



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Elementary Math Challenge

The Elementary Math Challenge is Saturday, April 28, 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 28 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

2012-13 Calendar dates

A partial calendar for the 2012-2013 school year is now available on the Charles County Public Schools website at http://www2.ccboe.com/calendars/at_a_glance.cfm. Calendar dates are subject to change throughout the school year and any changes are announced on the website. Copies of the 2012-2013 Parent Handbook/Calendar will be distributed to teachers during their first week back in August.

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 8, as part of National Teacher Appreciation Day.

Celebrate school nurses

National School Nurse Day is Wednesday, May 9. 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.

Diggs' Seberg named 2012 Teacher of the Year

Kerrie Seberg believes the world becomes a better place when children are successful. Her passion to work with children is just one of the reasons why she was named the 2012 Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

The William A. Diggs Elementary School third-grade teacher says it was her personal love for learning and her desire to help make the world a better place that inspired her to pursue a career in teaching. "I realized that if I wanted to help create a better world, the best place to start is with children. I knew I could do my part to change the world, one child at a time," she said.

In Seberg's class, students are told to "go for the gold" and their victories, no matter how small, are celebrated every day. She is dedicated to learning all about her students in order to fully understand their strengths and challenges, and to learn about their interests and dreams. She focuses on each child individually, evaluates their needs and then challenges them to do more than they ever imagined was possible.

When Diggs Principal Sandra Taylor hired Seberg, she said her love for children was evident from the moment she stepped into the classroom. "I knew Kerrie would evolve into a master teacher very quickly. She has a knack for creating engaging lessons that cater to all of the different learning styles," Taylor said in a nomination letter.

Seberg, who has been teaching at Diggs for the past five school years, is in her first year of teaching third graders. After experiencing significant progress with students in her second-grade class, Seberg approached Taylor and requested approval to work with the same children as their third-grade teacher. Taylor granted the request and said, "... To date, her class continues to soar. Every student has made remarkable gains on their quarterly benchmarks."

Seberg is humbled by her nomination because she feels she is one of many teachers dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children. "I am honored to be chosen to represent my colleagues, my students, their

families, and Charles County," Seberg said.

Parents of Seberg's students say that she goes above and beyond to ensure her students are successful. Andrea Porter has worked with Seberg for the past two years as her child's second- and third-grade teacher. She said Seberg's concern for her son's success speaks volumes about her passion for teaching.

Parent Dasher Millman said her daughter's favorite parts of the school day were art, lunch and recess until Seberg became her teacher. Now, her daughter strives to achieve success in her class and loves mathematics and reading.

In addition to her role as teacher, Seberg is the co-sponsor for Destination ImagiNation (DI) and has been a team manager for the past five years. Under her leadership, the program has experienced substantial growth and more than 100 students and their families now participate.

She also chairs the school's Green Committee, volunteers to work with the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and provides additional help in math and reading after school through the Extended Learning Opportunity program. Seberg also mentors students in the North Point High School education careers program.

For Seberg, teaching is not just her profession, but her way of life. "Being a teacher is so much more than a job. For me, teaching is a way of life," she said.

As Charles County's Teacher of the Year, Seberg is eligible for the Maryland Teacher of the Year award. The state winner is announced by the Maryland State Department of Education in the fall at a special ceremony held to honor all local recipients.



Kerrie Seberg



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education on April 10. Pictured, from left, are: David Bradshaw, physical education teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Connie Bannister, secretary, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; and Sheryl Morrison, pupil personnel worker, J.C. Parks Elementary School.

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 18 to July 13 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. 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.

Outstanding teachers

Westlake High School social studies teacher Kathryn Wathen was recently awarded the James Madison Memorial Scholarship. This award is given only to two candidates from Maryland each year. The scholarship amount is \$24,000 and allows her to pursue her master's degree through James Madison University.

Louis Cate, a music teacher at Arthur Middleton Elementary School, earned first place in the Nashville International Song & Lyric Competition for Christmas 2011. His song, "Mistletoe," earned the award for excellence in the songwriting category. Prizes include a full, five-piece-band demo on CD.

Sandra Chisholm, a computer teacher at Piccowaxen Middle School, was chosen to participate in the 2012 Making Education Relevant and Interactive through Technology (MERIT) summer institute program at the Krause Center for Innovation in Los Altos Hills, California. The program joins teachers together to explore and help one another bolster their curriculum with student-centered, technology-enhanced learning activities to motivate, challenge and inspire diverse learners and future leaders.

Stone students learn valuable lesson during drill

Lindsey Gateau's life changed on April 12. Handcuffed and dressed in jailhouse orange, Gateau became the poster child of a drunk driver. Her role was part of a drill, but the handcuffs, court setting and mock trial made the consequences of drunk and distracted driving very real for Gateau and her Thomas Stone High School classmates.

One-by-one, more than 25 Thomas Stone High School students walked into the Charles County courthouse on Thursday, April 12. The students awaited the sentence of Gateau, an 18-year-old Stone senior. The trial was part of the "Every 15 Minutes" program. Every 15 Minutes is a national two-day program that offers experiences of real-life risks, especially when alcohol or texting is involved. The program challenges students to be responsible and make mature decisions.

Thursday morning, Gateau and five other students were chosen to be part of a staged, fatal car accident. Each student played a different role in the graphic crash. Gateau was chosen to play the intoxicated driver who slammed into another car, killing three people. While the students remained still, covered in broken glass and blood, juniors and seniors at Stone watched from bleachers set up outside of the school. Emergency Management Services (EMS), firefighters and police rushed to the scene. The chatter from the bleachers turned to silence as emergency vehicles with lights and sirens arrived to cover "dead" bodies and remove trapped survivors from the car. Quickly, the mock accident became a somber learning experience. "I think it was quite a learning experience for the students and I hope they take more care in their driving and avoid distractions," said Sgt. Carl Rye, an officer at the scene of the mock accident.

A police officer removed Gateau from her car and had her perform sobriety tests. After failing, she was taken in to custody

until her trial, held later that afternoon. At 3 p.m., Gateau walked in to the courtroom as her mother and brother sat awaiting her sentence. Gateau stood with tears in her eyes as Master Douglas Cooley reminded her that the death of three people will forever be her fault and because of a careless act of drinking and driving, those three people will never get the chance to enjoy life or be with their loved ones again. She was charged with the maximum sentence for drunk driving.

Fortunately for Gateau, the mock trial is completely out of character for the Stone senior. Gateau is a well-rounded student and will be attending Salisbury University next year. Her dream is to get a degree in pediatric nursing. A DUI on record would put her dreams on hold. After the "Every 15 Minutes" program, Gateau realized the seriousness of distracted driving. "Even if people don't drink and drive, I hope it got to them about just distracted driving. I have told all of my friends to throw their phones in the back seat because that text message or that phone call, you don't want that to be the last thing that person hears from you," said Gateau.

Prom season is here and Gateau said she plans to have fun with her friends in a safe and alcohol-free way. She hopes this program reaches all students and they understand being sober can be just as much fun. "Many teens believe they are invincible, which makes this program more important," she said.

The program, sponsored by the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department, collaborates with local agencies and informs students of the dangers involved with being distracted or intoxicated behind the wheel. Also participating were businesses, community members, Charles County Sheriff's Office, EMS, schools and the Charles County courthouse. For more information on the program, visit www.every15minutes.com/.



Lindsey Gateau, left, brought into the courtroom by Sgt. Carl Rye, right, approached the stand as part of a mock trial.

Stone performs chilling mock accident for the 'Every 15 Minutes' program



The "Every 15 Minutes" program, sponsored by the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department, was held at Thomas Stone High School on April 12-13. The simulated car accident was the first part of the program. Students pictured above are Riley Thrutchley, junior, in the back seat of the car, and senior Taylor Eshleman on the hood of the car.



During the school day the "grim reaper" and his "living dead" walked to different classes to remove students while a police officer read a mock obituary written by the student's family. Pictured from left are Stone senior Jalen Poindexter, Mitchell Lewis Jr. of the Waldorf EMS-12, Sgt. Gabrielle Hughes of the Waldorf EMS-3, and Pfc. Mike DePaulo, school resource officer from Mattawoman Middle School.



Stone junior Riley Thrutchley sits still as makeup is applied to make him look like a casualty in a mock accident.



After the fatal car accident, the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department used the jaws of life to remove screaming Stone junior Cara Chandler from the wreckage.

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Graduation, school time change information for staff

Graduation ceremonies change school schedules

Graduation ceremonies for Henry E. Lackey, La Plata, Maurice J. McDonough, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools will be held at the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro on June 4 and 5. North Point High School will host graduation ceremonies in the school's gymnasium on June 5.

The following is the graduation schedule for Monday, June 4:

- Westlake, 9 a.m.;
- Thomas Stone, 2 p.m.; and
- Maurice J. McDonough, 7 p.m.

The following is the graduation schedule for Tuesday, June 5:

- Lackey, 9 a.m.;
- La Plata, 2 p.m.; and
- North Point, 7 p.m.

School schedules during graduation ceremonies are as follows:

- Westlake will be closed for students on Monday, June 4;
- Thomas Stone will be closed on Monday, June 4;
- McDonough will have a two-hour early dismissal on Monday, June 4;
- La Plata will be closed for students on Tuesday, June 5;
- Lackey will be closed for students on Tuesday, June 5; and

- North Point will be closed for students on Tuesday, June 5.

School times adjusted, set for next school year

Charles County Public Schools is changing the start and end times for five schools. Times for Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Mary B. Neal, J.C. Parks and Eva Turner elementary schools, and Matthew Henson Middle School are being adjusted for the 2012-13 school year. Changes take effect on August 27, 2012.

The following are the time changes for the next school year:

- Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School start and end times change to 9:10 a.m. to 3:40 p.m., which is a 10-minute change from this year.
- The new times for Mary B. Neal Elementary School are 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., which is a 15-minute change from this year.
- Hours for J.C. Parks Elementary School change to 9:05 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. This is a 20-minute change from this school year.
- Eva Turner Elementary School will start at 8:45 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m., which is a 25-minute change.
- Matthew Henson Middle School will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. This is a 15-minute change from this year.



Personnel

Job Openings

Secretary – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10.5-month position. Apply by April 30.

Camp Co-op Positions – Camp Co-op, a summer camp for students with disabilities, is seeking teachers to serve as group leaders and head counselors. The camp runs from June 25 to Aug. 3 at La Plata High School. Contact Susan Pond at 301-934-7397 or spond@ccboe.com by May 15 to apply.

Extended School Year Positions – Direct service providers are needed to provide extended school year services to special education students during the summer. Positions are available for special educators, regular educators, speech/language therapists and occupational therapists. Contact Susan Pond at 301-934-7397 or spond@ccboe.com by May 15 to apply.

Mathematics Teachers – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month positions.

Science Teacher – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position.

Autism Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years experience required.

Instructional Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-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. A minimum of three years experience required.

Staff notes

Neal honored for food drive efforts

The "Kids Helping Kids" food collection at Mary B. Neal Elementary School is one of the top efforts in the state. Neal was named as a top achiever by the Maryland State Department of Education for the school's effort last year in the Harvest for the Hungry

"Kids Helping Kids" food collection campaign. Neal students and staff collected 4,167 pounds of food during the campaign.

"Your school was one of our high achievers. With the help of your great efforts, including funds raised, we were able to collect over 460,000 pounds of food to help feed hungry children across Maryland," Interim State Superintendent Bernard Sadusky wrote in a congratulatory letter.

As a top achiever, Neal will be honored by the State Department of Education with a special education citation and a gift at an awards ceremony on May 30.

Resignation deadlines

The deadline for resignation requests from non-tenured teachers is Tuesday, May 1. The deadline for resignation requests from tenured teachers is Monday, July 16. Letters must be submitted to human resources by the deadline. Call 301-934-7255 for more information.