



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Martin ES is golden

T.C. Martin Elementary School is celebrating 50 years on Saturday, April 28. The school opened in 1967. The event will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. A program will start at 9:15 a.m. where visitors can share their memories of going to school at Martin. From 10 to 11 a.m., illusionist Joe Romano will stage a magic show. Guests can tour the school and look at old pictures.

Graduation schedule set

Graduations for the Class of 2018 begin in May. North Point High School is graduating 7 p.m. Friday, May 31. On June 1, Westlake High School graduates at 9 a.m.; Henry E. Lackey High School's ceremony is 2 p.m.; and Maurice J. McDonough High School graduates at 7 p.m. St. Charles High School will graduate at 9 a.m. June 2; with Thomas Stone High School graduating at 2 p.m.; and La Plata High School's ceremony at 7 p.m. All graduations will take place at the Charles County Convocation Center at North Point High School.

Last day of school

The last day of school for students is Friday, June 15. The last day for teachers is Monday, June 18.

Sign up for summer camp

Registration is open for Charles County Public Schools Summer Enrichment camps. Camps are for CCPS-enrolled students and residents of Charles County in kindergarten through ninth grade, according to the student's 2018-19 school year grade level. Camps are offered in the mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The cost per camp session is \$90 per week with some camps requiring an extra \$10 fee to cover the cost of materials. Go to <http://www.ccboc.com/index.php/summer-camp-2018>.



Earth Day selfie

Erin Pomrenke, communications coordinator with the Charles County Government, takes a selfie with members of the William B. Wade Elementary School Green Team. Frankie Sherman, recycling and litter control superintendent at Charles County Government, visited Wade April 20 to film a Facebook Live game about recycling. Also pictured are special education instructional assistants (IA) Paul Hasz, back left, Bonnie Thomas-Stern and Sherman. Wade Principal Kevin Jackson Sr. and Joy Fisher, a special education IA and Go Green Team leader, are in the middle row. Third grader Allison MacDonald and fourth grader Arzelle Cayetano are in the front row. Fifth grader Nicholas Cruz also participated in the game.

Morgan named CCPS 2018 Principal of the Year

It is easy to work hard when your principal models it daily. At the start of any given school day at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, one can find Principal Kathleen Morgan doing just about anything from greeting students with a big smile and answering phone calls to helping visitors check in at the main office. She is visible, professional and hands-on with everything related to the Higdon school community. Morgan leads by example and does so in a kind and compassionate manner.

Her kind and compassionate demeanor

has helped to shape a culture at Higdon of respect and support in an environment that is positive and nurturing. Staff describe Morgan as one of the best educators they have worked with, and praise her for her work ethic, support and leadership. They see her passion for education and others do, too. In recognition of her passion for education and hard work, Morgan was named the 2018 Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year and finalist in the *Washington Post's* Principal of the Year program.

Morgan was aware that her staff had

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members recognized by the Board of Education at its April meeting. From left are Jacqueline Taylor, English teacher at North Point High School; Elizabeth Brandkamp, third-grade teacher at Mary B. Neal Elementary School; and Angela MacKay, a fifth-grade teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School.

Summer school rules

Summer school for 2018 starts July 10 for students. Held at Thomas Stone High School, summer school wraps up Aug. 8. A ceremony for high school seniors who completed graduation requirements in summer school will be 4 p.m. Aug. 8 at Thomas Stone. Registration for summer school is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 27 and 28 at the Robert. D. Stethem Educational Center. For more information, go to <http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/summer-school>.

Game officials needed

The Washington District Football Officials Association is looking for high school football game officials and clock operators. Applicants must be 18 and older. Call 877-777-1667 or go to www.wdfoa.org.

EACC crab feast Aug. 31

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) will hold its annual crab feast 3:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31 at the Charles County Fairgrounds. Tickets are available from May 1 to Aug. 23 and must be purchased online. Early bird tickets are \$25 each through June 25. From June 26 to Aug. 23, tickets are \$35 per person. Admission includes all-you-can-eat crabs, hot dogs, hamburgers and sides, and draught beer is \$1 with a maximum of four. Each employee can bring one guest who is not a CCPS employee and who must enter with the CCPS staff member — there will be no Will Call. Employees must have their staff identification and ticket to enter the event. For tickets, go to www.teameacc.org and click on the registration tab.

Social media

To keep up with what's happening in Charles County Public Schools, follow @CCPS on Twitter and like Charles County Board of Education on Facebook.



Cynthia Pryor, a first-grade teacher at William A. Diggs Elementary School, was named the Charles County Public Schools' finalist for *The Washington Post's* Teacher of the Year Awards program.

Pryor is WaPo's finalist for CCPS Teacher of the Year

Some words first graders might use to describe their teacher include "fun," "nice" and "cool." Not only did Cynthia Pryor's first-graders at William A. Diggs Elementary School use those words to talk about her, they also described her as "amazing" and "fabulous."

Pryor has been teaching first grade at Diggs since 2006. Her colleagues agree with her students. Diggs staff think so highly of Pryor that they submitted her for recognition through the *Washington Post's* Teacher of the Year awards program. This week, Pryor was named as the finalist to represent Charles County Public Schools (CCPS).

Pryor learned of her selection as a Teacher of the Year finalist with a surprise visit earlier this week from CCPS Deputy Superintendent Amy Hollstein. "When I found out about my nomination I was actually quite surprised. I feel like there are so many outstanding teachers at my school, I was truly humbled by the honor. From prek to fifth grade I see so many teachers doing amazing things every day and I feel like I'm just one small piece of the puzzle that makes Diggs such a great place to be," Pryor said.

Each day, Pryor's students arrive to her class ready to have fun while learning. She is in tune with her students, a process that starts for her on the first day of school. She takes the time to get to know each student

and focuses on positive relationship building. This helps Pryor to address not only the instructional needs of her students, but also how she can support their emotional and social growth.

Pryor's creativity and excitement to teach are evident in all that she does. Her students are eager to make their teacher proud and Pryor rewards them through positive encouragement and praise. Her ability to build and maintain a strong rapport with her students and parents is admirable and she is a role model teacher among her colleagues. Her lessons target multiple learning styles and encourage her students to put forth their best effort.

Diggs Principal Debra Calvert was part of the nominating committee that submitted Pryor for the awards program. Calvert describes Pryor as a lifelong learner who instills a sense of pride to learn in each of her students.

"Students in her classes are always interested and engaged. Their questions show that they want to inquire a deeper understanding of content and lead her in new directions with the class. Being in tune with her students results in a classroom that is both student-friendly and cognitively busy. It is a priority for Ms. Pryor to maintain high expectations for all of her students," Calvert wrote in a nomination letter.

To read more about Pryor and her career, go to <https://bit.ly/2vj0oTg>.

Morgan

continued from Page 1

nominated her for the recognition in previous years, but was caught by surprise with the news of her selection as Principal of the Year for 2018. "When I learned from Dr. Hill that I was selected as the CCPS Principal of the Year I was overtaken with emotion and completely humbled. As a principal, I have always worked hard and put the needs of my staff and students ahead of my personal accolades," Morgan said.

Morgan has been an administrator with CCPS for the past 22 years, first joining the school system as a vice principal in 1996, and was named principal at Higdon in 2011. For the past seven years, Morgan has helped to build a strong learning foundation for Higdon students. Relationship building is a priority. Morgan strives to relate to each and every student and staff member in the building. She has an open-door policy for all and is professional in all that she does. "I have always felt that my job was to create a teaching and learning environment where I could inspire students and teachers to be their best," Morgan said.

Morgan's passion for education stems from a love of learning she developed as a child. She and her sister would often play "teacher" and set up a makeshift library in the family basement. They would check out books and then read together. Morgan said her future in education was also influenced by her parents, who valued education and taught her that a good education would not only broaden her thinking, but would open doors to the future.

"They taught me that through hard work and perseverance, any goal could be accomplished. These words have stuck with me in my professional life as well as in raising my own two sons," Morgan said.

Her ideas of hard work are evident in the Higdon climate. Staff see her as an effective leader and communicator who supports their endeavors, ideas and initiatives. Morgan is visible in classrooms, hallways, the cafeteria and all other areas in the school. She attends evening and weekend events at the school, parent conferences, instructional team meetings, observes lessons and checks in with students.

"There really is no aspect of the school that Mrs. Morgan is not actively participating in, which is a tall order for a school principal. Yet somehow, she does all of this with great enthusiasm and diligence, while making it all look effortless," wrote Zarina Ameen, a former school counselor at Higdon, in a letter of support for Morgan's nomination.

Each quarter, Higdon students are celebrated during a schoolwide celebration of learning event. Students are recognized for honor roll grades and demonstrating personal responsibility, but also for achievements beyond the classroom. This ranges from club participation and contests to grade-level performances. Family and friends of students are invited to attend. Morgan makes an effort to greet all visitors and congratulate each student as they join the celebration.

"One of my favorite moments was last year during the 4th quarter celebration of learning assembly and our school introduced a new award called the Husky Pride award. This award was created to celebrate students who have shown improvement but may not be eligible for the academic or personal responsibility honor roll. At the end of the assembly, several parents approached me with tears in their eyes saying how overjoyed they were to hear their child's name being announced in front of the entire school to be celebrated. We as educators have



Kathleen Morgan, right, greets students on the first day back to Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School. Morgan, the 2018 Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Principal of the Year, has been with CCPS for 22 years.

to remember to celebrate the achievements of all of our students," Morgan said.

Morgan strives to support relationships between the school and community, and all for the benefit of students and staff. Several community members and agencies partner with the school to support its events such as the Reading Partners and Arnold House food programs to the holiday food basket and winter fest events. Her personal touch and concern has made Morgan a valuable link between school and community. She ensures students and families in need are taken care of, especially during the holiday season, and personally donates to the annual staff giving tree and buys books for students.

The Higdon community is always made to feel welcome. This is a result of Morgan's leadership and her dedication to go above and beyond to make sure Higdon is an inviting place to work and learn. Staff are recognized by Morgan for their efforts with a Husky Howl and encouraged to support one another. Morgan holds high expectations for staff and students and models the idea that the Higdon mission is achieving academic success for all.

Higdon special education teacher Barbara Brandau said what sets Morgan apart from other leaders is her hands-on approach and caring nature. "She is approachable and always has the student's best interest at heart. What has always impressed me with Mrs. Morgan is her caring nature to assist all teachers to achieve their highest potential so as to promote success not only for the students, but for the staff," Brandau wrote in a recommendation letter.

As Principal of the Year, Morgan will be honored by the Board of Education at its May 8 meeting.

To read more about Morgan's career and achievements, go to <https://bit.ly/2HsvhcM>.

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

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*PR
Liaisons
in
Focus*



Senior English

Maurice J. McDonough High School seniors in Ashley Haffera's English class rotate through stations to explore the theme of cultural impact during literary analysis. The class explored different prompts every other day.

Submitted by Kathleen Davis, McDonough's PR liaison.



Run like a Mustang

Malcolm Elementary School held a recent Fun Run fundraiser, while encouraging positive character traits and physical fitness. Students wore shirts that were marked on the back for each lap they completed, with most of them running 35 laps or more.

Submitted by Christine Chinault, Malcolm's PR liaison.

Personnel

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

Job Openings

Office of Instruction Secretary — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and interpret legal documents and procedure manuals, and be able to write routine reports and correspondence. Common sense understanding to carry out instructions furnished in written, oral or diagram form and the ability to deal with problems involving several variables in standardized situations is required. Applicants must have experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and Publisher. Apply by April 30.

Building Service Worker — North Point High School, 12-month position with a Wednesday-Sunday schedule. Applicants must have the ability to read and write ef-

fectively, and be physically capable of performing manual labor. A willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency is required. Apply by May 7.

Secretary to the Principal — John Hanson Middle 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, along with the ability to type accurately at 60 WPM. Apply by May 7.

Building Service Worker — St. Charles High School, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively, and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Good verbal communications and human relation skills are required. Apply by May 8.

Student Lab Assistant — James E. Richmond Science Center, hourly position. Applicants must be at least 16 and in high school with two years of high school completed.

Training will be provided. Experience volunteering and the ability to work well with children in preferred. Apply by May 11.

Art Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by Sept. 30.

Extra pay positions

Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Call 301-934-2944.

Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach — La Plata High School. Call 301-934-1100.

JV Baseball Assistant Coach — La Plata. Call 301-934-1100.

Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach — Westlake High School. Call 301-645-8857.

Assistant Girls Basketball Coach — Westlake. Call 301-645-8857.