



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Summer office hours

Summer office hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building begin on Monday, June 27. The normal operating hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will resume on Monday, Aug. 22. Some schools and centers will also operate on the summer hours schedule.

Summer Meals program

Charles County Public Schools, in partnership with other local agencies, is offering a free summer lunch program June 27 through Aug. 19 at select schools and locations. Any child between the ages of three and 18 is eligible to receive a lunch, and lunches are served Monday through Friday. Children receiving lunches at school sites will be served along with those participating in summer camps through Charles County Parks and Recreation. A complete list of participating schools and locations is available on the Charles County Public Schools Web site, www.ccboe.com.

Holiday closure

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

School News

School News will not be mailed to employees during the summer. All newsletters can be accessed on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffservices/newsletters.cfm>. A link to each newsletter will be provided to employees by e-mail each payday and limited copies are available in schools/centers during the summer. Newsletters will be mailed to any employee who requests printed copies during the summer. E-mail your request, name and address to Kara Gross at ksgross@ccboe.com to be placed on the mailing list.

Board approves employee contracts for 2011-12

All employees will receive some type of salary increase this year, but for some that increase will be a one-time payment in November.

Both employee representative groups negotiated a step increase for the 2010-2011 school year. If eligible, employees are receiving one step increase, which still leaves them one step behind for the 2011-12 school year. Additionally, eligible employees are receiving grade increases for both the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years.

Employees who are not eligible for a step or grade increase, will receive a one-time payment in November. The payment, which could be up to \$1,000, will be prorated based on the number of hours each employee works. For example, a half-time employee would receive \$500. The one-

time payment is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Education Jobs funding, which must be used for employee compensation.

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) signed employee contracts last week with the Board of Education. Both groups

ratified contracts that move eligible employees one step, does not provide for a cost of living increase and makes changes to the insurance prescription plan. The prescription plan changes can be found at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffservices.cfm>. The health insurance changes were made in order to avoid increases in health insurance premiums to employees.



AFSCME President William McLaughlin, left, and Board Chairman Roberta Wise, right, sign this year's employees' contract on June

Williams named 2011 Vice Principal of the year

Melissa Williams, vice principal at Malcolm Elementary School, is the 2011 Charles County Public Schools Vice Principal of the Year. Williams, who has been with the school system since 2007, said she was elated to learn she received the honor as vice principal of the year.

"This honor is a snapshot of the teamwork present each day at our school. At Malcolm, we do make a difference in the lives of our students and through them I believe we are making the world a better place. When I think of the number of outstanding administrators in this school district, I am genuinely overwhelmed. This honor is truly one of the most important milestones in my life," Williams said.

She was nominated for the award by Malcolm's principal, Wilhelmina Pugh, for

her natural leadership skills and professionalism, knowledge of educational trends and practices, expertise in instruction, and ability to communicate and resolve issues in a positive way.

"Ms. Williams has brought my vision of leadership to fruition. She knows the names of all the students, their parents, grandparents and talks with them about their interests in and out of school. Parents and teachers feel confident that they can come to either one of us and their issues will be resolved quickly and efficiently," Pugh wrote in a letter.

Malcolm staff agrees that Williams is a
See Williams, page 2



Melissa Williams

Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: David Cusack, vocal music teacher; Michelle Foxx, instructional specialist; and Jenna Kuhn, special education/Life Skills teacher.

Airing on NewsBreak 96

This week's episode of NewsBreak 96 highlights students in the Class of 2011 and the county's six high school graduations. Also featured in the episode is the Adult Independence Program graduation and the June Board of Education meeting. Episodes are available to view on the school system Web site, <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/>. A new edition of NewsBreak 96 is posted every other week. NewsBreak is narrated by student anchors and produced by the communications department.

Character education

The Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE) recently named Eva Turner Elementary School as a 2011 Maryland State School of Character. Thomas Stone High School was also named a 2011 School of Character Honorable Mention recipient. The program recognizes schools that demonstrate an outstanding school climate and academic performance.

Turner is one of three schools in Maryland to be selected for the state honor and was also eligible for a National School of Character award. This is the second year that Turner was named a State School of Character for their focus on character education. Each year, the awards program honors schools as State Schools of Character, Honorable Mention recipients or with an Emerging School of Character award.

Stone received the state honor in 2009 and was named an Emerging School in 2010. Criteria for the selection of schools include examples of comprehensive character education initiatives that are implemented in the school community and that demonstrate a commitment to creating a positive learning environment.

Both schools will be recognized by the MCCE in the fall for their character education programs.

Johns honored for citizenship in the classroom

Leslie Johns, a social studies teacher at Piccowaxen Middle School, was recently honored by the Bel Alton Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post with the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. The annual awards program recognizes teachers that promote civic responsibility and American history within the classroom.

Johns, who was nominated for the award by Piccowaxen staff, said she is honored by the recognition. "It is nice to be recognized for promoting citizenship and democratic values in the classroom. It is important that the students I teach understand the rights and responsibilities that come along with the privilege of being American citizens," Johns said.

Johns has been teaching seventh-grade world culture and geography classes at Piccowaxen for eight years. She was nominated for recognition for creating motivational and exciting lessons for her students and for seeking opportunities to bring world

lessons into her classroom. "With genuine enthusiasm, Johns shows students the uniqueness of other cultures in hopes that children grow to better appreciate the United States concept of democracy," Piccowaxen Vice Principal Laura Coffren said in a nomination letter.

Earlier this school year, Johns helped coordinate the Veterans Day ceremony held annually at Piccowaxen to honor veterans from the school community and regularly invites guest speakers into her classroom to discuss history with her students. Johns was presented with the award by VFW Bel Alton Post Cmdr. Edward Holland during a ceremony held last month at the school.

Winners are initially selected by their local VFW chapter and are recognized at one of three levels – grades kindergarten through 5; grades sixth through eighth; and grades nine through twelve. All local winners are eligible for the district, state and national award.



Cmdr. Edward Holland of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Bel Alton Post, right, presents Piccowaxen teacher Leslie Johns, left, with the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

Williams

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natural leader and demonstrates a strong commitment to student success, and academic and personal growth. In an award nomination letter from the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teams, teachers say that Williams has great interpersonal skills that create a positive and safe school environment. According to the letter, "Williams always warmly greets students with respect and fairness. Teachers appreciate her specific feedback tailored to individual teaching styles and she takes initiatives to complete any task, always noting the strengths of others."

Malcolm parents and students also wrote letters of support for Williams' that highlight her professionalism, friendly personality and commitment to ensuring students succeed. Parent Steven Roberts said Williams' leadership and promotion of student success is evident in all that she does.

"Her demeanor serves as a role model for students and parents and helps mold the culture of Malcolm," Roberts wrote.

Malcolm third-grader Summer Taylor said she looks forward to coming to school each day because Williams makes school fun and exciting. "The best thing about her is that she helps with fun events at the school that all of us enjoy," Taylor wrote. Dominic Walker, also a third-grader at Malcolm, said Williams is always friendly, helps students and gets her job done with a smile.

Williams began her career with Charles County Public Schools 2007 as vice principal at Malcolm. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Carolina and has an educational specialist degree from George Washington University. Williams was honored by the Board of Education on June 14.

Five outstanding support personnel honored by the Board of Education

The Board of Education honored five employees with Outstanding Personnel Awards on June 14. Honored were:

- **Bruce Washington**, building service manager, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School;

- **Frederick Bell**, food service manager, Thomas Stone High School;

- **Mary Whetzel**, kindergarten literacy instructional assistant, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;

- **John Groat**, carpenter/ locksmith, Radio Station Road Annex Building; and

- **Susan Dobbs**, attendance secretary, Milton M. Somers Middle School.

Washington is the 2011 Outstanding Building Service Manager. He has worked for Charles County Public Schools for 21 years and was nominated for the award

by Matthew Loyd, vice principal at Stoddert. In award nomination letters, Washington is described as a hard worker and a dedicated employee who has a cheerful, polite and professional attitude. "He is willing to do whatever it takes to accommodate the needs of the staff as well as ensuring building security and safety," Sandra Ginyard, a student data accounting clerk at Stoddert, wrote. In addition to his daily tasks, Washington makes himself available to work extra hours and his staff is receptive to his leadership abilities, which creates a positive work climate among the building service team. He also consistently demonstrates a strong dedication to students and staff by helping supervise lunch shifts, working with the Saturday program and managing a club of about 30 students to teach them responsibility in caring for the building and grounds.

Bell is the 2011 Outstanding Food Service Manager. He has worked at Stone for six years and was nominated for the award by Stone Vice Principal Michael Meiser. Bell is described as having a positive attitude, dependable and as a hard-working self-starter who understands his position. "I consider Mr. Fred Bell to be the most accomplished cafeteria manager I have ever known. Through his leadership, our cafeteria runs smoothly, effectively and economically," Stone Principal Larry Martin wrote in a nomination letter. Bell is also active in the school community by serving as the junior varsity head basketball coach, as well as the assistant varsity basketball coach. Bell encourages students to grow into responsible adults and serves as a mentor for those who need additional support and guidance.

Whetzel is the 2011 Outstanding Instructional Support Employee. She has worked as the kindergarten instructional literacy assistant at Mudd for eight years and was nominated by Laura Kelly, an art

teacher at Mudd. She was nominated for her commitment to students and for fostering self-esteem, confidence and pride in all students. Whetzel is motivated and passionate in all that she does and provides modifications and accommodations for students of all levels and abilities. "She shows other instructional assistants what it means

to be a help to their cooperating teachers. She works on several teams throughout the building and is always willing to give a helping hand whenever necessary," Mudd Vice Principal Laurie Brown-Abdelmageed wrote in a nomination letter. Whetzel also spends her spare time volunteering at after school activities sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the school's Judy Center.

Groat is the 2011 Outstanding Maintenance Employee.

He has worked as a locksmith for Charles County Public Schools since 2006 and was nominated by Gregory Thompson, a system foreman, for his dedication and commitment to the school system. Groat is a dependable employee and completes all tasks with precision and care. "Groat is committed to his work and sets very high personal standards. He willingly shares information with his team members and routinely provides them with updates on his own progress. He shows initiative, is a self-starter and once given a task, can be depended upon to carry it through to completion," Brian Law, coordinating supervisor of maintenance and operations, wrote in a nomination letter. Groat is responsible for the implementation of the Digilocks® system that ensures all students with disabilities can open their lockers without difficulty. He also excels at defining and assessing problems.

Dobbs is the 2011 Outstanding Secretary and has worked as the attendance secretary at Somers for more than 10 years. She was nominated for the award by Somers Principal Stephanie Wesolowski. Dobbs is described in her nomination letters as a professional and dedicated go-getter and role model for all staff. She takes her job seriously and strives for excellence in all that she does. "Her demeanor, work ethic and exemplary evaluations all epitomize the word professional. Dobbs' strong interpersonal skills enable her to maintain a positive outlook even when dealing with difficult situations," Wesolowski wrote in a nomination letter. She handles the administrative tasks of managing school attendance data and provides assistance to everyone who walks through the main office door. She has outstanding organization and communication skills, and has a knack for anticipating and solving problems.



Five CCPS employees were honored June 14 with 2011 Outstanding Support Personnel Awards. Pictured, from left, are: Bruce Washington, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; Mary Whetzel, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; John Groat, Radio Station Road Annex Building; Susan Dobbs, Milton M. Somers Middle School; and Frederick Bell, Thomas Stone High School.

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Student Board Member selected for 2011-12 school year

Taylor Brooks, a rising senior at Westlake High School, is the student member of the Board of Education of Charles County for the 2011-12 school year. She was sworn in by Board of Education Chairman Roberta S. Wise at the June 14 meeting.

As the Student Board Member, Brooks will work with a student liaison committee throughout the school year. The following students were selected as members of the student liaison committee:

- **Taylor Wade**, Henry E. Lackey High School, rising junior;
- **Victoria Garcia**, La Plata High School, rising junior;
- **Raven Murphy**, Maurice J. McDonough High School, rising senior;
- **Jessica Kirkham**, North Point High School, rising junior;
- **Linette Floyd**, Thomas Stone High School, rising senior; and

- **Leah Warren**, Westlake High School, rising senior.

Each year, an alternate student board member

is also selected from among the liaisons and will be selected at a later date. Each high school is required to have a student liaison and may be selected by methods approved by the school's Student Government Association (SGA) and principal. Each liaison can apply as a candidate for the position of Student Board Member. Each candidate submits an essay regarding a student concern and a detailed possible solution.



Taylor Brooks, left, a rising senior at Westlake High School, is sworn in as the 2011-12 Student Member of the Board of Education by Chairman Roberta S. Wise, right, at the June 14 meeting.

The essays are evaluated and candidates are interviewed by a selected committee comprised of students and advisors. The liaison with the highest combined score on the essay and the interview is named the Student Board Member.

For more information on student leaders for the 2011-12 school year, visit www.ccboe.com/pr.



Staff notes

Job Openings

Library Media Specialists – Openings at John Hanson Middle School and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10-month positions. Master's Degree in library science or related field is required.

Cisco Teacher – North Point High School, 10.5-month position. Candidate must be certified in Cisco systems, and a minimum of three to five years of industry experience using Cisco will be considered in place of a degree.

Building Service Workers – Openings at Mary H. Matula, Mary B. Neal and William B. Wade elementary schools, 12-month positions. Apply by June 24.

Building Service Assistant Managers – Openings at General Smallwood Middle School and Westlake High School, 12-month positions. Apply by June 24.

Special Education Autism Teachers – Openings at Mary H. Matula Elementary

School and the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month positions. Apply by June 29.

Food Service Workers – Openings at Indian Head and Gale-Bailey elementary schools and La Plata High School, 10-month positions.

Extra pay positions

La Plata High School has the following openings:

- Junior varsity volleyball coach
- Junior varsity girls' basketball coach
- Junior varsity wrestling coach
- Fall junior varsity cheerleading
- Head winter cheerleading

Contact Clifford Nagle, athletic director, 301-934-1100, to apply.

Thomas Stone High School has the following openings:

- Junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Assistant field hockey coach

- Head cross country coach
- Junior varsity softball coach

Contact Steve Lee, athletic director, 301-843-0074, to apply.

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following openings:

- Junior varsity volleyball coach
- Junior varsity field hockey coach
- Freshmen boys' basketball coach
- Junior varsity basketball coach
- Varsity head wrestling coach

Contact Jason Bursick, athletic director, 301-934-2944, to apply.

Unified Sports program

The Charles County Public Schools Unified Sports program is seeking tennis coaches at all six Charles County public high schools for the fall season. Contact Seth Rak, Unified Sports coordinator for CCPS, at srak@ccboe.com to apply or for more information.