through the Maryland Masters Award initiative. Franchot launched the initiative last year to highlight the excellence in the arts. Also honored were Tahir Qayyum, sixth grader at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, and Chinazam Ojukwu, freshman at Westlake High School.

Teachers, staff ask county for full funding

Charles County Public Schools teachers, support staff and officials spoke up Wednesday evening to ask the Charles County Commissioners to fully fund the Board of Education budget.

"When it comes to the education of our students, the buck stops here, with the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools. We, along with our teachers and staff, are accountable for what children learn each day. But that doesn't let the County Commissioners off the hook. It is with you that the buck actually starts. You share responsibility for our success by funding the necessary resources for first-rate educational programs and staff. This is your school system, too," said Board Chairman Roberta Wise who was the first of several dozen speakers at the Commissioners' budget hearing.

Salary step and scale increases, St. Charles High School and learning resource teachers are among the priorities in the Board of Education's \$342 million budget request to the Charles County Commissioners. The Board is requesting an increase of \$19.7 million from the county.

For nearly three hours, teachers and support staff urged the commissioners to fully fund the Board's request, which in-

cludes \$8.8 million for contract negotiations and \$7.7 million for St. Charles High School operating costs. Prior to accepting public comment, county government staff presented fiscal year 2015 recommendations that only provide the school system a \$4.3 million increase. Wise asked the Commissioners to make good on prior promises to fund \$10 million operating costs for St. Charles.

Sue Moreno, payroll accounting analyst, outlined the importance of adequate compensation to keep morale high and to retain employees. Debra Haan, a teacher at Arthur Middleton Elementary School, brought along a bag of hats representing the many different jobs teachers take on – from lesson planning to buying candy to tutoring struggling students.

William B. Wade Elementary School Principal Virginia McGraw, who was one of the last speakers, reminded the Commissioners of the sea of change school-based employees have undergone this year including implementing a new curriculum, new assessments and a new evaluation system. "All of these reforms cost money," she said. She urged the Commissioners to help school employees to continue to be the difference in the lives of children.

Shields

Continued from page 1

Shields from the start of her career in education. She credits her fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Echard, for instilling her with a love of learning and for inspiring Shields to focus on relationship building. "She was my inspiration for the type of teacher I wanted to be," Shields said.

Initiatives in place at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy to foster open communication include a monthly parent newsletter and workshops, weekly bulletins for staff, volunteer nights for the community, an early childhood program called Breakfast with Books and several other special events for students and staff. The most notable event is an annual Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the school in which senior citizen residents are invited to enjoy a feast and performances by Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy students.

Shields' efforts to connect with the community extend outside of the school. Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy is one of 21 elementary schools in Charles County, but has the smallest population of students with enrollment levels totaling nearly 360 students. The Nanjemoy area is one of the more rural areas in Charles County, and organizations in the community strive to work together for support. Meg Romero is the coordinator of the Nanjemoy Community Center and said Shields often brings community figures together to discuss areas of concern and strategies to address

them. She also encourages teacher involvement in community events so they can experience life in the Nanjemoy community.

In addition to her roles as principal, community leader and role model, Shields is also known as a cheerleader for staff. She knows her staff well and recognizes them for their talents, which are then used to help build new ideas for achieving gains within the school. She meets with teachers weekly to plan for instruction and provides regular professional development opportunities. She also implemented the Kidtalk program in which she and other members of the instructional leadership team meet with teachers to provide immediate support to struggling students.

The *Washington Post* each year honors outstanding principals throughout the metropolitan area through its educational foundation. A committee reviews nominations throughout the school system and one principal is chosen to represent Charles County in the program as its Principal of the Year. The *Washington Post* will honor Shields in a May 6 ceremony. She will be recognized by the Board of Education during their May 13 meeting.

She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in administration and supervision from Bowie State University.



Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School Principal Kristin Shields, pictured above center, helps kindergarten students Tavion Farmer, left, and Emmondre Johnson, right, with a reading lesson.

Eaton

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ed for something you love to do," she said. Her career with Charles County Public Schools began in 1985 at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, where she taught first- and second-grade students for two years. Since then, Eaton has also served as a reading and math tutor and has been teaching first grade at Gale-Bailey for the past 11 years.

Gale-Bailey Principal Toni Melton-Trainor said Eaton is the perfect example of an exemplary teacher who takes great pride in her work. "Mrs. Eaton is highly regarded by our teachers. She is dedicated, thoughtful and a true professional. The quality of her instruction contributes to her students' success. Mrs. Eaton is most deserving of this honor," Melton-Trainor wrote in a nomination letter.

General Smallwood Middle School seventh grader Garrett Batchelor attended Gale-Bailey for elementary school and had Eaton as his first grade teacher. He submitted a letter in support of her nomination for the award and contributes his strong abilities in math to what he learned from Eaton. He said she encouraged him to challenge himself by using problem-solving skills, and taught him that hard work and dedication would help him reach his goals.

"Mrs. Eaton encouraged me to take my time and apply my unknown skills to those that were known. She did not allow me to give

up, but always encouraged me to continue to work towards my goal. With the encouragement of Mrs. Eaton and my involvement in math enrichment teams, I know that I want to pursue a career that involves math," Batchelor wrote in a nomination letter.

Not only is Eaton dedicated to the success of her students, but to the success of all children and staff at Gale-Bailey. She is supportive of schoolwide programs and initiatives and served as the first-grade representative for the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team. Eaton has taught in the extended-day and summer programs and is active in the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Additionally, Eaton coordinated the creation of math fluency kits that include games, flash cards and books for all first graders. She also sends packets of books home with students who may not have access to learning materials to ensure they have access to success at home.

The *Washington Post* Education Foundation in May will honor Eaton during a ceremony. She will be recognized by the Board of Education during their June 10 meeting. Eaton has a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland College Park and a master's degree in education and reading from Bowie State University, formerly known as Bowie State College.



Gale-Bailey Elementary School first-grade teacher Carol Eaton, left, works with first grader Aspen Key, right, during a guided reading exercise.

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Last days of work for the 2013-14 school year

Superintendent Kimberly Hill has modified the 2013-14 school calendar to establish final work dates for employees.

The last day of school for 10-month teachers is Friday, June 20. End-of-year activities include:

- Friday, June 13: two-hour early dismissal, report card preparation;
- Monday, June 16: two-hour early dismissal, report card preparation;
- Tuesday, June 17: two-hour early dismissal, teacher planning;
- Wednesday, June 18: two-hour early dismissal, principal time;
- Thursday, June 19: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. – CCPS professional development, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., teacher planning; and
- Friday, June 20: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. – CCPS professional development, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., principal time.

The last work day for the following groups has been adjusted. The changes are as follows:

- **Food service managers/assistant managers (10-month):** Thursday, June 26;

- **Food service workers (10-month):** Monday, June 23;

- **Secretaries (11-month):** Monday, June 30;

- **Secretaries (10.5-month):** Monday, June 30;

- **Secretaries (10-month):** Monday, June 23;

- **Instructional assistants:** Friday, June 20;

- **Certificated teachers/Unit 1 (12-month):** Monday, June 30;

- **Certificated teachers/Unit 1 (11-month):** Monday, June 30; and

- **Certificated teachers/Unit 1 (10.5-month):** Friday, June 27.

Maryland law requires schools to operate 180 days for students each school year. The school system builds four inclement weather days into its calendar each year, which are deleted from the end of the year if not used. All have been used this year, making Wednesday, June 18 the last day of school for students.

Personnel

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

Job Openings

Food Service Manager – St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by April 25.

Content Specialist Middle School English

Language Arts – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and advanced professional certificate with administrator I endorsement and a minimum of five years of teaching experience required. Reading specialist certification preferred. Apply by April 28.

Instructional Resource Teacher – Opening at the elementary school level, 11-month position. Master's degree, advanced professional certificate and a minimum of five years of teaching experience required. Knowledge of mathematics teaching preferred. Apply by April 28.

Food Service Worker – St. Charles High School, four-hour, 10-month position. Apply by April 29.

Building Service Manager – Piccowaxen Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by May 7.

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

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

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

Business Education Teacher – Opening at the high school level, 10-month position.

Computer Science Teacher – Opening at the high school level, 10-month position.

Family and Consumer Science Teacher – Opening at the high school level, 10-month position.

Technology Education Teacher – Opening at the high school level, 10-month position.

Physical Education Teachers – Openings at

the middle and high school levels, 10-month positions.

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

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

Language Arts Teacher – Opening at the middle school level, 10-month position.

Social Studies Teacher – Opening at the middle school level, 10-month position.

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

Physical Therapist – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Extra pay positions

North Point High School has the following opening:

- Head cheerleading coach

Contact Andy Shattuck, athletic director, at 301-753-1759 to apply.