

School News



Important Dates Coming Soon

Spring break

Spring break for students and teachers is April 18-25. Schools reopen on Tuesday, April 26. Administrative offices will be closed on Friday, April 22, and Monday, April 25, and will operate on a 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. schedule during Spring break.

National Library Month

April is National Library Month and schools are promoting activities to focus on the contributions of school media centers. The month celebrates the contributions of libraries, librarians and library workers in schools and communities nationwide. Mattawoman Middle School is celebrating by providing a display comparing digital technology tools of today with the library technology equipment that was available when the school opened 15 years ago, including 16 MM projectors, record players, filmstrips and more.

Space art wins

Superintendent James E. Richmond was not the only one from Charles County Public Schools honored at the National Space Foundation's annual Space Symposium. Two students, Matthew Fan of Piccowaxen Middle School and Joelle Starling of Arthur Middleton Elementary, placed in a student art contest sponsored by ARES Corporation, Fisher Space Pen Co. and Space Foundation. Fan placed second in the grades 6-8 painting category, and Starling placed third in the grades 3-5 painting category.

Winners were recognized at a special ceremony on April 13 at the 27th National Space Symposium at The Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo., where former NASA astronaut Capt. Robert L. Curbeam, Jr., USN (Retired) announced grand prize winners selected from among the three first place winners for each age category.

Superintendent honored with award in Colorado



Dr. Stephen Feldman, president and CEO of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, left, presents Charles County Public Schools Superintendent James E. Richmond with the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award. Looking on is Elliot Pulham, chief executive officer of the Space Foundation. For story, see page 3.

Senator Mikulski visits Judy Center at Barnhart

U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) toured the Judy Center at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School and hosted a roundtable discussion with staff, parents and community members on Monday, April 4, as part of a series of statewide school visits. As chairwoman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Children and Families, Mikulski is visiting counties to learn about integrated services and how the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) impacts school districts.

Barnhart is one of three elementary schools in Charles County with a Judy Center, which provides comprehensive services for Title I school children from birth through kindergarten and their families. Judy Centers also serve students at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd and Eva Turner elementary

schools and provide comprehensive services such as health services, career counseling for parents, childcare tuition assistance and tutoring in order to provide children with opportunities to help them succeed.



Sen. Barbara Mikulski, left, greets Board Chairman Roberta S. Wise, right, Board member Michael Lukas and Board Vice Chairman Maura Cook.

"Washington doesn't have all the answers when it comes to improving our schools. That's why I came to hear about Judy Centers and what Charles County parents, principals and community members think about elementary education. How can I advocate for something if I don't know how the program works," Mikulski said of her visit to the school. Barnhart Principal Kimberly Hairston and Leigh Stalter, Judy Center Coordinator, guided Mikulski on the tour and visited a kindergarten, prekindergarten and three-year-old program classroom, where Mikulski played a matching game with a group of students.

See Mikulski, page 2



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at their April 5 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Diana Laco, pre-kindergarten teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School; Randell Braithwaite, mathematics teacher, Westlake High School; and Deanna Wheeler, elementary science teacher, J.C. Parks Elementary School.

Resignation deadline

The deadline for resignation requests from non-tenured teachers is Monday, May 2. The deadline for resignation requests from tenured teachers is Friday, July 15. All letters must be submitted to human resources by the deadline. Call 301-934-7255 for more information.

PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is Tuesday, April 26, at 7 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

SECAC Awards

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) will honor more than 100 Charles County Public Schools teachers and staff members April 27 at the sixth annual Teacher and Staff Appreciation Awards ceremony at The Greater Waldorf Jaycees. Staff members are nominated for recognition by parents and students.

New application system

Charles County Public Schools is using a new job application system located on the school system Web site, www.cchoe.com. Application data stored on the old system will not be transferred to the new system. All employees, including temporary staff and substitutes, need to complete a new application on the new system when applying for a position.

To access the new system, select the employment opportunities link posted on the home page of the system Web site. The system will continue to be managed by the human resources department. For additional information call 301-934-7255.

In Memoriam

Shawn King, a business education teacher, business department chair and varsity basketball coach at La Plata High School, passed away April 4, 2011.

Mr. King, 38, started his career with Charles County Public Schools in 2003 as a business education teacher, and immediately began coaching junior varsity basketball. He took over as La Plata's head varsity coach in 2006, and this past season led his team to the first Regional Championship game in more than 20 years.



Shawn King

Prior to joining the La Plata staff, Mr. King taught at three high schools in Virginia. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He was also attending classes to pursue his master's degree in Administration from Capella University.

Services were held for Mr. King on Monday, April 11 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Boykins, VA. He is survived by his wife, Tiffany, and two sons, Shawn Jr. and Alex.

Mikulski

continued from page 1

Following the tour, Mikulski hosted a roundtable discussion with school system leaders, Judy Center staff, Board of Education members and parents and teachers to talk about the success of Judy Center services and the impact they have on students and the community. "As a teacher, I noticed a lot of students were coming into high school unprepared for the world after school. I monitored the achievement gap and looked for ways to provide early learning opportunities to students to better prepare them for school. The focus of the Judy Centers in Charles County is to spread early learning opportunities to students year round, not just during the school year," Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond said.

The ESEA legislation emphasizes equal access to education and establishes high standards for students, and is up for reauthorization this year. In 2002, Congress reauthorized ESEA as the No Child Left Behind Act with accountability measures for teachers, schools and school districts. This year's reauthorization of ESEA focuses on providing schools with the flexibility and resources needed to

make improvements to help children succeed.

"I think you are on to something here... something significant. The Judy Centers truly provide integrated services for schools and their communities. This program is really a preparatory program for school and this has been an inspirational visit," Mikulski said.



Sen. Barbara Mikulski, right, shakes hands with Barnhart student Alonzo Romine, right, during her visit to the three-year-old classroom.

Judy Centers were established in 2000 through a \$7 million grant as part of Senate bill 793 to provide comprehensive services and early childhood education for students and their families to provide a network of support for success. The centers are named for Judith P. Hoyer, the late wife of Congressman Steny Hoyer and an early childhood education advocate. The first center opened at Dr. Mudd in 2001, and expanded to include Turner in 2002. The Judy Center at Barnhart opened in 2004.

Some of the programs offered to families and students through the Judy Centers include: parent/provider workshops, playgroups for children birth through age three, childcare tuition assistance, computer courses and adult education.



Erin Beauvais



Linda Breitinger



Brad Buzby



Daryl Faustini



Carrie Lamb



Elizabeth Thoma

Science, math teachers honored by SMECO for educational contributions

Six Charles County Public Schools teachers were honored April 13 by Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) for their accomplishments in the area of mathematics and science.

Honored as Outstanding Mathematics Teachers of the Year were: Brad Buzby, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School; Linda Breitinger, Piccowaxen Middle School; and Elizabeth Thoma, La Plata High School.

Honored as Outstanding Science Teachers of the Year were: Erin Beauvais, Milton M. Somers Middle School; Carrie Lamb, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; and Daryl Faustini, Westlake High School.

Buzby teaches fifth-grade accelerated math, geometry, algebraic thinking and problem solving. He creates unique and exciting lessons for his students and encourages them to solve problems using creativity. He promotes teamwork in the classroom to foster learning and provides students with opportunities to work together to solve problems while learning from their peers.

Breitinger teaches algebraic thinking and pre-algebra and is the sixth-grade team leader. She sets high standards for her students and differentiates her methods of instruction to correspond to individual learning styles. She also works with students and staff during her free time and co-teaches and co-plans with other math teachers. Breitinger also works with struggling students to increase their understanding of mathematics concepts.

Thoma teaches algebra and is an integral part of the La Plata algebra team. She meets with the team regularly to discuss student data, design assessments and schedule support for students who are struggling with algebra.

She also works with the algebra team to develop strategies for each student as well as improving lessons and assignments. Thoma is also a member of the school improvement plan committee and helps develop schoolwide improvement plans in all content areas.

Beauvais teaches eighth-grade physical science and has been teaching at Somers since 2006. Her lesson plans and instructional practices address the needs of all students and engage all levels of learners in the curriculum. Most of her lessons are designed to emphasize practical application of scientific concepts through hands-on and interactive processes. Beauvais also hosts after school tutoring sessions, evening programs for parents and works with struggling students or faculty during her free time.

Lamb teaches sixth- and seventh-grade science and has been teaching at Stoddert since 2009. She approaches her lessons through scientific inquiry which helps students learn critical thinking and problem solving skills. She provides Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based opportunities to her students including guest speakers and Web casts where students can interact with scientists and engineers.

Faustini teaches Biology and has been teaching at Westlake for the past five years. He helps sponsor the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) team and motivates students to do their best. Faustini also works with students in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program and incorporates instructional strategies in his lessons to meet the needs of all learners.



Richmond accepts Alan Shepard national space, technology award

Superintendent James E. Richmond accepted the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award on Monday night for his work in the area of educational technology. Presented by Dr. Stephen Feldman, president and CEO of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Richmond accepted the award at the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs.

"Before looking at Mr. Richmond's nomination, we set the bar for excellence higher because he is a superintendent. In every instance, he far exceeded the elevated standard. The work he has done on behalf of the children in Charles County Public Schools is the standard all school districts should strive toward," Feldman said. "A long-time advocate for STEM education, James Richmond has made a lasting impact on tens of thousands of students," he added.

In accepting the award, Richmond said, "I am proud to accept the Alan Shepard award on behalf of the students and teachers of Charles County Public Schools. This award is for all those children who think they can't learn math and science and for the teachers who show them it's possible. ... Accepting an award named for this noble astronaut -- and on behalf of Charles County Public Schools -- is both humbling and an honor."

The Space Foundation, in partnership with the Astronauts Memorial Foundation (AMF) and NASA, annually presents the award for outstanding contributions made by K-12 educators or district level personnel to educational technology. The award recognizes excellence in the development and application of technology in the classroom and demonstrates exemplary use of technology either to foster lifelong learners or to make the learning process easier.

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

Board of Education Members

Roberta S. Wise, Chairman
Maura H. Cook, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Patricia Bowie
Michael K. Lukas
Pamela A. Pedersen
Donald M. Wade
Emmanuel Bakare, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools

James E. Richmond

Editor/Writers

Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Shelley Mackey
Kara Gross

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact 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.

Ryon parent named county recipient of Comcast award

Latrina Carr, a parent of a J.P. Ryon Elementary School first grader, freshman and senior at Thomas Stone High School, was recently selected as Charles County's recipient of the Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Award. She is also in the running to be selected as one of five semifinalists eligible for the state award.

"I love J.P. Ryon and the entire staff. When a school has a principal like Mrs. Virginia McGraw, the work you are trying to accomplish becomes much easier. She is a great leader," Carr said.

Comcast and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) partnered to create the award to recognize Maryland parents who have made contributions to public education and to highlight the positive impact parents have on public schools. The award recognizes parents from local school systems across Maryland who are nominated in five areas of parental involvement: communication, volunteering, learning, decision making and community collaboration. Carr was nominated for the award by Ryon's principal for implementing a mentoring program that involves students from Ryon and Stone. The goal of the program is to provide high school students with opportunities to earn community service while providing younger students at the elementary school level with positive role models, reading or mathematics tutors.

McGraw said the program is a huge success and was made possible because of Carr's hard work.

"Carr's sincere efforts have always been focused to provide positive programs for the youth of our county. She is a very hard working, kind, caring individual who displays professionalism in everything that she does. I am honored to be able to nominate her for the Comcast award," McGraw said in nomination letter.

Carr presented the idea of the program to both McGraw and Larry Martin, principal at Stone, and suggested that the groups of students meet twice a week. In addition to working with both school principals, Carr met with school counselors, attended staff meetings to explain the goals of the project and to solicit support, and she worked with the school system's transportation department to arrange for transportation for the mentors to Ryon.

Carr will be recognized at a special ceremony May 20, where the five finalists and the state award winner will be announced. The statewide winner and five finalists will be awarded a cash prize to further their efforts to improve the public schools they represent.



Latrina Carr

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboc.com/hur. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Special Education Teachers – Openings for teachers interested in providing extended school year services to students, hours are flexible. Contact Susan Pond in the special education department at 301-934-7397 or spond@ccboc.com if you are interested.

Speech Language Therapist – Elementary school level, 10-month position.

Instructional Resource Teacher, Middle School Level – Location to be determined, 11-month position.

Extra pay position

La Plata High School has the following opening:

- Head varsity boys' soccer coach

Contact Principal Evelyn Arnold or Cliff Nagle, athletic director, at 301-934-1100, to apply.

National Board Certification

Teachers and specialists who hold a Standard or Advanced Professional Certificate and have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification. Applicants must submit a candidate packet, which includes a letter of interest, a one-page essay indicating why they want to pursue national certification and how it will enhance their teaching competencies and effectiveness, a letter of recommendation from their principal or supervisor and a current resume. Candidates are screened by a review committee to determine who will represent Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) in the 2011-12 fee incentive program.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) limits the number of appli-

cants for the school system to 10 candidates, and the \$2,500 application fee is funded by MSDE and CCPS.

Teachers choosing to pursue National Board Certification must complete a demanding two-part demonstration of their knowledge and skills by developing a portfolio that reflects various aspects of their teaching and attend an assessment center during the 2011-12 application cycle, where they will complete six intensive, timed exercises. There are 25 certification areas and educators who earn National Board Certification earn six approved professional development credits, an annual \$1,000 stipend from MSDE and \$2,500 from the school system.

Applicants must submit completed candidate packets to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.