

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time • November 20, 2009 • R-330

Secretary of Education, Congressman visit Barnhart

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan told Charles County educators and community partners he believes every elementary school in the nation needs an early childhood program like the Judy Center.

During a press conference following a tour of the Judy Center and early childhood program at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, Duncan said early childhood education is the ticket to get out of the catch-up game. "To see this whole community come together makes me hopeful. It's what we do collectively that makes a real difference for kids," Duncan said.

On Nov. 16, Duncan joined Congressman Steny Hoyer and State See Duncan, Page 3



Nancy Grasmick, state superintendent, left, talks with students, from left, Keira Rivers, Dakhari Shorter and Anthony Proctor as Superintendent James Richmond, from left, looks on with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and Congressman Steny Hoyer.

Mattawoman's Goldstein is State Counselor of the Year

Stephanie Goldstein, a school counselor at Mattawoman Middle School, was recently selected as the Maryland Middle School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselor Association (MSCA). The award recognizes school counselors for outstanding achievement and service to students and for providing leadership in the development of existing and future counseling services.

Goldstein was selected for her participation in workshops for school system administrators and Board of Education members, for



Goldstein

...serving as a mentor for new school counselors, for helping initiate a comprehensive career guidance program and conflict-resolution activities and for new processes to entice students to initiate conferences.

"My nomination and selection for this award came as a great surprise. It is an honor to receive such a prestigious award. I am grateful that Charles County Public Schools has provided me with the resources and tools needed to excel in my

See Counselor, Page 2

Thanksgiving closures

Schools and offices will be closed Nov. 25-27 for the Thanksgiving holiday break.

Scholarship workshop

Charles County Public Schools is sponsoring "The Scholarship Workshop," a two-hour, interactive session hosted by author Marianne Ragins, on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at North Point High School. The workshop is designed to help students successfully complete the college scholarship search and application process.

The workshop is free and open to county high school students, parents and guardians. Space is limited to the first 450 participants and advanced registration is required. Visit www2.ccboe.com/instruction/scholarshipworkshop.cfm to register.

For more information on the workshop, visit www.scholarshipworkshop.com or call 301-934-7309.

Airing this weekend

Airing this Friday is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, a monthly show produced by the communications department that highlights school system events. This episode features United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's visit to C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, highlights from the Nov. 10 Board of Education meeting and coverage of Thomas Stone High School's 40th anniversary celebration. The show airs on Comcast Channel 96, and is available as a video on demand on the school system Web site at www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/.

Notebook

See a show

Three Charles County public high schools are presenting their fall plays this weekend. Henry E. Lackey High School is presenting William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" on Nov. 20-21, 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students and senior citizens, and \$6 for thespians.

Students at Stone are performing "Steel Magnolias" on Nov. 20-21. Performance time is 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

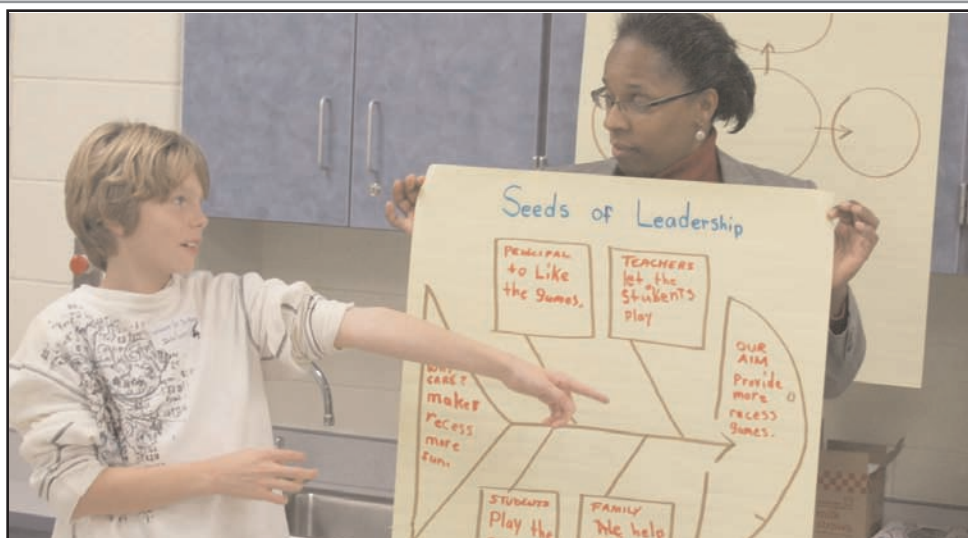
Westlake High School will present "Look Homeward, Angel" on Nov. 20-21. Show time is 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students and \$6 for thespians.

Just a reminder

Nominations for the Charles County Public Schools 2010 Principal of the Year and Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award are due by Friday, Dec. 11, to Human Resources. For more information call Jeanette Sudik, 301-934-7356, or visit the Washington Post's Web site at www.washpost.com.

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees recognized at the Nov. 10 Board meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Shellia Soderstrom, reading resource teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School; Jessica Gyurscik, language arts teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; Lawrence Gross, building service worker, Malcolm Elementary School; and Nichole Garner, kindergarten teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School.



Gale-Bailey Elementary School fourth grader Zachary Zalovick, left, explains his team's school and community project proposal to Vice Principal Tara Moore, right, as part of the Leaders for the Future workshop held Nov. 2 and Nov. 4 at the school. The workshop, facilitated by John Bonstingl, focuses on student leadership development, service learning and character education. Students worked in teams to draft community-based service projects to present to Principal Carrie Richardson.

Program at Gale-Bailey produces future leaders

A group of 30 third- and fourth-grade students at Gale-Bailey Elementary School are preparing themselves for a bright and successful future, one community-based project at a time. These students participated in the Leaders for the Future workshop, held the week of Nov. 2 at the school, which focuses on student development of innate leadership skills and positive character traits. The two-day workshop was presented by John Jay Bonstingl, founder of Bonstingl Leadership Development. Students were separated into teams to work together on creating school-based community projects to improve school climate and atmosphere.

Gale Bailey Principal Carrie Richardson said the goal of the workshop is to help students recognize positive character skills and work together to realize their leadership potential. "These are students that don't always necessarily volunteer to serve as leaders that need a gentle push to come out of their shells," she said.

A grant from State Farm Insurance provided funding for the workshop. Additionally, Reaching Out Now, a Southern Maryland non-profit organization that serves children in Charles County, donated all of the workshop supplies.

Counselor

Continued from page 1

endeavors and has given me the opportunity to grow as a professional school counselor," Goldstein said.

This is Goldstein's first year at Mattawoman. She was hired at Piccowaxen Middle School in 2006, where she was recognized as the school's exemplary employee before the Board of Education this past March. She will be recognized for her contributions to school counseling, and as the state middle school counselor of the year, during MSCA's fall conference Nov. 20.

Goldstein received a bachelor's of science degree in psychology from Mount St. Mary's College in 2002 and completed her

master's degree in school counseling in 2005 at Wilmington College in Delaware. She was nominated for the award by Jeanette Kaufmann, supervising school counselor for Charles County Public Schools.

Nominees must have at least three years of school counseling experience, a master's degree in guidance and counseling, and must be certified as a school counselor by the State of Maryland. Nominees must also have been responsible for providing leadership in counseling services and outstanding service to the school community.

For more information on the MSCA, visit www.mdschoolcounselors.com.

Jaycees honor school system staff for distinguished service to children

Three Charles County Public Schools staff members, Milton M. Somers Middle School art teacher Rick Ivanac, William A. Diggs Elementary School special education teacher Patricia Stokes and Westlake High School juvenile resource officer Paul Anderson, were honored Oct. 28 with Greater Waldorf Jaycees Distinguished Service Awards.



Rick Ivanac

Rick Ivanac

Ivanac received the award in the education category. He was nominated for the award by Somers Principal Stephanie Wesolowski and has been teaching at Somers since 2001. He was nominated for creating a positive learning environment, establishing communication with parents, students and community partners and for his enthusiasm toward education.

"It is evident to anyone who has the privilege to know him that he has a sincere passion for the educational profession and a sincere interest in and concern for students. He is always willing to come with creative lessons that prove to be interesting and educationally effective," Wesolowski wrote in a nomination letter.

Patricia Stokes

Stokes received the award in the special education category. She was nominated for the award by staff members and administration at Diggs, where she has been teaching since 2006. Stokes has also worked at Indian Head and Berry elementary schools and at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.



Patricia Stokes

She was nominated for the award for her positive attitude and for challenging her stu-

dents to achieve success. "I have worked with her for the past 8 years and have observed first hand her depth of knowledge, her care, concern and willingness to share her extensive knowledge with her peers," Laura Niggles, a kindergarten teacher at Diggs, wrote in a nomination letter.

Paul Anderson

Anderson received the award for county law enforcement. He was nominated for the award by the Westlake administrative team and has been assigned as the school's resource officer since 2004.



Paul Anderson

Anderson was nominated for the award for his positive mannerism and impact on the school and its community, and for being dependable and approachable. "Parents, students, teachers and administrators depend on Officer Anderson on a daily basis. He is a key member of Westlake High School and the community and has earned the respect of students, community and staff and is deserving of this recognition," Vice Principal Lori Gibson wrote in a nomination letter.

The awards recognize those who provide outstanding contributions and service to the community in their respective fields. All three award winners received a crystal trophy and nominees received a plaque.

Other nominees included Van Connor, pupil personnel worker, General Smallwood Middle School; Laura Liverman, technology facilitator, T.C. Martin Elementary School; Shirley Turner, teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School; Gary Winsett, social studies teacher, Thomas Stone High School; and Barbara Staebler, school psychologist at Eva Turner Elementary School.

Duncan

Continued from page 1

Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick at Barnhart to discuss the importance of early learning and full-service community schools. Barnhart is one of three elementary schools in Charles County with a successful Judy Center, which provides comprehensive services for Title I school children from birth through kindergarten and their families.

The visit highlighted the need to expand full-service community schools across the nation and to reach more children. Hoyer, along with Sen. Ben Nelson, recently introduced the Full-Service Community Schools Act of 2009. The bill would provide \$200 million per year for five years to fund grants for local partnerships between school districts and community-based organizations, which is the Judy Center model.

Judy Centers were established with a \$7 million grant in 2000 through Senate bill 793 to provide comprehensive services such as career counseling for parents, health services, nutrition services and early childhood education in order to give children a full support network to help them succeed.



From left, Leigh Stalter, Judy Center coordinator, Barnhart Principal Kim Hairston, Congressman Steny Hoyer, and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan tour Barnhart on Monday, Nov. 16.

Hoyer lamented that the only reason there are not Judy Centers in every elementary school in Maryland is because of funding. The full-service bill, he said, would fund high quality, centralized services in more schools like Barnhart. "When we centralize services, we magnify their effectiveness and accessibility. Judy Centers help provide a real connection between schools and their neighborhoods," Hoyer said.

Included in the tour were visits to a kindergarten physical education class and computer lab, kindergarten tutoring, a behavioral health lesson in Good Choice/Bad Choice, a prekindergarten physical activity and a three-year-old cooking activity with parents. All the programs blend Judy Center services with the regular school program.

Judy Centers are named for Judith P. Hoyer, Congressman's Hoyer's late wife and an early childhood advocate and former Supervisor of Early Childhood Education for Prince George's County. Charles County Judy Centers are considered models of the full-service schools success.

Richmond is Relay for Life Superintendent of the Year

Superintendent of School James E. Richmond was presented with the 2008-09 Relay for Life Superintendent of the Year award on Tuesday, Nov. 10 during the Board of Education's monthly meeting.

Charles County Public Schools students and staff raised more than \$133,331 for the American Cancer Society last school year. Richmond also accepted two additional awards from Cristina Vandroff, events chairperson for Relay for Life of Charles County, for the system's 100 percent participation and outstanding school involvement. The top three



Superintendent James Richmond, left, and Board Chairman Donald Wade, right, accept an award on behalf of the system from Cristina Vandroff, center, Relay for Life of Charles County Events Chairperson.

schools were Dr. James Craik Elementary School, Westlake High School, and C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School.

There are 25 relays in the national capital area region that includes Northern Virginia, the District of

Columbia, Montgomery, Prince George's and Charles counties. Charles County is the only region in the area with 100 percent participation. Richmond was chosen for the superintendent of the year award by a local Relay for Life committee.

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Personnel

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

Job openings

Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Certificated – High school level Spanish, 10-month position.

Building Service Worker – Openings at Mattawoman Middle School and North Point High School, 12-month positions. Apply by Nov. 25.

Instructional Specialists – Future openings at all levels, 11-month positions.

Title I Instructional Specialist for Technology – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position.

Chemistry Teacher – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

Spanish Teacher – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher of the Emotionally Disturbed – F. B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position.

Kindergarten Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

High School Instructional Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position.

Speech Language Therapists – All age levels, 10-month positions.

Family & Consumer Science Teacher – High school level, 10-month position.

Physics Teacher – High school level, 10-month position.

English Teacher – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

Gifted Education Resource Teachers – Future openings at all levels, 10-month positions.

Reading Resource Teachers – Future openings at all levels, 11-month positions.

Reading Recovery Teacher – To be determined, 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher for Science – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

Elementary Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Life Skills Teacher – Piccowaxen Middle School, 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher for Social Studies – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

Extra Pay Position

North Point High School has the following opening:

- Assistant Indoor Track Coach

Contact Principal Kimberly Hill, 301-885-2012, for details.

Staff notes

Communications staff earn top awards

Charles County Public Schools communications staff received 10 awards through the Chesapeake Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association's 2009 Communications Contest.

Awards received include the following: Award of Excellence for a video featuring the Save the Bay STEM field trip; the Charles County Public Schools Web site design; and a podcast featuring the television show "On Air;" the Award of Merit for the 2008-09 Parent Handbook/Calendar; the "News to Know" community newsletter; videos featuring the school system's PBIS efforts and the Safe Teen Driving program; the C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School Web site design; a podcast featuring the television show "NewsBreak 96." A video highlighting teacher recruitment received an Honorable Mention award.