

# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Last days*

The end of the 2016-17 school year is near. The last day for certificated 12-month employees is June 12; 11-month certificated employees call June 23 their last day; June 16 is the last day for 10.5-month certificated employees; and 10-month certificated employees' last day is June 12. For support staff, June 23 is the last day for 11-month employees; June 19 is the last day for 10.5- and 10-month employees; and June 12 is the last day for 10-month instructional assistants. The last day for food service 10-month managers and assistant managers is June 19. June 12 is the last day for workers who are 10-month food service employees.

### *Mental health first aid*

A Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid course will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 24 and 25 in the conference room of Annex 2 in La Plata. Registration is open to anyone who wants to learn how to effectively assist a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Staff should request leave from their principal or supervisor in order to attend. Substitute funding can be provided for any staff member requiring it. To receive a CPD credit, participants must attend both days. The course is free, and another course will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 12 and 13 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. To register, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com> and search the keyword "Mental."

### *Project Graduation*

There is still time to volunteer or donate to Project Graduation. Project Graduation, an event celebrating graduates by offering a free, safe and fun party, will be June 1, 2 and 3 at the College of Southern Maryland.

To volunteer or to donate, contact Jenn Conte at [jconte@ccboe.com](mailto:jconte@ccboe.com) or 301-934-7326.



## Showing Salmon science stuff

Dr. Karen B. Salmon, state superintendent of schools, visited Charles County Public Schools last month. William Whitfield, a sixth grader at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, shows Salmon how he and his peers use digital textbooks, known at Tech-books.

## Malcolm's Pugh is named Principal of the Year

At the end of this school year, Wilhelmina Pugh, principal of Malcolm Elementary School, will complete her 37<sup>th</sup> year working in education and with Charles County Public Schools. From the start of her career, Pugh has worked with the youngest public school learners, focusing her time and talents at the elementary-school level. She leads by example and is well known by the Malcolm community as a kind leader who puts the needs of children first.

One of her goals as principal is to ensure all students and staff feel a sense of belonging to the Malcolm family. Pugh is often heard saying "Once a Malcolm family member, always a Malcolm family member" to new staff members and families that enter the school doors. She is well respected by the school community; students are eager to see

her in the morning upon arrival and staff describe her as a person with "a heart of gold."

Pugh is so highly regarded by her staff that they surprised her with a nomination for recognition as an exemplary principal. They see her passion for education and others do, too. Pugh was recently named the Charles County Public Schools 2017 Principal of the Year and finalist for the *Washington Post's* Principal of the Year awards program.

Pugh is humbled to receive a recognition that honors her commitment to children. "At Malcolm, we are 'all in' every day for every student. Every day I strive to make positive connections with the staff and students. My staff worked behind the scenes to nominate me. It is both humbling and an honor to know that the staff, students and community felt I was deserving of the recognition," Pugh said.

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## Notebook

### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at its May meeting. Pictured from left are Rhonda Slater, a fifth-grade teacher at Indian Head Elementary School; Jackson Long, a drama and theater arts teacher at Westlake High School; and Megan Parsons, a mathematics teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School.

### Summer courses

The Education Association of Charles County and the Maryland State Education Association are offering two free courses for teachers this summer. CARE — Cultural, Ability, Resiliency and Effort — Training Strategies for Closing is 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 19 to 22 at Thomas Stone High School. Yes You Can! Classroom Management for Maryland Educators is 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. July 31, Aug. 1 and 2 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. To register, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com>.

### Formative assessment

Practical Ways to Embed Formative Assessment in the Classroom will be 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. July 31 and Aug. 1 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The event will focus on the practicalities of implementing and sustaining the development of formative assessment. Participants must attend both days. To register, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com> and search for the keyword "Embed."

### Crab feast set for Sept. 1

The Education Association of Charles County is holding its annual crab feast 3:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 1 at the Charles County Fairgrounds in La Plata. Tickets are \$25 until June 25 and \$35 starting June 26. Tickets are only available online and can be purchased at [www.teameacc.org](http://www.teameacc.org) (click on the Event Registration tab) by Aug. 23.

Each employee — who must have their school ID and a ticket — can bring one guest who is not a Charles County Public Schools employee, but there is no Will Call.

### Stay in touch

Stay connected with what's going on with Charles County Public Schools on Facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for the Charles County Board of Education.



**Recycling is a way of life at Westlake High School. Students collect recyclable materials twice a week, and food service and building service workers pitch in to help recycling efforts at the school.**

### Westlake places first in statewide Recycle Bowl

Every Wednesday and Friday, the rumbling of wheels can be heard in the hallways of Westlake High School. Those are the days designated by members of the recycling club for collection of items they want kept out of the landfill.

"One day we decided to do something for the environment," Westlake senior Jade Madison, president of the school's recycling club, said. At first Madison and her friend Briana Jones, a junior who is the vice president of the club, wanted to start a new group. When they talked with Charles Newcomb, science teacher and the recycling club sponsor, they decided to join and dedicate their time to urging classmates and teachers to recycle.

It has paid off.

Westlake placed first in the Recycle Bowl for Maryland in 2015 and 2016. This year, the school's neighbor, William B. Wade Elementary School, came in second. The Recycle Bowl is a program of Keep America Beautiful, a nonprofit organization with initiatives aimed at litter prevention and ways to reduce waste.

The Westlake club has about 30 members — about 15 are die hards who can be counted on to pitch in regularly — who remind the school to recycle by making morning announcements, sharing PowerPoint presentations and hanging posters. Madison said the best way to get their peers on board is to talk to them, even if it

means chastising them for throwing something in the garbage rather than in one of the iconic blue bins.

Recycle Bowl participants track the weight of collections over a four-week period. Each school has to turn in the number of students and teachers taking part in the program and report the total weight of the collections.

At Westlake all classrooms have at least one recycling bin and the club has a few large containers that are wheeled around twice a week for collection. When the big containers are full, they are emptied in a dumpster. Then club members continue the collections and dumping until they have made their way to each room.

Recycling isn't a chore at Westlake. Some of the students have been doing it most of their lives and staff, including building services and those in the cafeteria, are on the recycling bandwagon, as well. "It's in the culture," Newcomb said. "It's built into the culture of the school."

"We have always been this way," Madison said of she and Jones's dedication to the health of the environment. She wants to study forestry; Jones wants to be a zoologist or work with animals. "We want you to care for the environment as you would care for your home," Madison said.



Pugh was named principal at Malcolm in 2008 and quickly began to create a welcoming and supportive culture. She is a visible leader; she regularly visits classrooms to interact with students and teachers, attends after school, evening and weekend events, and works diligently to get to know each of her students. Staff admire her ability to connect with all students as Pugh strives to find the good in every child.

Jennifer Malone is a reading resource teacher at Malcolm and has worked with Pugh for the past nine years. Malone said Pugh's efforts to motivate students and staff are endless, and she admires her ability to create and support an exceptional learning environment for students.

"Any successful school always begins with outstanding leadership. Malcolm Elementary is one of those successful schools. Mrs. Pugh has created an exceptional learning environment through her vision, respect for and commitment to learning, and emphasis on communication for students, staff and parents. Her tireless dedication and caring for her school, staff and students is inspiring," Malone wrote in a letter of support for Pugh's nomination.

There are about 70 staff members at Malcolm and nearly 430 students enrolled at the school. Pugh leads with poise, compassion and efficiency. She encourages creativity and innovation by encouraging students to grow and learn.

Under Pugh's leadership, special area teachers work with their peers to help support reading and math skills in the classroom. During their physical education classes, students are often practicing math facts during exercise periods. Fifth graders in need of additional reading assistance are paired with kindergarten students to help them practice phonics skills. Teachers have access to a FlexCat technology system that enables them to listen simultaneously to several groups of students during small group discussions. Pugh encourages staff collaboration in all areas, not just reading, writing and math.

Pugh sets high expectations for staff and models a positive attitude and demeanor that staff admire. She regularly provides professional development opportunities, is an open communicator with staff and makes time to listen to suggestions and concerns. Pugh motivates staff to share in the decision-making process and implements changes when necessary for student achievement.

Malcolm teacher Angie Sidney and Lori Gould, an instructional assistant, co-wrote a letter in support of Pugh's nomination that details her commitment to ensure all teachers have the tools necessary to achieve success in the classroom. "Mrs. Pugh ensures teachers have the necessary instructional tools, pertinent training and essential knowledge to achieve success in the classroom. She is a wonderful role model, always greets us with a smile and is available whenever we need assistance," Sidney and Gould wrote.

Pugh's nomination also was heavily supported by parents and students. In the dozens of letters written for Pugh's nomination, students describe Pugh as a kind and caring principal. Malcolm fourth grader Kailani Meade said Pugh is the "best principal in the galaxy" because she is selfless and thinks of others. "She is always encouraging us to do our best," Meade added.

Malcolm fifth grader Jose Jimenez said students like Mrs. Pugh because she makes learning fun. Pugh reads to students during Book Character Day and joins in the fun by dressing up as a book character. She also takes part in school spirit events, such as wearing pajamas to



**Malcolm Elementary School Principal Wilhelmina Pugh, center, has been an educator for more than 35 years. She was named the Charles County Public Schools 2017 Principal of the Year and finalist for the *Washington Post's* Principal of the Year awards program.**

school and participating in wellness walks. "Mrs. Pugh is like us – she likes to do fun things. She lets us have extra recess for being good and Field Day. She is always out there with us on Field Day," Jimenez wrote in his nomination letter.

Crystal Rennie has a first grader enrolled at Malcolm and said from the moment her child was enrolled at Malcolm, Pugh has demonstrated nothing but enthusiasm for learning, compassion for students and a commitment to excellence. Pugh makes time to speak with parents and exudes a positive attitude in all that she does. "She exudes the character of a leader to students and something they can emulate. Mrs. Pugh has set the bar extremely high for future principals my child will have," Rennie wrote in a nomination letter.

Pugh credits the support of Malcolm staff and her leadership experience prior to becoming a principal as reasons behind the success of her school.

"It is a joy to work with such a supportive staff. Teachers are comfortable sharing their concerns and know that their opinions count. The opportunity to work with diverse populations prior to becoming a principal was great preparation," Pugh said.

Pugh's career with CCPS spans experience at several elementary schools.

She first started her career as a speech/language pathologist, a position she held for nearly 18 years.

She completed an administrative assistant position at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School and was named vice principal at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School in 1998.

Prior to being named principal at Malcolm, Pugh also served as a vice principal at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer elementary schools.

As the 2017 Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year, Pugh will be honored by the Board of Education at its May 9 meeting. Pugh was also the finalist from Charles County in the *Post's* Principal of the Year awards program in which one regional winner is chosen. She will be honored by the *Post* later this year.

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## Higdon breakfast increase is most improved in the state

Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School is the state winner of the Most Improved School award in the Maryland Breakfast Challenge.

Representatives from the No Kid Hungry Maryland campaign and the American Dairy Association hosted a Maryland Breakfast Challenge Celebration to highlight the positive impact of school breakfast. Higdon won the state challenge after increasing the percentage of students eating breakfast at school by 17 percent. As the most improved school, Higdon received a \$2,000 check from Dairy Association and No Kid Hungry Maryland.

Principal Kathy Morgan said, "I am so excited because Dr. Thomas L. Higdon is the state winner for the Most Improved Category for the Maryland Breakfast Challenge. We took some extra steps this year to make breakfast more fun and exciting and it paid off. Just by allowing students to eat in the classroom, they are ready to take on the day and be excellent students."

One of those extra steps included adding a "grab and go" kiosk where children can quickly pick up breakfast on the way to their classroom. As part of the celebration, business partners, and school system and elected officials joined fourth- and fifth-grade students in their classrooms for breakfast. The "grab and go" makes breakfast part of the school day. Higdon increased from serving an average of 111 breakfasts per day in 2015 to 181 breakfasts per day in 2016.



**Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School is up for the Maryland Breakfast Challenge and earned the Most Improved School award.**

"It's fast and allows students to eat a nutritious breakfast while participating in morning activities," Morgan said.

In addition to receiving a check, the school received a banner and several plaques recognizing the efforts of the food services staff. Food Service Manager Jane Murphy and Food Service worker Tarra Jennings received special recognition for their work to ensure children have access to a healthy breakfast.

To read more about the Maryland Breakfast Challenge and how Higdon students are fueling up for the school day, visit <http://bit.ly/2qSD6NG>.

## Personnel

*Apply for positions online at [www.cchoe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php](http://www.cchoe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php). All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.*

### Job openings

**Food Service Worker** — Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position. Applicants must have sufficient education and basic skills in reading, record keeping and arithmetic. Working rapidly and efficiently in a wide range of temperature conditions and following written recipes and oral instruction required. Apply by May 17.

**Building Service Worker** — Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma or general education degree (GED). The ability to read and write effectively is required, as well as being physically capable of performing manual labor. Good verbal communications and human relation skills, and a willingness

to work overtime in cases of emergency are a must. Apply by May 17.

**Secretary for Supporting Services** — Supporting Services, Operations, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. Three years demonstrated administrative and secretarial experience, and the ability to read and interpret documents such as legal documents and procedure manuals is required. Apply by May 18.

**Food Service Substitutes** — All schools, 10-month positions. Applicants should have a high school diploma or basic skills in reading, record keeping and arithmetic skills. The abilities to work rapidly and efficiently in a wide range of temperature conditions, and to follow written recipes and oral instruction is preferred. The knowledge of principles of sanitation and kitchen safety and the ability to work effectively with school personnel and students is required. Apply by June 2.

**Special Education Instructional Assistants** — All elementary schools, 10-month positions. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children and be able to work with students with a variety of mental abilities and disabilities. Excellent human relations skills, good oral and written communication skills, and the ability to communicate effectively with staff, students and parents is preferred. Position will be open until filled.

### Extra Pay Positions

**Junior Varsity Girls Soccer Coach** — La Plata High School. Call 301-934-1100.

**Head Volleyball Coach** — North Point High School. Call 301-753-1759.

**Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach** — Thomas Stone High School. Call 301-843-0074.

**Junior Varsity Boys Soccer Coach** — St. Charles High School. Call 301-753-2090.