



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

It's almost testing time

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) second-quarter assessments begin on Jan. 2 and last through Jan. 14. High School Assessment (HSA) testing begins Jan. 7 and ends Jan. 17.

SECAC meeting

The next Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

Calling all thinkers

The school system's Destination Imagination (DI) Instant Challenge event is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, at William A. Diggs Elementary School.

Semester break

Schools are closed for students on Friday, Jan. 18, for a semester break, and teacher in-service day.

Recognition for CCPS

Charles County Public Schools was recently recognized by Gov. Martin O'Malley and Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lillian Lowery for their efforts in increasing student breakfast participation through the state's First Class Breakfast Initiative. CCPS was commended for identifying high-need schools and providing school staff with resources to help ensure students receive a healthy breakfast each morning.

Employee Portal

The Charles County Public Schools employee web portal features payroll information a week prior to the actual pay date. Through the portal, employees can also access employer forms, education and teaching certificates, and benefits details. E-mail EP@ccboe.com with questions.

Students learn about giving, one donation at a time

On a cold December afternoon, a group of Arthur Middleton Elementary School students put on their winter coats and headed outside. They crowded around the sidewalk in front of the school awaiting the arrival of truckloads of donations. Middleton's students could hardly wait to unload the school supplies and more to send to students and families of Great Neck Road Elementary School in New York who were affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Staff from the school system's warehouse brought the donated items to Middleton, which included more than 70 boxes of non-perishable items ranging from canned food and diapers to paper towels and school books. The items were collected from students at several Charles County public elementary schools who joined Middleton in the donation effort. Pat

O'Connor, Middleton's school counselor, coordinated the event after hearing about communities affected by Hurricane Sandy, which caused severe damage to several towns on the East Coast last month, including Copiague, N.Y. She said she wanted to organize a drive to help a school community similar to Middleton's community and reached out to a fellow school counselor, Adrienne Mahoney, at Great Neck Road Elementary School.

O'Connor then contacted school counselors at the elementary school level to see if other schools and students were interested in participating. Students at more than half of

the county's elementary schools collected items in support of the event. Warehouse staff collected dozens of boxes during the first week of December, and dropped off all supplies to Middleton on Dec. 7. Members of the Middleton student council, as well as other student leaders, helped organize items and even spent recess time helping pack items collected at their school. O'Connor said the experience is something her students will never forget.

The collected donations were delivered to Great Neck earlier this week by O'Connor, and Ann Taylor, a gifted education teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. Students in the Destination Imagination (DI) program at Davis held their own collection drive for supplies to help those affected by the hurricane, and joined in with Middleton's efforts to send the supplies to New York. O'Connor and Taylor personally delivered the supplies to the school Dec. 17 with the assistance of several Davis students who were given permission to travel along. O'Connor said the staff and students at Great Neck welcomed them to their school and held a luncheon to thank them for their efforts. "We were treated like family; welcomed, and shown around the school. The reception from the staff and children was very moving," she added.

These schools are not the only ones holding donation drives to help those in need. Students and staff at Mattawoman Middle



Arthur Middleton Elementary School fifth graders Travis Dye, left, William "Jake" Davidson, center, and Trevionee Jones, right, unload boxes of donated items for students at Great Neck Road Elementary School in Copiague, N.Y., a town that was affected by Hurricane Sandy. The items were delivered to the school on Dec. 17.

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On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at its December meeting. Pictured, from left, are Juin Lai, library media instructional assistant, Henry E. Lackey High School; Thomas Smallwood, building service assistant manager, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; and Sandra Ginyard, secretary, John Hanson Middle School.

Check your personal information

Charles County Public Schools employees should check their name on their pay statements. Names must be correct and match your Social Security card. If an employee's name has changed from marriage, divorce or other circumstances and does not match Social Security's information, contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) or view their website (www.ssa.gov) for information. The IRS may impose a \$100 penalty to the employee and the school system for every W-2 received that does not match SSA information. Employees should also verify the address printed on their pay statement. To update your name or address, please contact human resources to request a status change form or print one from the forms section of the employee web portal. Completed forms should be sent to human resources by mail or through the pony delivery.

W-2 statements

The school system plans to release W-2 statements to employees by Thursday, Jan. 31. Copies of 2012 W-2 statements will be available for view on the employee web portal after Jan. 31.

Student art on display

Artwork created by 12 Charles County Public Schools students was recently selected for a display featured at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The artwork consists of 12 pieces from student artists at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and will be on display in MSDE's Board room until Feb. 6. The artwork was selected from a group of entries from several schools across the county.

Information, 24 hours a day

The school system's 24-hour information line contains the most up-to-date news and calendar information. Call 301-934-7410/301-932-6656.

In Memoriam

Lizbeth Fatig

Lizbeth Fatig, a special education teacher at North Point High School, passed away on Dec. 18, 2012.

Ms. Fatig began her career with Charles County Public Schools as a special education teacher at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School in 1997. She worked at Barnhart for four years before taking a special education teaching position at Mattawoman Middle School in 2001. Ms. Fatig worked with students in the Emotionally Adjusted (EA) program at Mattawoman from 2001 to 2005 and then accepted a special education teaching position at North Point when the school first opened.

During her teaching career, Ms. Fatig was nominated for a Special Education

Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) award, which recognizes staff that make a difference in the lives of special needs children, and also served as a teacher mentor.

Ms. Fatig earned her master's degree in special education in 1997, and her bachelor's degree in liberal arts and science in 1992, both from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Ms. Fatig was living in Oklahoma City, Okla., when she passed, but resided in Hughesville. She

is survived by her husband, daughter and granddaughter. A memorial service for Ms. Fatig is being held in Oklahoma City on Dec. 23. Her family is planning to hold a memorial service in Maryland sometime in January.



Lizbeth Fatig



Giving

Continued from page 1

School recently launched a special community service project called "Operation Backpack." The goal of the project is to collect donations that will help purchase 500 book bags for elementary school students in New Jersey and New York who were also affected by Hurricane Sandy. Through a penny wars event held at the school, a spirit night hosted at Panera Bread and donations received at the school's winter band concert, Mattawoman raised more than \$1,500 for the effort and is working to collect an additional \$1,000 to meet their goal. Operation Backpack was launched after students and staff held their annual food and clothing drive last month, which resulted in more than 300 pounds of donated items, which was delivered to children in Pine Beach, N.J. and Lindenhurst, N.Y. – areas damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Henry E. Lackey High School students partnered with the College Success Foundation earlier this year to help provide

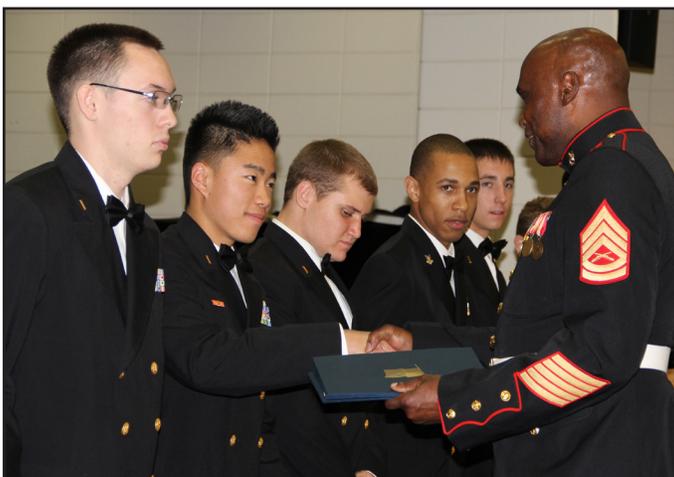
homeless college students with supplies and materials. Over the past few weeks, more than 80 students in the school's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program organized collections and urged their peers to donate items such as gift cards, gloves, socks, and school supplies, to include in backpacks that would be delivered to college students in need by the College Success Foundation. In preparation for the holidays, the Lackey students sorted and packed the supplies, which were collected by College Success Foundation staff this week.

Throughout the year, Charles County Public Schools students and staff organize donation drives to benefit different communities and organizations. Schools often participate in several donation events annually, but no matter what time of the year it is, the goal is always the same – to provide assistance and show support of those in need.



JROTC Joint Military Ball

Charles County Public Schools held the sixth annual Joint Services Military Ball on Dec. 7 at North Point High School. The ball is attended by high school seniors in the JROTC programs and includes toasts to military personnel and others. Pictured clockwise from top left are Donald Wade, Board member; Jeremmy Salazar of Maurice J. McDonough High School, Akeem Smith from North Point, Nathan Andrews from La Plata High School, Kevan Thomas and Jerrard Johnson from Henry E. Lackey High School, and Aaron Watson from North Point saluting the military covers; Thomas Stone High School student Emma Peters crowned as queen by Board Chairman Roberta S. Wise; Christopher Holley of McDonough being crowned king by Wise; Devin Wiley from North Point and Christian Heilmeyer from La Plata making the first cut in the cake; Alisa Dawes and Tony King from Thomas Stone, Christopher Boyle from La Plata, Aaron Harper from North Point and Rachelle Proctor from McDonough saluting an unknown soldier; La Plata cadets Jacob McElhaney, Brandon Litten, Christian Heilmeyer, Aaron Harrod and Doug Duehring receiving certificates from Gunnery Sgt. Clive Bailey; and La Plata student Douglas Duehring escorting La Plata senior Rebecca Mozingo.



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

School system recognized for energy savings efforts

Charles County Public Schools recently received \$17,000 in incentives for participating in the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's (SMECO) Business Solutions program. The program provides incentives to businesses that make efficiency improvements to their facilities.

Kevin Clark, a representative from SMECO, presented the school system with a check during the Dec. 11 Board of Education meeting. The incentive was provided for the replacement of nine rooftop heating and air conditioning units with energy-efficient equipment at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School. Incentives are funded through the Maryland Public Service Commission's approved energy efficiency charges that are applied to customer electric bills as part of the EmPower Maryland initiative.

Charles County Public Schools also received a \$262,994 incentive through participation in the 2012 Demand Response Program, which is coordinated through SMECO's contract with Comverge, Inc. Comverge is an independent company that provides clean energy solutions through demand response and energy efficiency. Tripp Warner, a representative from Comverge, also presented the Board with a check at their Dec. 11 meeting.

The Demand Response Program focuses on reducing electricity use during peak demand hours, which results in energy savings. During the months of June through September, the electric usage of all schools, centers and buildings was reduced during peak demand hours on seven different occasions. Last school year, Charles County Public Schools received a \$145,000 incentive for participating in the Demand Response Program and more than \$26,000 in incentives for replacing old equipment with energy efficient resources.

Under EmPower Maryland, Maryland's five major utility companies developed and implemented energy efficiency and demand response programs that include electric bill rebates for energy efficiency investments, audits and services. The goal of EmPower Maryland is to reduce power consumption 15 percent by 2015.

All non-residential customers who receive SMECO service are eligible to participate in the Business Solutions program, but interested customers must apply for program participation. Additional information is located on the Business Solutions program page of the SMECO website, www.smeco.coop.



Personnel

Job Openings

Assistant Building Service Manager – Thomas Stone High School, 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 21.

Building Service Workers – Openings at Berry and Malcolm elementary schools, and La Plata and North Point high schools, 12-month positions. Apply by Dec. 21 for Malcolm, La Plata and North Point. Apply by Dec. 25 for Berry.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 21.

Switchboard Operator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 21.

Judy Center Early Childhood Liaison – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 25.

Security Alarm Technician – Annex 1 Building, 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 25.

Contract Administrator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Five years of experience as a contract administrator or senior buyer and a CPPO, CPPB, CPM or CACM certification required.

Library Media Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years of experience in a teaching or library media center position is required. Three years of leadership experience is preferred.

Fourth-Grade Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

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

Spanish Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

Physics Teacher – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

Technology Education Teacher – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position.

Computer Applications Teacher – General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position.

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

Special Education Teachers – Openings at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School and Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month positions.

School Counselor – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, part-time position.

Extra pay positions

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity volleyball coach
- Head junior varsity volleyball coach
- Assistant football coach

Contact Doug Lamb, interim athletic director, 301-743-5431, to apply.