



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Treasury note

Paychecks for employees who are paid via paper checks will be mailed on Thursday, Dec. 22 for the Friday, Dec. 23 payday. The checks will be mailed to the employee's address on file with the human resources department.

Delivery is based on the service of the U.S. Postal Service.

ESOL courses offered

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) offers a 12-credit post baccalaureate certificate in ESOL designed to provide experienced teachers with knowledge and skills to work with students whose first language is not English. All four courses are offered online.

The program will run from late January 2017 through December 2018. Applications are due by Jan. 1, 2017. For more information, contact Mary Tabaa at tabaa@umbc.edu or 443-278-3096.

Winterfest set for Saturday

Winterfest will be Saturday, Dec. 10 at the James E. Richmond Science Center. Digital Dome Theater movies are "Let it Snow" and "Season of Light"]There will be hands-on activities and a holiday photo booth.

The hot chocolate bar is \$1 a cup with a refill and make-n-take ornaments are \$2 each. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with three ticket options. For tickets or more information, go to www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/winterfest/.

Winter break

Winter break is approaching. Schools will dismiss two hours early on Thursday, Dec. 22. Winter break starts Friday, Dec. 23 with schools and offices closed through Monday, Dec. 26. Schools will be closed from Tuesday, Dec. 27 to Monday, Jan. 2. Schools reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3.



Capturing the views of Mallows Bay

Vicki Marckel, an art teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School, paints a scene of Mallows Bay during a recent field trip. Art students from the county's seven public high schools and the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center visited the Nanjemoy park to work on art projects that will be displayed at the Charles County Government Building and at a future gallery show at the College of Southern Maryland celebrating Mallows Bay being named a national marine sanctuary.

Legislators, Board of Education meet to discuss issues

Southern Maryland legislators recently expressed their support for education at the Board of Education's annual legislative breakfast while learning about the school system's economic impact and special education challenges.

"You are doing everything about right, right now," said Senate President Thomas "Mike" Miller, who represents District 27 which includes part of Charles County. Miller said legislators are interested in raising the level of quality of teachers, and using the best teachers to focus on the kids with the highest needs. "That's the future," he told the Board and Superintendent.

The annual breakfast is a time for the Board of Education and Charles County's legislative delegation to share information,

concerns and educational issues before the Maryland General Assembly convenes in January. Superintendent Kimberly Hill introduced a presentation showing the economic value of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS).

"People always hear how education is a drain on taxpayers' money, but what does that investment lead to?" Hill said.

The study, conducted by Beacon, an independent research group from Salisbury University, shows CCPS is a major contributor to Charles County's economy.

Every \$1 dollar from the CCPS operating budget that is spent and retained in the local economy results in total county spending of \$1.81.

CCPS makes an impact as the largest

See LEGISLATIVE, page 2



On the cover

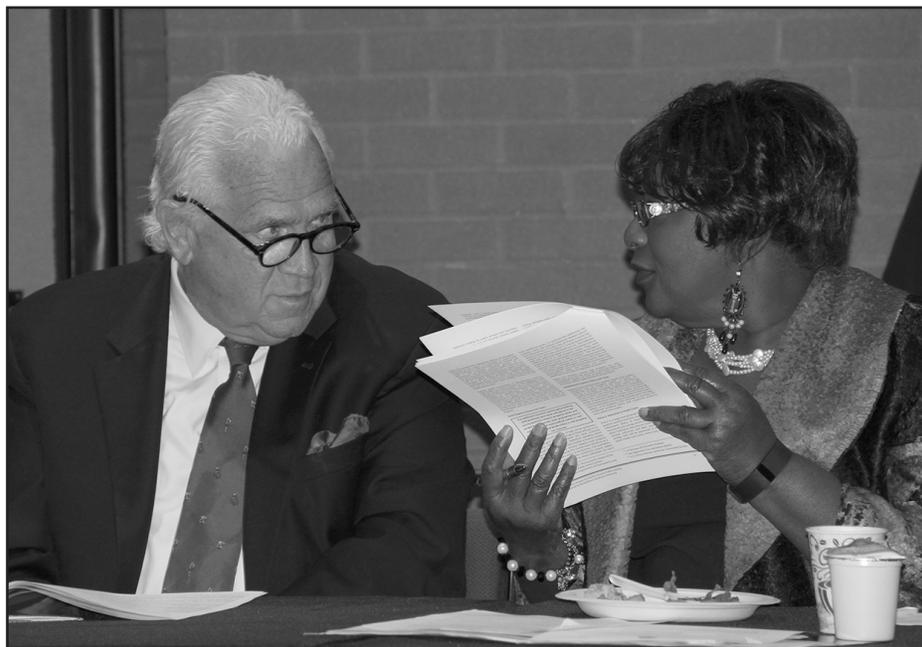
Pictured on the front cover are employees of Gale-Bailey Elementary School. Pictured from left are Diedra Barnett, reading resource teacher; Michael Kennedy, fourth-grade teacher; and Joy Sheff, secretary.

Principal of the Year

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for its 2017 Principal of the Year Award. The annual award honors exemplary principals and recognizes those who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their position to create an exceptional educational environment. The selected principal will also serve as Charles County's finalist in *The Washington Post* Principal of the Year awards program. Teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators, or community members may submit nominations. Nominees must have a minimum of five years of experience as a principal and three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Principals may not nominate themselves. Nominations are due by Wednesday, Jan. 4. Binders should be sent to Ramona DiBenedetto, Office of Human Resources, Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Md., 20646. Binders must include a completed cover page. The cover page, as well as additional nomination materials, is posted on the school system website at <http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/emprec.php>. Go to <http://bit.ly/2gOG5V4> for further information.

Teacher of the Year sought

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for *The Washington Post's* 2017 Teacher of the Year Award. The annual award honors exemplary teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching and outstanding leadership, encourage creative and quality instruction, and contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education. Nominations are due by Wednesday, Jan. 4. Binders should be sent to Ramona DiBenedetto, Office of Human Resources, Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Md., 20646. Contact DiBenedetto at 301-934-7242 or rdibenedetto@ccboe.com with questions. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2ghcpMW>.



Senate President Thomas "Mike" Miller, left, and Del. Edith Patterson talk during the Board of Education's legislative breakfast.

employer in Charles County, with nearly 2,375 of its 3,542 employees living in the county.

Every CCPS job supports an additional .49 jobs in the local economy, according to the report.

The study also explores the economic value of academic degrees awarded and the impact CCPS has on reducing public costs while increasing economic development opportunities. A complete copy of the Beacon report can be found at <http://www.ccboe.com/aboutus/fastfacts.php>.

Hill directed the discussion to the increase in the number of special education students enrolling in CCPS.

Hill said CCPS provides a pathway for students to careers and college, as well as offers a safety net for kids.

Special education, she said, is one of those safety nets.

Amy Hollstein, deputy superintendent, explained the costs associated with providing services to both special education and non-English speaking students.

"Last year, Charles County was No. 1 in the state for English Language Learners (ELL) coming into the school system," she said.

During the meeting, Hollstein told the stories of three special education students,

showing how different levels of services can cost between \$14,699 per student for most special education students to \$42,296 per special education student needing the highest level of care. The average operating cost per pupil for fiscal year 2017 is \$13,490.

During the past five years, CCPS has enrolled 600 additional special education students with an increase of 200 more students this year than last year.

Hollstein said the school system has managed the increased special education costs for the past several years, but the expenses are becoming greater than CCPS can handle in its existing operating budget.

Board Chairman Virginia McGraw reminded legislators that the Board and staff are available for consult on any education issue that might surface in the coming legislative session.

Members of the Charles County legislative delegation, including Miller, Sen. Thomas "Mac" Middleton, Del. Edith Patterson, Del. Susie Proctor and Del. C.T. Wilson, along with Charles County Commissioners' President Peter Murphy and Commissioner Ken Robinson, attended the meeting with the Board of Education and staff.

Science teacher Wheeler leads J.C. Parks to Ocean Guardian School designation

The J.C. Parks Elementary School students and staff were honored last month by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through its Ocean Guardian School program.

Parks is the first elementary school in Maryland to be recognized as an Ocean Guardian School for its efforts in conservation, protecting the environment, improving local watersheds and promoting green efforts.

During a recognition ceremony held Nov. 21, student members of the Parks Green Team introduced some of the conservation efforts coordinated at the school and why it was important for them to be involved.

Under the direction of Parks science teacher Deanna Wheeler, the Green Team helps to maintain the wetlands and outdoor classroom area on the Parks campus, participates in the school's Green Apple Day of Service, studies local watershed areas such as Mallows Bay and Chapman's Landing and helps to place gabions, or fencing, used to help control erosion.

In their science classes, students also helped to raise more than 400 yellow perch freshwater fish and released them in to the wild.

Wheeler encourages all students to give back to the environment. "We work on several projects to make sure we help protect the environment, improve watersheds. This is our second year in the program but our first banner year for meeting the requirements," Wheeler said.

During the ceremony, Green Team members gave a visual presentation about what happens to rain water collected at the school, and how it eventually leads to the ocean.

To receive recognition through NOAA's Ocean Guardian program, schools must first apply and submit a community-based project as part of the application.

The program supplies grant funding to help support conservation projects. Parks first received \$4,000 in grant funds last school year to

help with several environmentally driven projects at the school, such as a Wetlands Day and to support a solar powered fountain.

Parks is in the second year of participating in the program, which is a program new Parks Principal Greg Miller fully supports.

"We have a very important mission. Research states kids who learn about science and taking care of the environment learn skills that are important for any future career field. Let's continue our hard work and help each other learn," Miller said.

Samuel Orlando, a member of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuary, presented Wheeler with an official Ocean Guardian School banner to honor the students for their efforts.

Orlando also highlighted the overall goal of the program and said it ultimately benefits students by introducing them to learning through doing.

"This program helps kids learn about environmental stewardship. Students learn through various hands-on activities, such as working in local watersheds and visiting National Marine Sanctuaries. Your school is also the first elementary school East of the Mississippi River to receive this recognition, and one of only two schools in Maryland," he said.

The second Ocean Guardian School in Maryland is North Point High School, who was first honored last school year with a program banner for their environmental conservation efforts.

North Point was honored for meeting the program requirements for the second year in a ceremony at the school.

Grant funding is provided annually once Ocean Guardian Schools meet goals outlined in community service projects identified by the school.

To learn more about the Ocean Guardian School program, visit http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/schools.html.

Student reps of elementary school advisory council meet with Superintendent



Janiya Avant, a Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School fifth grader, left, and Mario Curtis, a fifth grader at Berry Elementary School, make a list during the first elementary school advisory council meeting.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill met with elementary school students recently as part of her Student Advisory Council meetings.

Hill launched her student advisory groups last school year, with student representatives from all three levels — elementary, middle and high schools — to learn from students about what they like about their schools and programs, and things they think could be better at their schools. The Dec. 1 meeting included student representatives from Dr. James Craik, Gale-Bailey, Indian Head, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy and J.C. Parks elementary schools. The first elementary advisory council included students from Berry, William A. Diggs, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and William B. Wade elementary schools. Top pluses for the school system from these elementary schoolers included available computer programs and resources, such as Scratch computer programming and coding applications, use of iPads at schools and strong support from their teachers. The students were interested in seeing more extracurricular opportunities offered at their schools as well as more time in their special area classes, such as science and art.

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Board of Education agenda for Dec. 13 meeting

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 13, 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 also streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) website, www.ccboe.com. The following meeting agenda is subject to change.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – St. Charles High School Board and Charles County Commissioners student recognition for start winners — Chisom Ojukwu and La Plata High School Marching Band

Superintendent's update

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's update
- Elementary Reading: The Key to Academic Success

- Energy and rewards program
- Overview of health insurance
- School Naming Committee
- Legislative update

Unfinished business

- 2017-18 school calendar

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Policy 5117

Adjournment

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) website features information about the Board of Education, including member profiles, historical minutes, budget information and meeting times. More information about the board is at <http://www.ccboe.com/aboutus/boe/boardofeducation.php>.

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

Vice Principal for Elementary and Middle Schools — locations to be determined, 11-month positions. A master's degree and three years of teaching experience is required. Demonstrated ability to plan, organize and supervise the work of others, knowledge of appropriate instructional and curricular methodologies, understanding of effective schools research and an effort to implement the research findings into the administration of a school is required. Some of the job functions include participating in recruitment, screening, selection and orientation of instructional and non-instructional staff. Apply by Dec. 16.

Vice Principal for High Schools — locations to be determined, 12-month positions. A master's degree and three years of teaching

experience is required. Demonstrated ability to plan, organize and supervise the work of others, knowledge of appropriate instructional and curricular methodologies, understanding of effective schools research and an effort to implement the research findings into the administration of a school is required. Maintaining effective communications with parents, parent groups, civic associations and other community resources and assisting with the supervision of student activities and co-curricular programs during and beyond the school year. Apply by Dec. 16.

Electronics Technician III — Annex 1, 12-month position. High school diploma required with a degree from an accredited technical school or college preferred. The position involves the installation, repair, overhaul, fabrication, tuning, alignment, modification, calibration and testing of electronic equipment and related devices. Candidates should have two years minimum

industry installation and repair technician experience, a valid driver's license, an insurable driving record and the availability to work weekends and evenings when required. Position will be open until filled.

Extra pay positions

Head volleyball coach — La Plata High School. Call Rich Pauole at 301-934-1100.

JV volleyball coach — La Plata High School. Call Rich Pauole at 301-934-1100.

Head girls soccer coach — Thomas Stone High School. Call Brad Criss at 301-843-0074.

JV boys lacrosse coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call Tony Mast at 301-743-5431.

JV girls lacrosse coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call Tony Mast at 301-743-5431.

Football assistant coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call Tony Mast at 301-743-5431.