



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools closed Feb. 19

Charles County Public Schools will be closed Monday, Feb. 19 in observance of President's Day.

'Still We Rise' takes flight

"Still We Rise: Influential African Americans in Flight" will be shown 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the James E. Richmond Science Center at St. Charles High School. In addition to the "Still We Rise" full-dome movie, there will be flight simulators and flight activities. Tickets are available online and at the door. Go to www.ccboe.com/ScienceCenter. The science center is at 5305 Piney Church Road in Waldorf.

Chess tourney Feb. 24

Players must register by Wednesday, Feb. 21 to participate in the Winter Chess Tournament on Feb. 24. Held at Henry E. Lackey High School, the tourney is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Sign-in opens at 8 a.m., with games starting at 9 a.m. No walk-in registrations are accepted. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/2Dh1X4z>.

Take a look, it's in a book

Volunteers are needed for Read Across Charles County on March 2. The annual celebration — usually held around the birthday of Dr. Seuss — promotes the love of reading. To take part in the celebration, volunteers can call the principal of the elementary or middle school where they would like to read. The principal will schedule a time for the volunteer's visit. For more information, call Kim Hudler, lead reading specialist, at 301-934-7361.

Fit HITS in your planner

The History, Industry, Technology and Science Expo is March 3 at St. Charles High School. Exhibits and demonstrations will be held throughout the day. An awards ceremony will be 5:30 p.m.



Special delivery

Asiaonna Collins, a first grader in Kathleen Duke's class at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, pauses during the class's Valentine's Day celebration to read a kind valentine delivered by her classmate.

'Be the Difference' award to honor volunteers

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.

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 as-

sistance to the CCPS community and receive no compensation for their efforts.

Any CCPS teacher, staff member, student or parent can submit nominations.

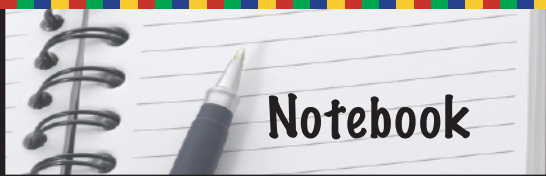
The nomination deadline is April 1. Nominations can be submitted electronically at <http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/outstanding-volunteer-of-the-year-award>.

Submissions can also be sent by email to Kassandra 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 Kassandra Stubblefield, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD, 20646.

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 sup-

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees who were honored by the Board of Education at its Feb. 13 meeting for outstanding service to the school system. Pictured from left are Julia Colaizzi, learning resource teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; Dr. Alan Freeman, instrumental music teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School; and Pamela Pichola, first-grade teacher at C. Barnhart Elementary School.

Give a hoot, donate a flute

Old instruments gathering dust in attics and garages can have a new life when donated to Scouting for Music, an Eagle Scout project headed by North Point High School senior Addy Hebou. His Eagle project combines his love of the organization with that of music, his other passion. Stop by North Point 7 p.m. March 3 for the JustMusicians Grand Jam and donate old instruments or money that will go toward the refurbishment of the pieces. The instruments will be donated to Charles County Public Schools middle schoolers from low-income families who want to be part of their school orchestras.

Enter stage left

CCPS high schools are warming up for spring plays. St. Charles High School's show "Once Upon an Island" is March 9 to 11; 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 show has not been announced as of press time — 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.

MSDE seeks parent input

The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services is conducting the online Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey. All parents or guardians of children ages 3 to 21 who receive special education and related services through CCPS can participate. Go to <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com/>.

National Board Certified Teachers

Kimberly Clements



Certification area: Career and Technical Education/
Early Adolescence Through Young Adulthood

Position held: Interactive Media Production Instructor, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center

Years of teaching experience: 12

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 8

Education:

Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Master's degree in Leadership Education, College of Notre Dame of Maryland

Memorable Moment:

"Promoting literacy is an overwhelming challenge, but I make an effort to attempt cross-disciplinary projects. In fact, this year, I subscribed to *Communication Arts* magazine and strategically place current issues on desks throughout the classroom. Discussions from the readings have led to promoting reflection in student artwork and goal setting for the entire class."

Volunteer

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port, 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 the Board of Education's May 8 meeting. A separate recognition ceremony for all finalists and award winners will be held at a later date and include volunteers, school principals, nominators and volunteer's families.

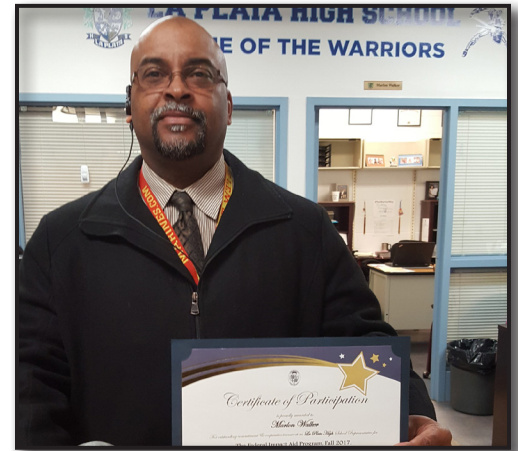
The goal of the awards program is to increase awareness of the importance of parent and community involvement in public education.

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.



Reading Partners is a volunteer group that works with elementary students on their reading and writing skills. Wanda Pingitore, left, guides Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School second grader Lily Bunnell through a story.



Charles County Public Schools went to battle for top prize in the Federal Impact Aid program. At the elementary level, Dr. James Craik Elementary School's Michelle Gelzer, left, captured first. Center, General Smallwood Middle School Principal Kathy Kiessling congratulates Sandra Howell who collected the most Smallwood forms for the middle school recognition. Marlon Walker, vice principal at La Plata High School, right, received the high school-level honor.

Schools battle for title of highest participation in FIA program

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), through the office of accountability, participates annually in the Federal Impact Aid (FIA) program.

Parents receive survey forms in the fall of each school year. Results from the survey help to determine if the school system qualifies for additional federal funding through the Impact Aid program.

In order to receive Impact Aid funds, CCPS must provide a form to all parents that confirms residency and helps to determine if the student's parent or guardian is employed on federal property or is active duty military.

Federal Impact Aid funds help to lessen the impact of federal activity on school system budgets.

Each school has a FIA representative who is tasked with distribut-

ing all student forms and encouraging 100 percent parent participation. This year, the Office of Accountability promised the school with the highest participation at each level – elementary, middle and high school – a congratulatory trophy.

Michelle Gelzer at Dr. James Craik Elementary School earned the overall elementary award. Gelzer, a secretary at Craik, secured 100 percent participation for her school.

Sandra Howell at General Smallwood Middle School earned the overall middle school award. Howell, a media instructional assistant, secured 93 percent participation at Smallwood.

Marlon Walker at La Plata High School received the overall high school award. Walker, a vice principal, secured 72 percent parent participation.

Rouse presents at National Title I conference in Philadelphia

Sharron Rouse, coordinator of Title I programs for Charles County Public Schools, recently presented at the National Title I Conference in Philadelphia, Feb. 8 to 11.

Rouse presented "Best Practices for Collaboration" along with Title I representatives from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Harford County Public Schools and Prince George's County Public Schools.

Their presentation focused on MSDE partnering with state school systems to implement and monitor Title I, Part A under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Part A of Title I gives financial assistance to educational agencies and schools that have a high number or percentage of students from low-income families to help them meet state academic standards.

In 2017, MSDE asked Title I offices to assist in the development of an application, guidance documents and monitoring tools. CCPS's Kristin Shields, director of Title I programs, Arin Bonner, Title I coordinator, and Rouse served on different committees to assist with the new initiative. MSDE established professional learning communities

by organizing local school systems into regions based on geographical location.

"As a result, we have a greater understanding of the requirements under ESSA, increased collaboration with other counties and shared ownership in the expectations outlined in the Title I grant. The impact our increased collaboration and understanding will have on our Charles County principals, teachers, parents and students is promising," Rouse said. "We are now in a position to provide increased training to principals and teachers on Title I requirements, innovative instructional practices, strategies to increase family engagement and ways to enhance community partnerships, which will significantly impact the students in Charles County."

Young-chan Han, family involvement/Title I specialist with MSDE, Tracey Adesegun, Title I coordinating supervisor with Prince's George's County Public Schools, and Thomas Webber, assistant supervisor, Title I office for Harford County Public Schools, joined Rouse in the presentation. Rouse has more than 18 years of experience in the education field.

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Henry E. Lackey High School students and teachers attended the Maryland State Thespian Festival at Towson University last month.

Something to sing about

Henry E. Lackey High School students attended the Maryland State Thespian Festival at Towson University in January.

Out of approximately 650 students at the festival, two Lackey students, junior Trey Jolly and senior Lydia Williams, showcased their work at the festival's closing ceremony.

They both received superior ratings for their solo musical theater performances, which includes an invitation to perform at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Neb., this summer.

Lackey senior Chloe Lateulere was honored with the \$500 Educational Theatre: musical theatre scholarship.

Submitted by Lackey's PR Liaison Heather Alvarez.

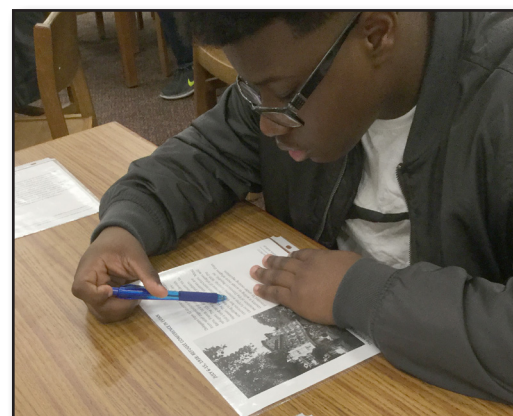


PR Liaisons in Focus

Creating a time line in remembrance

Degeorgeio Sewell, a Piccowaxen Middle School eighth grader, researches materials before helping to craft a time line of the Holocaust. Four of the school's teachers are certified through the United States Holocaust Museum to teach the material through its Belfer program. The student-made time line will be displayed at Piccowaxen.

Submitted by Piccowaxen PR Liaison Lisa Sue Smioldo.



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

Building Service Worker — J.C. Parks Elementary School, 12-month position. Applicants must have the ability to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Good verbal communications and human relation skills, and a willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency are a must. Apply by Feb. 20.

STAY Instructional Assistant — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position. Applicants must have the ability to work and interact patiently with academically capable students with emotional/behavioral disabilities. Knowledge of special skills required to work with students having special needs is required. Applicants must maintain annual Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training Certification.

tion. Apply by Feb. 20.

School Psychologist Intern — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. CCPS is offering a master's or doctoral level internship placement for the 2018-19 school year. The program provides interns with an opportunity to integrate knowledge acquired. The internship is designed to meet the training standards of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), as well as the training requirements for school psychology certification as outlined by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by March 1.

Building Service Worker Floater — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively, be physically capable of performing manual labor and have good verbal communications and human relation skills. A willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency is required. Position open until filled.

AVID Tutor — location to be determined. Tu-

tors must have a high school diploma, GED or be a Charles County Public Schools student in the Work Based Learning Program with a recommendation from their principal and advisor. Experience with implementing student goals, leading tutorial groups, managing multiple tasks and meeting deadlines is required. Position open until filled.

Education Interpreter — location to be determined. Ability to work with diverse student population with specific language needs. Knowledge of the culture in which the student and their family are part. Languages needed urgently include Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Vietnamese, Spanish and French. Other language needed are Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Creole (French and Portuguese based), Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Nepali, Punjabi, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Tagalog, Telugu, Urdu, Uzbek, Wolof and Yoruba. Position open until filled.