 *Where success is measured
one student at a time*



Charles County Public Schools

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Health insurance holiday

Medical claim payouts were lower this school year than expected, resulting in a savings for the school system. The Board of Education approved an insurance holiday premium for all CareFirst plan participants. The holiday will occur with the June 4 pay check and affects current and retired policy holders. Contact Christeda Warner, 301-934-7459, with any questions or for more information.

Calendar reminder

As a reminder, Wednesday, May 26, is now a full day of school for students. The two-hour early dismissal was changed to a full day of instruction for students in order to make up time lost to inclement weather.

Memorial Day closure

Schools and offices are closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

CCPS to offer finance course

Charles County Public Schools is offering a free summer financial literacy workshop next month at Maurice J. McDonough High School for current sophomores and juniors.

The workshop is from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., June 21 through July 1, Monday through Thursday. Students must complete a registration form to enroll and are responsible for their own transportation. The form is available on the school system Web site at <http://www.2.ccboe.com/gifted/summer.cfm>.

The workshop will expose participants to basic financial literacy skills needed to enter the workforce or continue their education after high school. Enrollment is limited.

Deadline to register is June 16. Registration forms should be mailed to Charles County Public Schools, c/o Wanda Sellers, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Md., 20646.

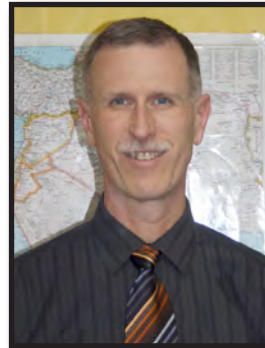
Westlake's Howell is the 2010 Charles County Teacher of the Year

Mark Howell was born into a world of education. He was raised by parents who emphasized the importance of helping children succeed and accomplish great things in life. His father was a high school vice principal; his mother, a music teacher and church choir director. Howell spent time as a teenager organizing music for a youth hand bell choir, and teaching groups of five-year-olds how to swim at a local day camp. "I was always praised and encouraged for my ability to work effectively with younger children. Teaching seemed to come naturally to me," Howell said.

Howell, a 30-year veteran educator and social studies teacher at Westlake High School, strives to provide his students with a rewarding and motivational education that connects them to a world rich with history. Students in his classroom can often be found comparing and analyzing maps, role playing

prominent historical figures or talking with students in Russia by satellite and webcams.

Howell's passion for history and his ability to challenge his students to gain a deep understanding of history are a few of the reasons why he was named the 2010 Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.



Mark Howell

Howell's nomination was spearheaded by Westlake Principal Chrystal Benson, who said Howell is a true example of an inspiring educator who provides engaging lessons not only for his students, but also for staff. "During Howell's formal observations, I must challenge myself to remain on task, as his lessons are so engaging that even the observer is anxious to get involved," Benson said.

Howell teaches a range of social studies classes at Westlake, including local, state and national (LSN) government and U.S. History, as well as several Advanced Placement

See Howell, Page 2

Schools, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Center earn Green status

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Maryland Green School awards program recently awarded Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools, and Gale-Bailey and J. C. Parks elementary schools with the Green School status. Additionally, the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Center earned Green Center status.

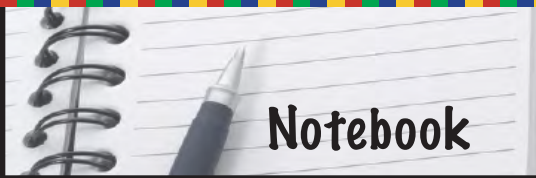
Each school, as well as Nanjemoy Creek, completed a two-year application process earlier this school year to become a Maryland Green School/Center. The process includes documented classroom integration of environmental issues, a demonstration of conservation practices and evidence of existing community partnerships that help enhance environmental learning.

Stone and Westlake are the county's 10th and 11th schools to be named a Maryland

Green School since 2000, and the first two high schools that have completed the application process. Gale-Bailey and Parks are the system's 12th and 13th schools to complete the process. Nanjemoy Creek is the first center in the school system that has been awarded Green status.

Green schools or centers are recognized for using their sites to help students understand and act on environmental challenges in Maryland. Green schools and centers also model environmental practices in building and landscape design, and operation and maintenance.

Each school, as well as Nanjemoy Creek, will receive a flag, and will be recognized locally and statewide. A recognition ceremony for Southern Maryland award winners will be held June 4. Visit <http://www.maeoe.org/> for more information.



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees who were honored at the April Board of Education meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Kathryn McGowan, kindergarten teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School; Ryan Erickson, business education teacher, Westlake High School; and Louella Bailey, vocal music teacher, Indian Head Elementary School.

Summer leadership institute

CCPS is looking for educators and current vice principals to attend the 2010 Leadership Institute, scheduled for June 21- 25, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at La Plata High School. Candidates are educators who want to develop leadership skills to help them successfully transition into an instructional and/or administrative leadership position or vice principals who aspire to be principals and want to further develop their leadership skills in order to transition into a principal position.

The Institute is open to all CCPS educators seeking positions such as department heads, Instructional Leadership Team, high school resource teachers and principals. Participants who have already participated in Leadership Seminar One should not register for this session. They should register for Leadership Seminar Two, to be held this fall. Participants can earn three CPD credits from the Maryland State Department of Education. Register online at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffdev/courses/> then click on CPD courses offered by CCPS.

Airing on Newsbreak 96

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 highlights Superintendent James E. Richmond's visit to the National Space Symposium, the Cooperative Education Employer/Employee breakfast and information about the school system's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. The show airs on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS 12, and is available as a video on demand on the CCPS Web site at www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/.

Muehlfeld named 2010 District Nurse of the Year

Karl Muehlfeld, a school nurse at Thomas Stone High School, was named Nurse of the Year on Monday, May 3, at the Maryland Nurses Association District 9 annual awards dinner.

Deborah Heim, school nurse at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, also received the Joanne Zwick Caring Award.

The Nurse of the Year Award recognizes achievements, professionalism, and outstanding contributions to nursing and nurses whose practice positively affects patients, families, colleagues, students and the community.

Muehlfeld, known as "Nurse Karl," was nominated for the award by Stone staff members, and students also submitted letters of support for his nomination. He has worked at Stone for the past seven school years, and previously worked

at Mary H. Matula Elementary School for three years.

The Joanne Zwick Caring Award recognizes registered nurses who provide an outstanding excellence in bedside nursing care and professionalism within the nursing community.

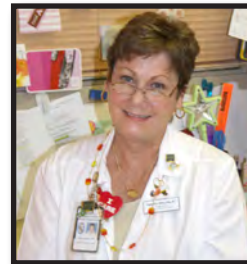
Heim's nomination was spearheaded by Higdon Principal Peggy Mertes, kindergarten teacher Lisa Barrett and Jill Jowdy, physical education teacher. Higdon students and staff also wrote letters of support for Heim's nomination.

Heim has served as the school nurse at Higdon since 2001. She previously worked at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School from 1997 to 2000, and spent 24 years

as a nurse at Greater Southeast Community Hospital in Washington, D.C.



Karl Muehlfeld



Deborah Heim



Howell

Continued from page 1

(AP) classes in European and U.S. history, government and politics, human geography and international relations. He also coaches a student "We The People" team and recently coordinated the expansion of Westlake's schoolwide History Day program.

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond said Howell is truly deserving of this award because he embodies all of the qualities expected of a teacher. "Howell is an excellent representative of a model teacher and for the school system. The connections he makes with his students are amazing," Richmond said.

Howell has taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and has been instrumental in bringing the Civics Mosaic Russian partnership and Civic Voices program to Charles County. In 2003, CCPS launched a partnership with a school in Penza, Russia through the Civics Mosaic program, in which students learn about political systems and ideology. Howell was chosen as one of two initial Mosaic

Fellows and traveled to Russia to teach and collaborate with educators.

Howell also became involved with the Civic Voices program to provide his students with a further understanding of history. The program provides teachers with the tools to work with their students to gather oral histories from civic activists. Once the histories are compiled, they are uploaded to the Civic Voices Web site as part of an International Democracy Memory Bank, which features the work of students across eight countries.

Howell has a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education and history, with a concentration in music from Westminster College in Pennsylvania. He has also participated in AP course training at La Salle University and Manhattan College.

As Charles County's Teacher of the Year, Howell will compete for the Maryland Teacher of the Year award, which will be announced in October.

School system staff receive awards, recognition from SECAC

The Charles County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) recognized more than 110 Charles County Public Schools staff members at its fifth annual Teacher and Staff Appreciation Awards ceremony held Wednesday, April 28.

Staff members are nominated for recognition by parents and winners are selected for group, instructional staff and support awards.

In the group nomination category, a team from Arthur Middleton Elementary School was selected as the elementary winner. They are Jennifer Buckley, special education teacher; Lisa Cooper, Life Skills instructional assistant; and Christina Thrutchley, Life Skills instructional assistant.

The middle-school group nomination category winner is from Milton M. Somers Middle School. They are Samantha Shelton, special education teacher; Charlotte Goldsmith, Life Skills instructional assistant; John Frederick, Life Skills instructional assistant; and Jackie Coley, instructional assistant.

In the instructional staff category, Mary Boyd, a Reading Recovery teacher at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, was named the winner. In the support staff category, Michael Garrison, bus driver for the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, and Nancy Somerville, bus attendant, were selected as the winners.

Other staff who were recognized include:

- **Sean Anderson**, mathematics teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School;
- **Richard Andrews**, science teacher, Middleton;
- **Kelly Arblaster**, special education teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School;
- **Gail Bacon**, occupational therapist, Middleton;
- **Tamara Barnes**, elementary teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School;
- **Cynthia Bartolomeo**, elementary teacher, Middleton;
- **Stacy Bateman**, school psychologist, Dr. James Craik Elementary School;
- **Veronica Beck**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Sheri Belisle**, elementary teacher, Mary B. Neal Elementary School;
- **Scott Brain**, school psychologist, Gwynn;
- **Joanne Brown**, occupational therapist, Gwynn;
- **Joe Buckler**, bus driver, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- **Derek Butler**, special education instructional assistant, Gwynn;
- **Susan Capelli**, occupational therapist, Gwynn;
- **Kyana Carter-Moore**, special education teacher, Neal;
- **Lindsay Carlson**, elementary teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School;
- **Robyn Cataldo**, special education teacher,

Berry Elementary School;

- **Louis Cate**, music teacher, Middleton;
- **Sarah Cavegn**, kindergarten instructional assistant, T. C. Martin Elementary School;
- **Janie Chang**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Beth Chotkowski**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Lisa Corsey**, speech therapist, Turner;
- **Karen Cross**, instructional assistant, Gwynn;
- **Genevieve Cullen**, school psychologist, Martin;
- **Virginia Cusick**, physical therapist, Gwynn;
- **Brittany Dean**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Michelle Dietrich**, elementary teacher, J. C. Parks Elementary School;
- **Annette Dunn**, occupational therapist, Gwynn;
- **Tammy Eanes**, Life Skills instructional assistant, Lackey;
- **Cynthia Early**, speech therapist, Middleton;
- **Sharon Farri**, special education teacher, Parks;
- **Cynthia Fitzsimmons**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Sharon Ford**, bus attendant, Martin;
- **Rebecca Franch**, art teacher, Middleton;
- **Charles Glaeser**, physical education teacher, John Hanson Middle School;
- **Teresa Gough**, kindergarten instructional assistant, Martin;
- **Anita Grimes**, special education pre-school instructional assistant, Berry;
- **Katie Guesto**, special education teacher, Martin;
- **Diana Gyuras**, elementary teacher, Martin;
- **Jessica Gyurscik**, language arts teacher, Stoddert;
- **Debra Haan**, physical education teacher, Middleton;
- **Jo Handley**, special education teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School;
- **Gary Himmelfarb**, language arts teacher, Hanson;
- **Cherelle Holland**, special education teacher, Davis;
- **Amanda Hughes**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Erica Jackson**, special education teacher, Middleton;
- **Robert Jameson Jr.**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Derval Jezek**, pre-school instructional assistant, Parks;
- **Jamie Kline**, speech therapist, Higdon;
- **Kristina Lacey**, kindergarten teacher, Martin;
- **Celeste Law**, special education teacher, Hanson;
- **Corey Lindauer**, special education instructional assistant, Gwynn;
- **Racheal Lindauer**, special education teacher, Turner;
- **Crystal Linville**, elementary teacher, Martin;
- **Megan Lima**, technology facilitator, Middleton;
- **Megan McKinney**, elementary teacher, Middleton;

- **Jason Mackey**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Jeff Mathews**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Samantha Maxey**, special education teacher, Turner;
- **Dan Meltsner**, computer teacher, Hanson;
- **Kim Mendoza**, special education instructional assistant, Turner;
- **Shelby Morris**, special education teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- **Theresa Morton**, special education teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School;
- **Donald Moss**, special education teacher, Davis;
- **Kathryn Neiles**, language arts teacher, Hanson;
- **Joan Newberg**, pre-school instructional assistant, Neal;
- **Scott Paterson**, school psychologist, Gwynn;
- **Gwynette Piper**, speech therapist, Neal;
- **Erin Pokrzywa**, psychologist, Davis;
- **Jennifer Pondel**, special education teacher, Lackey;
- **Gail Rankell**, speech therapist, William B. Wade Elementary School;
- **Kathy Reamy**, school counselor, Craik;
- **Laura Reifsnnyder**, science teacher, Hanson;
- **Jo Anne Roberts**, physical therapist, Gwynn;
- **Sabrina Robinson-Taylor**, principal, Martin;
- **Diane Ryan**, special education pre-school instructional assistant, Parks;
- **Ami Sankoh**, private care nurse, Middleton;
- **Andrea Smoot**, instructional assistant, Gwynn;
- **Brian Spivey**, special education instructional assistant, Davis;
- **Janet Stephanson**, special education coordinator, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building;
- **Leslie Summers**, special education instructional assistant, Turner;
- **Grace Tai**, instructional assistant, Gwynn;
- **Nichole Thomas**, school counselor, Hanson;
- **Paula Trinch**, speech pathologist, Martin;
- **Lois Turner**, instructional assistant, Martin;
- **Suzanne Van Horn**, special education instructional assistant, Davis;
- **Brenda Wagner**, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- **Lydia Washington**, pre-school instructional assistant, Neal;
- **Lorri Wathen**, elementary teacher, Middleton;
- **Marjorie Watson**, special education instructional assistant, Davis;
- **Lauren Wenrich**, special education teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- **Muriel Werking**, speech therapist, Mudd;
- **Linda Westervelt**, instructional assistant, Gwynn;
- **Sharkee Williams**, bus driver, Martin;
- **Corrie Wutka**, elementary teacher, Diggs;
- **Joyce Yates**, instructional assistant, Gwynn; and
- **Pamela Young**, special education teacher, Martin.

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Robert D. Stethem honored during commemoration ceremony

The life of Robert Stethem, a 1980 Thomas Stone High School graduate and victim of terrorism, was celebrated in a commemoration ceremony held Friday, April 23 at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. School system staff, as well members of Stethem's family, coordinated the event to honor Stethem and officially dedicate the building in his memory.

The commemoration included the presentation of six student-produced banners that hang in the main lobby area of the school, a dedication of a bench located at the school's entrance, and the unveiling of a flag that was flown on the U.S.S. Stethem naval ship. Also invited to speak to family members and guests were Capt. Kathryn Donovan, who served in the Navy with Stethem, and Dyotha Rene' Sweat, who served in the Navy aboard the ship named for Stethem.

Family members of Robert's who attended the event included Patrick Stethem, Robert's brother,

his wife, Katherine, and their three children. Patrick spoke to guests and students in attendance about the importance of persevering and succeeding school to prepare for life after graduation. During his time as a Charles County Public Schools student, Robert Stethem took electrical courses at the Charles County Career and Technology Center in the building now named after him.

Stethem enlisted in the Navy after graduation and died as a result of terrorism in 1980. He was returning to his home in Charles County from an assignment in the Middle East when terrorists hijacked the commercial jetliner on which he was a passenger. He was singled out among the passengers, beaten, tortured and killed by the terrorists who later threw his body from the plane. In memory of Stethem, the Charles County Career and Technology Center was renamed after Stethem in 2005.



Pictured, from left, are Capt. Kathryn Donovan, Katherine Stethem, Robert Stethem, Patrick Stethem, Gabrielle Stethem, Genevieve Stethem and Dyotha Rene' Sweat as they cut a commemoration ribbon outside of the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center on April 23.



Personnel

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

Job Openings

Secretary – Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 11-month position. Apply by May 21.
Security Alarm Technician – Annex Building 101, 12-month position. Apply by May 27.
Building Service Assistant Manager – T. C. Martin Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by May 25.
Guidance Secretary – Mattawoman Middle School, 11-month position. Apply by May 28.
Plumber – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by May 28.
Building Service Worker – Piccowaxen Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by May 28.
Drafting and Design Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position.

Spanish Teacher – High school level opening, 10-month position.

French Teacher – High school level opening, 10-month position.

Extra pay position

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Girls' assistant soccer coach

Contact Principal L.C. Martin, 301-753-1756, to apply.

Payroll information

The pay dates for July are July 7 and July 23. Pay dates for the 2011 budget year have been moved back one week, beginning in July, to maintain 26 pay dates for the current calendar year, and 26 pay dates for the 2011 calendar year. This is a normal shift that occurs every five years. Pay dates in July are scheduled two and a half weeks apart in order to adjust to the schedule change. Staff will receive three pay checks this October and in April 2011.

The July bi-weekly salary for 12-month employees may be less than the amount received from February through June because of the mid-year step increase. Step increases are usually spread over 26 pay dates starting at the beginning of the contract.

Office Depot Discount

School system staff are eligible for a discount with Office Depot. The discount is available for use with online and in-store orders. To sign up, fill out the form located on the staff services page of the CCPS Web site and send it to Susan Hare, Office Depot representative for CCPS. Her e-mail is susan.hare@officedepot.com and fax number is 410-381-2214. The form must be sent from a school system e-mail account or school system fax number. In-store purchases must be made from a credit card account on file in order to receive the discount. To set up an in-store account, call Hare at 443-458-3113.