



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Site plans

Charles County Public Schools recently updated its website to be ADA-compliant. Changes made to streamline the site include the elimination of the Staff tab at the top of the page. Now all staff information, forms and staff development updates are in MyCCPS which can be accessed by clicking the MyCCPS button underneath the opening slide show.

Financial goal seminars

Financial goal seminars will be Nov. 7 and 8. CCPS is partnering with VAL-IC to offer an educational workshop on retirement income strategies. The seminar addresses the five risks associated with retirement and explains how income planning can help manage the risks. The Nov. 7 seminar is 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata. The Nov. 8 seminar is 4:30 to 6 p.m. at North Point High School at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf.

Daycare open at SCHS

St. Charles High School Kiddie Junction Preschool opens Nov. 14 for three- and four-year-old children. The program runs from 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday until April 12. Cost is \$350 for the duration of the program. Applications are available in the school's main office. For more information, contact Carrie Bier at 301-753-2090 or cbier@ccboe.com.

Host families sought

Host families are needed to host visiting Bunkyo University students Feb. 23 to March 2. Staff members interested in hosting a student should apply by Nov. 21 at <http://tinyurl.com/Bunkyo-2018HostFamily>.



A river runs through it

St. Charles High School freshmen Stephanie Cruz, left, and Aaliyah McKenzie look for macroinvertebrates in water gathered from a stream near the school for a Bridging the Watershed lesson. It's a program the school system started last school year with the Alice Ferguson Foundation through a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant. This year, Charles County Public Schools is able to expand and extend the program through a three-year \$343,854 matching grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Seventh-grade science and high school biology and earth science students at all CCPS middle and high schools will learn how their day-to-day actions affect the environment and watershed.

PE teachers named Simon McNeely Award recipients

Three Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) physical education teachers were honored last week as 2017 Simon McNeely Award recipients.

The Maryland Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) honored CCPS teachers Rebecca Bullard, Leonard Rickett and Brent Stum with the awards on Oct. 20.

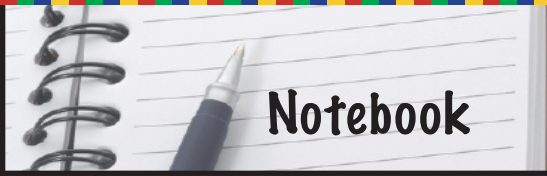
The annual awards program recognizes teachers who demonstrate outstanding innovation in teaching physical education and involvement in school community activities.

The award is named in honor of Simon McNeely, a special education teacher and longtime member of the President's Council for Physical Fitness, and the United States and International Olympic committees.

Bullard is a physical education teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School and started her 12th year in education this school year.

Bullard joined the teaching team at Davis when the school opened in 2007 and also taught at Milton M. Somers Middle School. She coaches sports at the middle-school level and previously coached girls basketball at

See MCNEELY, Page 2



McNeely

continued from page 1

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members of Eva Turner Elementary School. From left are Nicole Shannon, parent liaison; Keith Juarez, technology facilitator; and Ivy Wade, Three's program instructional assistant.

Retirement planning?

Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, the State of Maryland Pension System, along with the office of fiscal services, is hosting a closed retirement planning session 5 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 16 for employees of Charles County Public Schools who are enrolled in the State of Maryland Pension System. Guest speakers and retirement planning handouts, as well as light refreshments, will be provided. The meeting will be held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 5980 Radio Station Road, La Plata. RSVP by Nov. 3 to 301-934-7289 or BenHotline@ccboe.com.

Apply by Nov. 17 for job fair

A Charles County Public Schools teacher job fair is 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 4. The school system is looking to recruit teachers at all grade levels. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and be able to meet certification requirements established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Applicants can fill out and submit an online application at www.ccboe.com/jobs/apply.php. For an application to be considered complete, required supporting documents and three professional references must be submitted by Nov. 17. Select "CCPS Teacher Job Fair December 4, 2017" as the referral source on the application. Candidates selected to interview at the fair will be contacted by Nov. 29. The fair is invitation only, no walk-in interviews will be considered.

Workshops open

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

La Plata and North Point high schools.

Bullard was honored to be recognized for pursuing her passion to teach. "It is a great honor to receive the Simon McNeely award. Teaching health and physical education in the Charles County community is a passion of mine. Seeing the improvement of the overall health and well-being of students through their physical education and health knowledge makes me proud," she said.

Rickett is a longtime physical education teacher with CCPS.

He has been teaching physical education at the elementary school level for the past 18 years. Rickett has taught at Berry Elementary School for his entire career with CCPS.

He has a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Frostburg University and is two courses away from finishing his master's degree in administration at McDaniel College.

While Rickett said he does not necessarily enjoy being in the spotlight for doing his job, he was happy to be recognized for his hard work. "It feels good to be recognized for this award, for all the hard work that is being done. I don't ask for recognition, but it does feel good when other people notice you for the work you put in," he said.



Rebecca Bullard



Leonard Rickett



Brent Stum

Stum is also a longtime physical education teacher with CCPS, having spent the past 14 years teaching at La Plata High School.

Throughout his career at La Plata, Stum said he has felt constant support from staff and school administrators in helping to improve the physical health of students. Additionally, Stum said he was honored to receive the recognition as a Simon McNeely Award because it honors educators for giving back to their communities.

"This award is really a recognition of the amazing support that Charles County provides for its health and physical education teachers. I am very fortunate to be surrounded by amazing teachers here at La Plata and in Charles County that share the same vision for students," he said.

The teachers were nominated for recognition by Ivy Hodges, CCPS content specialist for health and physical education. They were honored in a recognition ceremony held as part of the annual MAHPERD convention.

Benefits, insurance enrollment open to Dec. 1

The annual open enrollment period for health benefits, life insurance and flexible spending is open through Dec. 1. There are no plan design or rate changes for 2018.

To access enrollment and to make changes, go to ccboe.hrintouch.com and click create an account.

There is no need to re-enroll if you are not making changes to a medical or life plan. Employees participating in the flexible spending programs need to access the online benefit enrollment site — ccboe.hrintouch.com — to enroll in the unre-

imbursed medical expense and child care flexible spending accounts. Enrollment is not automatic — you must sign up for a new account each year.

Aflac representatives will be available at schools and centers to sign up employees for new policies, update current policies or answer questions. The Aflac meeting dates and times can be found at MyCCPS under the benefits tab. For more information, contact the Office of Fiscal Services — Employee Benefits at 301-934-7289 or BenHotline@ccboe.com.

McDonough grad joins a cappella group Pentatonix for the holidays

As soon as he could talk, Matt Sallee was likely singing. The Maurice J. McDonough High School graduate can't remember a time he wasn't singing, and can't imagine not doing it. "I sing all the time," he said. "I don't even realize I'm singing."

Sallee's lifelong passion has landed him a spot with the a cappella juggernauts Pentatonix. Sallee, a bass, joins the group for the holiday season. "I landed in Los Angeles on Sept. 15 and recorded two songs the next morning," he said. "I hit the ground running."

Sallee took over for Avi Kaplan, who left Pentatonix in early September when the group was prepping for a holiday tour and adding tracks to its Christmas album. Sallee, who also filmed a music video and television special with the group ahead of the tour, graduated from McDonough in 2012 where he was active in the chorus and theater programs.

He played Danny in "Grease" and was the understudy for his friend, the late Bobby Balint in the school's production of "West Side Story." When Balint suddenly passed away, Sallee had the daunting task to fill the lead role of Tony in the play. "I think that was the most memorable experience because we had to come together ... we did it in his memory," Sallee said.

It was during his years at McDonough when Sallee first met the professional group he would eventually join. As a member of the Ramtations, an all-male a cappella group, Sallee attended the a cappella festival, Sing-Strong. Pentatonix had just won the third season of "The Sing-Off" and were leading a workshop at the competition. "It's incredible how it all came full circle," said T.C. O'Brien, Sallee's music teacher at McDonough.

O'Brien, who's in her first year of retirement, said she spotted Sallee's talent from his first day of freshmen year. But it was his dedication and work ethic that helped him reach new heights. "By the time he was a senior, I knew he was meant to be a performer," O'Brien said. She is not surprised Sallee is making a career out of singing and performing. "He's always had the special gift," she said. "He had that sparkle on stage, but he put in the time and the hours."

He has the backing of his family — parents Ernest Sr. and Tammy, and siblings Ernest Jr. and Tamira, a McDonough senior who is in the orchestra. With his father being



Matt Sallee, left, joins popular a cappella group, Pentatonix, for the holiday season. The group also includes Kirstin Maldonado, second from left, Scott Hoying, Mitch Grassi and Kevin Olusola. Sallee graduated from Maurice J. McDonough High School in 2012.

a musical pastor, Sallee got his start singing in church. It was his mom, Tammy, who first suggested Sallee take his talents seriously and hone them. After singing the national anthem in a Dr. James Craik Elementary School talent show as a third grader, and playing one of the princes in the College of Southern Maryland's production of "The King and I," Sallee was hooked on performing. He took part in plays and skits at South Potomac Church and attended performing arts camps.

After graduating from high school, Sallee headed to Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Sallee stayed in Boston following his 2016 college graduation. He had a job singing with a wedding band and is a member of The House Jacks, an a cappella group co-founded by Deke Sharon, a producer for the television show, "The Sing-Off."

When the opportunity to try out for Pentatonix came up, Sallee auditioned. He received a call back in June and that was it. He said he didn't hear back until September when he got a phone call. "Can you move to LA in a week?"

Joining an established group can be hit or miss. Pentatonix's members — Mitch Grassi, Scott Hoying, Kirstin Maldonado and Kevin Olusola — made Sallee feel at home immediately. "They are the most welcoming people I've ever encountered," he said. "They were excited for me; they were excited for the

group."

The group recorded two new tracks — "How Great Thou Art" featuring Jennifer Hudson and "Deck the Halls" — to be included on its Christmas album, "A Pentatonix Christmas Deluxe," and filmed the "Deck the Halls" video. Pentatonix is touring the East Coast with stops in Washington, D.C., Boston, Pennsylvania and other cities.

O'Brien already has her tickets for the Pentatonix show. And she's heard from students still at McDonough who are excited to see a Ram forge a path in entertainment and follow their dreams. "I've been getting messages," she said. "They tell me, 'We are inspired. Someone from Chuck County Public Schools made it.'"

Excited for the tour, Sallee is focusing on his new gig and learning from his new group-mates. "I'm very inspired by them, they all are doing different things outside of the group," he said. "I want to stick my toe in all different areas. I love musical theater, I love acting, dancing, singing ... I always wanted to be a quadruple threat."

Sallee said he gives all the glory to God, and encourages students in Charles County to not give up on their dreams. "To the dreamers, I hope this inspires them," he said of getting a chance to sing with Pentatonix. "There are no dreams too big."

Charles County Board of Education to meet Nov. 14

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Radio Station Road in La Plata.

The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m.

The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week.

Board meetings are streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) website, www.ccoeb.com. Click on the middle of the main page to start the live streaming. The following is a meeting agenda and is subject to change.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – La Plata High School

Recognition of state student winners

Superintendent's update to the Board

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- American Federation of State, County and

Municipal Employees update

- Student Board member update
- Equity presentation
- Unfinished business
- Strategic planning process
- Potential meetings with other Boards of Education
- Town hall dates

New business and future agenda items

New business

Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

Students

Staff

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

- Action items
- Minutes
- Personnel
- 2018 Legislative positions

Adjournment



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Quotable kids

"You should be nice to people. It's good to be kind."

— Jade Weekes, second grader at Mary B. Neal Elementary School who helped collect food for the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

Personnel

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

Job openings

Lead Network Engineer — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. This position calls for highly-skilled work in the installation, configuration, operation, repair, maintenance, troubleshooting and security management of Local Area and Wide Area Networks within the school system. Applicants must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Apply by Nov. 13.

Life Skills Instructional Aide — Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with experience working with children or adults who have special needs. The ability to work and interact with students with significant mental and physical disabilities and knowl-

edge of special skills required to work with students having special needs are a must. Apply by Nov. 13.

Life Skills Instructional Aide — Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with experience working with children or adults who have special needs. Apply by Nov. 16.

Navy JROTC Instructor — Westlake High School, 11-month position. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university required, as well as having served a minimum of 20 years of active duty or have retired under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority. Applicants must speak clearly and persuasively in positive or negative situations; listen and get clarification; respond well to questions. Apply by Nov. 20.

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

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 preferred. A minimum of two years of experience performing audits for a certified public accounting firm or governmental organization, including evaluating and implementing internal controls required. Position open until filled.