



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

'Vroom' for donations

Robert D. Stethem Educational Center's automotive technician program is in need of newer model vehicles to use as a teaching tool. To donate a vehicle to the program and take advantage of a tax deduction by Dec. 31, call 301-932-1003.

Art supplies needed

Christine Chinault, art teacher at Malcolm Elementary School, is collecting art supplies through Dec. 14 for Color a Classroom with Love — Helping our Camp Fire Teacher and Students for those impacted by California's devastating "camp fire." Art and school supplies are needed. To find out more about Color a Classroom with Love, look for its Facebook group. Email cchinault@ccboe.com for more information.

Going for Gold

Michaela Pape, a St. Charles High School junior and Girl Scout Ambassador, is working on her Gold Award project. She hopes to connect people in need of medical equipment with those who have it to sell or give away.

Go to Facebook and search Charles County Online Medical Equipment Sale. The group works like an online yard sale, putting buyers and sellers in touch with each other.

Legislative breakfast set

The Board of Education of Charles County and Superintendent of Schools Kimberly A. Hill will meet 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 10, in the boardroom at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building with members of the Southern Maryland delegation and the Charles County Commissioners. The meeting is open to the public, with a tentative agenda set that is subject to change. Discussion topics include teacher recruitment and retention, and student discipline.



The sorting sort

Cathy Bryant, left, and Lindsey Rabun, sort food donations made to LifeStyles of Maryland by Charles County Public Schools employees at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Eight teams collected more than 4,430 food items with the Helping Hands team of the Office of Human Resources collecting the most — 1,706 items. To adopt a family during the holidays through LifeStyles, go to www.lifestylesofmd.org or call 301-609-9900.

CCPS enhances ID badge requirements for staff

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has enhanced security and identification badge requirements for all staff, including substitute teachers, bus drivers and attendants, retirees and contractors. Any CCPS identification badge will now feature an annual sticker depicting the school year in which the badge is active. This is new for the 2018-19 school year.

Enhancements also include the creation of distinct identification badges for substitute teachers. Substitutes will receive an identification badge at the start of their workday, and return daily at the end of their teaching assignment. Substitute badges are blue and white and include the name of the issuing school or center.

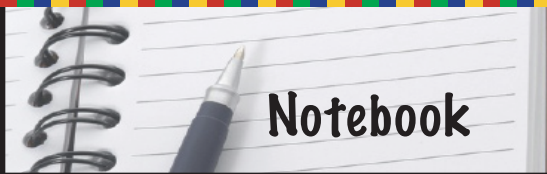
Badges for CCPS bus drivers and atten-

dants are issued by bus contractors and expire at the end of each school year. The badge includes the driver/attendant name, name of the contractor in which the driver or attendant are employed with, and their picture. The badge confirms employment as a CCPS bus driver or attendant and must be worn for school or center access.

CCPS issues badges to employees who retire from the school system. The badges include the name of the retiree and grants free access to CCPS sporting events and other school-sponsored events. Retiree badges are issued to former employees upon request and do not expire. Additionally, retiree badges may be used at local businesses who provide CCPS staff with discounts.

CCPS often employs food and nutrition

See Employee IDs, Page 2



On the cover

CCPS employees pictured on the front cover were honored by the Board of Education at its Nov. 13 meeting. From left are Toni Kim, third-grade teacher at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; Victor Woodland, the building service manager at Theodore G. Davis Middle School; and Teresa Higgs, a special education teacher at Westlake High School.

Webinar Wednesdays

As part of the school system's wellness program, Webinar Wednesdays offer live information sessions on health-related topics. On Dec. 12, live webinars will be about raising healthy children at 5 p.m.; brain health at 6 p.m.; strategies for better sleep at 7 p.m.; and stress management at 8 p.m. Webinar topics on Dec. 19 include mood and food at 5 p.m.; mediation and relaxation at 6 p.m.; creating a work-life balance at 7 p.m.; and preventing burnout at 8 p.m. Each webinar is recorded and available for unlimited viewing for 30 days. When the recorded versions are available, the new links will be shared. In the days leading up to the seminars, Debbie Iverson, executive assistant to the superintendent, will email links to the talks.

Board swearing-in ceremony

The new Board of Education of Charles County will be sworn-in starting at 4 p.m., Monday, Dec. 17 at North Point High School in Waldorf. The ceremony will take place in the school auditorium and is open to the public. The swearing-in also will be televised live on the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) website, ccboe.com. Four new members were elected into office last month. They are Elizabeth Brown, David Hancock, Tajala Battle-Lockhart and Latina Wilson. They join incumbents Jennifer Abell, Michael Lukas and Virginia McGraw, who were re-elected to their positions. The Board begins a four-year term and elects its officers at its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 8. Officers include both the chairman and vice chairman positions and terms are for one year.

Social hour

Follow Charles County Public Schools on Twitter @ccps. Find us on Facebook by searching Charles County Board of Education and on Instagram at focusonccps.



Charles County Public Schools warehouse foreman Brian Richard, right, brings out-of-date textbooks to the Book Project, a program through the World Bank Family Network. Also pictured are the Book Project representatives Nancy Pinto, left, Carmelinda Blagg and Pushpa Pherwani.

CCPS donates to the World Bank's Book Project

Throwing out-of-date textbooks in a landfill didn't sit right with Brian Richard, warehouse foreman with Charles County Public Schools (CCPS). So, the day representatives of the Book Project through the World Bank Family Network reached out to CCPS nine years ago was a good one. "We have not dealt with any other vendor since," Richard said.

The Book Project was founded nearly 40 years ago after the wives of World Bank employees took a trip to Lagos, Nigeria, to inaugurate a library. Surprised to find the building empty, the women started networking with spouses of the bank's staff to collect books. By 1983, the Book Project

was launched. The nonprofit has shipped more than 3 million books to 100 countries over the years.

"We send all our used text and library books to them through a third party. Pallets at a time," Richard said. "If I were to guess, I would estimate well over 100,000 books over the course of nine years."

Recently, Richard visited the Book Project warehouse where he learned the impact CCPS is making around the globe. "I have learned that the number of children we have assisted is countless," he said. "How could we not take part in something like this? Helping others is what we as a school system do — help others grow."

Employee IDs

service employees from Abacus, a company that provides contracted employees in specialized need areas, such as food services.

All contractors with Abacus are issued a specialized badge that confirms authorization to work within a CCPS school or center. These badges include an expiration date for when the contracted service ends.

Additional information, including examples of each CCPS issued staff badge, is posted on the CCPS website at <https://www.ccboe.com/myccps/>. The staff badge

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enhancements are part of the school system's strategic focus on enhancing school safety and security. "They ensure we know who is supposed to be in our buildings," Jason Stoddard, director of safety and security for CCPS, said.

The Office of Safety and Security supplies all badges, including the annual school year stickers. CCPS is using funding from the Maryland Safe Schools and Security Grant issued by the Maryland Center for School Safety to support the enhancements to staff identification badges.

Student identification badge program is piloted in three schools

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is piloting the use of student identification (ID) badges. The pilot program is part of the school system's increased focus on school safety and security. Pilot schools include J.P. Ryon Elementary School, John Hanson Middle School and La Plata High School. CCPS plans to implement student ID badge use at all schools and centers next year.

Each student will receive an ID badge featuring their name, school of attendance, class grade and school year. The IDs feature a barcode at the bottom for use with procedures such as tracking student late arrivals and early dismissals. Each pilot school has an iPad for use with the barcode that connects to the school system's student information system, Synergy.

Students will also be able to use their badge barcode to purchase meals in the school cafeteria and check out books in the school library. Principals can implement additional uses for ID badges at their discretion. Students at the pilot schools will receive their ID badges at school, and are responsible for wearing them daily. A main goal of the program is for all students to have a form of identification with them during the school day.

"The program will provide us with an immediate recognition of who belongs in the school, but also creates a 21st century environment for our students. The use of ID cards is a part of our daily lives and a fundamental part of our safety and security strategy," said Jason Stoddard, director of safety and security for CCPS.

La Plata launched badge use among students on Nov. 27. Students received their ID badges at school Nov. 26 during their English classes. Recently, students participated in safety presentations in which school administrators announced the pilot badge use and reviewed its uses at school.

La Plata will initially use the badges for all student late arrivals and early dismissals. The school will also feature an express line in the cafeteria for those students who buy breakfast or lunch. Additionally, seniors who leave school for the day at the start of the school's one-hour lunch/activity period will use their badge to sign out daily.

Stoddard said the badges are also essential for use during an emer-



La Plata High School junior Brianna High, right, is interviewed by NBC4 reporter Darcy Spencer about CCPS's new student identification badge program that is being piloted in three schools before launching throughout the school system.

gency. "In the event of a school emergency, it will help us be more seamless in accounting for our students. It will also help us if there is a family reunification side of it," Stoddard added.

Plans for the implementation of the program at both Hanson and Ryon are underway.

All badges will feature student photos taken by Lifetouch, which also provides CCPS with the initial set of badges per school. Students who lose or misplace their badge will have to wear a temporary badge until a replacement is issued by CCPS staff. Principals also can identify consequences by school for the loss of a badge or if the student forgets to wear it during the school day.

New students will have their picture taken at school and provided a badge shortly after. CCPS is using funding from the Maryland Safe Schools and Security Grant issued by the Maryland Center for School Safety to support the badge program.

Nominate an outstanding school leader for Principal of the Year

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is looking for nominees for its annual Principal of the Year award.

The principal chosen for the honor will also represent CCPS as the county finalist for the *Washington Post* Principal of the Year award.

Each year, the *Post* selects an overall award recipient for its Principal of the Year award from among finalists in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Principals can be nominated by staff, students, parents, colleagues or community members, but are not eligible if they have received the honor in the past. Criteria for nominees includes five years of experience as a principal, three of which are required to be with CCPS, and a commitment to maintain their position as a principal with the school system for the 2019-20 school year.

Additional nomination criteria are:

- Manage effectively;
- Demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation;

- Foster cooperation between the school and community;
- Maintain a dialogue with students, parents and staff;
- Encourage team spirit;
- Stay aware of developments in the field of education;
- Demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment; and
- Continue to play an active role in the classroom.

Nomination materials must be submitted electronically, which is a change from previous award years. Materials should include a nominee career summary, 200-word biography, minimum of four statements of support, descriptions of contributions in each criteria area and headshot photograph. More details are posted online at <https://tinyurl.com/y98axmxa>. Deadline for submission of nominations is Dec. 7.

Materials should be sent by email to Ramona DiBenedetto in the CCPS Office of Human Resources at rdibenedetto@ccboe.com. Call 301-934-7242 with questions.

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

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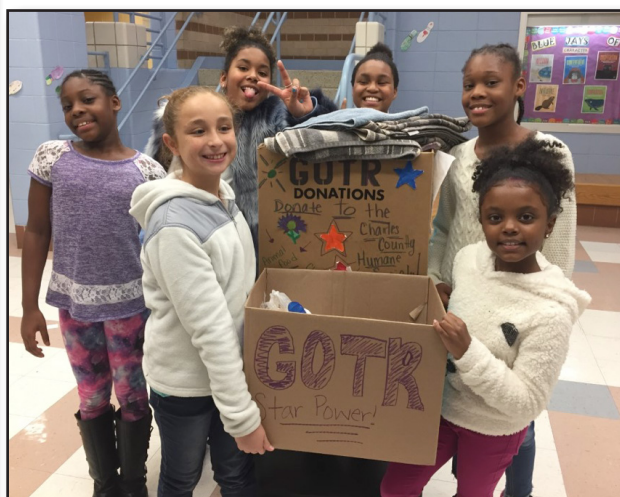
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GOTR collects for pets

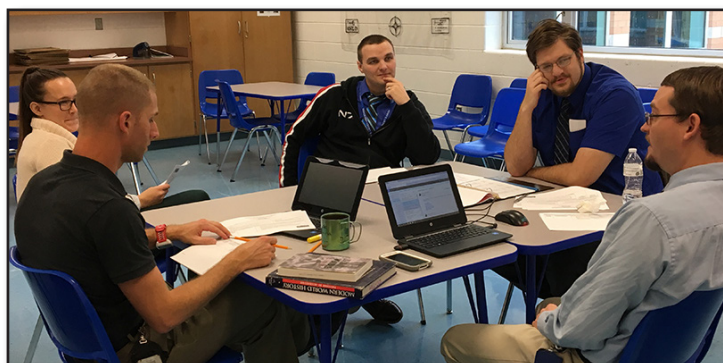
For its Community Impact Project, the C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School's Girls on the Run team collected donations for the Humane Society of Charles County. Club members collected blankets, towels, pet toys and other items. Pictured from left are fifth graders Brianna Tabor, Kamyra Jackson, Sri-Ana Davis, Stellah Anderson and Karmyn Jackson and fourth grader India Thompson-Livingston.

Submitted by Barnhart PR Liaison Alycia Smith.

History in the meeting

Henry E. Lackey High School social studies teachers meet during a teacher in-service day to collaborate and co-plan the next units for their students. From left are Kevin Gibson, left, Torrie White, Aaron Craft, James Hojnowski and Robert Bowser.

Submitted by Lackey PR Liaison Heather Alvarez.



Personnel

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

Building Service Worker — location to be determined, 12-month position. The ability to read and write, while being physically capable of performing manual labor is required. Building service workers must be willing to work overtime as required in cases of emergency. Apply by Dec. 7.

Principal's Secretary — Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required and experience with Quicken or QuickBooks is desirable. Experience with budgets, payroll and cash handling is preferred. The ability to type accurately at 60 wpm required. Apply by Dec. 7.

School Psychologist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must possess or be able to obtain

School Psychology Certification in Maryland. Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential is preferred. Apply by Dec. 31.

Instrumental Music Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required, along with meeting the certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Experience as established by Maryland law and Board of Education policy is required. Apply by March 29.

Technology Education Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required, along with meeting the certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Experience as established by Maryland law and Board of Education policy is required. Apply by March 29.

Social Studies Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. A bachelor's de-

gree is required, along with meeting the certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Experience as established by Maryland law and Board of Education policy is required. Apply by March 29.

Language Arts Teachers — all middle schools, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required, along with meeting the certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Experience as established by Maryland law and Board of Education policy is required. Apply by March 30.

Technology Facilitator — Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma and associate of arts degree or a passing score on the ParaPro Assessment required. Strong computer skills and understanding of Microsoft Office Suite and instructional software. Position open until filled.