

# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### **Elementary Math Challenge**

The Elementary Math Challenge is Saturday, April 27, 8 a.m., at Theodore G. Davis Middle School.

### **History Day competition**

More than 40 Charles County Public Schools students will compete in the Maryland History Day state competition on April 27 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Results will be posted on the school system website, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com), in May.

### **Two-hour early dismissal**

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, May 1.

### **SECAC meeting**

The next Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) meeting is 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, May 8, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call the Parent Center at 301-934-7456 for more information.

### **CCPS celebrates teachers**

Charles County Public Schools will honor educators and acknowledge the crucial role teachers play in making sure every student receives a quality education on Tuesday, May 7, as part of National Teacher Appreciation Day.

### **Reception for Mrs. Hill**

The Board of Education and Superintendent James E. Richmond are hosting a reception next week to welcome Kimberly Hill as the next Superintendent of Charles County Public Schools. The meet-and-greet reception is planned for Monday, April 29, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 5980 Radio Station Road, La Plata, MD 20646. The reception is open to the public.



## Teens learn lessons Every 15 Minutes

As part of the National Every 15 Minutes program, members of the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department carry Westlake High School senior Jeffrey Nutter from a mock accident scene staged in the school parking lot on April 11. The program emphasizes the risks associated with drinking alcohol and texting while driving. See page 3 for more details and pictures.

## Board hears community opinions on redistricting

The majority of the 40 parents and students speaking at redistricting public hearings this week asked that the Board not move 11th graders in August 2014 and also consider Proposal B as its recommendation.

The Board of Education on Monday and Tuesday evenings held two public hearings to accept comments from the public. The school system is working on a comprehensive high school redistricting plan, which will take effect in August 2014 with the opening of the county's seventh high school, St. Charles High School. The Board, in August 2012, determined that St. Charles High School would open with grades 9, 10 and 11. The redistricting proposes options for creating an attendance zone for St. Charles, reducing overcrowding at several existing high schools and allowing room for future growth.

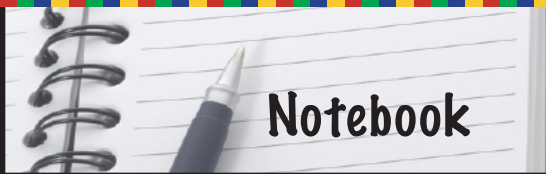
This week's hearings are a continuation of a process started in August 2012 and continues until June 11 when the Board is expected to make a final decision on the redistricting. Superintendent James E. Richmond is reviewing the committee proposals, which

were submitted to the Board April 9, and reviewing comments from the community, both from the hearings and written testimony. Richmond will make his recommendation to the Board on May 14 and he can suggest proposal A or B or a modified version of either plan.

Both proposals allow for growth at St. Charles, according to the committee report. Proposal A transfers more students than Proposal B, moving 1,398 rising sophomores and juniors in A versus 1,233 in B. Proposal A offers the most immediate relief to North Point High School, the county's most overcrowded high school. The Board is completing redistricting a year in advance to provide parents and students with advanced notice.

Visit [www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/transportation/hsredistricting.cfm](http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/transportation/hsredistricting.cfm) for a complete description of the proposals.

Written comments from the public will be accepted until May 1. E-mail comments to [redistrict@ccboe.com](mailto:redistrict@ccboe.com), or mail to CCPS, Redistricting, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646.



### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from William B. Wade Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Meris Sanzotta, special education teacher; Norman Patterson, building service assistant manager; and Dawn Greenwaldt, kindergarten instructional assistant.

### Celebrate school nurses

National School Nurse Day is Wednesday, May 8. Be sure to thank the nurses in your school and centers for all of their hard work and concern for student and staff health. This day is used to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. The school nursing partnership formed between Charles County Public Schools and the Health Department in 1997. The program, which started as a pilot and expanded to all schools, provides ongoing health services to students and staff.

### PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 30, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Call 301-934-7364 for details.

### Catch a great show

Two high schools are presenting their spring plays during the next two weeks. The Westlake High School Theatre Company is presenting "Curtains" on April 25-27, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students and \$6 for senior citizens and thespians.

La Plata High School is presenting "Hair-spray," the weekend of May 2-4 at 6:30 p.m., and May 5 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

### This week on Newsbreak 96

Airing this week on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, produced by the communications department. This episode features Kimberly Hill, who was recently selected as Charles County Public Schools next Superintendent, the National Every 15 Minutes program and a construction update on St. Charles High School. Visit the school system website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96> for a complete programming schedule.

## Gary Winsett and Delfone Prince honored by the MASC

Gary Winsett, a social studies teacher at Thomas Stone High School and advisor to the Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC), was recently named the 2012-13 Mike Michaelson Advisor of the Year award recipient by the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC). Recipients are honored for their involvement in student-centered activities, for displaying outstanding leadership and for their contributions to student councils and student success.

Delfone Prince, a student council advisor at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, was also named as the 2012-13 Middle School Advisor of the Year award recipient by the MASC. Selected honorees are recognized for their commitment to promoting middle school involvement at the school, regional and state levels, and for inspiring young leaders to become involved in the MASC.

Winsett was nominated for the award by Ciara Albrittain, the CCASC first vice-president and La Plata High School sophomore, for his leadership of the CCASC, his ability to communicate with students and encourage them to become involved in student-focused activities, and for his energetic and kind demeanor. "Mr. Winsett leads by example. He is always at our meetings to show the students that involvement is important. He is welcoming to everyone and makes students feel like they belong," Albrittain wrote in her nomination letter.

Winsett said he was honored to receive the award. "We have tremendous students in Charles County and I am very fortunate to work with these exceptional young men and women who want to make a difference in the world. To be able to earn such an award while working in the county I grew up in is a tremendous honor," Winsett added.

To support Winsett's nomination, General Smallwood Middle School Principal Kathy Perriello wrote a letter on his be-

half. Perriello said Winsett is a wealth of knowledge and source of support in building student leadership. "Mr. Winsett is a staunch supporter of student involvement and the democratic process. He promotes student accessibility, freedom of speech, ideas and views. He is always willing to go the extra mile," Perriello wrote in a nomination letter.

Prince was nominated for the middle school advisor award by Azeezat Adeleke, student member to the Charles County Board of Education, for instilling an enthusiasm in Davis students to participate in student council activities and for helping her students develop leadership skills. At Davis,

there is a high level of student involvement within the school community and Prince helps to coordinate several opportunities for students to work together.

Adeleke credits the successes of the student council at Davis to Prince's efforts. "Davis Student Government students lead not just within their school, but on a county level. It is no wonder many of them have moved on to become members of CCASC and MASC's Executive Boards. Ms. Prince is a key player in crafting that success and thus greatly deserves the award," Adeleke wrote in her nomination letter.

Prince said she was honored to be selected as this year's award recipient at the middle school level. "It was an honor being nominated and receiving this award. It is a privilege working with such great students and student leaders from Charles County," Prince said.

Winsett and Prince were presented with their awards at the annual MASC Convention held last month in Ocean City. Each year, the MASC honors a student government advisor at the middle and high school levels, a school principal and a student council group from one middle and one high school. Complete award information, is available on the MASC website at <http://www.mdstudentcouncils.com/awards>.



**Pictured are Thomas Stone social studies teacher Gary Winsett, left, and Theodore G. Davis student government advisor Delfone Prince, right. They were recently honored by the MASC.**





## Westlake hosts the Every 15 Minutes program

Westlake High School and their Student Government Safe Driving Task Force hosted the National Every 15 Minutes program on April 11-12. The program, sponsored and coordinated by the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD), encourages students to think about personal safety when driving, especially when alcohol or texting are involved. The program included a mock accident coordinated in the school's parking lot, and the Grim Reaper removed more than 25 preselected students from classrooms. These students served as silent reminders that every 15 minutes someone is killed or seriously injured in an alcohol-related accident. The students remained in character for the remainder of the school day and could not speak or interact with others. The "drunk" driver who caused the accident also participated in a mock trial after school.

All students involved in the program participated in an overnight retreat to simulate the separation from friends and family, and helped coordinate a schoolwide assembly for their peers to discuss their experiences. Pictured, clockwise from top left, are: Officer Michael DePaulo, school resource officer at Mattawoman Middle School, performs a mock field sobriety test on Westlake senior Amber Jordan, who played a drunk driver in the mock auto accident. Members of the WVFD work to free Westlake senior Sabrina Allen, who played an injured driver in the mock accident, from the crashed car; Mitchell Lewis Jr. of the Waldorf EMS-12 plays the Grim Reaper during the program; Westlake senior Marisa Booth holds her tombstone and represents a person who died from an alcohol-related incident; and Westlake junior Bailey Delacruz plays an accident victim in the mock auto accident. This is the second year the WVFD has sponsored the program, which was held at Thomas Stone High School last school year.





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## Tentative dates listed for the 2013-14 calendar

The following is a partial calendar for the 2013-2014 school year. The calendar is subject to change throughout the school year and any changes are announced on the Charles County Public Schools website, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com). The 2013-2014 *Parent Handbook/Calendar* will be available in August.

- Aug. 12-16, 2013 – New teacher orientation week
- Aug. 19, 2013 – First day of school for returning teachers
- Aug. 26, 2013 – First day of school for students, K-12
- Sept. 2, 2013 – Labor Day, schools and offices closed
- Sept. 13, 2013 – Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students
- Oct. 18, 2013 – Maryland State Education Association Convention, schools closed
- Nov. 6, 2013 – Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students
- Nov. 11, 2013 – Veterans Day, schools and offices closed
- Nov. 27-29, 2013 – Thanksgiving holiday, schools and offices closed

- Dec. 23, 2013-Jan. 3, 2014 – Winter break, schools closed for students and teachers
- Jan. 6, 2014 – Schools reopen
- Jan. 20, 2014 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, schools and offices closed
- Jan. 27, 2014 – Semester break, schools closed for students only
- Feb. 5, 2014 – Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students only
- Feb. 17, 2014 – Presidents Day, schools and offices closed
- April 14-21, 2014 – Spring break, schools closed for students and teachers
- May 26, 2014 – Memorial Day, schools and offices closed
- June 18, 2014 – Last day of school for students (with four inclement weather days built into the calendar)
- June 19, 2014 – Last day of school for teachers (with four inclement weather days)



## Personnel

*Apply for positions online at [www.ccboe.com/hur](http://www.ccboe.com/hur). Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.*

### Job Openings

**Secretary** – Mattawoman Middle School, 11-month position. Apply by May 1.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 8.

**Media Specialist** – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position.

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

**Library Media Specialist** – Opening at the high school level, 10-month position.

**Math Teacher** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

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

**Occupational Therapist** – Location to be

determined, 10- or 11-month position. Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and a Maryland State License required.

### Staff Notes

#### Resignation deadlines

The deadline for resignation requests from non-tenured teachers is Wednesday, May 1. The deadline for resignation requests from tenured teachers is Monday, July 15. Letters must be submitted to human resources by the deadline. Call 301-934-7255 for more information.

#### Camp discount for staff

The Henry E. Lackey High School Summer Youth Camp offers full-time school system staff a 50 percent enrollment discount for their children. The camp will be held June 17 to July 12 and provides supervised activities including soccer, touch football and swimming.

A brochure and registration materials are posted on the school system website at [http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/lackey\\_youth\\_camp.cfm](http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/lackey_youth_camp.cfm).

[www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/lackey\\_youth\\_camp.cfm](http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/lackey_youth_camp.cfm). Employees should include their identification number and the amount of the discounted price on each registration form. Contact Don Layton, program coordinator, at 301-753-5431 for more information.

#### Employee assistance program

Charles County Public Schools offers employees the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The program provides confidential, professional counseling services for employees with personal problems that are affecting their abilities to function effectively at work or at home.

The program is available to staff members who work 20 or more hours per week and to their immediate family members. Call 866-443-3277 to make an appointment or for more information. A link about EAP can be found on the staff services page of the school system website.