

# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### ***Schools closed Jan. 21***

Schools and offices are closed Monday, Jan. 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. On Friday, Jan. 25 schools are closed for students only due to a semester break.

### ***W-2s delivered by Jan. 31***

W-2 wage and tax statements for 2018 will be issued to all employees by Jan. 31, 2019, as required by the IRS. Some W-2s may be mailed.

Employees are asked to check their address in the Employee Portal or on a paycheck, and make any corrections with Human Resources as soon as possible. The U.S. Postal Service is not permitted by IRS regulations to forward any tax documentation to forwarding addresses. The Dec. 21, 2018, pay stub is a good reference to use when processing your 2018 tax return.

### ***Skyla's Night set Jan. 24***

The James E. Richmond Science Center is holding Skyla's Night Jan. 24 at the center at St. Charles High School. Skyla Shirriel, a T.C. Martin Elementary School first grader, is recovering from being struck by a vehicle after getting off a school bus on her way home from school.

All proceeds from the night will go toward her recovery. Doors open at 6 p.m., a planetarium show will feature the sky the way it appeared on the day, time and location of where Skyla was born. Full dome shows will be screened at 6:45 and 7:30 p.m. The center is at 5305 Piney Church Road in Waldorf. Go to [www.ccboe.com/ScienceCenter](http://www.ccboe.com/ScienceCenter).

### ***Take note***

If you missed the Jan. 8 Board of Education meeting you can watch the meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/yccahgl9>. You can read Board Notes at <https://tinyurl.com/ya6pzdeb>.



## No business like snow business

Building service managers and staff work to remove snow and ice from their schools on Jan. 14 while students enjoyed a snow day. Pictured clockwise from top left are Lonnie Wilson, building service manager at John Hanson Middle School, Earl Swann, building service manager at La Plata High School and Jakeyta Swailes, assistant building service manager at Mary B. Neal Elementary School.

## Board elects McGraw, Wilson to leadership roles

The Board of Education of Charles County elected Virginia McGraw as its chairman and Latina Wilson as its vice chairman at the start of the Jan. 8 meeting. The Board votes annually in January to elect its chairman and vice chairman for a one-year term. This is the first leadership election for the new Board, of which members were sworn in to office last month.

This is the third term as chairman for McGraw, who was recently elected to her second term on the Board. She served as its chairman

in 2015 and 2016. She was first elected to the Board in 2014.

McGraw thanked the Board members for their support and said she looks forward to once again leading the group. "My goal here as a Board member is to work with you as a team so we can do what is best for every child. I will work tirelessly to represent you in a very honest manner. I will work with you on any challenges that might come forward and to come up with decisions that are meaningful and long lasting for our children," McGraw said.

See Leadership, Page 2

## Leadership

continued from page 1

### Notebook

#### On the Cover

Employees pictured on the front were honored by the Board of Education at its Jan. 8 meeting. From left are Kristen Barrett, a social studies teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School; Robin Figurelle, a fourth-grade teacher at Mary H. Matula Elementary School; and Nathan Mouli, a social studies teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School.

#### Commodores play Lackey

Henry E. Lackey High School will host the Commodores, the U.S. Navy's premier jazz band, 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at the school at 3000 Chicamuxen Road in Indian Head. The concert is free. Call 301-743-5431.

#### Dual enrollment parent night

A dual enrollment parent information night is 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at the La Plata campus of the College of Southern Maryland. Parents can learn more about in-school dual math, English and other classes. The dual enrollment program and the Career and Technology Education Program at CSM give high school students the opportunity to simultaneously earn college credits and possible credit toward a high school diploma. To RSVP, go to [www.csmd.edu/DualEnrollment](http://www.csmd.edu/DualEnrollment).

#### Check out chess tourney

Charles County Public Schools is sponsoring a winter chess tournament Feb. 23 at Henry E. Lackey High School. Open to students in kindergarten to 12th grade, the tournament's registration deadline is Feb. 20. No walk-in registrations will be taken. To register, go to <https://ccpsregistration.wufoo.com/forms/ccps-2019-winter-chess-tournament/>.

#### 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.

Graw said.

Wilson is newly elected to her first term on the Board. She thanked her fellow Board members for their support of her in a leadership role.

"I have the time and the experience to take on this task as vice chair. I will support the chair to the best of my abilities and am committed to being a problem solver and consensus builder. I am so excited at the opportunity to serve as a Board member and am honored to serve as the vice chair," Wilson said.

McGraw is a retired Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) principal who also served as a teacher and vice principal during her 25-year career with the school system. She was the 2009 CCPS Principal of the Year, and volunteers with Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church. She is an elected member of the board of directors of the Maryland Association of School Boards. She is also a member of the Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, the Education Association of Charles County and the Maryland State Education Association. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary special education and her master's degree in special education. McGraw has lived in the Charles County community for more than 40 years.



Virginia R. McGraw

Wilson is a Gulf War veteran who retired from the U.S. Army after serving for 20 years. She is active in the community and serves as president of the Port Tobacco River Conservancy; president of the Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; member of the McConchie One-room School House committee and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She also served as the education liaison for the Charles County Branch of the NAACP for several years. Wilson earned her bachelor of science in business from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She is serving her first term on the Board.



Latina Wilson

## CCPS inclement weather procedures and information

If weather conditions pose a potential hazard to students, school officials may dismiss students early, delay the opening of schools or close schools for the day. If conditions require the closing or delayed opening of schools, decisions are usually made by 5 a.m. The most reliable sources of school closing information are the school system's 24-hour information line and website. The 24-hour information line is 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6656.

When possible, decisions are made the preceding evening. CCPS does not use the phone call system to announce school closings or delays.

A delayed opening permits buses to operate under safer conditions after traffic has diminished and roads are salted and/or cleared. Buses run routes one or two hours later than scheduled. If there is a one-hour delayed opening, morning prekindergarten classes start one hour late. If schools open two hours late, morning prekindergarten classes are canceled. Afternoon and evening meetings and activities are canceled if schools close early, or are closed for the day. If hazardous weather is predicted for later in the evening, afternoon activities may be allowed and evening activities may be canceled. Afternoon activities are those that end by 6 p.m. Evening activities begin at 6 p.m. or later.

Some CCPS employees follow a code system. To learn more about codes, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/staff-codes>. For more information about the inclement weather procedures, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/inclement-weather-procedures>.

# Nominate an outstanding volunteer who makes a difference

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is looking for outstanding volunteers who support children by contributing time and resources to schools and the school system.

The 2019 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year “Be the Difference” awards program recognizes outstanding school volunteers for their valuable contributions to schools, students, staff and CCPS.

There are five award categories: elementary school parent volunteer, middle school parent volunteer, high school parent volunteer, Charles County business volunteer and community organization volunteer.

Nominees should be individuals, parents, businesses or community organizations who volunteer to give their time, energy or expertise to CCPS or a particular school that results in positive experiences for children. Volunteers are defined as people who give assistance to the CCPS community and receive no compensation for their efforts.

Any CCPS teacher, staff member, student or parent can submit nominations. The nomination deadline is Monday, April 1.

Nominations can be submitted electronically at <http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/outstanding-volunteer-of-the-year-award>.

Submissions can also be sent by email to Kessandra Stubblefield, executive assistant to the Board of Education, at [kstubblefield@ccboe.com](mailto:kstubblefield@ccboe.com) or by mail to the attention of: Be the Difference Award Committee,

c/o Kessandra Stubblefield, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD, 20646. Nominators who plan to submit nominations by email or regular mail can download the form to submit at <https://tinyurl.com/yarkno7z>.

Nominations must include a brief description of the nominee, and the type and quality of service by the volunteer.

Submissions must not exceed 300 words. Nominations must include two letters of support, no longer than one page each. Letters may not be used to serve as both a letter of support and the nomination. Letters must be submitted by two individuals other than the nominator, and a letter by a relative is not admissible.

Award winners will be recognized at a recognition ceremony in June. All finalists and award winners, volunteers, school principals, nominators and volunteer’s families are invited to attend the ceremony.

The goal of the awards program is to increase awareness of the importance of parent and community involvement in public education. The Board of Education and CCPS recognize contributions made by school volunteers and launched the program to highlight supporters.

A Board of Education subcommittee will judge and select the finalists and award winners. CCPS employees and their families, as well as members of the Board of Education, are not eligible for nomination.

## System offering temporary increase in meal credits for students

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Food and Nutrition Services Department has increased the amount of meal credits students can use on their school accounts.

The temporary increase was approved by staff to help families affected by the recent closing of most federal government agencies.

Although the increase allows students to have additional time to receive regular meals at school, parents are still responsible for paying any negative meal account balances for their child, including any meal credit provided.

The increase is effective as of Jan. 4 and will remain in place for 30 days after the federal government reopens. The following is the temporary meal increase limits for students.

- Elementary school students – \$55 (standard limit is \$25)
- Middle school students – \$45 (standard limit is \$15)
- High school students – \$40 (standard limit is \$10)

Parents of students with any negative meal account balances will still receive automated phone calls once the standard limits are reached.

The \$30 increase per level is set to provide students with about two weeks of meal credits for purchases.

Credits are given only for students who attempt to purchase meals and have no money on their account.

Once a student uses all of the credit, they will receive an alternate main entrée per Superintendent’s Rule 3842.

The Rule outlines how the school system manages unpaid meal balances. Payment of the account includes the credit given by the school system.

Contact the Food and Nutrition Services Department at 301-392-



**Jill Sprouse, food service manager at T.C. Martin Elementary School, left, helps students select their breakfast options.**

5570 or your child’s principal with questions about alternate meals and unpaid meal balances. Parents can sign up for My Payments Plus, the online system CCPS offers for parents to add money to their child’s meal account, at <https://www2.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome>.

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

**Board of Education Members**  
Virginia R. McGraw, Chairman  
Latina Wilson, Vice Chairman  
Jennifer S. Abell  
Tajala Battle-Lockhart  
Elizabeth C. Brown  
David Hancock  
Michael Lukas  
Krisha Patel, *Student Member*

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D.

**Editor/Writers**  
Katie O'Malley-Simpson  
Shelley Mackey  
Sara K. Taylor

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.

## The sweet life at Ryon

J.P. Ryon Elementary School fifth graders Leeanna Wilkinson, left, and Na'Kyia Bulls visit with Leyah Johnson during a recent stop by Gretchen Great-house's Life Skills classroom.

*Submitted by Ryon PR liaison Laura Metz.*



## Fear the turtle

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School sixth grader Elijah Brown, left, seventh grader Caleb Barley and eighth grader Hudaa Butt won University of Maryland, College Park swag during College Week at Stoddert. Students answered questions during the week for a drawing to win prizes.

*Submitted by Stoddert PR liaison Stephanie Vinson.*

## Personnel

*Apply for positions online at [www.ccboc.com/jobs/currentopenings.php](http://www.ccboc.com/jobs/currentopenings.php). All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.*

**Front Office Secretary** — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 11-month position. Applicants must have positive human relation skills and good computer literacy skills in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and the internet. Apply by Jan. 21.

**Administrative Instructional Assistant** — J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. A demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with secondary school-aged children and excellent human relations skills are required. Apply by Jan. 22.

**Building Service Worker** — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 12-month position. Applicants should have the ability to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Apply by Jan. 22.

**Special Education Assistant** — J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, as well as having passed the ParaPro assessment or have a minimum of 48 college credits. Apply by Jan. 23.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant (SOAR)** — Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, as is a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children. Apply by Jan. 23.

**Behavior Specialist — Elementary Alternative Program** — Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. Current Board Certified Behavior Analyst or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst certification and an advanced degree in education, psychology or a related field are required. Apply by Jan. 31.

**Principal Pool 2019-20** — All schools, 12-month position. A master's degree, three

years of satisfactory teaching experience and three years of satisfactory experience as a vice principal are required. Applicants must hold or be eligible for a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administration II endorsement. Apply by Feb. 5.

**Fifth-grade Water Safety Instructor** — Location to be determined. Applicants must have an American Red Cross Lifeguard certification and instructional experience. Position open until filled.

**Title I Tutor** — Location to be determined, temporary assignment. A high school diploma or GED with 48 college credit hours or a passing score on Praxis Paraprofessional Exam are required. Position opened until filled.

**Building Service Worker** — Location to be determined, 12-month position. Applicants should have the ability to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Position open until filled.