



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Third paycheck of the month

Today's paycheck is the third for January. The only deductions taken from the third paycheck are taxes and retirement. Other deductions, such as health insurance, are not deducted from the third paycheck in months with three pay dates.

Teacher in-service day

Schools are closed for students only on Wednesday, Feb. 4, for a teacher in-service day.

Tri-County concerts

The annual Tri-County Concerts are Sunday, Feb. 8 at Calvert High School in Calvert County. The band concert is at 2 p.m.; the orchestra concert starts at 4 p.m. followed by the chorus concert at 6 p.m. The school is located at 520 Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick, MD. Call 301-934-7225 for more information.

Celebrate school counselors

CCPS celebrates National School Counseling Week Feb. 2-6. This year's theme is, "Celebrate School Counseling" and focuses on the three focus areas of the school system's master plan: academic achievement, personal responsibility and career readiness. The counseling program also supports diversity and lifelong learning. National School Counseling Week is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association and highlights the impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

W-2 statements

The school system released all W-2 statements to employees this week. Copies of 2014 W-2 statements are also available for view on the employee web portal. To access the portal, visit the InsideCCPS employee website.



Superintendent on computer science panel at White House

Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Hill participated in a Computer Science Education Week kick-off event at the White House last month. Dr. Hill was one of six educational panel members invited to discuss ways to expand computer science education to students in grades kindergarten through twelve. Pictured above is Dr. Hill, back row second to left, and President Obama, back row center, with staff members and students participating in the computer science event.

Johnson named Educator of the Year

Larry Johnson, an instructional specialist for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), was recently named the 2014 Arc of Southern Maryland Charles County Educator of the Year. The award recognizes educators who are dedicated to ensuring that children and young adults with special needs have access to opportunities for success. He was nominated for the award by Amy Hollstein, assistant superintendent of instruction for CCPS, for his passion for working with students with special needs.

"Mr. Johnson is an outstanding educator who is passionate about the education of students with disabilities. He has worked

tirelessly with special and general educators to ensure that all students have instruction that meets their unique learning needs. He is a true asset to Charles County Public Schools," Hollstein said in a nomination statement.

Johnson has worked for CCPS since 2010, where he began working as a special education teacher at General Smallwood Middle School. He took a position in 2011 as an instructional specialist at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration

Building, which houses the administrative offices for the school system. He works directly with the special education department and serves as a support for special education



Norma Dallas, left, from the Arc of Southern Maryland, presented Larry Johnson, right, with his award on Jan. 13.

See Johnson, page 3



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are staff members from Theodore G. Davis Middle School. Pictured from left, are Sherri Proctor, building service worker; Genevia Burroughs, special education instructional assistant; and Jennifer Bullard, language arts teacher.

CCPS On the Go

CCPS has a free mobile App that puts all school system information in one easy to use location. Staff, students and community members can download the App from the Apple or Google Play App stores. The App also provides inclement weather push notifications. Visit the CCPS website at <http://www.ccboe.com/ccpsotg/> for more information on how to download the App.

Now showing

Airing now on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of News-Break, a feature show that highlights Charles County Public Schools students and staff. This episode features the first meeting of the sixteenth Charles County Board of Education, a portrait dedication at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School and a preview of the 7 Up High School Art Exhibit at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center. Visit www.ccboe.com/ccboetv/ for a programming schedule.

Getting Unplugged

The La Plata High School a cappella group Unplugged is hosting the International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA) Mid-Atlantic semifinals at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 7 in La Plata's auditorium. At the semifinals, Unplugged will compete against nine other high school a cappella groups for the Mid-Atlantic region finalist position. All first-place regional winners advance to the final event scheduled for April 17 in New York City. Tickets for the March 7 semifinals are available for \$15 for adults, and \$10 per student, and can be purchased online at <https://www.freshtix.com/events/ichsa-mid-atlantic-2015>. Last school year, Unplugged earned first place in the ICHSA Northeast regional event and competed as a national finalist. To compete in a regional event, a cappella groups are required to submit an audition video.

National Board Certified Teachers

Janis Milman



**National Board Certification Area
Science/Adolescence and Young Adulthood**

Position held: Science teacher at Thomas Stone High School

Years of teaching experience: 44

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 39

Education:

Bachelor's degree in Education, Earth Science and History, East Carolina University
Master's degree in Geology and Earth Science, University of Maryland

Memorable Moment: I had a student who was a trouble maker. About a month into the year, I devised a plan. When I saw him, I asked him to talk for a moment. From that point on, he was a changed student. He listened and participated more and began eating lunch in my room where we talked about various topics. Several years later I received a letter from him stating that he appreciated the time I took to get to know him. He graduated from high school and was at the University of West Virginia. He thought of dropping out of high school but because of the time I took he was determined to stay the course. After crying for several minutes, I put the letter into my drawer. Every few years when life gets me down I take out that letter.



CCPS seeking nominations for Teacher of the Year

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is seeing nominations for the school system's Maryland 2015-16 Teacher of the Year candidate. The nominated teacher must be a classroom, resource or media teacher who spends the majority of his or her time teaching and has a minimum of five years teaching experience. The selected candidate will also be named the 2015 Charles County Teacher of the Year.

There can only be one nominee per school. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 27 to Pam Mucciolo in the CCPS office of human resources. Application information is available on the school system website at www.ccboe.com/jobs/teacheroftheyear.php. Applications should include the candidate's educational and professional development history; professional biography; examples of community involvement; a statement on the candidate's philosophy/style of teaching; three letters of support from a principal, administrator, colleague, student or former student, parent or community leader; and statements on education

issues and trends, as well as the teaching profession. For additional information and requirements, visit the CCPS website.

The 2015 Charles County Teacher of the Year will have opportunities to speak to students and staff during events such as New Teacher Orientation, and will also attend the state Teacher of the Year ceremony and gala.

There is a two-tiered process for the selection of the candidate for the Maryland Teacher of the Year. The first step is at the county level where applications are received, semi-finalists are selected and interviewed by a panel of school system staff, and one candidate is selected to represent Charles County as its Teacher of the Year. Each Maryland county and Baltimore City forwards one recommendation to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), which selects the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

For more information, contact Pam Mucciolo at 301-934-7242 or pmucciolo@ccboe.com.

More than 50 scholarships available for county students

The Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc. is offering more than 50 scholarships to Charles County high school students. Applications for scholarships are available at all county high schools and must be submitted by Monday, March 2, to the student's College & Career Advisor.

Applications are also available on the school system website, www.cchoe.com, under the students/parents section. Click on the Scholarship & College information link. The following scholarships are available:

- Apartments of St. Charles Scholarship, \$500;
- Ashley Jayne Younger Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Westlake High School students);
- Charles County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Charles County Health Department and School Nurses' Scholarship, \$250;
- Charles County Retired School Personnel Association Scholarship, \$500 (one for each Charles County public high school);
- Charles County Teacher Education Assistance Grant, \$1,000 (renewable);
- Edward Rorer Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Eric Sawchak Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- GFWC, Charles County Woman's Club, \$500;
- Grote Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (for La Plata High School students);
- Harding Memorial Future Educator Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Harold Allen Levy Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Jeremiah and Elijah Borgnis Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- John H. Cox Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- John Howie Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (two awards);
- Kate Donahue Scholarship, \$400 (for Henry E. Lackey High School students);
- Katherine D. Racey Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500 (for Lackey and Maurice J. McDonough high school students);
- Ken Stump Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Kenneth Bernard Proctor, Sr. Scholarship, \$500;
- La Plata Garden Club Scholarship, \$1,000 (two awards);
- Lizbeth Frazer-Fatig Helping Hand Scholarship, \$4,000 (for North Point High School students);
- Maria A. Torres Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Thomas Stone High School students);
- Mary H. Matula Scholarship, \$500 (for La Plata students);
- Michael J. Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for La Plata students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Music Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Nursing Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Mildred Rice O'Callaghan Scholarship, \$500 (for Lackey students, two awards);
- Nicole Pitonyak Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for North Point students);
- Parker Financial Literacy Scholarship, \$250;
- Patricia Sugg Weiers Memorial Scholarship, \$250;
- Professor V. Phillips Weaver Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Rachel Myers Trade School Scholarship, \$500;
- Richard J. Abela Scholarship, \$2,000 (for North Point students);
- Robert Dean Stethem National Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Robert Dean Stethem Thomas Stone Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Thomas Stone students);
- Ronald G. Cunningham Scholarship, \$2,500 (one for each Charles County public high school);
- Ronald G. Cunningham Nursing Scholarship, \$500;
- St. Charles Community Scholarship, \$500 (three awards);
- Starkey Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Stephen E. Mitchell Educational Scholarship, \$500;
- Thomas B.R. Mudd Nurse Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, full two years;
- Thomas B.R. Mudd Teacher Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, full two years;
- Thomas Kurtz Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Lackey students);
- Thomas W. Weirich Scholar-Athlete Award, \$1,000;
- Timothy Minor Criminal Justice Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Timothy Minor Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Tiny Hopes Scholarship, \$1,000 (three awards);
- Unnae Pak-Borgnis Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- William and Vivian King Scholarship, \$1,000 (one for each Charles County public high school); and
- Zonta of Charles County Scholarship, \$1,000 (two awards).



Johnson

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teachers and students. He also plans and implements professional development sessions and trainings that focus on improving academics for students with disabilities.

Johnson said he was humbled to receive the award and credits those he works with as aiding to his passion in working with students with disabilities. "I have been blessed with the opportunity to learn from colleagues with many years of experience and practice in ensuring equitable access and opportunity for students with diverse learning needs. I would also like to acknowledge all of the educators in the county for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of

our students," Johnson said.

Norma Dallas from the Arc of Southern Maryland presented Johnson with the award at the Board of Education's Jan. 13 meeting. Prior to joining CCPS, Johnson worked at the High Road Upper School, an alternative school in Washington D.C., and as a teacher with Prince George's County Public Schools.

Johnson has a bachelor's degree in government, law and sociology from Lafayette College and a master's degree in special education from Trinity University. He is working on a doctorate degree in special education from Walden University.

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301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

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Editor/Writers

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Shelley Mackey
Kara Gross

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Dr. Patricia Vaira, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Pamela K. Murphy, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

Board of Education announces February 10 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 10, 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. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 and is re-broadcast throughout the week. Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. Select CCPS TV and then choose the Live Broadcast tab. The following is a tentative meeting agenda.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Thomas Stone High School JROTC

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
- 2015-16 Code of Student Conduct
- CIP update
- Budget update

- 2017-2018 calendar
- Legislative update
- Unfinished business**
- New business and future agenda items**

• New business

• Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

• Students

• Staff – David Johnson, building service assistant manager, Berry Elementary School; Betty Horton, first-grade teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School; Laura Birchfield, fifth-grade teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School; Sara Keener, language arts teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School; and Kevin Barry, social studies teacher, La Plata High School.

• Resolutions: *Read Across Charles County*; *Women's History Month*; and *Fine and Performing Arts Month*

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

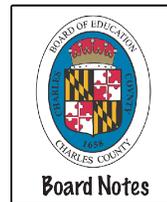
Action items

• Minutes

• Personnel

• Superintendent's proposed FY 2016 operating budget

Adjournment



Board Notes

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

Principals – Locations to be determined, 12-month positions. A master's degree, three years of teaching experience, three years of vice principal experience, a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator II endorsement and three current references required. Apply by Jan. 31.

Vice Principals – Locations to be determined, 11- and 12-month positions. A master's degree, three years of teaching experience, a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator I endorsement and three current references required. Apply by Jan. 31.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – Eva Turner Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 3.

Guidance Secretary – Piccowaxen Middle

School, 11-month position. Apply by Feb. 4.

Food Service Assistant Manager – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Three years of experience in food service required. Apply by Feb. 4.

Secretary – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month, part-time position. Apply by Feb. 10.

School Psychologist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10.5-month position. A School Psychology Certification in Maryland in required. A Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential is preferred.

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

French Teacher – St. Charles High School, 10-month position.

English Teacher – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position.

Instructional Resource Teacher for Life Skills – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position.

Staff Notes

Discounted gym membership available

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is partnering with Calvert Memorial Hospital to offer employees a KeepWell@Work program, which includes a discounted gym membership with World Gym for \$20 per month. Full-time employees (those who are eligible to receive CCPS health benefits) and their immediate family members (ages 12 and up) are eligible to participate.

There are requirements for all employees, as well as participating family members, in order to sign up. Program participants must complete a health-risk assessment and bio-screening and can also access weight management programs. Enrollment sessions are scheduled through Feb. 14 at World Gym in La Plata and North Point High School. Visit the InsideCCPS page, and click the featured link for more information.