

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Westlake receives grant

Westlake High School recently received a \$1,000 grant from Giant Food of Landover, as part of the 2010-11 A+ School Rewards Program. The program is linked to shopper's reward cards and customers can designate which school in their community can benefit from their purchases. Earlier this year, Giant presented nearly \$2 million in funding to schools in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. For more information, visit www.GiantFood.com/aplus.

Airing this week ...

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, produced by the school system's communications department. This episode tells about the NFL Play 60 campaign, profiles the Mock Trial season and talks about how singing, dancing and acting helped students learn about Sir Isaac Newton's Three Laws of Motion. Visit the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/>.

Prudential Spirit Awards

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for middle and high school student volunteers. The annual award program recognizes students for exemplary acts of volunteer service in their communities. The awards are given to students for serving their communities through volunteer activities, such as helping the less fortunate, promoting health and safety or protecting the environment.

The award is open to students in grades five through 12. Eligible students will have engaged in a volunteer activity that occurred at least in part after Sept. 1, 2010. Students can apply online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or at www.nassp.org/spirit. Applications must be completed by Nov. 1, and then submitted to the student's middle or high school.



Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School students gathered around tables set up during the Maryland Farm-to-School program. Blake Hancock, left; Nyjai Barlow, middle; and Tyler Long, right, smell and touch different fruits.

Students learn locally grown food can be sweet

*"Do your greens and peas
have hairy green disease?"*

*Do your peaches travel far
to get to where you are?*

Not if you got 'em on a farm."

- Cornelia & the Farm Band

Using fresh fruit, a giant ear of corn and music, students at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy recently learned a little more about where their food comes from through the Maryland Farm-to-School program.

Mt. Hope is the first school in Charles County to participate in Maryland's new program that includes using locally grown products in school lunches during Home-grown School Lunch Week, Sept. 12-16. Principal Kristen Shields said the participation is a continuation of the school's effort

to promote healthy lifestyles for students, and was the largest and most involved.

The scent of fresh cantaloupe, tomatoes and nectarines wafted through the school cafeteria on Sept. 15 as the school hosted a mini farmers' market for students. Students were able to touch, taste and feel fresh fruit at different tables. At one table, students could feel and smell different kinds of fruit, and learned about the benefits of being and eating healthy. Another table displayed fruits and vegetables in different colors and textures, and a reading table had food-based books for the students to read.

The last table was a student favorite. Bins of nectarines, tomatoes and cantaloupe were available for the children to sample. All of the healthy treats came from local farms.

See Farm to School, page 2

Health department, schools work to fend off flu

Flu season is approaching, and school nurses are reminding parents that flu vaccinations are recommended for all children ages six months to 18 years. The Charles County Department of Health and Charles County Public Schools are offering the seasonal flu vaccine, in the form of nasal spray,

to students in prekindergarten through fifth grade.

Elementary schools plan to send information about the vaccine to parents the week of Oct. 3. Participation is voluntary and free, and health department nurses will administer the vaccine.

CCPS employees named top 2010 United Way donor

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees were recently named the top 2010 campaign donors to the United Way of Charles County. School system employees pledged more than \$93,400 to the 2010 campaign, and has been the top campaign contributor for at least the past five years.

Dorothy L. Harper, president and CEO of the local United Way, said, "The best campaigns always have the support from their CEO's and the school system is a great example of that. We appreciate the fact that Mr. James Richmond supports United Way and encourages staff members to do the same."

Contributions to United Way support a number of Charles County agencies, many of which are child oriented and assist special populations.

Several schools were recognized on Sept. 14 for an increase in donor participation and funds raised. William A. Diggs Elementary School, Theodore G. Davis Middle School and Westlake High School were honored for having the largest amount of monetary increases from 2009 to 2010. Davis, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School and Henry E. Lackey High School were

recognized for having the highest increase of donor participation in 2010.

Additionally, Barnhart, Davis and Indian Head Elementary School were acknowledged for experiencing the greatest percentage increase of donations among schools in the county from the 2009 campaign to the 2010 campaign.

"School system employees continue to show support for our community and help those in need. I am pleased to work with those who give back to the community by volunteering or making monetary donations in order to make Charles County a better place to live," Superintendent James E. Richmond said.

"Charles County Public Schools support to the United Way is unique. You don't see this level of help in other

places," Harper said.

The United Way's 2011 campaign officially began last month and individual schools will kick off their campaigns in October. Charles County Public Schools provides employees opportunities to support the campaign through payroll deduction and direct donations.



Westlake High School Principal Chrystal Benson, left, receives a United Way recognition certificate on Sept. 14 from Christine Mais, executive assistant to the deputy superintendent of schools, for Westlake's top increase of monetary donations to the 2010 United Way campaign.

Farm-to-School

continued from page 1

Volunteers, like Annie Boyden, helped at the event. Boyden, mother of prekindergarten and third-grade students, said she likes to volunteer whenever she can. "I like being involved with my children's school. I know my children like when I come to help out and I love showing my support."

Susan McQuilkin and Christine Bergmark, program spokeswomen, explained to the students about the benefits of a healthy diet and lifestyle. They, along with their friend Cornelia, a life-size cornhusk character created by students in Southern Maryland, had the children use their five senses to learn about different fruits.

The program, which is implemented on

a state level, aims to bring more Maryland-grown products to school lunch rooms and to help educate students about where their food comes from, how it is produced, and the benefits of a healthy diet. According to the National Farm to School Network, Maryland is the only state where all of the public school systems participate. The Farm-to-School Program, is sponsored by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland State Department of Education.

More information about the Farm to School Initiative is available at www.mda.state.md.us/mdfarmtoschool.

Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are teachers from Westlake High School. Pictured, from left, are Crystal Dunkin, spanish teacher; Laura "Beth" Degges, spanish teacher; and Judy Hume, lifeskills teacher.

Need a new badge?

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

Pension plan changes

Several changes were made in the support staff pension plan that covers operations, maintenance, food services and certain technical employees. To see a summary description of the Board of Education of Charles County Pension Plan with the most recent negotiated agreement provisions, visit the Charles County Public Schools Web site under Staff Services/Benefits Information: <http://www2.ccooe.com/PDF/benefits/CompiledPensionPlanSPD.pdf>.

EACC Crab Feast

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) is hosting its annual crab feast 3:30-8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7, at the Charles County Fairgrounds. Tickets for teachers and retirees are \$25; tickets for new teachers are \$5. Attendees must have their Charles County Public Schools identification badge with them upon entering the gates. Attendees may also bring one guest, but must purchase a guest ticket for \$25. Tickets can only be purchased on the EACC Web site at www.teameacc.org. Tickets will not be sold at the gate. The deadline to purchase tickets is Oct. 1. Call 301-392-0150 with questions or for more information.

Charles E. Carrington



Charles E. Carrington, former Board Member and school system volunteer, passed away Sept. 20, 2011, at the age of 60. Mr. Carrington served as a member of the Charles County Board of Education from 2006 to 2010.

Charles County Public Schools provides new Employee Assistance Program

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider. GHE HealthCare (GHE), a national provider of employee assistance programs, has been contracted by CCPS to offer services for employees.

What is an EAP?

The EAP is a benefit offered to CCPS employees to help with personal problems that may be upsetting your life, job or family. The program provides help for personal, emotional or family problems as well as alcohol or drug-related, job stress or other mental health issues. The EAP helps decrease absenteeism due to stress and personal problems.

What is offered?

The assessment, evaluation and initial consult with an EAP counselor are free, along with short-term counseling. Further counseling after the initial service is usually covered by insurance. All use of the assistance is confidential. Charles County Public Schools assumes the cost for the initial EAP assessment. If additional services are needed, an appropriate referral is made.

Who is eligible?

This service is available to all employees who work 20 hours or more per week and their immediate family members.

Is it confidential?

Confidentiality is maintained. If you contact the Employee Assistance Program directly, no one in the system will know. No information concerning the nature of your problem is released without written consent.

What is GHE HealthCare?

GHE HealthCare is a national provider of EAP and specializes in helping employees with issues affecting their lives and jobs. GHE offers local counselors who specialize in EAP issues. They are licensed psychologists and counselors.

Why did the school system change providers?

Administrators are always reviewing benefit offerings and ensuring that the school system is offering the highest quality programs at the best available cost. A formal request for proposal was conducted in June and a committee, composed of administrators and employee representatives, evaluated and selected GHE.

How do I use GHE?

To use GHE, an employee can call toll free at 866-443-3277, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Supply your Zip Code and name and phone number. A GHE counselor will then schedule a mutually convenient appointment with an employee.

Nominate an outstanding principal for the Post leadership award

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for its 2012 Principal of the Year and the *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award (DELA). The annual award honors exemplary principals and recognizes those who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their position to create an exceptional educational environment.

Teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators or community members may submit nominations. Nominees must have a minimum of five year's experience as a principal and three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Principals may not nominate themselves.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of four statements of support, one of which must be submitted by a professional educator; a brief career summary; and a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria categories.

The nomination criteria for principals are

- manage effectively;
- demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation;
- foster cooperation between the school and the community;

- maintain a continuing dialogue with students and parents as well as faculty and staff;
- keep abreast of developments in the field of education;
- encourage team spirit;
- demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment;
- continue to play an active role in the classroom;
- maintain their position as principal throughout the 2012-13 school year; and
- attend the four day DELA seminar to be held July 12-15, 2012.

Nominees must also serve in schools that have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past two school years.

Charles County's 2012 Principal of the Year will be one of 21 recognized by the *Post* from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 13. Materials should be sent to: Charles County Public Schools, Attention: Jeanette Sudik/Human Resources Division, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Md., 20646.

Award recipients will be announced later this school year.

Charles County Public Schools College Fair

Charles County Public Schools hosted 150 colleges at its 14th annual Charles County College Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at North Point High School. High school juniors and seniors attended the event during the school day as part of the system's career readiness goal in the five-year plan. Students were transported from school by bus and were able to speak with representatives and gather information from participating colleges. Pictured from left, are Thomas Stone senior Brianna Bowman and Thomas Stone junior Kelli Gaskins. The public was invited to attend the evening session of the fair and parents were encouraged to bring their children to learn about the financial aid application process.



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Board of Education announces October 11 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 11, 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 recognition begins at 4:30 p.m.

Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system Web site. Visit www.ccboe.com/boe/ live to keep up-to-date on Board meetings.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member's update
- Deputy Superintendent's update
- CIP update
- STEM initiatives; Academy of Health Professions: pharmacy technician program
- FY2011 independent financial audit; budget update
- Report Item: Legislative positions 2012

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- Resolutions – *American Education Week; American Freedom Week*

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- FY2012 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Ethics policy

Adjournment



All meetings are televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and are rebroadcast throughout the week. Channel schedules are available on the school system Web site. Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 also feature original programming produced by the Charles County Public Schools communications department. Shows include NewsBreak 96, a twice monthly program that features school programs, students and staff, as well as On Air, a monthly show that highlights student and staff accomplishments.



Staff notes

Job Openings

Inclusion Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. A minimum of five years experience and at least three years in an inclusion setting required. Apply by Sept. 30.

Literacy Teacher – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 3.

Building Service Worker – Thomas Stone High School, 12-month, four-hour position. Apply by Oct. 3.

Meeting in the Middle Instructional Assistant – Piccowaxen Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 3.

Stay Program Instructional Assistant – F.B. Gwynn Education Center, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 3.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – Emotionally Adjusted – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 4.

Child Care Provider – North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 4.

IEP Facilitator – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Apply by Oct. 5.

Earth Science Teacher – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 10.

Math Teacher – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 10.

Supervising School Counselor – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in school counseling and a minimum of five years of experience required.

Title I Instructional Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years experience required.

Food Service Program Support Manager – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position.

Building Service Manager – Berry Elementary School, 12-month position.

Instructional Resource Teachers – Openings at county elementary schools, 11-month positions. Master's degree and a minimum of five years experience required.

School Counselor – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10-month, part-time position. Master's degree in guidance and counseling and a minimum of five years experience required.

Extra pay positions

Thomas Stone High School has the following openings:

- Sponsor for the Pom/Dance team

Contact Steven Lee, athletic director, 301-645-2601, to apply.

Westlake High School has the following openings:

- Head Varsity Tennis Coach

Contact Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, 301-645-8857, to apply.