



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Bee a great speller

Isabella Dia Bonsu, a seventh grader at St. Peter's School, spelled pergola correct in the final round of the 41st annual Spelling Bee to earn the title of top speller. She will represent Charles County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee set for May 28-30. Finishing in second place this year was Jack Alcorn, an eighth-grader from Milton M. Somers Middle School, followed by Mattawoman Middle School seventh grader Adam Alattas in third place. Alcorn also came in second place at last year's Bee. If you missed the competition, catch it at <http://tinyurl.com/y22oegf8>.

North Point computes win

A team of North Point High School students earned third place in the Southern Maryland Computer Bowl held March 2 at the school. A total of 20 teams and 80 students from Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties participated. Melody Stahl, a computer teacher at North Point, coaches the team made up of seniors Caleb Griffith, Erik Henson, Matteo Marchi and Christian Parrales.

Every 15 Minutes set

Passersby might see increased police activity at St. Charles and Westlake high schools on March 28 when the schools participate in Every 15 Minutes. The public safety program educates teen drivers about the dangers and consequences of impaired and distracted driving. A mock car wreck is staged in the school parking lot with students in makeup portraying the deceased and injured victims. The driver is taken from the scene by Charles County Sheriff's Officers to the Charles County Courthouse for a trial. Members of the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department arrive at the scene to extract the victims from the wreckage. On March 29, the students will attend an assembly to wrap up the program.



CCPS participates in March for Our Schools

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) was represented by about 250 teachers, education advocates, Board of Education members and supporters at the March for Our Schools in Annapolis on March 11. More than 8,500 people from around the state attended the event that calls for more school staff — including counselors and psychologists — universal prekindergarten, better pay for educators, expanded career technical education and adequate and equitable funding for all schools. Deborah Cox, left, friend of Lisa Smiroldo, second from left, the librarian at Piccowaxen Middle School; Sandra Chisholm, Piccowaxen computer teacher and Gayle Kraus, visual arts teacher at Piccowaxen, attended the event.

Nominate volunteers who make 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>.

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High schools prepare, stage spring shows

Get ready for some rock and roll, sight-seeing on a magic carpet and disco dancing with student actors from the school system's seven high schools as they prepare for their spring productions.

Henry E. Lackey High School student actors will present a modified version of the popular Disney classic, "Aladdin Jr.," from March 28-30. Follow the story of Aladdin, a young man who lives in the streets of Agrabah. He finds a magic genie, and uses the genie's powers to escape and help him woo the princess, Jasmine. Performance times are 6:30 p.m. on all three dates.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$5 for students, seniors and military members. Lackey also provides free admission to CCPS employees, and one guest, who show their employee identification badge. Call 301-743-5431 for more information.

North Point High School will present "Saturday Night Fever" the weekend of April 4-6. Set in the 1970s in New York, the plot follows Tony Manero, a teenager from Brooklyn, who spends his weekends at a local discotheque. Show times are April 4-5 at 7 p.m., and April 6 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Call 301-753-1759 for more information.

Three schools will present spring play productions the weekend of April 11-13.

Maurice J. McDonough High School will present "In the Heights" by Lin Manuel Miranda and Quiera Alegria Hudes. The show sets stage in a New York City neighborhood, Washington Heights, of which a close Hispanic-American community lives. Show times are April 11-13 at 7 p.m. and April 13 at 2 p.m. for an understudy show.

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, senior citizens and military members, and \$6 for thespians and children over the age of six. CCPS employees receive one free admission with their identification badge. Visit www.mcdonoughdrama.com to purchase tickets.

Thomas Stone High School student actors will present "All Shook Up" at 7 p.m. on April 11-13. This play features the music of Elvis Presley and sets stage in a



small Midwestern town. A new community member named Chad comes to town and challenges its conservative views.

Ticket price is \$5 for all guests and CCPS staff receive two complimentary tickets with their identification badge. Call 301-645-2601 for more details.

The Westlake High School Theatre Company will present "Smokey Joe's Café: The Songs of Leiber and Stoller" the weekend of April 11-13. The show is a musical revue that highlights music such as pop, rhythm and blues, and rock and roll, written by songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Performance time is 7 p.m. for all three shows.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, and \$6 for senior citizens and students. CCPS employees can receive two complimentary tickets by showing their employee identification badge.

Rounding out the spring play season is La Plata High School with "Cabaret" the weekend of April 25-27. The plot sets stage in Germany during the early 1930s when the Nazi party begins to build political power. The play follows its main characters at a Berlin nightclub called the Kit Kat Club, and their struggles to find love during times of growing conflict.

The musical is rated PG-13 and includes themes not recommended for a younger audience. Show times are April 25-27 at 6:30 p.m. with a 2:30 p.m. show on April 27. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. CCPS employees receive free admission by showing their identification badge. Call 301-934-1100 for more information.

St. Charles High School kicked off the season with "Chicago, High School Edition" March 8 to 10.

Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at its March 12 meeting. From left are Juliana Herscher, a first-grade teacher at T.C. Martin Elementary School; Donna Fowler, technology facilitator at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; and Robert Castellano, instructor at Henry E. Lackey High School with the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) program.

Summer camp registration open

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is sponsoring summer enrichment camps for students in kindergarten through Grade 9. Camps begin the week of June 24 and run through the week ending on Aug. 2. More than 40 sessions are available and camps run Monday through Friday. To register, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/summer-camps-2019>. Cost is \$90 per camp session and students should be registered by the grade level they will begin at the start of the 2019-20 school year. The majority of camps are located at Maurice J. McDonough High School in Pomfret. Camps for kindergarten students are located at Dr. James Craik Elementary School, and a few of the cooking camps will run at Westlake High School. A walk-in registration session is set for Thursday, May 9 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. At this session, parents can pay for camps by either cash or check. Parents can also make an appointment with CCPS staff to complete the registration process. Contact Joyce Campbell at jcampbell@ccboe.com to set up an appointment.

Teacher Job Fair on April 13

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will hold a Teacher Job Fair 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13. CCPS is hiring qualified teachers in all subject areas for the 2019-20 school year. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree and Maryland Teaching Certificate or a valid out-of-state teaching certificate that meets certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. To register for the fair go to www.eventbrite.com and search for Charles County Public Schools. Applicants must fill out an online application prior to the fair by April 9 at www.ccboe.com/jobs.

In Memoriam Cornell Wade

Cornell Wade, a special education instructional assistant at Henry E. Lackey High School, passed away March 2, 2019. In addition to working in the classroom, Wade was a track coach at the school.

"I was very fortunate to hire Mr. Wade as a permanent instructional assistant. His dedication to our school and students was unwavering," said Lackey Principal Kathy Perriello. "He was loved by all, students and staff alike. Mr. Wade was a mentor, confidante and champion for all Chargers who walked the hallways of our building, especially those who needed it the most."

Lackey physical education teacher, Jimari Jones, first met Wade when Jones coached Wade's daughter in track and field. Wade helped out with the team and became a coach.

"He was a stand up guy," Jones said. "He would tell it like it is and was super supportive."

Katherine Schubbe, a business teacher and track coach at St. Charles High School, worked with Wade when she was a teacher and coach at Lackey.

"Mr. Wade would never sugarcoat the truth when talking to



Cornell Wade

you. He had his unique way of 'keeping it real' when he talked to the kids and they appreciated his honesty. That kind of raw honesty would always make me smile," Schubbe said. At Lackey, Schubbe said he encouraged and motivated other athletes the same as he did his daughter, Jennell. "He would not let an athlete quit on him or herself," Schubbe said. "Sometimes you need that extra voice to keep pushing over the hurdle; Mr. Wade was that voice."

Schubbe said Wade not only made a positive impression on students, but also on his colleagues.

"It wasn't just the kids he would push and motivate," Schubbe said. "Seeing him every day working at Lackey, he became a father figure for me. Checking in to see how I was doing, being a friendly ear to vent to and providing advice came naturally to Mr. Wade."

Wade was buried in his home state of West Virginia. A memorial service was held March 14 at Thornton's Funeral Home in Indian Head.

DIFFERENCE

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Submissions can also be sent by email to Kessandra Stubblefield, executive assistant to the Board of Education, at 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.



Be the Difference award winners in the 2017-18 program included Ginger Brown, a John Hanson Middle School parent volunteer, left; Susie Morgan, a T.C. Martin Elementary School parent volunteer; LifeStream Church of the Nazarene represented by Jacqueline Edlund-Braun, Pastor Kristi Jennings and Sue Montfort, for community organization volunteer at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; and Nicolette Watkins, a Henry E. Lackey High School parent volunteer.

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United for chili

St. Charles High School staff held a five-alarm fundraiser earlier this year to support the United Way of Charles County. Staff cooked chili while others made baked goods to compete against each other. Staff members cast their vote for their favorite in the form of a monetary donation.

Submitted by St. Charles's PR liaison Matthew Helming.

Playing 'koi'

Second-grade students in Kerry Brinkhurst's class at Berry Elementary School get a high five from Ayaka Fukami, one of 30 Bunkyo University students who visited Charles County last month from Japan to learn more the American public education system. The students learned about koinobori, windsocks shaped like carp. The students then designed and colored their own koinobori.

Submitted by Berry's PR liaison Kerry Brinkhurst.



Personnel

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

Certification Authorized Partner (CAP) — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree is required from an accredited college or university. Applicants must have or be eligible to obtain a Certification Authorized Partner (CAP) endorsement from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Apply by March 18.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Applicants must have an interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children. Apply by March 21.

Building Service Worker — North Point High School, 12-month position. High school

diploma required. Applicants must have the ability to read and write effectively. Apply by March 21.

Substitute Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is preferred with certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by May 3.

Building Service Worker — Location to be determined, 12-month position. High school diploma required. Applicants must have a willingness to work overtime when necessary. Position open until filled.

Food Nutrition Services Culinary Development and Training Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. An associate's degree in culinary arts, with minimum five years of experience preferred. Position open until filled.

Building Service Worker Floater — Location to be determined, temporary position.

High school diploma required. Applicants must have a willingness to work overtime when necessary. Position open until filled.

Food Service Substitute — Location to be determined, temporary position. A high school diploma desirable or sufficient education to have basic skills in reading, record keeping and math. Position open until filled.

Temporary Office Assistant — Location to be determined, 12-month position. High school diploma required, with previous secretarial experience preferred. Position opened until filled.

New Teacher Mentor — All schools. Master's degree or an Advanced Professional Certificate is required. Mentors must hold a Maryland Teaching Certificate or be working toward renewal. Applicants must have evidence of active participation in professional growth activities and/or organizations. Position open until filled.