



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Spring break

Spring break for students and teachers is March 29 - April 5. Administrative offices will be closed on Friday, March 29, and Monday, April 1. The school system will operate on a 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. schedule during spring break on days that administrative offices are open. Schools will reopen on Monday, April 8.

### Three pay dates this month

There are three pay dates this month. The only deductions taken from the third paycheck are taxes and retirement. Other deductions, such as health insurance, are not deducted from the third paycheck in months with three pay dates. Visit the staff services page of the school system website to view a list of pay dates for the 2012-13 school year.

### MSA testing

The science Maryland School Assessment (MSA) will be administered to students in grades five and eight from April 10 through April 19.

### Report cards mailed/issued

Report cards for middle and high school students will be mailed home on Friday, April 12. Elementary school report cards will be issued to students on Friday, April 12.

### Public facilities meeting

The Charles County School Adequate Public Facilities Program and Funding Review Committee will hold a public information meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the cafeteria at Thomas Stone High School. Sign-in begins at 6 p.m. outside the school cafeteria. The meeting is open to the general public. Call 301-645-0580 or e-mail [HuntC@CharlesCounty.org](mailto:HuntC@CharlesCounty.org) for more information.

## Last day of school is June 14

The last day of the 2012-13 school year for Charles County Public Schools students is Friday, June 14. Two-hour early dismissal days are June 12, 13 and 14. The last day of school for students in the Three's Program is Tuesday, June 11. The last day for teachers is Monday, June 17.

Charles County Public Schools used the four inclement weather days built into the school calendar. Elementary school report cards will be issued to students on June 14. Report cards for middle and high school students will be mailed on June 21.

Registration for the 2013 Summer School program is at the Robert D. Stetchem Educational Center on June 26-27, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Classes begin for Summer School on July 2 at Westlake High School.

Additionally, schools will hold separate Summer Academy learning opportunities for students. Elementary and middle school activities are planned for the end of June and into July, and high school activities are planned for mid-July. Questions regarding Summer Academy opportunities, including specific time information, should be directed to the individual schools.



### Building bridges with MESA

C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School students Karen Damian, pictured left, and Jamia Hicks, right, set up their balsawood bridge during the Elementary Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) event held March 26. The school system competes as a separate Maryland MESA region due to growth of the program, which prepares students for careers in mathematics, engineering, science and technology.

## Gwynn Center hosts ribbon cutting ceremony

It was, as they say at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, a Gwynnrific Day.

The La Plata JROTC solemnly posted the colors. The Crehan sisters – Alyssa and Amanda – from North Point High School harmonized awe-inspiring renditions of the “Star Spangled Banner” and “The Climb” by Miley Cyrus. Elizabeth Chotkowski, a former teacher, and Virginia Mcchesney, mother of a Gwynn student, touched hearts with joyful stories about hearing a once silent student speak for the first time and a mother’s pride in watching her child reach unexpected milestones.

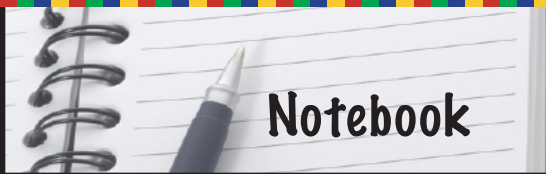
The day was a celebration of the Gwynn Center, both old and new, and was capped by a ribbon-cutting ceremony showcasing renovations and additions to the center. After

working through more than a year of construction, Todd Wonderling, coordinator of special programs, led more than 120 students, parents and community members in a recognition ceremony highlighting the \$3.5 million in renovations, the center’s programs and the difference the Gwynn Center makes in the lives of children.



Board Chairman Roberta S. Wise, left, hugs F.B. Gwynn Educational Center student Devon Sills, right, during the ribbon cutting ceremony held March 20.

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### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from Mary B. Neal Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Brian Welfle, music teacher; Daphne Burns, vice principal; and Amber Kirk, kindergarten teacher.

### Airing this week

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, produced by the communications department. This episode features the Charles County Public Schools Destination Imagination competition, the Youth Art Month Show and the Senior Citizens Prom. Also featured is an introduction to the three finalists for Charles County Public Schools next Superintendent of Schools. Visit the school system website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96> for programming schedules and show times.

### Nominate support staff

Charles County Public Schools is looking for award nominees for the 2013 Outstanding Support Personnel Awards program. Awards are given in six categories: building service, food service, instructional support, secretary, maintenance and information technology. Award winners will be announced and recognized at the June 11 Board of Education meeting.

Staff, students and parents can submit nominations. Employees may not nominate themselves. Nominees must meet the following criteria: works full-time, has been employed with the school system for a minimum of three school years in the area for which they were nominated, and not have received this award within the past five years.

Binders are due to the division of human resources by Friday, April 26. Contact Jeanette Sudik at 301-934-7356 or [jsudik@ccboe.com](mailto:jsudik@ccboe.com) for more information. Nomination information is also posted on the school system website at [http://www2.ccboe.com/PDF/recognition/outstanding\\_support\\_staff\\_2013.pdf](http://www2.ccboe.com/PDF/recognition/outstanding_support_staff_2013.pdf).

### 24-hour information line

Charles County Public Schools posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closures and delays, and calendar information on a 24-hour information line. Call 301-932-6656 or 301-934-7410.

## Marchione named Counselor of the Year

William "Bill" Marchione, a school counselor at Piccowaxen Middle School, was recently selected as the Maryland Middle School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselor Association (MSCA). The award recognizes school counselors for outstanding achievement and service to students and for providing leadership in school counseling services.

Piccowaxen Principal Kenneth Schroeck nominated Marchione for his passion and dedication to student success, for implementing several positive school-based initiatives for students, and for serving as a role model and leader for students and staff members. Schroeck said Marchione's work ethic and commitment to children are exceptional.

"I respect and admire the way he inspires students, models character and inspires passion. Mr. Marchione not only embodies the quality of the award but he inspires me to find new and better ways of reaching children," Schroeck wrote in an award nomination letter.

Marchione began his career with Charles County Public Schools in 2007 as a

counselor at Piccowaxen. During the past six years, he has implemented several programs such as peer tutoring, peer mediation and conflict resolution, as well as coordinated quarterly counseling lessons, monthly Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) lessons and anti-bullying programs.

Marchione said he is honored to be recognized for working in a profession that he loves. "I am very honored to receive this award, though I do find it hard to be in the spotlight because I know so many counselors who work just as hard, or harder than I do. I came into this career looking to make a difference in the lives of students from the start. I am extremely honored to be recognized by the MSCA as the Middle School Counselor of the Year," Marchione said.

He will be honored by the MSCA at their annual conference on April 19.



**Bill Marchione**

## Apply for National Board Certification

Teachers and specialists who hold a Standard Professional or Advanced Professional Certificate and have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience in Charles County on a Maryland professional certificate are eligible to apply for National Board Certification (NBC). Applicants must submit a candidate packet, which includes a letter of interest indicating the area they wish to pursue and why they want to pursue National Board Certification, a writing prompt activity in conjunction with NBC standards; a letter of recommendation from their principal or supervisor and a current resume.

Candidates are screened to determine who will represent Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) in the 2013-14 program. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) limits the number of applicants to 10, and the \$2,500 application fee is funded by MSDE and CCPS.

An information session for interested applicants is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., Tues-

day, April 9, in conference room 121 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The writing prompt activity to be included with each candidate packet will be distributed at this meeting. Current National Board Certified teachers will be available to speak with attendees about the application process. RSVP by April 5 to Barbara Simmons at [bsimmons@ccboe.com](mailto:bsimmons@ccboe.com).

Teachers choosing to pursue National Board Certification must complete a demanding two-part demonstration of their knowledge and skills by developing a portfolio that reflects various aspects of their teaching background and attend an assessment center during the 2013-14 application cycle, where they will complete six intensive, timed exercises.

Completed candidate packets are due to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. Visit [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org) or call 301-934-7239 for more information.





## Ribbon cutting

Continued from page 1

The F.B. Gwynn Educational Center is one of Charles County Public Schools four specialized centers, and provides special education programs and services for more than 165 students with special needs. Programs include STAY, Autism and the Infants and Toddlers, and serve children from birth to 21 years of age. "The F.B. Gwynn Center is a special center. You will hear stories today of parents and students who faced incredible obstacles to learning, but with the help of teachers and staff at the Gwynn Center, they have excelled," said guest speaker and Board of Education Chairman Roberta Wise.

Gwynn also houses a Parent Center, which offers supportive services designed to assist parents of children with disabilities in finding help and information. "The Gwynn Center is a place where parents can get information and support. For many parents of children with special needs, information is what they need most. It is here where parents often get the answers they seek through early identification of a special need and information about what to expect, how to respond and where support is available," Wise said.

The Gwynn Center opened in 1977 and renovations to the building began in January 2011 and were completed this year. Renovations were planned to provide additional instructional space for students and staff, enhanced building security and an expansion of the Parent Center and instructional program areas. Renovations added parking lot space to allow for more bus and visitor traffic. Upgrades included carpet, paint, ceiling and lighting upgrades and exterior doors and windows as well as the addition of a heating and air conditioning unit in the gymnasium. Renovation costs were approximately \$3.5 million, which is more than the \$1.9 million it cost to build the center in 1977. Federal, state and county money combined to complete the renovations, which were conducted in three phases in order to minimize the disruption to students, staff and programs.

Superintendent James E. Richmond, while welcoming guests at the ceremony, told the group he was proud the system found a way to renovate the Gwynn Center before his 17-year tenure as Superintendent ends. "I have wanted to renovate Gwynn for a long time. Nothing makes me prouder than having found a way to finance the much-needed upgrades, including safety and security enhancements and adapted instructional spaces that better meet the needs of the students, parents and staff who use this center every day. You deserve this," he said.



Pictured, clockwise from top left, are: Board member Michael Lukas, Sue Kullen, representative of Sen. Ben Cardin, Board member Pamela Pedersen, and Board Chairman Roberta S. Wise with Gwynn students Devon Sills, Branden Henry and Kayden Kinney, and Teresa Robinson, coordinator for autism services, as they cut the official ribbon; County Commissioner President Candice Quinn Kelly presents a county seal to Gwynn students Keaja Weaver, Madison Dyke and Christopher Davis; La Plata JROTC students present the colors; and North Point students Amanda Crehan and Alyssa Crehan singing the Star Spangled Banner.



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## Board of Education announces April 9 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 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 student and staff recognition starts 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. The meeting is also streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools Web site. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/> to watch the meeting.

**Executive session** – 12 p.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, La Plata High School's JROTC unit

**Superintendent's update**

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Policy #6000
- Sadlier grammar workshop and SpringBoard reading and mathematics
- Library media program
- Legislative update

- Cell phone rule

**Approval of Superintendent's contract**

**Announcement of new superintendent**

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Redistricting proposals

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items

**Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees
- Resolutions: *Teacher Appreciation Week*; *Administrative Professionals Week*; *Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week*; and *National Physical Education and Sports Week*.

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel
- 2014-15 calendar
- Revision of student transfer rule #5126

**Adjournment**



## Personnel

Apply for positions online at [www.ccboe.com/hur](http://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

**Coordinator for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years of experience and course hours or work in STEM-related areas required. Apply by April 5.

**Secretary** – Westlake High School, 10.5-month position. Apply by April 5.

**Technology Facilitator** – Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by April 5.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant for the Emotionally Adjusted (EA program)** – North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by April 9.

**AF JROTC Instructor (NCO)** – Henry E. Lackey High School, 11-month position.

**AF JROTC Instructor (Officer)** – Henry E. Lackey High School, 11-month position.

**Spanish Teacher** – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

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

**Earth/Space Science Teacher** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

### Extra pay positions

**Westlake High School** has the following openings:

- Assistant football coaches
- Junior varsity volleyball coach
- Junior varsity boys' soccer coach

Contact Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, 301-645-8857, to apply.

### Staff Notes

#### Summer School openings

Charles County Public Schools has the following openings for the 2013 Summer

School program: foundations of technology; Spanish, high school English, middle school language arts/reading and media specialist. Interested applicants should be current CCPS teachers and be certificated in the area of interest. Contact Doug Lamb, [dlamb@ccboe.com](mailto:dlamb@ccboe.com), or Sandy Rooney, [srooney@ccboe.com](mailto:srooney@ccboe.com), for additional information or to apply.

### Employee assistance program

Charles County Public Schools offers employees the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The program provides confidential, professional counseling services for employees with personal problems that are affecting their abilities to function effectively at work or at home. The program is available to staff members who work 20 or more hours per week and to their immediate family members. Call 866-443-3277 to make an appointment or for more information. A link about EAP can be found on the staff services page of the school system website.