



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools closed

Schools will be closed for students and teachers on Tuesday, Nov. 2, for Election Day.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Friday, Nov. 5.

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices are closed on Thursday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

Airing this week ...

Airing on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, produced by the communications department. This episode features highlights from the Board of Education's October meeting, a preview for the upcoming high school fall plays and the Space Foundation's partnership with Charles County Public Schools. The show is also available on demand on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/>.

MAC meeting

The next Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) meeting is 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

See a show

La Plata High School is presenting their fall play, "And A Child Shall Lead," on Nov. 4-6, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and \$4 for thespians. Charles County Public Schools staff is admitted free with their identification badge. Call 301-934-1100 for more information.

Conley is Assistant Principal of the Year

At Henry E. Lackey High School, Vice Principal Richard Conley is known as a leader who goes above and beyond to help students achieve success and involve parents in their child's education. He is a strong supporter of parental involvement, and encourages students to participate in school-related activities in order to take advantage of beneficial opportunities.

Conley focuses on the best interests for students and is willing to take the time to assist staff members in need. For these reasons and more, Conley was recently named the 2010-11 Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year by the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP).

The award honors outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students, and for making exemplary contributions to education.

Recipients are also selected for modeling personal excellence and professional growth, collaborative leadership, improving curriculum, instruction and assessment, and



Richard Conley
Henry E. Lackey High School

developing and fostering a positive learning environment where students have access to opportunities for success.

"Mr. Conley represents everything that is outstanding and great about Henry E. Lackey High School. This is an award that is shared by every stakeholder in this building and it demonstrates that Lackey is a school where

See Richard Conley, page 2

Charles County Public Schools fights the flu

Charles County Public Schools and the Charles County Department of Health are partnering to keep students and staff healthy during flu season. Throughout the next two months, employees and students will be offered a number of opportunities to receive seasonal flu shots. Employees should check with their school or center nurse to see when flu shots will be given at each location.

The 2010-2011 flu vaccine will protect against 2009 H1N1 and two other influenza viruses. The Centers for Disease Control strongly recommends that everyone six months of age and older gets immunized against influenza.

Influenza is a contagious viral infection and anyone can get it. Coughing and sneezing can spread the illness from person to person, and also by direct contact with infected

people or objects they contaminate. School nurses list washing hands frequently, keeping hands away from the mouth, nose and eyes, and coughing into a tissue or sleeve as top flu prevention measures.

Public schools in Charles County use appropriate measures to limit the spread of infection. Some of the daily cleaning done by building service workers includes disinfecting bathrooms and other areas with hospital-approved cleaners.

The Charles County Health Department, which is located on Crain Highway in White Plains, offers flu clinics. Call the health department at 301-609-6900 for an appointment or clinic times.

Visit the Charles County Public Schools school health Web page at <http://www2.ccboe.com/health/>.



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from T.C. Martin Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Michelle Sirna, secretary; Rosalind Betley, fifth-grade teacher; and Jennifer Friason, kindergarten instructional assistant.

Nominate your principal

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for its 2011 Principal of the Year and the *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. The annual award honors exemplary principals.

Teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators, or community members may submit nominations. Nominees must have a minimum of five year's experience as a principal and three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Principals may not nominate themselves.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of four statements of support, one of which must be submitted by a professional educator; a brief career summary; and a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria categories.

The nomination criteria for principals are manage effectively; demonstrate and encourage creativity; foster cooperation between the school and the community; maintain dialogue with students, parents, faculty and staff; encourage team spirit; demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment; continue to play an active role in the classroom; and maintain their position as principal throughout the 2011-12 school year.

Nominees must also serve in schools that have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past two school years.

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 14. Materials should be sent to Charles County Public Schools, Attention: Human Resources Division, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD., 20646.

Award recipients will be announced later this school year.

Fall back

Standard time begins on Sunday, Nov. 7. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

Happy 263rd birthday Dr. Gustavus Brown

Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School students, teachers and staff recently celebrated Dr. Gustavus Brown's 263rd birthday, with a parade, hats and signs.

Dr. Brown was born October 17, 1747, and each year the school honors its namesake with a birthday bash. Students paraded around the parking lot while chanting, "R-E-S-P-E-C-T, Dr. Brown's the place to be!" The parade gave the students a chance to show off the hats, signs and cards they made to tell Dr. Brown's story, including his profession, birthday and the time period in which he lived. The students worked on their projects during social studies and art classes and in their spare time at home. Science teacher, Jack Belle, was lifted in a Cherry Picker to take an aerial picture of the students, which is a tradition at Dr. Brown. Staff worked Dr. Brown's birthday into classroom lessons, Principal Marvin Jones said. "We asked our teachers to do a mini-lesson familiarizing our students with who Dr. Brown was, the fact that he lived in our county and what he's most well known for," Jones said.



Joseph McMahan, a first-grade teacher at Dr. Gustavus Brown, helps student, Selah Calacan, put on her birthday hat.

Dr. Gustavus Brown was a physician and friend of President George Washington. Brown was asked to assist in the president's medical treatment the night Washington died.

This is the third year Dr. Brown's students have held a birthday celebration.

Richard Conley

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good instruction is taking place due to the professionalism that is administered on a daily basis by Mr. Conley and his colleagues," Principal James Short said.

Conley is an integral part of the school's Advanced Placement (AP) and student advising/counseling committees in which staff developed the idea to hold student and parent information nights. He was also instrumental in developing Charger Time – a one-hour lunch initiative – which gives students' access to academic and extracurricular options and teachers additional time to meet with department and staff members.

Conley credits the cohesive relationship among staff at Lackey and support from the school system and school community for his award. "I am extremely honored to be recognized as the Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year. This award is a reflection of the commitment that the Lackey High School community and Charles County Public Schools have demonstrated toward increasing academic achievement and pro-

viding a quality education for students," he said.

As Maryland's Assistant Principal of the Year, Conley is eligible for the national award. Finalists will be announced in January 2011 and the winner will be selected in February.

Conley was honored by the MASSP Oct. 20 during their fall conference, and will be recognized by the Board of Education on Nov. 9.

Conley began his career with Charles County Public Schools in 2003 as a Spanish teacher at Westlake High School, and was named a vice principal at Lackey in 2008. He has a bachelor's degree in foreign language education and government and politics from the University of Maryland College Park, and earned his Master of Science in administration in 2008 from McDaniel College.

For more information on the awards program and the MASSP, visit <http://www.md-massp.org/>.



North Point High School junior Alexander Colaciello drives the Lookin Out Safety Bug through the course in the parking lot on Oct. 26. The event was sponsored by Strachan Insurance Company and facilitated by the Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Association. The event was held as part of the school system's "We Care" teen driving campaign.

Students get the safety bug during simulated driving exercise

North Point and La Plata high school students continued to show "We Care" about safe driving this week during a hands-on exercise that is continuation of a Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and Charles County Sheriff's Office three-year safety campaign.

As part of CCPS and the Sheriff's Office "We Care" teen driving initiative, the Lookin Out Safety Bug driving event was offered to students this week at La Plata and North Point. The Safety Bug is a Volkswagen Beetle that has been customized to demonstrate the loss of control a person would experience if they drove a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The event is designed to give teen drivers a firsthand learning experience and to promote safe driving.

More than 95 North Point students, as well as several staff members, drove the Bug through the course on Tuesday, which was set up in the bus parking lot. Orange cones were used to mark the course, and students were divided into groups of three to navigate the course. Students with driver's licenses and parental permission were able to drive the Bug, and two backseat riders were wearing goggles that simulated the experience of riding in a car while impaired. A trained mentor from the Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Association, who provided the Bug to the schools, rode in the passenger seat and controlled the settings on the car.

With North Point's homecoming game and dance coming up this weekend, Sgt. Carl Rye, supervising school resource officer for Charles County Public Schools, said this was great timing for students to participate in this event. "Students go through the course twice. The first time is to get them familiar with the course; the second time the mentor manipulates the controls in order to throw the driver off balance and to test their reactive timing. Hopefully these kids walk away with a positive experience and safety in mind," Rye said.

About 150 students participated in the event at La Plata on Wednesday. This is the first time the Lookin Out Safety Bug event was offered to CCPS students. Glenn Strachan and Gina McElhaney, agents with Strachan Insurance Agency, contacted Rye earlier this school year to offer the event to students in Charles County high schools. "This ex-



Mike Martin, left, from the Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Association, rides in the Lookin Out Safety Bug with North Point High School mathematics teacher Anastasia Griffin.

perience provides young drivers with a hands-on experience to learn about the effects of driving under the influence. We hope students walk away from this and talk to their friends about the importance of responsible driving," McElhaney said.

Strachan Insurance Agency covered the cost of the event at both schools, which averaged about \$1,100 per school. Rye said plans are underway to extend the event to other high schools later this school year. The school system and Sheriff's Office partnered three years ago to launch the "We Care" campaign.

This is one of numerous "We Care" student-oriented events that Charles County Public Schools has organized with the Sheriff's Office to emphasize the importance of teen driving. On the first day of school this year, Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond, along with Sheriff Rex Coffey and school resource officers, greeted students as they arrived at Westlake High School and passed out flyers to remind them of safe driving rules.

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Board of Education announces November 9 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 9, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Radio Station Road in La Plata. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m., and recognition begins at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week. Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system Web site at www.ccboe.com.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Henry E. Lackey High School's JROTC unit

Superintendent's update to the Board

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student board member update
- CIP update
- Race to the Top grant
- CCPS Environmental Education program
- Board policy 4610 (amendment)
- Budget update
- 2011 Legislative issues packet

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
 - Future agenda items
- Recognition – 4:30 p.m.**

- Students
- Employees
- Maryland Association of Secondary Principals Award: Rick Conley, vice principal, Henry E. Lackey High School
- American Cancer Society Awards: 100 percent school participation award for 2009-10; 2009-10 Superintendent of the Year award: James E. Richmond

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action Items

- Minutes
- Personnel

Adjournment

In addition to featuring Board meetings, Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 also have original programming produced by the Charles County Public Schools communications department. Shows include NewsBreak 96, a twice monthly program that features school programs, students and staff, as well as On Air, a monthly show that highlights student and staff accomplishments.



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 Instructional Assistant, Emotionally Adjusted (EA) Program – Mary B. Neal Elementary, 10-month position. Apply by Nov. 2.

Hiatus Teacher – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position

Secretary – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Nov.3.

Financial Secretary – Westlake High School, 11-month position. Apply by Nov. 4.

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

Instructional Resource Teacher – John Hanson Middle School, 11-month position.

Job Placement Technical Specialist – Maryland's Tomorrow Program, North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by Nov. 10

Supervising School Psychologist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. This position is responsible for the development and implementation of programs related to substance abuse prevention, safe schools, PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program), and Student Support Teams. Master's degree/advanced professional certificate and a minimum of three years successful teaching experience required.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, Inclusion – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Nov.3.

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

English Teacher – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

Science Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

Advisor, Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) – Position is responsible for the coordination and implementation of countywide student government activities, and works with student government advisors and student officers at all middle and high schools. The position also oversees the selection of student CCASC officers and the student member to the Board of Education, is the liaison to the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC). Coordinates, schedules and plans all meetings and community activities. Master's degree or Advanced Professional Certificate, and a minimum of three years successful teaching experience required. To apply, submit a letter of interest to Charles County Public Schools, Attention: Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646. Apply by Nov. 2.