



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Fall fests, Halloween events

Several Charles County public schools have planned fall festivals and other activities for their school communities on Friday, Oct. 28. For more details, call the specific school.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School is hosting a fall festival with a Trunk-N-Treat on Friday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. The event will include games, crafts, food and a haunted hallway. Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School's PTO is hosting a Fall Fest on Friday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. The event is for Mitchell families. Arthur Middleton Elementary School is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the front parking lot. Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School is hosting a fall festival parade on Friday, Oct. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. Eva Turner Elementary School is hosting a Trunk or Treat for Turner families on Friday, Oct. 28, 5 to 6 p.m. in the school parking lot. The event will include candy, games and awards for best costume and decorated trunk.

Fight back this flu season

The Charles County Department of Health is offering the flu vaccine to the public at clinics held at schools. The nasal application, FluMist, is not available this season.

To meet the needs of students in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), the health department will substitute three school-based clinics for clinics that used to be held in elementary schools during the school day.

The clinics are at Piccowaxen Middle School from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, General Smallwood Middle School from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, Thomas Stone High School from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 and at La Plata High School from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17.



It's the Great Pumpkin seed

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School second grader Robert Barber, left, and teacher Katelyn Cord take a closer look at pumpkin seeds to better describe them, inside and out. Cord's students worked in groups to come up with various adjectives to describe the seeds.

Educators to view once-in-a-lifetime experience

Weather forecasts and accuracy are two terms most often not used in the same sentence. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), along with several partner agencies, has been working to develop new solutions to provide faster, more accurate weather forecasts and inclement weather warnings.

In just a few weeks, NOAA will launch the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite – R, known as the GOES-R, aboard a rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

And three Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers will witness it.

As part of the GOES-R Teacher Workshop planned for November at the Kennedy Space Center, CCPS teachers Lynn Higgs, Ayo Olufade and Nancy Watts will witness the historic launch of the new weather satel-

lite featuring advanced technology to better study weather patterns and events.

The teachers were chosen to represent the school system at the workshop through a sponsorship by CCPS, the James E. Richmond Science Center, NOAA and the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies.

Higgs is a special education teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School and teaches Earth and space science, biology and chemistry.

Watts is a special education teacher at North Point High School and works as a reading interventionist with students at all abilities and levels of learning.

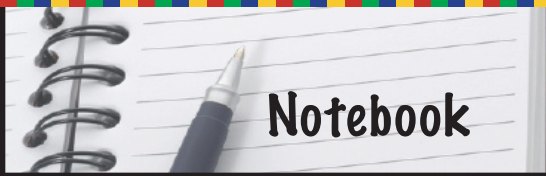
Olufade is a chemistry teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School.

The teachers completed an application process for consideration in the workshop

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GOES-R

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees recognized by the Board of Education at its October meeting. Pictured from left are Valerie Benton, school counselor, Piccowaxen Middle School; Ivy Wade, instructional assistant, Eva Turner Elementary School; and Stephanie Barry, special education teacher, La Plata High School.

All-County concerts

All-County concerts are coming up. The All-County Middle and High School Honors Chorus concert was Thursday, Oct. 27. But there's still time to see student musicians show off their talents when the All-County Middle and High School Honors Orchestra performs 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 at Thomas Stone High School and the All-County Middle and High School Honors Band concert is 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16 at St. Charles High School.

Sign up for winter chess tourney

Charles County Public Schools Fall 2016 Chess Tournament will be Oct. 29 at Thomas Stone High School. Open to players in kindergarten through 12th grade, the four round Swiss style tournament is split up into five divisions by grade level. While registration is closed for the fall tournament, a winter contest is set for Feb. 25 at Stone. Go to www.ccboe.com/departments/gifted/g9.php for more information.

Nice day for a shredding

William B. Wade Elementary School, in partnership with All-Shred Inc., will hold a Paper Shred event 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 in the parking lot of the school at 2300 Smallwood Drive West in Waldorf. Visitors can bring unwanted personal documents from home to be destroyed and recycled securely on-site for free and plastic bags to be recycled. Residents may bring up to three boxes (15-by-12-by-10 inches or smaller). Plastic bags and packaging must be clean, dry and free of food. For more information, email wade.gogreen@gmail.com.

Follow back

Stay connected with what's going on with the Charles County Board of Education on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com, search for the Charles County Board of Education and give the page a "like."

and were chosen to participate by a panel of judges.

Higgs has a dual role at McDonough, serving as both a special education and science teacher.

She said she applied for the opportunity in the hopes of learning new tools and engaging ways to reach all of her students.

"I have always been fascinated with weather phenomenon and extreme storms. The opportunity to witness an epic event, such as the GOES-R series launch, would provide both me and my students an experience like no other," she said.

The GOES-R satellite includes advanced spacecraft and instrument technology to support an expanded detection of environmental phenomena, and timely and accurate forecasts and warnings.

The satellite can also deliver vivid images of severe weather as often as every 30 seconds and scans the Earth five times faster in comparison to previous GOES models.

Additionally, the satellite contains space weather sensors that will aid NOAA in monitoring the sun and space forecast weather.

A component of the workshop requires participating teachers to livestream or film the launch in real time and help to facilitate professional development opportunities at the Science Center afterwards.

Higgs said she hopes to be able to share the launch with her students and colleagues, possibly by using Telepresence technology. "I am very excited and honored to be chosen," Higgs added.

Watts is studying for her master's program and is interested in the professional development aspect of the workshop.

Additionally, she has another special reason for her excitement to participate.

Her son, Christopher, is an aerospace technologist and software engineer at Kennedy Space Center.

She said she watched him chase his dream of working for NASA and what she plans to take away from this workshop is an increased ability to support the dreams of her students.

"I believe having a teacher whose child progressed through the entire Maryland public education program to achieve

exactly what this program is promoting is a win for Charles County, the state of Maryland, and NASA. Imagine being able to relay this experience through someone, like myself, who can help nonscientists better understand," Watts said.

Olufade is an advocate for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs and applied for the opportunity to see the GOES-R launched to support his students and learn additional ways to engage them in the classroom.

His goal is to better show his student's examples of real world science applications that connect with problem solving in the 21st century.

Olufade is also interested in using what he learns at the workshop to help close student learning gaps.

"I believe that every child can learn despite his or her background. I want to use this experience plus my skills and talents to help bridge the achievement gaps among our students by moving beyond stabilizing postures and generating progressive thinking," Olufade said.

The workshop and participation of CCPS teachers is supported through grant funding.

Visit the Science Center website at <http://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/> for event information.



Lynn Higgs



Ayo Olufade



Nancy Watts

Fall plays — zombies, a man-eating plant and a bet gone awry at a senior center

A popular Shakespeare classic with a twist, love stories, a little alien plant fun and more top the list of fall high school productions happening at the seven Charles County Public high schools this month and in November.

First up is the fall musical at St. Charles High School on Oct. 28-30. The Spartan theatre group is presenting “Little Shop of Horrors,” on Oct. 28 at 7 p.m., Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Oct. 30 at 2 p.m.

The show sets stage in a floral shop and follows the main character, Seymour, in his adventures as he cares for a plant that magically appears after the town experiences a solar eclipse. Seymour names the plant Audrey, after his love interest, and soon learns the plant requires human blood to survive.

Tickets are \$8 for general admission, and \$5 for students, senior citizens and military members. Call 301-753-2090 for additional show information.

La Plata High School student actors are presenting the dark comedy “Ripcord” by David Lindsay-Abaire the weekend of Nov. 3-5.

The play takes place in the Bristol Palace Senior Living Facility where a sunny room on an upper floor is prime real estate.

When a main character, Abby, is forced to share her room with a new arrival, Marilyn, she plots to find a way to rid herself of her new roommate.

A harmless bet between the two women evolves into a game of one-upmanship with each woman revealing secrets from their past. The play will be at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 3, 4 and 5.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. CCPS staff can receive free admission by showing their work identification badge. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance through Jennifer Joyner, jjoyner@ccboe.com. Call 301-934-1100 for more information.

Thomas Stone High School is presenting “There’s an App for That?” the weekend of Nov. 3-5. Show time is 7 p.m. on all three dates.

The show is by Allan Griffith and is a farce about high school.

The plot includes foreign exchange students, multiple love triangles, a science experiment gone awry, loveable nerds and more.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission and CCPS staff can receive one free admission by showing their work identification badge. Call 301-645-2601 for more information.

Also taking the stage the weekend of Nov. 3-5 are student actors from Westlake High School as they present Don Zolidis’ “The Craving.”

The story follows a screenwriter, Terry Kyle Morris, who has just written his first screenplay and put his heart and soul into the piece.

He is elated when a Hollywood producer picks up his piece and wants to produce it, but disappointed when his script is turned into a zombie horror movie. Performance time is 7 p.m. for all three showings.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and students. CCPS staff receive two complimentary tickets with their work badge. Call 301-645-8857 for more details.

The drama department at Maurice J. McDonough High School is presenting “Midsummer Jersey,” a modern adaptation of William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream Nov. 10-12.

The show sets stage on the boardwalk of a seaside town in modern day New Jersey and features an impending marriage of the Governor of New Jersey, the love affairs of four beach-bound high school crushes, a



Audrey, played by junior Mya Perkins, meets her namesake and man-eating plant, Audrey 2 during a scene in St. Charles High School’s fall production of “Little Shop of Horrors” which will run Oct. 28 to 30 at the school.

crew of fairies and workers at a local beauty salon.

Performance dates are Nov. 10, 11 and 12 at 6:30 p.m. with a 2 p.m. Understudy Show performance on Nov. 12.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, senior citizens and military members and \$7 for children. CCPS employees also receive one complimentary admission with their work badge.

Visit www.mcdonoughdrama.com to purchase tickets. Requests for handicapped seats can be emailed to Jana Heyl at jheyhl@ccboe.com. Call 301-934-2944 for more information.

North Point High School is also hosting its fall production the weekend of Nov. 10-12.

Student actors at North Point will present the comedy “Meet Me in St. Louis” at 7 p.m. nightly Nov. 10, 11 and 12.

The show follows the adventures of the Smith family in the early 1900s and their four beautiful daughters as they prepare to abruptly leave the area and relocate to New York just as the World Fair is scheduled to be held there.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens. CCPS staff receive one complimentary ticket with their work identification badge. Call 301-753-1759 for more information.

Student actors at Henry E. Lackey High School are presenting “Do Not Go Gentle” the weekend of Nov. 18-20.

Performance times are 6:30 p.m. Nov. 18-19 and 2 p.m. on Nov. 20.

The production features the life of Lillian, an 84-year-old woman who recently passed away.

The show follows Lillian as she attempts to teach her surviving loved one’s lessons about life, and features flashbacks of Lillian’s life.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students, senior citizens and military members, and \$6 for thespians. Call 301-743-5431 for more information.

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North Point team earns state Silver Hammer Award

More than 1,900 students — not to mention staff members and visitors — fill the nearly 225,900 square feet of North Point High School almost every day.

"We go Monday to Sunday," said Alice Makle, the building service manager at the school. The dedication and attention to detail earned Makle's team the Silver Hammer Award for posting a 96 percent rating on a state inspection. "An almost unprecedented score of 96 percent," Comptroller Peter V. Franchot said during an awards ceremony Oct. 20 at North Point. He said state inspectors have 37 different engineering criteria when it comes to inspecting schools around the state. "They are very specific, there is nothing subjective," Franchot said. "By taking care of this school, you defer by decades the need for a new building. You are literally saving the state hundreds of millions of dollars. I consider you unsung heroes."

Those honored are Makle, Catherine Bynum, Robert Small, Tyrell Bivins, Patricia Dorsey, Terrance Duckett, Tina Edelen, Jonathan Hemsley, Elizabeth King, Calvin Proctor, Mandell Proctor, William Proctor, Dustin Simmons, James Smoot, Ashley Todd and Edwin Willie.

Safe and clean buildings are a must for aiding teaching and learning, Franchot said. And building service workers have created a culture of teamwork at North Point. "Sometimes kids give you a hard time, but you're much more popular than the teachers," Franchot joked.

ers," Franchot joked.

North Point senior Elge Stevens knows the importance of building service workers. In the beginning of the year, he came to administrators with the idea of holding an appreciation week for the workers. The week of Oct. 24 was designated Building Service Worker Appreciation Week at North Point.

"I always see them hustling in the hallways," Stevens said, adding that worker Robert Small lifted his spirits after a bad day. "I was having a rough day and Mr. Small saw me and smiled, he said something funny and I started laughing."

Some students take the work building service workers for granted. Student Board Member Da'Juon Washington said he was guilty of that in the past. "They're in the shadows," he said. "But the people in the shadows are the ones who are doing the hard work." Washington added that he appreciates the work put in to keep North Point pristine. Makle has been at the school since it opened in 2005, starting as a building service worker before becoming the manager. She said the job is challenging but can be exciting and working with a team is rewarding. She said most students listen to them and some call her "Mom" or "Auntie." Getting the Silver Hammer Award will serve as a catalyst to the team to keep up the good work or maybe crank it up a notch.

"This is going to make us work even harder," Makle said, accepting the award on behalf of the honorees.

Personnel

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

Job openings

Secretary with the Office of Accountability — 12-month position, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Candidates must have the ability to read and interpret documents such as legal documents and procedure manuals and the ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to deal with problems involving several variables in standardized situations is a must. Apply by Nov. 2.

Life Skills Instructional Assistant — 10-month position, Gale-Bailey Elementary School. High school diploma and experience working with children or adults who have special needs is required. Ability to work and interact with students with significant mental and physical disabilities is a must. Applicants must have knowledge of special skills

required to work with students having special needs, the ability to demonstrate patience while working with students and excellent human relations skills. Apply by Nov. 8.

Teacher Academy of Health Professions — Pharmacy Technician — 10-month position, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. Applicants must have a valid teacher's certificate or be eligible under the certification process for professional and technical teachers and a minimum of three years of occupational experience in the career area to be taught. Knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methodologies and experience with integrating web resources into daily lessons and knowledge of healthcare careers are required. Apply by Nov. 11.

Instructional Assistant — 10-month position, location to be determined. Applicants must demonstrate interest in and aptitude for working with secondary school aged children, have excellent human relations skills and good

oral and written communication skills. IAs assist teachers in planning activities and work with students or small groups to provide instructional reinforcement. Apply by Nov. 30.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — 10-month position, all middle schools. Applicants must have a high school diploma and an interest in and aptitude for working with school aged children, ability to work with students with a variety of mental abilities and disabilities. Excellent human relations skills and good written communication skills are a must. Position is open until filled.

IEP Facilitator — 11-month position. A bachelor's degree required, master's degree preferred and candidates must hold or be eligible for a Maryland Standard Professional Certificate with special education endorsement. Three years of satisfactory special education classroom teaching experience is required. Candidates should have knowledge and experience with IEP procedures.