



CARROLL COUNTY MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

THE DRIVER'S SEAT

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

410-751-3229

Spring

2014

EDITION



Director:

Michael Hardesty

Supervisor:

Keith Shorter:

Out-of-County
Special Needs &
South Carroll Area

Area Supervisors:

Byron Moore:

In-County Special
Needs

John O'Meally:

North Carroll &
FSK Areas

Scott Parsons:

Westminster Area

Driver Instructors:

Dena Hozik

Rick Sommer

Angela Williams

Support Staff:

Pat Arnold

Kristin Ebert

Pat Wall

Cindy Washick

As we close yet another school year, let me again state how proud I am of the level of professionalism and competency exhibited on a daily basis by our bus drivers, bus assistants, and contractors. Having survived one of the longest and harshest winter seasons in memory, every driver needs to be recognized for their winter weather and defensive driving skill.

For the second consecutive year, both total accidents and the number of preventable accidents have gone down from the previous five year average (see chart later in this newsletter). Our on-time delivery record continues to be excellent and, based on our three most recent bus inspections, our contractors and drivers maintain an exceptional fleet of buses.

Without question, the installation of the *AngelTrax* camera systems, now on all CCPS buses, has led to a decline in bus behavior incidents and has provided greater protection for drivers. We soon will be providing detailed route descriptions for next year's bus routes to drivers using our *Transfinder* routing software (more on that at the "in-service"). In short, we have had an excellent school year but, we will continue to strive to improve.

DRIVER/ ASSISTANT "IN-SERVICE"

This year's driver in-service training will be held on Wednesday, June 18 at Century High School. As we successfully experimented with last year, we again will have only this single day for the year-end in-service. All drivers must attend this one-day training. Drivers are requested to report to Century High School by 7:00 a.m. for registration. ALL CLASSES WILL START PROMPTLY AT 7:30 A.M.

Bus assistants will also be included in this one-day "in-service" and should report to the Century High School auditorium by 1:30 p.m. for their training.

We are very excited about the training sessions that will be included in this year's "in-service". For the general auditorium sessions, Mr. Larry Faries, Coordinator of School Security, will speak regarding the recent South Carroll High School incident and, from a school security standpoint, what we should know and be aware of as school bus drivers and assistants. The second portion of the two hour auditorium session will deal with winter weather and what makes our weather here in Carroll so complex and difficult to forecast sometimes. Mr. Rich Foot of Foot's Forecasting will be our presenter.

There will be eight (8) other classroom sessions dealing with subjects such as our new computer routing technology, child abuse and neglect, bus cameras, drug/ alcohol testing update, railroad and bridge crossings, special education transportation, and the bus inspection/ pre-trip responsibilities of drivers.

Please keep up the good work as we bring the 2013 - 2014 school year to a close. I look forward to seeing everyone on June 18 for the annual in-service training.

news alert

Survey finds 9 danger zone deaths in last school year

(BY THOMAS MCMAHON)

Nine students were killed in school bus loading and unloading accidents in the U.S. in the 2012-13 school year, newly released data show.

The findings come from the National School Bus Loading and Unloading Survey, which the Kansas State Department of Education's School Bus Safety Education Unit compiles each year.

Of the nine children killed in the 2012-13 danger zone incidents, six were hit by vehicles passing their school bus, while the other three were struck by their bus. Those numbers are the same as they were in the 2011-12 school year.

Of the three struck-by-bus fatalities in 2012-13, one occurred at the front of the bus, and the other two occurred at the back.

Here are other key details from the 2012-13 findings:

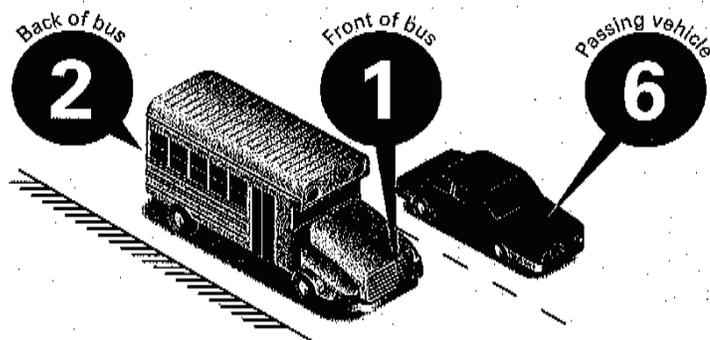
- **Destination:** Six of the fatalities occurred on the way to school; three occurred on the way home.
- **Age:** Five of the children killed were under age 10; four were 10 or older.
- **Gender:** Five boys were killed, and four girls were killed.
- **Type of area:** Eight of the fatalities took place in rural areas; one was in an urban area.
- **Road conditions:** Eight of the incidents occurred with dry road conditions; one occurred with wet road conditions.
- **State:** Four of the fatalities occurred in North Carolina. Two were in Texas. Indiana, Arkansas and Georgia each had one fatality.

The National School Bus Loading

More online

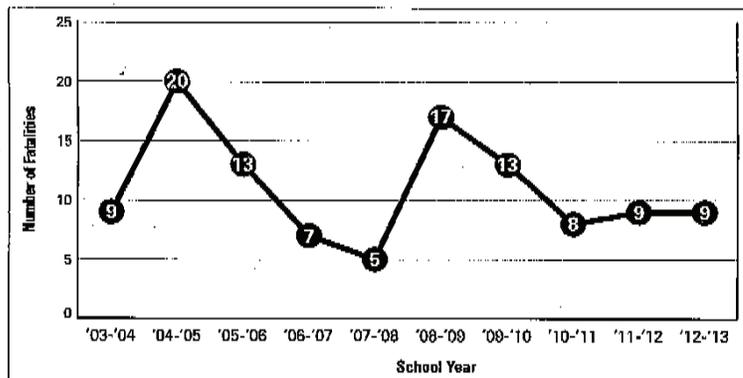
The full National School Bus Loading and Unloading Survey for 2012-13, including descriptions of each fatality incident, is available at Schoolbusfleet.com/loading12.

Location of fatalities



In 2012-13, the majority of the loading and unloading fatalities — six of the nine — were caused by a vehicle passing the school bus. Three children were fatally struck by their bus.

Fatalities over past 10 years



Over the past 10 years, there has been an average of 11 danger zone fatalities annually.

and Unloading Survey is a collection of fatality accident records provided by the state agencies responsible for school transportation safety and/or accident records. Onboard fatalities are not included.

The loading/unloading statistics have been collected since the 1970-71 school year. During that year, there were 75 danger zone fatalities, which is the highest total on record. In the 43-year history of the survey, there has been a total of 1,212 fatalities recorded.

The survey is described as an ef-

fort to raise awareness of the dangers involved in loading and unloading schoolchildren.

"Fatalities continue to occur at the bus stop, caused by a variety of circumstances and errors on the part of the school bus driver or passing motorist," the report says. "It points out the continuing need for forceful, advanced instruction to school bus drivers and students, as well as the need to increase our efforts to thoroughly inform the driving public about the requirements of the school bus stop law."

SBI



End of the Year

As it is getting closer to the end of the year, please stay on top of your driving skills. You are a professional driver and nothing but the best is expected. Remember you are transporting "Precious Cargo" and the students and parents are always counting on you to keep them safe.

All of our Carroll County Bus Drivers and Assistants are among the best in the State of Maryland!

Remember you must comply with the law; you are not above the law. No speeding, controlling traffic, waving traffic on; utilizing the Red School Lights for anything other than loading and unloading of students.

Please remember to refer to your Driver Handbook if you are ever in doubt about anything. Thank You.



transfinder
FIND THE FUTURE TODAY



The Transportation Department is very excited about our new routing software, Routefinder Pro by Transfinder. This software will help us with routing issues and communication with drivers, schools, and parents. Routes generated from this software will include more detailed information than is currently provided. For example, schools and parents will be provided with the approximate a.m. and p.m. stop times for each stop location, which is a change from our current system. The first phase of this rollout will affect South Carroll, Century and Liberty area routes this fall. Contractors in these areas will be provided with stop times, directions and bus lists generated from this software.

We look forward to meeting with all you to share more about Routefinder Pro at our upcoming In-Service.

THE DRIVER'S SEAT

2013-2014 SNOW WATCH; A Quick Summary:

Total snow watch days:	38
Schools On-time :	19
Schools Closed:	12
Schools opening two-hours late :	7

**BUS INSPECTIONS S/Y 2014—2015**

Please mark your calendars for next year's bus inspections.

August

- 11 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
- 12 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
- 13 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 14 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High

October

- 27 Fall Bus Inspection (8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 28 Fall Bus Inspection (8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 29 Fall Bus Inspection (8:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
Marking Period Ends. Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Teachers Work on End of Marking Period Items; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Student
- 30 Fall Bus Inspection (8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Century high
- 31 Fall Bus Inspection (8:30 am to 11:45 am) Winters Mill High

March

- 16 Spring Bus Inspection (8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 17 Spring Bus Inspection (8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Century High
- 18 Spring Bus Inspection (8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 19 Spring Bus Inspection (8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High

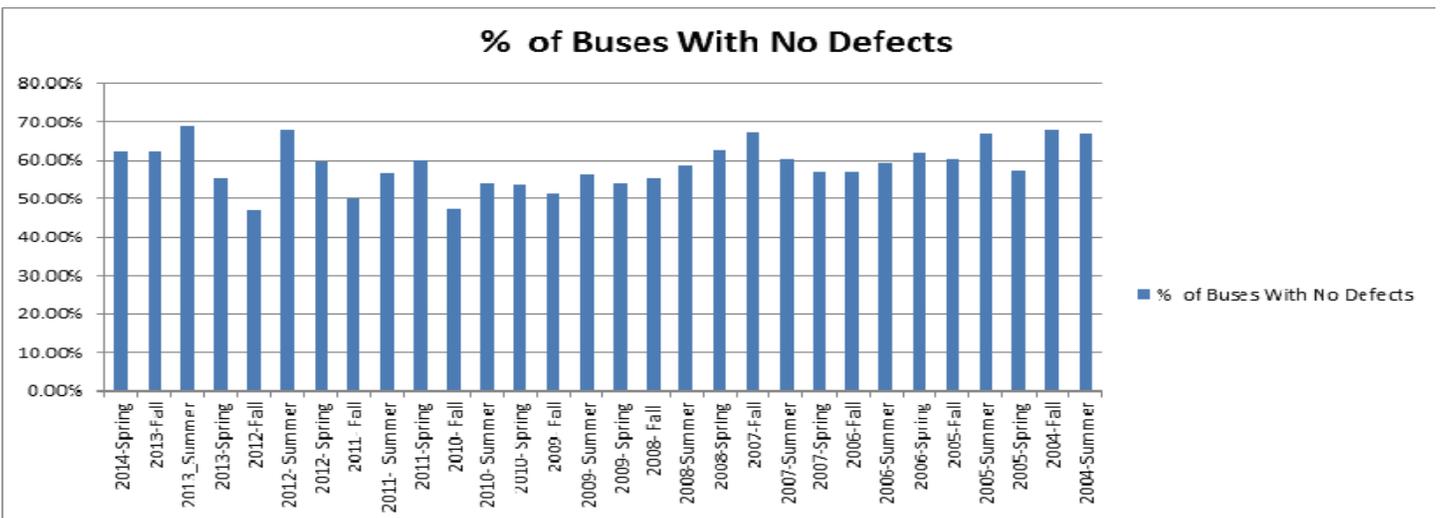
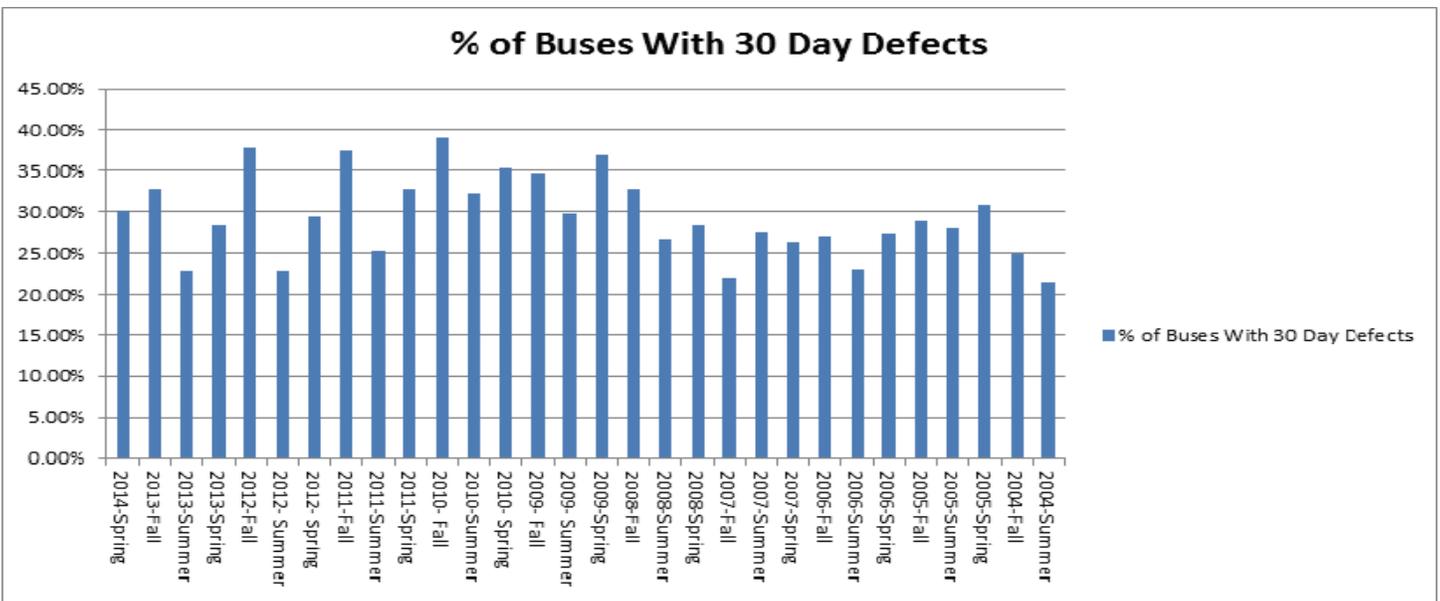
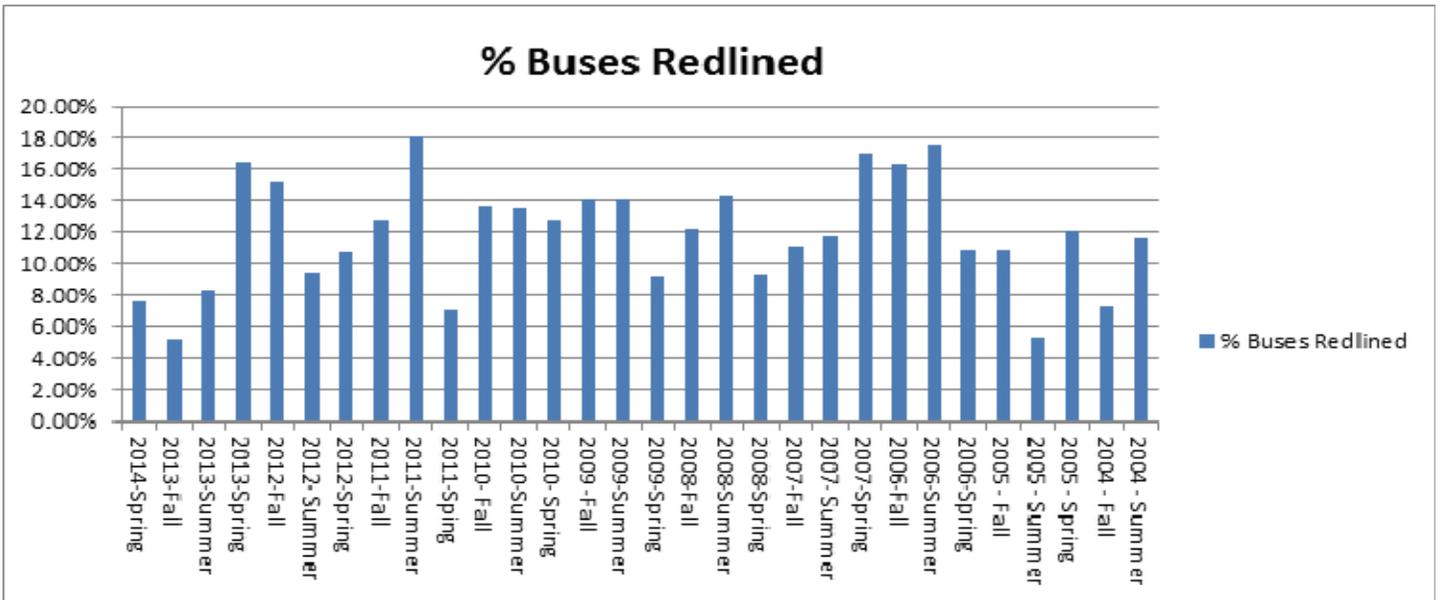


The Spring 2014 bus inspection was one that most of us will not soon forget.

Starting on Monday, the temperature was 18° F. as bus inspection began. By Tuesday, drivers and inspection teams endured falling snow for most of the morning. Wednesday saw extremely windy and cold weather, and Friday was wet and rainy. Following the winter we had, should we have been surprised??

Regardless, it was a successful inspection. Staff from Harford County Public Schools Pupil Transportation visited on Thursday to observe. As is customary for people observing our bus inspections, these folks commented about how great our buses looked and how efficient our bus inspection ran. As we have often commented, we are extremely proud of our fleet of buses and the pride you take in your buses shows. The results for the Spring bus inspection are highlighted on the following page.

THE DRIVER'S SEAT



Q's and A's from Special Ed

The Long hard winter is slowly giving way to the warm new beginnings of spring, and we are fast approaching the end of the 2013-14 school year.

It is that time of year again when the grass grows, the birds come north, and the weather warms. It is also brings more people outside during the day. Kids once again are playing outside in the neighborhood. Parking lots and front lawns become ball fields, and carefree days may become a distraction to all. Please be careful when driving during this re-acquaintance to the outdoors.

Q: What are some of the percentages of students nationwide that have disabilities?

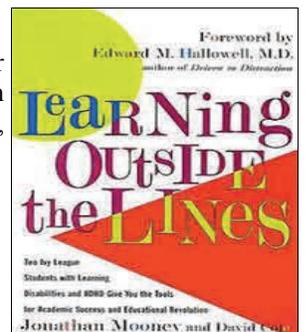
A: According to numerous sources the following information was found:

- 10 % of all students have some form of a learning disability
- 1 in 68 children has some range/degree of autism
- 15 % of students have some form of dyslexia
- 9.8 % of students are diagnosed with ADHD (not a learning disability)



***The 5,783,406 students nationwide, ages 6-21, that received special education services under IDEA, Part B, in the fall of 2008 were in the following diagnostic categories: 42.6 percent in specific learning disability, 19.1 percent in speech or language impairment, 8.1 percent in mental retardation, or 7.2 percent in emotional disturbance, or 2.1 percent in multiple disabilities, 1.2 percent in hearing impairments, 1.1 percent in orthopedic impairments, 11.1 percent in other health impairments, 0.4 percent in visual impairments, 5.0 percent in autism, 0.03 percent in deaf-blindness, 0.4 percent in traumatic brain injury, and 1.7 percent in developmental delay.

Of the 5,783,407 youth nationwide, ages 6-21, that received special education services under IDEA in the fall of 2008, 4,606,980 (or 79.7 percent) spend 40 percent or more of their time in the regular classroom. The District of Columbia had the smallest percentage (48.0 percent), while North Dakota had the largest percentage (91.5 percent).



***Info collected from: www.data-first.org/data/how-many-students-with-disabilities

Data First: Center for Public Education



My Attitude has Taken a Turn

Inspired by Chris

*Remember getting on the bus that was so cold
Remember thinking this is really getting old*

*What do you mean by changing my bus
And you wonder why bus drivers fuss
Around the corner the bus takes a turn
Not knowing that there was a lesson to learn*

There awaits a special young man

*A smile on his face and books in his hand
Taking the steps at a very slow speed
This young man is labeled as special needs*

*Many a lesson from him I had learned
My attitude had taken a different turn*

He's a proud member of the ROTC

*This is something that I really wanted to see
I sat in the bleachers with tears in my eyes
As I saw this special young man marching by*

*Crippling arthritis caused him to hurt when he walked
But one would never know it by the way he talked*

*Proudly marching with a smile on his face
I've often wondered if I could keep up his pace*

*The pace is kept while being inspired each day
So be an inspiration to someone along the way*



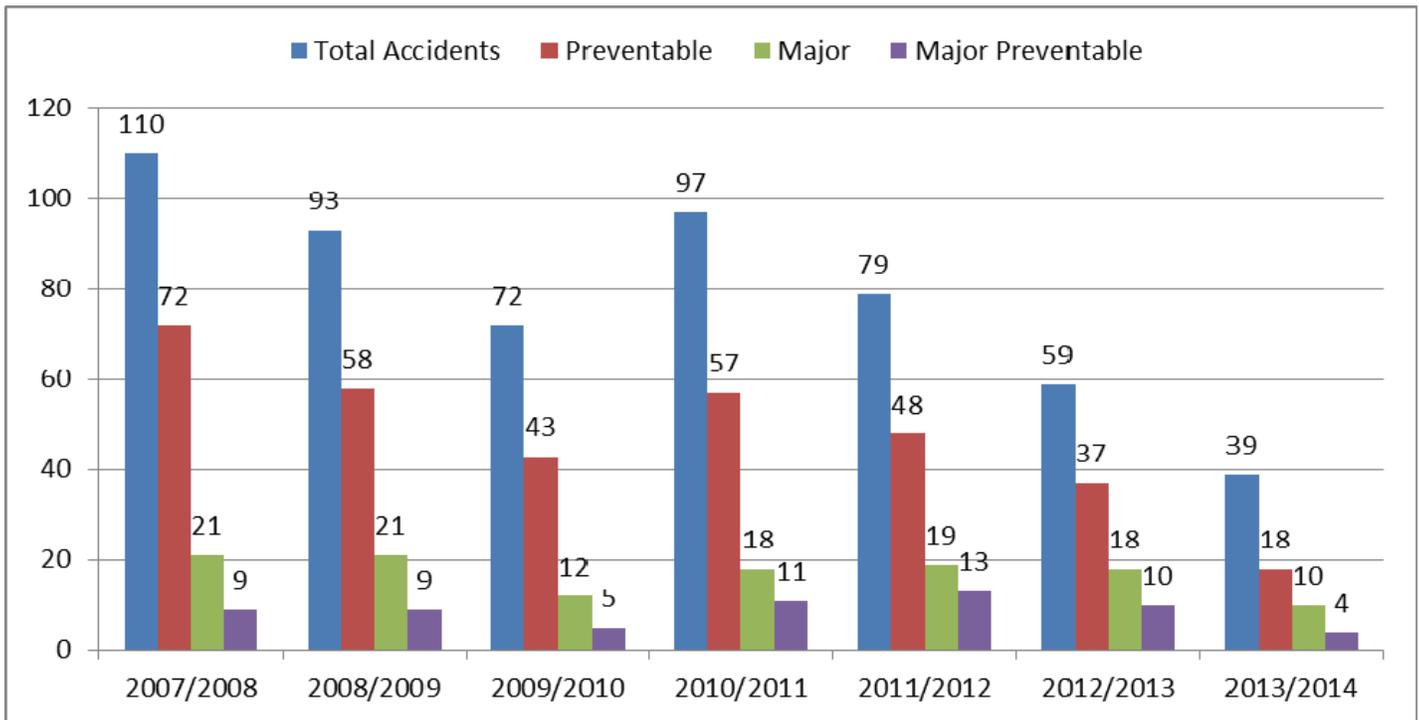
By Rick Sommer

ACCIDENT REVIEW RESULTS



Accidents continue to decline over the past few years which is a testament to the quality of drivers that we have in Carroll County. With the hustle and bustle of today's society, the number of distracted drivers, and the overall number of drivers increasing throughout the county, the school bus driver is placed in accident inducing situations more and more often. The professional drivers employed throughout Carroll County continue to put safety first.

Of the accidents during the 2013/2014 school year*, the predominant numbers of preventable accidents are from drivers striking fixed objects. These types of accidents accounts for 10 of the 18 preventables to date. The good news is that these accidents are usually minor. We can always improve upon our accident statistics. Use your mirrors, be certain you have the clearance you think you have. Thanks to all of you for a job very well done!



*As of April 2014

Congratulations To All Honorees



IN RECOGNITION

It is with fondness and great appreciation, that after 22 years, we bid farewell to Charmaine Euler. On March 31st, Charmaine was presented with a certificate and flowers after having served Carroll County Public Schools special needs students with enthusiasm and kindness. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors .



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners (“Board”) established the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) in 2004. The EAC serves as an advisory body to the Board on issues of environmental concern:

THE AGRICULTURE AWARD

Mr. Donald Maring was able to reduce his carbon footprint for his farming operation. He generates almost 100 percent of his electricity usage for his grain dryers and lights in his barn through the installation of a 48 kilowatt solar facility on the roof of his barn. The fans in grain dryers take a tremendous amount of energy over a long period of time. Mr. Maring’s solar generation reduces the need for additional fossil fuels and nuclear generation to supply the grid. Mr. Maring is a long-time bus contractor for CCPS.



In Sympathy

Everyone in the Transportation Services Department would like to express our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Jayne Harrison. Jayne has been either a driver or a contractor for Carroll County Public Schools since 1987, a period of 27 years. In addition, Jaynie was the driver of the quarter in the winter of 2013's Driver's Seat. Jaynie passed away in April after a long, courageous battle with cancer



CALENDAR

SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGES

May

12 **Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal for Elementary Students; Professional Time for Elementary Teachers; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students**

26 **Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day**

June

12 **Last Day for Pre-Kindergarten Students (full day)**

13 **Last Day for Students (full day)**

