



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *CCPS premium holiday*

The average medical claims payout for this school year was lower than expected, and the school system is passing the savings on to plan participants. Participating employees, including retirees, will not pay the monthly premium this month. Plan participants will see an increase in their pay because the insurance deduction was not taken out this month. Contact Christeda Warner in employee benefits at 301-934-7459 or [cwarner@ccboe.com](mailto:cwarner@ccboe.com).

### *Concert set June 10, 11*

"A German Requiem" by Johannes Brahms will be performed 7:30 p.m. June 10 and 3:30 p.m. June 11 at the College of Southern Maryland at 8730 Mitchell Road in La Plata. Presented by the Chesapeake Choral Arts Society, the concerts will feature a full orchestra of adult and advanced student instrumentalists from the tri-county area. "A German Requiem" is notable as a challenging large-scale work, and as the first requiem written in the composer's German language, rather than in the language of the church, which was Latin. The concert will be performed in English.

### *Teaching math K-5*

Teaching and Learning K-2 Mathematics and Teaching and Learning 3-5 Mathematics will be 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 19 to 30 at Annex 2 in La Plata. To register, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com>.

### *SMART board lessons*

Teachers looking for a way to develop SMART Board lessons can sign up for a two-day, one-CPD credit class that will review the basics and make time for creating material for classroom use. The training will be 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 20 and 21 at Mary B. Neal Elementary School at 12105 St. George's Drive in Waldorf. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/2pXt5xb>.



## Stoddert is abuzz for Relay

Above, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School sixth grader Justin Tate, left, and seventh grader Reggie Johnson, check out teacher Holly Walsh's freshly-shaved head. Inset, Diane Richards, left, shaves teacher Daniel DiCocco's head. Stoddert's Builder's Club raised more than \$4,000 for Relay for Life Charles County. The goal reached meant DiCocco and Walsh would shave their heads in front of students who donated to the fundraiser. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2rL4yhh>.

## Lundeen named Washington Post teacher finalist

For some, the goals and dreams they develop as a child are often forgotten as they grow older.

As children grow up and encounter change, future dreams often change as well.

This is not the case for Dr. James Craik Elementary School third-grade teacher Kelly Lundeen, who knew from an early age that she wanted to be a teacher.

From practicing lessons with her younger sister when they played school during their childhood to encountering a high school social studies teacher she admired, Lundeen developed a passion for education long before she went to college.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. I enjoyed learning so much from the start of

my own education, and now I love to see my students grow with time. I never had another future goal in mind for myself. This is where I knew I wanted to be," Lundeen said.

Fast forward to 2017 and Lundeen is now in her sixth year living out her childhood dream as a teacher.

Her colleagues and students see her commitment to education and strive to model her energy and enthusiasm for teaching and learning. Lundeen is proud to call Craik her home and represent what it means to be a model teacher. She is also proud to represent Charles County as a finalist in the 2017 *Washington Post* Teacher of the Year awards program.

Lundeen is the chair of the employee

See Lundeen, page 3

## SECAC honors educators who work with students

Educators were honored at the Charles County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee's 12th annual staff appreciation awards May 10.

More than 80 educators were recognized, with 13 people winning their respective categories.

Several parents and guardians spoke about the dedication their child's teachers have shown.

"They show compassion and love to each student," Jenna Cusack said of the team who works with her daughter, Lillian, at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School. "Having a nonverbal child is hard as a parent. You have to trust they are safe and in the best possible hands," Cusack said. "I thank God every day [the team is] in our lives."

Ethel Levy spoke about how important Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School teacher Kristina Pagel is to her son. "She never gives up on Jack and she never lets him give up on himself," Levy said. "She gives him the tools and confidence he needs not only to succeed in school, but to succeed in life."

The following educators won their categories at the awards ceremony:

- **Michael Hicks**, Piccowaxen Middle School — support staff;
- **Joanne Brown**, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center — related services staff;
- **Kristina Pagel**, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School — elementary instructional;
- **Kimberly McCloskey**, **Heather Lombardi**, **Jennifer Foster** and **Pamela Riffle**, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School — elementary team;
- **David Mitchell**, North Point High School — secondary instructional (high school);
- **Stacey Bennett**, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School — secondary instructional (middle school);
- **Antonio Lumpkin** and **Delphine Owens**, Maurice J. McDonough High School — secondary team (high school); and
- **Steve Willett** and **William Root**, Milton M. Somers Middle School — secondary team (middle school).

## Lunch of Us will start serving June 26

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is participating in the Lunch on Us summer meals program. Starting June 26 at several locations, children and teens ages 18 years and younger who live in Charles County are eligible for a free lunch. The program runs Monday through Friday until Aug. 18. All lunch sites will be closed on July 4.

Hot lunches are available at the following locations:

- Westlake High School, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Henry E. Lackey High School, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 12 to 1 p.m.

Cold bag lunches will be available at the following mobile sites:

- Eva Turner Elementary School, 11 to 11:20 a.m.;
- Children's Aid Society, 3000 Huntington Circle, Waldorf,

- 11:30 to 11:50 a.m.;
- Ell Lane Apartments, 12151 Ell Lane, Waldorf, Management Office, 12:30 to 12:50 p.m.;
- Kid Stream Camp, 3825 Leonardtown Road, Waldorf, 12:30 to 12:50 p.m.;
- Idlewood Trailer Park, Waldorf, 1 to 1:20 p.m.;
- Elite Gymnastics, 2745 Old Washington Road, Waldorf, 1:30 to 1:50 p.m.;
- Milton M. Somers Middle School, 11:30 to 11:50 a.m.;
- Phoenix Run, 651 Piscataway Run, La Plata, 12 to 12:30 p.m.;
- Oak Manor Drive, Waldorf, 12:45 to 1:15 p.m.;
- Charles Landing Apartments, Jameson Court, Indian Head, playground area, 12 to 12:30 p.m.; and
- Woodland Village Park, Thompson Lane, Indian Head, 12:45 to 1:15 p.m.

## Notebook

### On the cover

The Charles County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee honored educators last month at the 12th annual staff appreciation awards. Among educators honored are pictured on the front cover. Pictured from left are David Mitchell of North Point High School; Joanne Brown of the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center; and Kristina Pagel of Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School.

### Out of this world training

Space Institute trainings will be Aug. 7 to 11 at the James E. Richmond Science Center. Two workshops are offered to all teachers of any content from kindergarten through 12th grade. STEAM Integration into the Classroom and Rocketry for the Classroom will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 7 to 11. The course fee is \$50 with three CPD credits. Register and pay online by July 12 at <http://registration.ccboe.com>.

### CCRSPA golf tournament

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association is holding its annual golf tournament Aug. 25 at Swan Point Yacht & Country Club at 11550 Swan Point Blvd. in Issue. For information, contact Dale Cornette at [idcornette@gmail.com](mailto:idcornette@gmail.com) or 301-934-9483.

### 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.

### Be social

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.



# Lundeen

continued from page 1

nominations committee at Craik and a key player when it comes to identifying a colleague deserving of special recognition. She had no idea of her principal's plans to nominate her for the *Post's* Teacher of the Year program until she was called to her office one day and surprised with the news.

"I was honored that I was chosen to represent Craik. There are so many talented individuals here deserving of recognition who are role models for students," Lundeen said.

Lundeen is highly respected by students, staff and parents.

She focuses on relationship building and strives to capture a student's heart in order to push them to their highest potential.

Her classroom is bright, colorful and welcoming and students are eager to do their best and emulate Lundeen's motto of "never give up." Her commitment to inspire children and provide them with the best education possible is apparent in all that she does.

She models ideals of what one would expect of an exceptional teacher.

Craik Principal Michelle Beckwith said she could see why Lundeen had a desire from a young age to become an educator. "Mrs. Lundeen has a calling in her life, and that calling is teaching. She teaches her students to strive for excellence, to love learning and to respect each other. She is an excellent role model for all of the staff, showing that our students deserve only the best," Beckwith wrote in a nomination letter.

Lundeen started her career with Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) as a first-grade teacher at Craik and joined the third-grade team in 2013.

She works diligently to create lessons to reach all levels of learners and engage her students. She incorporates technology, games, real-life applications and group learning in the classroom.

When discussing book characters in class, Lundeen has her students create life-size images of themselves to help with the analysis process. She holds tea parties for her students to talk about math concepts and features a circle of knowledge activity to engage students in group discussion. Lundeen also uses an inside-outside circle strategy so her students can reflect and share with their classmates and facilitate their own question and answer sessions.

Craik fourth grader Dylan Villarouel is one of Lundeen's former students. He wrote a letter on behalf of her nomination and said her classroom is a place where students know they can achieve success.

"Her classroom is filled with fun things for everyone to see. This made me feel like I can be the best student ever. In her class, I learned math, wonderful reading skills, amazing tips and points about writing. I loved coming to school every day to have Mrs. Lundeen as my teacher," Villarouel wrote.

Lundeen's commitment to children extends outside of her classroom as she is involved in most extracurricular activities at Craik and holds several leadership positions. She is the chair for the events committee, chess club assistant, teacher mentor, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) representative, and member of the Relay for Life, School Climate, Career Day and Positive, Behavioral, Interventions and Supports (PBIS) committees.

Lundeen has also participated in numerous school-based and countywide professional development sessions and is often sought by



**Kelly Lundeen of Dr. James Craik Elementary School was named as a finalist in the 2017 Washington Post Teacher of the Year awards program. Lundeen, who teaches third grade, has wanted to be a teacher since was a young child.**

her peers for assistance.

Shannon Durst teaches first grade at Craik and has worked with Lundeen for the past six years.

She describes Lundeen as an exemplary role model who approaches all that she does with a positive and eager attitude.

"Mrs. Lundeen is an exemplary role model to both her colleagues and students. She offers a wealth of knowledge and dedication to her profession in education. She creates lessons that are hands-on and engaging. From tea parties, game shows and carousels to lunch bunches, contests and individual instruction, Mrs. Lundeen creates a learning environment in which students want to succeed and feel confident approaching the content presented to them," Durst wrote in a nomination letter.

After her announcement as Charles County's finalist for the *Post* Teacher of the Year program, Lundeen said her colleagues and students put together a surprise party to congratulate her on her accomplishments. "My students understand what the award means and tell me I am the best teacher in the county. They have had fun being able to brag about their teacher," she said.

For Lundeen, her most cherished memories of her career so far include watching students develop a love for school and learning. "I had a student earlier this year that had issues learning and had a negative attitude of school. Since the student joined my class, she has learned to love school. Her Dad has even told me of the positive changes at home. It is rewarding to see growth with my students over time," she added. As Charles County's finalist for the *Post* Teacher of the Year award, Lundeen will be recognized by the Board of Education at its June 13 meeting.

**School News** is published by  
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## Board of Education agenda for June 13 meeting

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, June 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. and student and staff recognition starts at 4:30 p.m.

**Executive session** — 12 p.m.

**Call to order** — 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Westlake High School JROTC unit

Swearing-in of new Student Member to the Board

Recognition of student state winners — Unified track, MESA, SkillsUSA, and track and field

Contract vote/signing — American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and Education Association of Charles County

**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 update
- Initiatives to support positive learning environments
- Special education case management pilot update
- CIP update
- Summer projects
- Redistricting update

- FY 2018 operating budget
- Unfinished business
- Policy 5000 series

**New business and future agenda items**

New business — FY 2018 out-of-county tuition rates

- Daily and hourly wage rates

**Recognition** — 4:30 p.m.

Resolution — *Washington Post* Teacher of the Year Awards program: Kelly Lundeen, third-grade teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School

Charles County Teacher of the Year: Denise Childers, English teacher, La Plata High School

Outstanding Vice Principal of the Year Award: Belinda Shatley, vice principal, Theodore G. Davis Middle School

Outstanding Support Staff Awards: Travis Harman, roof mechanic, Maintenance Shop; Barbara Tillman, secretary to the principal, Berry Elementary School; Gail Slaughter, food service manager, Henry E. Lackey High School; Jacqueline Douglas, kindergarten instructional assistant, Dr. James Craik Elementary School; and David Troxel, computer analyst, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building

**Public Forum** — 6 p.m.

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel
- FY 2018 operating budget
- Educational Facilities Master Plan
- Elementary school redistricting

**Adjournment**

## 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

**Secretary to the Principal** — Malcolm Elementary School, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma. Experience with Quicken or QuickBooks desirable, as well as experience with budgets, payroll and cash handling. The ability to type accurately at 60 wpm and considerable knowledge of effective office practices and procedure, and excellent organizational skills required. The ability and willingness to establish and maintain excellent public and community relations is desired. Apply by June 9.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** — Matthew Henson Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required and the ability to work and interact

with a wide range of mental and physical disabilities. Applicants must have knowledge of special skills required to work with students having special needs, and the ability to work patiently with Emotional Adjustment Program (EAP) students. Apply by June 19.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required and the ability to work and interact with a wide range of mental and physical disabilities. Applicants must have knowledge of special skills required to work with students having special needs, and the ability to work patiently with Emotional Adjustment Program (EAP) students. Apply by June 19.

**Electrician III** — Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalency certificate and a minimum of 10 years of progressive electrical experience of which at least five

years at a level that includes commercial wiring, motor control wiring and 277-480 switch gear work. The ability to obtain electrical permits for new work from the town of La Plata and Charles County Government preferred. Applicants must be in good physical condition and be able to climb a 40-foot vertical ladder and work from scaffolding. Position open until filled.

**Food Service Substitute** — all schools, 10-month position. A high school diploma is desirable or sufficient education to have basic skills in reading, record keeping and arithmetic. Cooking, food handling and/or cashier experience preferred. Applicants should be able to work quickly and efficiently in a range of temperature conditions. Apply by Aug. 31.

### Extra pay position

**Head Softball Coach** — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call Tony Mast at 301-743-5431.