



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Gimme a (winter) break*

Charles County Public Schools is on Winter Break Monday, Dec. 25 through Monday, Jan. 1. Schools are closed from Dec. 25 to Jan. 1. Offices are closed Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1.

### *Take a trip in 2018*

The James E. Richmond Science Center hosts field trips that cover subjects like animals, weather, geography and health — anything in which a young scientist would be interested. Field trips can include a Digital Dome Classroom movie, hands-on Discovery Lab activities and the NOAA Science on a Sphere program. To learn more, go to [www.cbcoe.com/sciencecenter](http://www.cbcoe.com/sciencecenter).

### *AFSCME meets*

American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 2981, the union for non-certificated support staff, meets 4:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the F.B. Gwynn Center, 5998 Radio Station Road, La Plata. The meetings are open to all dues paying members. Non-members can join at the meeting and attend.

### *Stay in touch by text*

Parents with cell phone numbers on file with their child's school can sign up to receive text message notifications from CCPS. Text YES or Y to 67587 to sign up. Standard text message rates apply. The service is available only for parents with a child enrolled in CCPS. Community and other family members can sign up for the Citizen Notification Service (CNS) to receive text updates from the school system. Visit <http://www.charlescountymd.gov/CNS> to sign up for CNS.



## Five and thrive — La Plata nabs It's Academic title

For the fifth consecutive year, the La Plata High School *It's Academic* team has been named the county champs. The competing team is made up of Trevor Jansen, left, and co-captains Michael Gill and James Hume. This year's contest was a close one with Thomas Stone High School coming in second and North Point High School taking third place. Read more on Page 3.

## Jenkins honored for her dedication to food service job

Second-chance breakfast at Henry E. Lackey High School is quite popular. On any given school day, students line the hallways, eager to buy breakfast before they quickly head to their next class. If they choose to buy any meal at school, they will definitely encounter Beverley Jenkins. Jenkins is a longtime food and nutrition service worker at Lackey and serves meals to students three times during the day: breakfast, second-chance breakfast and lunch. She loves her job and does not view it as work, but rather as a responsibility.

"These kids are my kids. If a child is hungry, they are not going to be able to focus in the classroom. If I see that a child is hungry, I am going to feed them. It makes me feel good and we all contribute to educating a child," Jenkins said. She is well known in the school

community as a hard worker who goes above and beyond to do whatever is necessary to feed children. Her hard work recently earned her recognition through the Maryland School Nutrition Association as its 2017 Employee of the Year.

Her commitment is clear to her colleagues, who thought she was an outstanding example of excellence in the food service industry. "She truly is an example of someone who is dedicated to this school," said Crystal Sopher, supervisor of food and nutrition services for Charles County Public Schools. Jenkins is so dedicated to the Lackey community — from supporting students and staff through meals, but also with extracurricular activities and athletics. She said she was notified of her recognition for the award while she was attending a school football game.

See JENKINS, Page 2



## On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members honored by the Board of Education at its Dec. 12 meeting. From left are Karen Ferruzza, library media specialist at Arthur Middleton Elementary School; Samantha Clark, special education teacher at Mary H. Matula Elementary School; and Annemarie Simpson, mathematics teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School.

## Town Hall meetings set

The Board of Education has scheduled two Town Hall meetings for employees. The first meeting is for certificated staff and is scheduled for 4:30-6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, in the staff development room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Sign up for participants for the certificated Town Hall meeting is now closed; however the meeting is open to the public. The second meeting is for support staff and scheduled for 4:30-6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26, in the boardroom at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Sign up for this meeting will begin in January.

## Practice makes perfect

Restorative Practices Workshops will be held starting in February. The 15-hour training is available during the work day with a sub and afterschool with a stipend. The work day sessions are Feb. 27-28, March 5-6, April 9-10, April 18-19 and April 23-24. The afterschool option will be divided into four evening sessions on March 12, 14, 19 and 21. To register, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com> and search the keyword Restorative.

## Workshops open

Afterschool workshops in varying subjects are being held through March. To find out more, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com>.

## Correction

In the Dec. 8, 2017, edition of *School News*, the teacher on the front page was misidentified. The teacher is Courtney Beall, a third-grade teacher at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School.



**Beverley Jenkins, a longtime food service worker at Henry E. Lackey High School, was named by the Maryland School Nutrition Association as its 2017 Employee of the Year.**

## Jenkins

**continued from Page 1**

"We were in the semifinals and I had to go to the game. Crystal called Gail from the awards banquet, who called me when I was at the game. I could barely hear her and was shocked. I am still in shock; I cannot comprehend it really. I just show up to work each day," Jenkins said.

The Gail who called Jenkins with the award news is her longtime Lackey colleague, food and nutrition service manager Gail Slaughter. Jenkins has worked with Slaughter for her entire 20-year career at Lackey and refers to her as not only a colleague, but a close friend and mentor. "Gail is my teammate and she supports me 100 percent. I know she has my back and I always have hers," Jenkins said.

Jenkins said on an average school day, she serves students more than 100 breakfasts between two shifts and over 100 lunches. She takes pride in feeding students and her role in their school day. Students see her commitment to their well-being and the school community. "She is amazing. She is one of the nicest people here; she knows what you want even before you get to the front of the line," Lackey senior Mac Scott said.

Slaughter said she could not think of a person more deserving of recognition for her work than Jenkins. "She is my right hand person. We have worked together for so long that we flow well together. She is so dedicated to her work, is professional and

takes pride in what she does. That is sometimes hard to find these days," Slaughter said.

Jenkins began her career in food and nutrition services at La Plata High School, where she worked for a few months before transferring to Lackey. She was an integral part of the launch of the second-chance breakfast at Lackey in 2011. Since then, the number of students eating breakfast at Lackey has tripled. Through the second-chance breakfast, students can stop at a kiosk after their first period class to buy a meal and eat during the start of second block.

Jenkins is proud to call Lackey her work home. She is a Charles County native and lives in the Lackey community. She also graduated from Lackey. "I love working close to home and I love my community," she said.

Jenkins was nominated for the award by her food and nutrition services colleague Tracy Newbold. Newbold said not only is Jenkins dedicated to her job, she makes all students a priority. "She believes that the students are always and should be our first priority. She realizes a child can't do well if they are not properly fed," Newbold wrote in her nomination statement.

Jenkins received a crystal plaque award and was honored during the Maryland School Nutrition Association awards banquet held Nov. 17.



## La Plata wins for fifth year in a row in a nail biter of a 'It's Academic' competition

La Plata High School's *It's Academic* team earned the top spot in the annual Charles County Public Schools competition held Dec. 6 at the school. This is the fifth consecutive year the team from La Plata has taken first place at the Charles County competition.

*It's Academic* is a quiz show to test the knowledge of high school students. It's the longest running television quiz show in the world.

The show is in its 56th season and spotlights student-academics.

The La Plata three-member team of co-captains Michael Gill and James Hume, and Trevor Jansen won in the championship round with a score of 260 points against North Point and Thomas Stone high schools.

The teams from North Point and Stone participated in a tiebreaker question, as both teams were initially tied for second place with 250 points. The Stone team won the tiebreaker.

Each year, the county regional winner goes on to compete in a regional match.

The La Plata team will compete against Churchill and Northwest high schools that will air March 24 on NBC4.

As the second-place regional winner in the championship round tiebreaker, the Stone team earned a chance to compete in a regional match that will air next fall.

Representatives from the Greater Waldorf Jaycees presented the La Plata team with a \$500 scholarship for its first-place win.

Other student members of the La Plata team include Jasmine Washington (alternate), David Aliff, Jenna Burtch, Chelsea Chen, Garrett Cooksey, Donya Forohar, Elizaveta Gievaya, Jordan Harris, Amber Heneghan, Mikayla Johnson, Hannah Kalmus, Sophia Khan, Kayla Lyons, Napoleon Magpantay, Marian Marteja, Nicole Moran, Grace Na, Maddy Nicholl, Aashka Patel, Mohammed Rafique, Kasey Scroggins, Margaret Stine and Samantha Yorio. La Plata testing coordinator John Holmes and science teacher Michelle Schoenbauer coach the team.

As second-place winners, the Jaycees presented the Stone team with a \$250 scholarship.

Student members of the team include Captain Kerry Ward, Brandon Hill and Lyndsay Rivers. Stone students Nevaeh Woodland (alternate), Gerardo Vladimir Castro, Brook Ellis and Malachi Ray also are on the team. Stone German teacher Nancy Jeffrey coaches the team.

For participation in the competition, the Jaycees presented all other high school teams with a \$250 scholarship.

Schools compete in the event by selecting three members of their team to participate in the rounds. The other three-member teams were:

**Henry E. Lackey High School** – Captain Andrew Wright, Garrett Batchelor and Sterling Jakob Moorehead. Completing this team are R.G. Bolton (alternate), Jacob Dodohara, Annie Landgraf, Jewel Lester, Rachel Ruffin, Arthur Scherer and Ford Vachira-Anan. Lackey science teacher Neal Duggan coaches the team.

**Maurice J. McDonough High School** – Captain Jordan Coley, Camdin Edge and Michael Fialkowski. Also on the team are students Alyssa Ader (alternate), Zoe Amowitz, Denver Bennett, Symney Cameron and Kayla Craik. McDonough English teacher Courtney Abell coaches the team.

**North Point High School** – Captain Adam Cullen, Andrew Fan and Carl Wachowski. Students Amara Gammon (alternate), Andrew Cullen and Amber Wachowski complete the team. Coaches of the team are North Point Spanish teachers Deen Stewart and Moriah Rochlinski.



The Thomas Stone High School *It's Academic* team that competed was made up of Lyndsay Rivers, left, Capt. Kerry Ward and Brandon Hill. The team came in second place.



North Point High School's *It's Academic* competition team included Andrew Fan, left, Capt. Adam Cullen and Carl Wachowski.

**St. Charles High School** – Captain Robert Frederick, Renee' DeMinne and Stephen Duranske. Completing the team are student members Hunter Donn (alternate), Drew Carter, Pierre Elijah Dela Cruz, Darius Dantzler, Amara Kazim, Katherine O'Meara and George Southworth. St. Charles social studies teacher Matthew Howard and Meghan Potter, an English teacher, coach the team.

**Westlake High School** – Captain Migue Darcera, Megan Carr and Hanna Schaffner. Westlake students Gillian Gibson (alternate), Samya Alexander, Lillian Branch, Nashay Gree, Aiden Lehn and Kaya Shepherd also are on the team. Westlake social studies teacher Natalie Finch and Amanda D'Onofrio, a Latin teacher, coach the team.

The Dec. 6 competition airs on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 at 7 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The event is posted on the school system website at <http://www.ccboe.com/ccboetv/?videos=its-academic-2017>.

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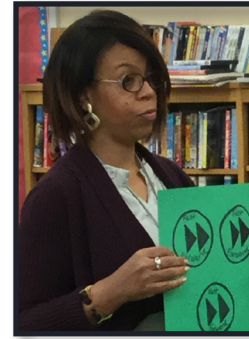


## Booked in Phoenix

Six Charles County Public Schools library media specialists presented on Nov. 9 at the annual American Association of School Librarians (AASL) conference in Phoenix. Bethany Thornton of Indian Head Elementary School, left, Carmen Belanger of La Plata High School, Jacob Gerding of Berry Elementary School, Dedra Van Gelder, CCPS contest specialist for library media, Polly Callahan of St. Charles High School and Sarah Gobe of Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School presented "Beyond the Conference: Keeping the Momentum Between Professional Development Experiences." The presenters shared strategies to help library media specialists build their own professional learning communities. The AASL selected the presentation for inclusion in membership resources.

*Submitted by Sarah Gobe, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School PR Liaison*

## Guiding good choices



**Berry Elementary School counselor Olivia Coffey leads the school's Just Say No Club.**

Twice a month, fourth and fifth graders at Berry Elementary School gather as part of the Just Say No Club. Under the direction of Olivia Coffey, school counselor, students discuss the importance of making good choices now and in their future. "The purpose of the club is to help good students make good choices as it relates to risky behavior," Coffey said. "It also allows them to work toward making good choices in life as they get older." Students discuss risky behaviors, play games and role-play scenarios that help them know what to do if they encounter negative behaviors. "I joined this club because I've always wanted to be a part of a club, and the Just Say No Club can help you be a good inspiration to other students," fifth grader Sukoi Jackson said. "If we see other kids doing something bad, we can help them stop."

*Submitted by Berry Elementary School's PR Liaison Nicholas Gardiner*

## 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

**Pest Control/Small Engine Technician** — Annex I, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma and have a current Maryland Pest Control License in Categories 6, 7A, 7B and 7D, along with five years of experience in pest control and Integrated Pest Management practices. A working knowledge of small engine repair and maintenance normally acquired through one year of related experience or an equivalent combination of relevant education and/or experience is required. Apply by Dec. 22.

**Temporary Bilingual (Spanish) Instructional Assistant** — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Completion of two years of higher education

study or possession of an associate's or higher level degree is preferred, or have the ability to pass an assessment that demonstrates knowledge of and the ability to assist in teaching reading, writing and mathematics. Apply by Dec. 22.

**Staff accountant — Internal Controls/Audit** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with specialization in accounting and audit is required. A master's degree or Certified Public Accountant (CPA), preferred. Position open until filled.

**Budget Manager** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with specialization in accounting, finance or a related field. A master's degree or Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is preferred. A

minimum of five years of experience in financial management with a large multifaceted organization which includes payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable and budget staff is recommended. Position opened until filled.

**Bus Driver Substitute** — Applicants must have a high school diploma and five years of successful work experience preferably as a school bus driver in Maryland. Must annually pass the Maryland School Bus Drivers Physical Examination and meet all federal, state and local school bus driver requirements. Position open until filled.

**Home and Hospital Instructor** — location to be determined, hourly employee. A bachelor's degree is required and applicants should have experience working with students. Applicants should have excellent analytical, problem solving and troubleshooting abilities. Position open until filled.