



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *'Be the Difference' award*

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 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year "Be the Difference" awards program is new for 2018 and recognizes outstanding school volunteers for their valuable contributions to schools, students, staff and CCPS. The five award categories are elementary school parent volunteer, middle school parent volunteer, high school parent volunteer, Charles County business volunteer and community organization volunteer. Nominations must be submitted to Kessandra Stubblefield, executive assistant to the Board of Education, by April 1, 2018. No late entries will be accepted.

### *Take in HITS March 24*

The History, Industry, Technology and Science Expo — HITS Expo — is 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 24 at St. Charles High School. It was rescheduled from March 3. There will be demonstrations, hands-on activities, along with science and history fair projects on display. An awards ceremony for the fair projects is 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The school is at 5305 Piney Church Road in Waldorf.

### *SECAC noms being sought*

The Special Education Citizen Advisory Committee (SECAC) is accepting nominations for the 13th annual SECAC Staff Appreciation Award. Nominations must be made by a parent, guardian or the student, not by other staff members. The categories are individual teacher or aide; child's team of two or more staff members who work directly with the student; related services staff; and support staff/administration. Nominations are due by April 6. Email [charlescountysecac@gmail.com](mailto:charlescountysecac@gmail.com) or call 301-593-9102. Go to <https://goo.gl/LxtGzr>.



## The artist as a young girl

Charles County Public Schools and the La Plata Business Association held the annual Youth Art Month reception March 8. Students in kindergarten through 12th grade were honored for their artwork that included drawings, paintings, sculpture and photography. Serenity Cooper, a first grader at Malcolm Elementary School received the Mildred Hack Award for her drawing, "Black-Eyed Susans." Also pictured are Board of Education members Virginia McGraw, left, and Michael Lukas; Matt Simpson of the La Plata Business Association, Barbara Palko, chairman of the Board and Amy Hollstein, deputy superintendent of schools.

## La Plata Unified bocce places first in its division at state

Four Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Unified Indoor Bocce teams competed at the Interscholastic Unified Sports State Invitational held Feb. 13 at Hagerstown Community College. A team from La Plata High School took first place in division four of the event, and a Maurice J. McDonough High School team earned third place in division three.

The La Plata team competed against eight teams in division one of the event to win first place. Team members are students Shane Crockett, Elaina Dixon, Emily Depew, Abbey Mag-sakay, Jarrett Mulloy and Danielle Murphy. William Boehm, a technology education teacher at La Plata, coaches the team.

A McDonough team earned third place among eight competing teams in division three of the tournament. Team members are students Marlexus Castillo, Naquantay Chappell, Zaire Johnson, Yanelle Montilla, James Otey, Savannah Paton and Morgan Slagle. David Bradshaw, a physical education teacher at McDonough, is the team coach.

The state event was separated into four levels of competition — divisions one through four — and students from La Plata, North Point and McDonough high schools competed. Teams that win first place at the regional level are invited to compete at the state event.

## Healthy Working Families Act passed by state

The Healthy Working Families Act, a law requiring employers to provide qualifying workers with paid sick and safe leave, took effect earlier this year.

All employees who are currently covered by collective bargaining agreements will continue to receive and access paid sick leave in accordance with the terms of those agreements.

In addition, the new law allows these employees to use their sick leave for "safe leave" purposes, which may include time off due to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking committed against the employee or a family member.

In addition, under the new law, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will provide paid sick and safe leave to its hourly employees who work at least 24 hours or more in a pay period in a regularly scheduled assignment.

These employees will earn an hour of leave per every 30 hours worked and can accrue up to 64 hours of leave each year.

Up to 40 hours of unused leave may be carried over from one school year to the next.

The leave may be used by the employee for "safe leave" purposes or to care for or provide treatment for their own or a family member's mental or physical ill-



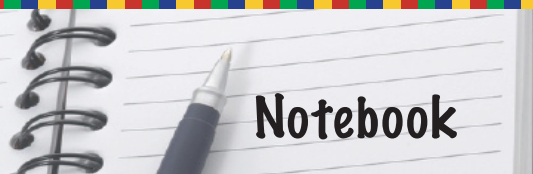
ness, injury or a condition and for preventive medical care.

Leave can also be used for maternity or paternity purposes.

Hourly paid employees may take sick or safe leave in 30-minute increments and must request the use of the leave on forms that may be obtained from their supervisors.

Employees eligible for the leave may view their leave balance on the Employee Portal.

Current daily substitute employees are not eligible for the use of paid sick and safe leave. Any questions should be directed to the Office of Human Resources.



### Notebook

#### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are CCPS staff members honored by the Board of Education at its March meeting. From left are Deepa Patel, secretary to the principal, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; Brian Palko, Gateway to Technology teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School; and Elaine Coombs, special education teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.

#### Enhanced safety procedures

All visitors, including staff members, to any school will now be required to show photo identification prior to entering the building.

#### Every 15 Minutes

Every 15 Minutes will be held at North Point and Thomas Stone high schools March 26 and 27. The program highlights the statistic that every 15 minutes someone is killed or seriously injured in an alcohol-related or distracted driving vehicle crashes. Emergency medical personnel, members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office and Maryland State Police will join student actors who are portraying accident victims and drivers.

#### 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. Prior experience is not required and rules and mechanics training is provided over the summer. Call 877-777-1667 or go to [www.wdfoa.org](http://www.wdfoa.org).

#### Show time

CCPS high school drama departments are running lines and tuning up for the spring musical season. Thomas Stone High School will stage "Beauty and the Beast" March 22 to 24; Maurice J. McDonough High School is performing "High School Musical" from April 12 to 15; Henry E. Lackey High School's "The Pajama Game" is set for April 19 to 21; North Point High School's show, "The Addams Family," is slated for April 19 to 21; "Sister Act" will be performed April 26 to 28 by Westlake High School's theater department; and La Plata High School goes under the sea with "The Little Mermaid" from May 3 to 5.

### Thrill of the drill

Staff at the Jesse L. Starkey Administrative Building recently took part in a fire drill. Glenda Henry, left, secretary for research and assessment was on the job taking attendance in her designated fire drill hat. Glenn Belmore, risk manager, ensured all departments followed procedures while evaluating how the drill was conducted and completed.





## Boy Scout aims for Eagle rank, wants students to have access to music education

When Addy Hebou embarked on his Eagle Scout project, he knew what he was going to do. “The first thing I thought of for my Eagle Scout project is the first thing that comes to everyone’s head, ‘We’re going to build something,’” said Hebou, a North Point High School senior.

Eagle Scouts have produced outstanding and much-needed projects, Hebou would just have to figure out what he could build. The more he brainstormed with troop leaders of Troop 410, the more Hebou leaned toward putting something together that incorporates his love of music with Scouting. Maybe he could put together a music workshop for younger kids and his fellow Scouts to help him. But some of his peers weren’t musically inclined.

Back to the drawing board, Hebou honed in on what he liked and what he hoped to accomplish. He loves singing and making music. He’s in a band, JustMusicians, with friends and plays piano, guitar and drums. He’s in North Point’s men’s and chamber choirs and lands roles in the school plays. “I want to give back,” he said. “I want to inspire people and grow. But I don’t just want to grow, I want to bring other people along with me.”

Scouting for Music was launched. Hebou’s Eagle Scout project is collecting instruments that are gathering dust in attics and garages, relics of a childhood spent learning scales on a flute or clarinet.

It’s Hebou’s hope that new life will be breathed into the instruments and if community members have none laying around, they can contribute monetary donations that will go toward the repair and refurbishment of the donations. Instruments will then be given to middle school students from low-income families who want to study music.

“I think a lot of kids like music and this is planting the seeds that will be able to grow,” said Kristin Helming, North Point’s choir teacher. “And maybe one day they’ll come to North Point and join the band or the choir. One gesture can change somebody’s whole life.”

Scouting has been part of Hebou’s life since he was a first grader and joined the Cub Scouts.

He can read a standard map and navigate using a compass, he knows first aid standards, how to swim (there’s a merit badge for almost everything) and how to make camp. And then there’s the knot tying.



**Addy Hebou, a North Point High School senior, has been a Scout since first grade. He is working on his Eagle Scout project to collect musical instruments for use by middle school students from low-income families.**

“Oh, gosh. Knot tying. You can use that skill practically daily,” Hebou said. He’s fixed his broken basketball hoop by lashing it to a post. The knots are still holding. “Boy Scouts gives you life skills, leadership skills,” he said. “The Boy Scout motto is: Be Prepared.”

“He’s a good Scout,” Chris Batchelor, Troop 410 Scoutmaster, said of Hebou. “Very determined, very driven.” Making Eagle Scout isn’t easy. Batchelor said he has about four boys in the troop who are working on earning the honor. Two more earned Eagle this year. But, sometimes life gets in the way, Hebou said.

“When you join Boy Scouts, you’re put on a track to get Eagle,” he said. Most Scouts don’t achieve it because interests change or activities like sports or school clubs take priority, he said. “Not everybody makes Eagle,” Batchelor said. “It’s prestigious.” The Eagle Rank is the highest a Boy Scout can achieve.

Around sophomore year, Hebou grew serious about gaining the rank of Eagle Scout. “I’ve been in Scouts since first grade,” he said. “I want to grab everything Boy Scouts has to offer me. You come in as a boy, you leave as a leader.”

Hebou, who is in the Electronics STI at North Point and wants to study electrical and computer engineering in college, started

working hard, organizing and planning the instrument donation. He’s had to balance it with school, church and activities like Student Government Association, choir and drama, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society and International Thespian Society.

“He’s a hard working kid, a great neat kid. A Renaissance man,” Helming said. “I can’t wait to see what he’s going to do next.”

Instruments can be dropped off at Bernie Alvey — Exit Landmark Realty at 34 Shining Willow Way in La Plata. Monetary donations for the refurbishment of donated instruments can be made to [gf.me/u/f4cf74](https://gf.me/u/f4cf74). For more information, email [scoutingformusic@gmail.com](mailto:scoutingformusic@gmail.com).

### *If you go*

The Grand Jam is 7 p.m. April 24 at North Point High School, 2500 Davis Road, Waldorf. JustMusicians, MikeOnAMic, Grace and Mercy, One Word Story and Solomon Stewart are set to perform. Proceeds will go toward North Point’s music and theater departments and Addy Hebou’s Eagle Scout project, Scouting for Music. A collection of musical instruments and accessories, including music stands, sheet music, drumsticks, violin bows and other items, will be held at the concert.

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PR  
Liaisons  
in  
Focus

## Music history

Indian Head Elementary School fifth graders Eric Sullivan, left, and Darius Mason research the lives of African-American jazz musicians for music class for a Black History Month assignment.

*Submitted by Andrea Landis, PR liaison for Indian Head.*



## College days

Earlier this year, staff members at Dr. James Craik Elementary School participated in College Awareness Week at the school. Staff wore T-shirts from the colleges and universities they attended. Other activities held during the week included students "dressing for success" and dressing up in the garb of their future careers.

*Submitted by Katie Cooper, PR liaison for Craik.*

## Personnel

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

### Job Openings

**Instructional Assistant for Life Skills program** — Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. A high school diploma, experience working with children or adults who have special needs, and the ability to work and interact with students with significant mental and physical disabilities are required. Apply by March 16.

**Payroll Accounting Analyst** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Five years of significant experience in a high volume payroll/accounting environment is required, preferably in a large educational organization. An associate's degree or American Payroll Association certification is preferred. Position will be open until filled.

**Mail Room/Communications Clerk** — Jesse

L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. High school degree, experience in mail room operations preferred. Applicants must have good technology skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Excel, Word, Outlook and Power Point. The ability to quickly learn new software, including address certification software, and a Maryland Class C Driver's license is required. Apply by March 16.

**Technology Facilitator** — Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10-month position. Applicants must have an associate of arts degree, 48 college credit hours or be able to pass the ParaPro Assessment. Strong computer literacy skills, understanding of Microsoft Office Suite and instructional software and the ability to learn new software programs as required. Applicants must be familiar with the internet, internet searching and using the internet for instructional purposes. Apply by March 16.

**Instructional Assistant** — Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with secondary school-aged children. Human relations skills and good oral and written communication skills are required. Apply by March 19.

**Building Service Worker Floater** — location to be determined. Applicants must have the ability to read and write effectively, and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Position open until filled.

### Extra Pay Positions

**Varsity Volleyball Head Coach** — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Call 301-934-2944.

**JV Volleyball Head Coach** — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Call 301-934-2944.

**JV Girls Soccer Head Coach** — St. Charles High School. Call 301-753-2090.

**Assistant Field Hockey Coach** — St. Charles High School. Call 301-753-2090.