



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Look up to the sky

Make a date for the first Monday of each month to look to Our Sky Tonight at the James E. Richmond Science Center at St. Charles High School. On Jan. 7, stop by the center to see constellations, stars and planets. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the free show from 7 to 8 p.m. Go to <https://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/>.

Board meets Jan. 8

The Board of Education will meet Tuesday, Jan. 8 in the boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. with members electing a chairman and vice chairman to serve a one-year term. Public Forum begins at 6 p.m.

Title 1 featured on NBC4

On Christmas Eve, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees in the Title I office, along with their children, visited Fresenius Kidney Care Waldorf to sing carols and hand out gift bags to patients. Sharron Rouse, Title 1 coordinator, founded Kindness for Kidneys after her battle with kidney disease. Title I coordinator Arin Bonner, Title I resource teacher Marissa Cross, along with Title I program director, Kristin Shields, joined Rouse for the event that was covered by NBC4. Watch at <https://tinyurl.com/y8kowhbb>.

No. 4 in your program ...

North Point High School senior Malik Lawrence was named *The Washington Post's* All-Met football defensive player of the year. "He terrorized opposing quarterbacks and receivers in the secondary," the *Post* writes. Lawrence had 15 interceptions, 58 tackles, 300 interception return yards and three defensive touchdowns. As a wide receiver, he posted 73 receptions for 1,240 yards and had 21 touchdowns.



Music to their ears

Julia Reppucci, an early intervention prekindergarten teacher at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, uses music to connect with students, including third grader Trinton Locks, left, and fourth grader Roberto Minero-Rauda. "Music is naturally structuring. It naturally brings a beginning and an end," Reppucci said. "We have a heartbeat and that keeps us structured and in rhythm. That rhythm helps connect us all. It helps to calm down the senses and refocus them, so that they can engage in something with full presence."

Barnhart students are on a roll with new bikes

Santa Claus wore blue and his sleigh was a truck on Dec. 18 when the members of the Omicron Delta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., stopped by C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School to drop off 35 bicycles for students nominated by their teachers.

It was a busy day for the brothers of the Sigmas of Southern Maryland. Earlier in the day, the group visited Benjamin Stoddert Middle School to drop off gifts to students. The fraternity has a history of community service and stands by its motto of "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity."

"Every year we learn more and more stories about the students here," said Kendrick Faison, the president of the Omicron Delta Sigma Service Foundation and past president of the chapter.

Frannia Bryant, Barnhart's school counselor, said a child from each classroom from prekindergarten to fifth grade was nominated for a bike. "A bike gives you the opportunity to go out into your community," Sequiell Bolden, the chapter president, said. "[Bike riding] promotes a healthy lifestyle." Additionally, owning a bike teaches responsibility and independence.

See Bikes, Page 2

Notebook

On the Cover

Employees pictured on the front are Danielle Nagle, a fourth-grade teacher at Mary B. Neal Elementary School; Maggie Fitzgerald, a Spanish teacher at Piccowaxen Middle School; and Laura Kelly, an art teacher at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School. Fitzgerald and Kelly were honored by the Board of Education at its Dec. 11 meeting for their dedication to teaching and learning.

Scholarship fund open

High school seniors can apply for college scholarships by visiting the Charles County Scholarship Fund at <https://www.ccboe.com/ss/charles-county-scholarship-fund-inc/>. All scholarship applications must be completed and submitted by March 1. Late applications will not be accepted. And just a word to the wise, the application progress cannot be saved. Applicants should have all required documents ready to upload to the application prior to starting to complete the form. Seniors can see their counselor or college and career advisor with questions.

Red Ribbon Campaign winners

Four Charles County public middle school students were recently honored by the Charles County Commission for Women through its Red Ribbon Campaign poster contest. The student artists whose designs were selected as overall winners among Charles County entries are Dayshina Gutrick, sixth grader, General Smallwood Middle School; Kirra Johnson, eighth grader, Piccowaxen Middle School; Mia Terry, sixth grader, Mattawoman Middle School; and Mandy Wang, eighth grader, Milton M. Somers Middle School. To read more about their accomplishments, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y96n5jw7>.

It's show time at JER center

The James E. Richmond Science Center has a slate of shows ready for the start of 2019. "Grossology and You," "Saturn: Jewel of the Heavens" and "Still We Rise" will play during January and February on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For tickets, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/tickets/>.



C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School first grader Amari McLean, and her mother, Sade McPhatter, check out some of the features on Amari's new bicycle. Omicron Delta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., has been donating bikes to Barnhart for a few years as part of its community service commitment.

Bikes

continued from page 1

David Ingles smiled when he remembered riding bikes as a kid. He hopes his son, Jamil, a Barnhart third grader, makes similar happy memories. "I think he'll be very excited," Ingles said.

This is the fourth year the fraternity has given bikes to children at Barnhart. The organization's annual crab feast, along with donations and a partnership with Walmart, helps fund its community service projects. Members also support mentoring programs in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland, volunteer at the Robert J. Fuller Transitional House for Men and Charlotte Hall Veterans Home as well as raise money for the March of Dimes.



Yusuf House, a member of Omicron Delta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., makes last minute adjustments to a bike.



Fifth grader Julio Vazquez, center, was joined by his parents, Miriam Chagolla and Julio Vasquez.



Frannia Bryant, school counselor at Barnhart, welcomes parents and students to the bike donation celebration.

Board of Education, legislators meet to discuss school issues

Southern Maryland legislators expressed their support for education at the Board of Education's recent legislative breakfast while learning a little more about Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and two of its challenges — teacher recruitment and retention, and student discipline.

The annual breakfast is a time for the Board of Education and Charles County's legislative delegation to share information, concerns and educational issues before the Maryland General Assembly convenes in January.

Superintendent Kimberly Hill familiarized members of the Southern Maryland delegation, which includes state senators and delegates from Districts 27 and 28, with CCPS statistics including its economic impact as the largest employer in the county. She provided a breakdown of student and staff demographics as well as academic achievements.

Deputy Superintendent Amy Hollstein shared challenges the system has with student discipline and how laws impact the school system's responses to disciplinary infractions. Using two incidents — one where a student overturned desks and emptied shelves, and another where a student scratched a teacher — Hollstein illustrated the frustrations in handling discipline problems, especially with early childhood students. She stressed the main goal of discipline is to change or modify student behavior and to ensure the safety of staff and students.

Hollstein provided examples of the supports CCPS uses in addressing student behavior, including therapeutic implementation, mental health services, restorative practices, expansion of evening high school to include opportunities for special education students and planning for elementary alternative programs. Hollstein also highlighted some of the laws and rules that limit the discipline school administrators can impose.

Nikial Majors, executive director of human resources, presented information about the 282 new teachers hired this school year. Majors said staff attended 39 job fairs and teacher recruitment initiatives included focusing on diversity, expanding utilization of technology and social media, creating an internal talent pipeline, forging relationships with new colleges, extending offers at job fairs and hosting CCPS job fairs. Majors told legislators and the Charles County Commissioners that their support with affordable housing, affordable benefits and adequate funding are the areas where they can have the most impact on the school system's ability to attract and keep quality teachers.

Hill told legislators that Board members and staff are available for consultation on any education issue that might surface in the com-



Sen. Arthur Ellis, left, Del. Edith Patterson, Charles County Commissioner Thomasina Coates, Commissioners' President Reuben Collins and Commissioner Gilbert Bowling attended the legislative breakfast to learn more about the school system.



Deputy Superintendent Amy Hollstein, left, and Nikial Majors, director of human resources for CCPS, present information during the breakfast.

ing legislative session. Del. C.T. Wilson requested information on the school system's priorities and areas of focus within the Kirwan Commission report. Del. Edith Patterson asked to meet with staff more often.

Members of the Charles County legislative delegation, including Senator-elect Arthur Ellis, Patterson, Del. Susie Proctor and Wilson, along with Charles County Commissioners' President Reuben Collins, Thomasina Coates and Gilbert Bowling, attended the meeting with the Board of Education, Board of Education-elect members and staff.

Prevent summer brain drain — teachers, IAs needed for summer enrichment camps

Charles County Public Schools summer enrichment camps are in the planning stages and teachers and instructional assistants (IA) are needed to lead the various programs.

Open to students in prekindergarten through eighth grade, the camps can focus on just about any subject that might be of interest to students (and teachers.) Some of the camps organizers are looking for

center on sports, cooking, music, world languages, the environment, engineering, drama, robotics, gaming — the sky's the limit. The pay is \$34.40 an hour for certified employees and \$15 an hour for IAs who must work with a certified employee. Contact Ann Taylor at ataylor@ccboe.com or 301-934-7378 or Joyce Campbell at jcampbell@ccboe.com or 301-934-7227.

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The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

Coffee time with Wade's Express Café



Every other Friday, Steven Baldo and William B. Wade Elementary School students — including first graders Wendell Jackson, left, and Monti Jones —, reinforce math skills and practice social skills while operating the Wade Express Café. Bree's Sweet Treats donated the baked goods for the café.

Submitted by Wade PR liaison Heidi Furman



Breathe in, breathe out

Mary McSorley, Piccowaxen Middle School eighth grader Mary McSorley learns how to administer air to a patient during a Career and Technology Education (CTE) Showcase held earlier this school year CCPS eighth graders.

Submitted by Piccowaxen PR liaison Lisa Sue Smirolfo

Personnel

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

Food Service Worker — all schools, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required. Applicants must have the aptitude for successful food preparation, food handling, collecting money and cleaning equipment among other functions. Apply by Jan. 4.

Math 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 30.

Payroll Accounting Analyst — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Five years of experience in a high

volume payroll/accounting environment required. Associate's degree or American Payroll Association certification preferred. Position open until filled.

Instructional Assistant — all Title 1 elementary schools, 10-month position. The ability to work in an instructional support role with school-aged children is required. Associate's degree preferred. Forty-eight college credits, or a passing score on Para pro test is required. Position open until filled.

Food Nutrition Service Development Training Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. An associate's degree in culinary arts with a minimum of five years of experience preferred. Working knowledge of institutional or contract food service programs, or restaurant management is a must. Position open until filled.

High School ESOL Teachers — all high schools, 10-month position. A bachelor's de-

gree and meeting of certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education for certification in English for Speakers of Other Languages, Prek-12 (ESOL) are required. Position opened until filled.

Middle School ESOL Teachers — all middle schools, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree and meeting of certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education for certification in English for Speakers of Other Languages, Prek-12 (ESOL) are required. Experience as established by Maryland Law and Board of Education policy is required. Position opened until filled.

Extra pay positions

Head Softball Coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Apply by March 29. Call 301-743-5431.

Assistant Softball Coach — Lackey high school. Call 301-743-5431.