



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Interims issued*

Interim reports will be issued to students on Monday, Sept. 29.

### *Attend a facility forum*

The Board of Education is holding public sessions to gather input about a recent school facilities survey. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff will present information from the report and attendees can ask questions or provide comments. The sessions are at La Plata High School on Monday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium; and at Maurice J. McDonough High School on Monday, Oct. 13, starting at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. The full facilities report is posted on the CCPS website at [www.ccboe.com/GWWO/gwwow.php](http://www.ccboe.com/GWWO/gwwow.php).

### *Assessment time*

High School Assessment (HSA) testing begins on Monday, Oct. 6, and runs through Thursday, Oct. 16.

### *Two-hour early dismissal*

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Thursday, Oct. 9. Morning pre-kindergarten students attend.

### *Calling all jazz enthusiasts*

The United States Navy jazz band, the Commodores, will perform at Henry E. Lackey High School on Thursday, Oct. 9. The concert is free and begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.navyband.navy.mil/commodores.shtml>.

### *Now showing*

Airing now on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of NewsBreak. The episode features the Maryland Breakfast Challenge, the annual CCPS College Fair and the new curriculum repository. Visit [www.ccboe.com/ccboetv/](http://www.ccboe.com/ccboetv/) for a programming schedule.



## System welcomes new teachers

Mattawoman Middle School mathematics teacher Erlease Jones, left, talks with retired Charles County Public Schools teacher and Co-Chairman of Target V-Global Impact for the Nu Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Cecelia Spinks, right, at a new teacher reception held at Middleton Hall on Sept. 23.

## Teachers recognized for physical education support

The Maryland Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) recently named four Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) physical education teachers as 2014 Simon McNeely Award recipients. They are Jillian Genua of J.P. Ryon Elementary School; Patrick Hoiler of Malcolm Elementary School; Pomie Radcliff of Mary H. Matula Elementary School; and Melissa Williams of Milton M. Somers Middle School.

The annual awards program recognizes teachers who demonstrate outstanding innovation in teaching physical education, along with active involvement in school and community affairs. The award is named for Simon McNeely, who was a special education teacher and longtime member of the President's Council for Physical Fitness and the United States and International Olympic committees.

Genua began her career with CCPS in 2006 at John Hanson Middle School. She moved to Ryon the following school year and is in her ninth year of teaching. She said she was honored to be nominated for an award that highlights goals for her students. "I teach physical education to give my students the movement foundation they need and the knowledge of the health benefits that come to those who participate in physical activity in hopes that they become lifelong participants of physical activity," she said.

Hoiiler is in his first year of teaching students at the elementary school level, and previously taught physical education at La Plata High School. He said his nomination for the McNeely award is a bonus for his career. "I truly enjoy getting up and coming to school each day and then to be nominated for something that you love doing anyway is an added bonus," he said.

See McNeely awards, page 2



## Notebook

### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members from J.C. Parks Elementary School. Pictured from left are Shiquita Walker, instructional specialist; Stephanie Goode, secretary; and Deanna Wheeler, science teacher.

### Substance abuse session

The Charles County Department of Health is hosting an information session on substance abuse from 6 to 8 p.m., on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at St. Charles High School in the auditorium. The session is sponsored by Partnerships for a Healthier Charles County and includes a presentation about addiction. The event is free and child activity rooms will be available. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information about the event, contact Jennifer Conte, coordinator of student intervention programs for CCPS, at 301-934-7326 or jconte@ccboe.com.

### Retirement planning session

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, staff from the State of Maryland pension system and the human resources department are hosting a retirement planning session for Charles County Public Schools employees who are enrolled in the State of Maryland pension system. The session will be from 5-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, in the staff development room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Guest speakers, retirement planning handouts, and light refreshments will be provided. Contact Janice Spatz, 301-934-2146 or jspace@comcast.net, to RSVP by Oct. 29.

### Watch Board meetings live

Board of Education meetings are streamed live on the school system website. Visit [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) and select the CCPS TV section on the bottom of the home page. To access live broadcasts, choose the live broadcast tab.

### Need a badge?

Employees who need a new Charles County Public Schools-issued identification badge are asked to schedule an appointment with the human resources department. Call 301-934-7255 for an appointment.

## National Board Certified Teachers

### Michele King



National Board Certification Area  
Generalist/Middle Childhood

**Teaches:** Learning resource teacher at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School

**Years of teaching experience:** 16

**Years with Charles County Public Schools:** 15

#### Education

Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education, Clarion University  
Master's degree in New Professional Studies, George Mason University

#### Memorable Moment

Helping a student change his perspective towards his education. He began the year with low motivation and effort towards school. I set high expectations for his performance and gave him all the instructional supports and positive reinforcements I could think of. At the end of the year, he had internalized those high expectations and changed his attitude towards learning. I give him the majority of the credit in this change of perspective, and I felt proud to have helped him realize his potential.

## McNeely awards

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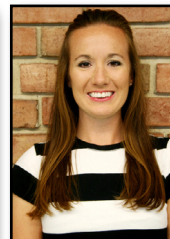
Jillian  
Genua



Patrick  
Hoiler



Pomie  
Radcliff



Melissa  
Williams

After graduating from Salisbury University with a degree in physical education, Radcliff started her career with CCPS at the elementary-school level in 1984. She first taught physical education at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School and joined the staff at Matula in 1992. Her career with the school system spans more than 30 years. Radcliff said she is honored to be chosen as an award recipient. "On behalf of all the wonderful students at Matula who make teaching such a joyous experience, it is my pleasure and privilege to accept this award," Radcliff said.

Williams is in her first year of teaching

at Somers and previously taught physical education for five years at Matthew Henson Middle School. She said her passion in the field of physical education is strongly supported by her peers, as well as system administrators. "I am very honored to be named an award recipient with three other colleagues. Ivy Hodges, CCPS content specialist for health and physical education, has set high standards for all of her teachers and we are all rising to the occasion. Her passion in the field drives us all to follow in her footsteps," Williams said.

All award recipients will be honored at the annual MAHPERD convention Oct. 17.

## School system accepts the 2014 Maryland Breakfast Challenge

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is meeting the challenge to end childhood hunger through its school breakfast program. Celebrating a more than 150 percent increase in breakfasts served over the past four years, Charles County officials recently joined students to share pancakes, cereal and conversation about the importance of starting each day with a healthy meal.

On Sept. 19, CCPS touted its breakfast participation success at J.P. Ryon Elementary School and Henry E. Lackey High School as students and officials kicked off the state's 2014 Maryland School Breakfast Challenge. CCPS increased by 157 percent the number of student breakfasts served from slightly more than a half a million in 2010 to 1.4 million last school year.

During her visit to participate in breakfast at Ryon, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill emphasized the importance of breakfast for students. "Skipping breakfast is never a good idea. Eating a healthy breakfast provides the fuel your brain needs to get you through the day. Children can't learn well if they are hungry," Hill said.

The aim of the state's breakfast challenge is to increase participation in the school breakfast program and to ensure all children who need a healthy school breakfast get one. The challenge also includes a recognition component called the Maryland School Breakfast Hall of Fame that honors schools for increased breakfast participation.

CCPS was named to the Maryland School Breakfast Hall of Fame for achieving more than 70 percent breakfast participation systemwide during the 2013-14 school year. A total of 17 schools and centers were also recognized for high breakfast participation rates last school year, including Ryon and Lackey. According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Charles County Public Schools had the third highest breakfast participation rate of 71 percent across Maryland counties last year.

Ryon Principal Robert Opiekun talked with officials about the importance of school breakfasts and the program at Ryon, which has increased the number of breakfasts served by 66 percent since 2010. Ryon, a Title I school, has 59.2 percent of its students eligible to receive free or reduced-priced meals (FARMS). Since 2012, Ryon has participated in Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA), a successful state program that provides breakfast in the classroom for all students, not just those qualifying as FARMS. Since 2010, Ryon has increased the number of breakfasts served from 19,200 to 31,945 in 2014. There are 12 CCPS schools participating in MMFA.

Lackey tripled the number of breakfasts served when it started a second-chance breakfast during the 2011 school year. Principal James Short, looking for ways to entice high schoolers to eat breakfast, developed the second-chance breakfast that allows students to purchase breakfast after their first period class and eat their food in the classroom

at the start of second period. Kiosks dot the hallways, allowing students to quickly navigate lines, select breakfast and get to class on time. "We have five locations for students to grab breakfast – three kiosks set up in different locations in the school, and two cafeteria serving lines.

Our food service workers do a great job at serving kids quickly. The second-chance breakfast is a privilege for students and is all about the kids. It works for us here at Lackey. It makes the kids happy, and building services staff happy because the kids do a great job cleaning up after themselves," Short said.

Lackey's breakfast participation jumped 336 percent since 2010; it increased from 12,500 to 54,500 breakfasts served last school year.

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School topped the Maryland School Breakfast Hall of Fame list for Charles County with a participation rate of 104 percent. Gale-Bailey Elementary School had the second highest participation rate, with 103 percent, followed by J.P. Ryon Elementary School with nearly 101

percent. Participation rates include reported meal totals for November 2013 and April 2014.

Additionally, the following schools and centers were also named to the Maryland School Breakfast Hall of Fame:

- Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 100 percent;
- Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 99 percent;
- F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 98 percent;
- Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 97 percent;
- J.C. Parks Elementary School, 94 percent;
- Indian Head Elementary School, 94 percent;
- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 89 percent;
- C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 86 percent;
- Henry E. Lackey High School, 85 percent;
- Eva Turner Elementary School, 84 percent;
- Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 83 percent;
- Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 76 percent;
- Piccowaxen Middle School, 74 percent; and
- General Smallwood Middle School, 72 percent.

As an overall school system Hall of Fame inductee, Charles County Public Schools will receive a Governor's citation and each school and center will receive a recognition certificate. A recognition ceremony will be held later this fall to honor schools and school systems for their Hall of Fame selection. Staff from Neal and Lackey was asked to represent CCPS at the ceremony.

All CCPS schools have worked to make breakfast more available to students. Schools offer breakfast at kiosks in the halls or at the front door, move students through service lines quickly, offer second-chance breakfasts and offer in-class breakfast.



J.P. Ryon Elementary School third graders Evelyn Ayala, left, and Kirah Osborne, right, talk with classmates while eating breakfast in the classroom during the school system's Sept. 19 kick off of the 2014 Maryland School Breakfast Challenge.

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## Communications staff earns top public relations awards

The Charles County Public Schools communications department recently received five top awards in the 2014 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) National School Communications Awards program.

Department staff received two Golden Achievement Awards, which recognize exemplary work in all aspects of school public relations, communication, marketing and engagement. The awards highlight communications plans used for teacher retention efforts and developing an international language center.

Recognized with awards were the communications plans used to implement the New Teacher Bus Tour held in conjunction with new teacher orientation activities, and outreach tools used with the launch of the Secondary Academy for International Languages (SAIL) at Maurice J. McDonough High School. The two awards are among more than 90 Golden Achievement Awards distributed to school systems nationwide.

Three videos produced by communications staff also received awards in the Publications and Electronic Media portion of the awards program. This area of the contest recognizes outstanding

work in all types and forms of education communication, including print, electronic, video, audio, websites and social media.

A video titled "The Portfolio of James Richmond" received an Award of Merit, which is the second highest electronic media award given by NSPRA. The video features the longtime educational career of former CCPS Superintendent, James Richmond.

Two videos - "The Evolution of Telepresence in CCPS," which highlights the use of Telepresence technology used in CCPS, and the "Port Tobacco One Room Schoolhouse," which highlights how the school system uses the schoolhouse to teach students about history, each received Honorable Mention awards.

Communications department staff includes Katie O'Malley-Simpson, director of communications; Kyle Graves, video production specialist; Kara Gross, communications multimedia assistant; Shelley Mackey, communications specialist; and Gary Nagel, web developer.

This is the second consecutive year that the department has received awards through the NSPRA Communications Contest.

## Personnel

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

### Job Openings

**College and Career Advisor** – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 30.

**Food Service Workers, four-hour positions** – Openings at Mattawoman Middle School and Westlake High School, 10-month positions. Apply by Oct. 2.

**Food Service Worker, six-hour position** – Westlake High School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 2.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** – Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 2.

**Elementary School Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Prekindergarten Teacher** – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position.

**Reading Recovery Teacher, Elementary School** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in early childhood education or reading, evidence of completion of a Reading Recovery training program and three years teaching experience at the primary level required. Experience working with Reading Recovery instruction preferred.

**Food Service Substitute** – Location to be determined, hourly position.

**Aquatics Pool Manager** – North Point High School, 11-month position.

**Science Teacher** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

**Science Center Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, hourly position.

**Mathematics Teachers** – Matthew Henson and Mattawoman middle schools, 10-month position.

**Library Media Specialist** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

**Learning Resource Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree or advanced professional certificate and a minimum of five years teaching experience required.

**Language Arts Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**English Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Business Education Teacher** – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

**Technology Education Teacher** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

**Behavior Specialist for Special Education** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. A minimum of three years experience in behavioral consulting required. Advanced degree in special education, psychology or related field preferred.

**Special Education Teachers** – Openings at the elementary, middle and high school levels, 10-month positions.