

The Bulletin

Inside this issue:

- Media showcase entries due soon. Page 2.
- CTE award nominations sought. Page 2.

Feb. 26, 2007

■ Montgomery County Public Schools

■ www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

Vol. 49, No. 25

MCPS computers help Liberia progress after 14 years of war

Emerging from 14 years of civil war, the Republic of Liberia has a long way to go to recover from the devastating impact of years of ethnic conflict, human rights abuse and a deteriorating standard of living.

Some progressive changes, however—including the gift of more than 3,000 computers from Montgomery County Public Schools over the past few years—are helping the country rebuild and progress into the 21st century.

“People are very excited. The vast majority of our students had never seen computers before or had hands-on experience,” Liberian Minister of Education Joseph Korto told Superintendent Jerry D. Weast and other administrators during a Feb. 15 visit to the superintendent’s office.

Korto and James Roberts, deputy min-
(continued on page 2)



Liberian Minister of Education Joseph Korto (second from left) talks with Superintendent Jerry D. Weast during a recent meeting in the superintendent’s office. From left are John Q. Porter, MCPS deputy superintendent, Information and Organizational Systems; Korto; Weast; James Roberts, deputy minister for planning, research and development, Liberia Ministry of Education; and Roland Ikheloa, chief of staff for the MCPS Board of Education.

Use ePaystub now

MCPS is no longer producing or distributing paper pay stubs to employees who participate in direct deposit.

Starting with this Friday’s pay stub (March 2), pay information is accessible only by using ePaystub.

To log on to the new system, go to www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ersc/e_paystub.shtm. You’ll need your user ID and password (if you don’t know them, call the Help Desk at 301-517-5800) and your employee ID (listed at the top left of your old pay stubs).

If you have questions about your pay information, contact the Employee and Retiree Service Center at 301-517-8100 or e-mail ERSC@mcpsmd.org.

Students succeed in Kennedy’s AMATE program

When the group of more than 40 young African American males walks through the halls at John F. Kennedy HS dressed in shirts, ties and slacks, students and teachers take notice.

During college visits, administrators have been known to stop meetings to come out and greet them.

More than 90 percent of them will go on to attend college.

The students are members of the successful AMATE (African American Males Aiming to Excel) program. They meet weekly with director Timothy McNeil, a guidance counselor at the school. The support group focuses on issues young males deal with—from college to finances, anger management to drugs, dating to fatherhood—and helps them make good decisions.

“There’s no topic that’s off limits,” says McNeil, who has been running the group at Kennedy since 1998. It was founded in 1995 by Kennedy counselors Vivian Barron and Judy Lancaster. Before coming to Kennedy, McNeil ran similar programs for about 10 years, including at Bowie State, in Prince George’s County, with the National Job Corps and at Clemente MS.

The program gives students a place to talk about issues related to becoming young men. “In too many of our households, especially African American, we don’t have men teaching boys how to become men,” McNeil says. “It gives them an option to talk about their feelings in a safe environment.”

This year, AMATE has 44 students.

(continued on page 4)

MCPS computers help Liberia's students

(continued from page 1)

ister for planning, research and development with the Liberia Ministry of Education, visited MCPS to thank the school system for its gifts of computers and to invite Weast and administrators to visit Liberia to see for themselves how the computers are helping make a difference in education there.

Liberia received its first shipment of about 350 surplus computers from MCPS in late 2003 after Korto, then president of the Liberian Development Foundation, made contact with MCPS' Steve Silvius, supervisor of field installation. MCPS sent another 1,000 computers in 2005 and 2,000 computers in 2006.

Korto is no stranger to Montgomery County. During the 1980s, he lived in Silver Spring, and his children attended and graduated from MCPS. Korto graduated from Catholic University and has worked with the Maryland State Department of Education.

Now, as Minister of Education in Liberia, he is charged with improving education in a country traditionally noted for its academic institutions but now struggling to regain both its infrastructure and its educational system.

"At least we are not running away from bullets," Korto told the superintendent and administrators. "Peace has returned. We have a democratically elected government. We are trying to sustain the peace and rebuild the country."

In the area of education, Liberia is confronted with two major issues. "Educational opportunities are essentially a privilege for thousands of young people," Korto said. "Access to education is extremely limited."

The composition of students also has changed, he noted. There are two groups of students at the primary level—one group of younger students and another group of older students who missed out on an education during 14 years of conflict.

MCPS' first shipment of computers was set up at the University of Liberia. Since then, the partnership between the school system and the African country has resulted in a growing number of computers in Liberia's other three universities, public schools and even some rural areas.

Computers in the public schools are having one unintended result. "Because

of these computers, students are leaving expensive private church-run schools and moving into public schools," Korto noted. The public schools still are struggling to get sufficient funds and materials to educate students.

Internet access is limited in Liberia because much of the country is without electric service. Many areas of the capital, Monrovia, and much of the country depend on individual diesel generators. In addition, roads in the country are poor, and many small towns and villages are inaccessible, especially during the rainy season.

That's why the Queen of Jordan was particularly impressed when, during a visit to Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, she was whisked away in a helicopter to the northern part of Liberia, where a computer from MCPS had been set up in the heart of a rural area.

"You can send e-mail!" Queen Rania Al-Abdullah exclaimed. "We got these computers from Montgomery County schools," Minister Korto replied.

Liberian President Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first democratically elected female president (elected in 2005), also is interested in how the computers are helping make a difference in Liberia. The country is working with the United Nations Development Programme, with the hope of getting solar panels to generate electricity, which could result in greater access to the Internet.

"Everybody is so happy," Korto said of the computers. "It is something that is new in the country."

"Your computers are really excellent," Deputy Minister Roberts said, noting that some African countries are getting donations of computers that do not work properly. All of the MCPS computers are in working order, with clean hard drives.

Weast suggested that Liberia may wish to send some of its teachers to MCPS for training. "We are very international in our scope," Weast said, noting that MCPS has had representatives from 18 different nations visit the school system in the past six months. "We want to reach out and touch people."

MCPS will provide leadership training tapes for education supervisors in Liberia. The school system plans to send another shipment of between 1,000 and 2,000 computers to Liberia this summer. □

Media showcase entries due soon

Entries for the the annual Montgomery County Schools Media Festival are due by March 9.

The event, set for April 19-20 at AFI Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, will showcase the work of students in kindergarten through grade 12 (April 19 for elementary students and April 20 for middle and high school students).

Students will vie for awards in photography, sequential stills, live action, animation and two new categories—digital art and design, and news program.

Mail or hand deliver entries to Brenda Anderson, School Library Media Programs, CESC, Room 259. Participants must register online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mediafestival/. E-mail Brenda_D_Anderson@mcpsmd.org with questions.



Announcements

Run/walk. A charitable run/walk in honor of Michael Tyler, a Watkins Mill HS student who died from complications suffered in a wrestling match in 2006, will be held March 17, 9 a.m., at Watkins Mill HS. All proceeds will go to the Mike Tyler Scholarship Fund. A minimum donation of \$10 payable to Watkins Mill HS and a registration form are requested prior to race day (includes T-shirt). Donations can be sent to Watkins Mill HS, c/o Allison Whitman and Michelle Pettit. For more information, call 301-840-3964. □

The Bulletin

Montgomery County Public Schools
Public Information Office
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
301-279-3391
301-279-3221 (fax)

Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent
Brian Edwards, Director
Vickie C. Walter, Editor
Vickie_C_Walter@mcpsmd.org

Published for the MCPS community weekly August through June. Deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for consideration in the following Monday's issue. Items are published on a space-available basis.





Employment Opportunities

The jobs below were available at Bulletin deadline. All require excellent human relations skills. These are summaries of minimum & special job requirements. For staffing information, contact the Department of Staffing at 301-279-3515. Employment opportunities and written job descriptions are available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel. Applicants will be screened based on the job description & special considerations. All active permanent and temporary employees must apply on MCPS Form 446-6; outside (new) applicants must complete the Interest in an Advertised Vacancy Form, located at the Office of Human Resources reception area. Specify ad number, school or location & name of the personnel specialist following the job summary. Take tests & submit required materials by the application deadline; additional skills tests may be administered after the deadline. A job change may affect retirement/pension status; check with the Employee & Retiree Service Center, 301-517-8100. Returning from leave, involuntary transfers & reassigned employees will have priority.

Unless otherwise indicated, the deadline for all jobs is 03/06/2007. Apply by job number and title for all supporting services positions. Faxes will not be accepted. Applications must be either hand-carried to the Department of Staffing or sent by internal or U.S. mail.

Administrative

Administrative & supervisory positions are listed in bold. If no ads are listed, no new

positions are available. Complete descriptions can be found on the Office of Human Resources employment information web site (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel).

Supporting services

Paraeducators. All paraeducator vacancies are posted on the vacancy database at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org under For Staff/School-based Jobs: Vacancy Database. Next to "Position" select "paraeducator," "special education paraeducator," etc. To be considered for employment, all new applicants must submit a supporting services application packet along with official transcripts to the Office of Human Resources, 7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 401, Rockville, MD 20855. Only approved new candidates may send letter of interest with résumé directly to the school.

#1 Bus operator (9) (4 hrs., 7-9 am & 2-4 pm) Dept. of Transportation—Driver's lic. for at least 5 yrs.; excel. driving record; abil. to obtain MD Class B commercial driver's lic.; pass phys. exam. & drug test. Sub. exper. may lead to perm. pos. (Reed)

#2 Cafeteria worker I (substitute) (2-5 hrs.) Div. of Food Services—Food preparation exper. req. (Calavetinos)

#3 Substitute secretarial assignments (10) (multiple school & central office loc.)—Gen. secretarial/clerical skills; familiarity with Microsoft Office app. a plus; must pass MCPS typing test at 40 wpm. Sub. exper. may lead to perm. pos. Call 301-279-3291 to schedule appt. for typing test. (Arrington)

#4 Building service worker (community use) (6) (various loc.)—Gen. clng. exper., incl. repetitive lifting; abil. to maint. security of school bldg., work independently, commun. with community use groups & secure boiler cert.; flex. rotation

hrs. incl. 8 hrs. Sat., 8 hrs., Sun., & 4 hrs. 1 weeknight; must have own transp.; loc. subj. to change. (Reed)

#5 HVAC mechanic I (17) (loc. TBD) Div. of Maintenance—HS grad.; compl. of recognized HVAC apprenticeship & valid universal class EPA refrigerant recovery certif. (MD HVAC journeyman's lic. pref.); abil. to diagnose & troubleshoot complex HVAC equip. & sys. & to work from schematics, plans & drawings; valid Class C driver's lic. & thorough knowl. of current trade practices, standards, codes; MCPS written HVAC test & maint. HVAC skill test. (Arrington)

#6 Heating mechanic II (17) (loc. TBD) Div. of Maintenance—HS grad. & compl. of recognized apprenticeship; consid. knowl. of maintaining & repairing heating sys., diagnosing defects in burners, working from diagrams & inspecting work; valid driver's lic.; excel. commun. skills & abil. to prepare reports; abil. to respond to frequent emergency requests & perform work req. consid. phys. exertion; written MCPS heating mechanic II test & skills test. (Arrington)

#819 Building service manager III (13) (BQ) (6-2:30 pm) A. Mario Loiederman MS—Bldg. maint. exper. incl. supervisory exper.; knowl. of bldg. serv. methods, mats. & practices incl. HVAC; boiler certif.; MCPS leadership, plant equip. oper. & AC courses pref.; bldg. serv. mgr's exam.; abil. to work with diverse user groups desirable. (Reed)

#811 Building service assistant manager I (10) (BQ) (2:30-11 pm) Sargent Shriver ES—Clng. & bldg. maint. exper.; boiler course; must have, or attain within 6-mo. probationary period, Basic Skills & Supervisory & Leadership certif.; abil. to effectively maint. safety & security of bldg./grounds & prep. routine reports. (Reed)

#821 Building service assistant manager I (10) (BQ) (11:30-7 pm) Westbrook ES—Same basic req. as #811. (Reed)

#818 Building service assistant manager II (11) (BQ) (2:30-11 pm) Benjamin Banneker MS—Clng. & bldg. maint. exper.; boiler course req.; must have, or attain within 6-mo. probationary period, Basic Skills & Supervisory & Leadership certif.; abil. to effectively maint. safety & security of bldg./grounds & prep. routine reports. (Reed)

#666 Building service worker (6) (SQ) (hr. change) (readvertised; prev. apps. must reapply) (6-10 pm) Takoma Park ES—Gen. clng. exper.; oper. power equip.; clear snow from walkways; repetitively move heavy objects. (Reed)

#820 Building service worker (6) (SQ) (6-2:30 pm) Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS—Same basic req. as #666. (Reed)

#814 Building service worker 2nd shift (6) (SQ) (ND) (2:30-11 pm) Northwood HS—Same basic req. as #666. (Reed)

#815 Cafeteria worker I (perm. substitute) (7) (SQ) (6 hrs., 10 mos.) Div. of Food & Nutrition Services—Food prep. exper.; must have own transportation & be avail. to work at different loc.; mileage allowance. (Calavetinos)

#816 Food services satellite manager II (10) (SQ) (6 hrs., 10 mos.) Forest

Knolls ES—School cafeteria worker exper.; able to work independently, prepare accurate reports & balance cash receipts; good communication skills; satellite mgr. test. Pref. given to cand. with elem. exper. (Calavetinos)

#812 Media services technician (15) (SQ) (8 hrs., 12 mos.) Watkins Mill HS—HS grad. with consid. coursework or trng. in TV & broadcast tech., stagecraft, media tech. & production, presentations, theater production & electronic instruct. equip.; consid. exper. in multimedia prog. production & equip. oper. with exper. in school/ed. media center pref.; knowl. of inspection, oper., cleaning, control & maint. of technical multimedia & instruct. equip.; skilled in troubleshooting & instructing others in oper. of equip. & prep. of media mats.; MCPS MST test. (Arrington)

#8348 Office assistant IV (11) (readvertised; 8 hrs., 12 mos.) Office of Organizational Development—HS grad.; gen. clerical & respons. office exper.; word proc. exper.; abil. to make rapid, accurate calculations, to maint. complex records & to develop reports from such records. MCPS typing test; must be proficient with MS Office (Word, Excel & PowerPoint); must be able to multitask handling various respons. (Arrington)

#817 Security assistant (14) (BQ) (8 hrs., 10 mos.) Lakelands Park MS—HS grad. & college courses in criminal justice, law enforcement or related fields; AA degree desirable; exper. involving student/adolescent safety, conflict resolution & investigative procedures desirable; knowl. of behavior mgmt.; valid driver's lic.; first aid/CPR certif. desirable; avail. for flex. hrs., incl. weekends, eves. & overtime; may be req. to hold violators for police, confiscate drugs/alcohol & other evidence; other comb. of ed., trng. & exper. may be consid. (Calavetinos)

Stipend: Head JV football coach (Rockville HS). Contact the school's athletic director for more information.



Instructors needed: For Creative Computers, LLC, an hour-long after-school program at Montgomery County elementary schools; combines art with technology; some knowledge of photo manipulation programs such as PhotoShop and graphic design; training provided; \$30/hr. Contact Beth Sokoloff at beth@creativecomputersllc.com.

Montgomery County Public Schools prohibits illegal discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, marital status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, physical characteristics or disability. Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination or Title IX issues such as gender equity and sexual harassment should be directed to the MCPS Human Relations Compliance Officer, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 129, Rockville, MD 20850, at 301-517-8265.

CTE award nominations sought

The Division of Career and Technology Education (CTE) is seeking nominations for the annual awards to recognize outstanding student achievement in CTE programs.

Nomination forms have been sent to all high school CTE teachers and must be returned no later than Friday, March 9, for students to be considered.

The award categories are Arts, Humanities, Media and Communications; Biosciences, Health Science and Medicine; Business Management and Finance; Construction and Development; Education, Training and Child Studies; Engineering, Scientific Research and Manufacturing Technologies; Environmental, Agricultural and Natural Resources; Human and Consumer Services, Hospitality and Tourism; Information Technologies; Law, Government, Public Safety and Administration; and Transportation, Distribution and Logistics.

High school recipients will receive a \$500 award, to be presented at their home school awards ceremony in the spring.

In addition, nomination forms have been sent to middle school CTE teachers for the Family and Consumer Science and the Computer Science and Technology Education programs. Middle school students will receive a \$200 award to be presented at their home school on an individual basis.



Kennedy HS students in AMATE pay attention as guidance counselor and AMATE director Timothy McNeil speaks during the group's weekly meeting.

Most AMATE participants go on to college

(continued from page 1)

Since 1998, the group has averaged about 59 students. Initially including only African American males, the group has a few Hispanic males in the group this year.

The group meets once a week in a partitioned room off the cafeteria. During meetings, members must dress in shirt and tie, slacks or dress pants. "It provides a business atmosphere and teaches the kids that there are two different levels in life," McNeil explains. "You need to be able to function with your friends in the neighborhood, but you also need to have skills to go into a business meeting, or apply for a loan, or meet with the principal. It's about teaching them to become men, and the different factors that will influence men."

Students say the program has made a difference in their lives. "AMATE has established a greater foundation for me, educationally and socially," says 11th grader Clarence Claiborne. "Without it, I don't know where I would be."

"It is more than a group," adds senior Marcus Mason. "It's a band of brothers that go through three or four years of life, helping and supporting each other to reach a higher goal of education after high school. AMATE has helped guide me through all my troubles and successes."

More AMATE members are taking AP and Honors courses that they might not

have considered when they joined the program, McNeil says. Teacher expectations also have changed, he says.

Students volunteer for the program beginning in ninth grade, but parents also must give permission for them to miss one rotating class period a week. Everything that takes place in meetings is confidential. An end-of-the-year ceremony moves each student forward to the next year.

Throughout the year, graduates who are now in college come back and talk with current students in AMATE. They share important messages: "You can do it. There's nothing holding you back except for yourself. Take a strong look at what you want to do. Choose your college early."

AMATE members have an opportunity to get a glimpse of the future as the group takes to the road to visit about eight to 10 colleges each year. Many are historically black colleges or universities. This year the group plans to visit schools in South Carolina and Georgia and is still looking for funding to help make that possible.

Since 1990, AMATE has had a total of 190 graduates, with 93 percent going on to college. In last year's group, all 22 seniors went to college in the fall. Graduates attend a range of colleges, from Ivy League institutions such as Harvard and Brown, to historically black colleges such as Howard and Morehouse, to Montgomery College and the University of Maryland. □



In person & print

Joan Mory, instructional specialist in the Professional Learning Communities Institute, participated in the *Education Week* online discussion, "Teacher-Directed Professional Development." A transcript is available at www.edweek.org/chat/transcript_01-24-2007.html.



Russell Butt Sr., plumber, and **Ryan Butt**, maintenance worker, both of the Randolph Depot, participated in the Polar Bear Plunge for the Special Olympics Jan. 27, taking a dip in the Chesapeake Bay at Sandy Point State Park.



Fernando Moreno, school counselor at Broad Acres ES, wrote a chapter titled "Using Chess to Facilitate Social Skills Development in Children" in the new book, *CHESS AND EDUCATION: Selected Essays from the Koltanowski Conference*, edited by Tim Redman and published by the Chess program at the University of Texas at Dallas in December 2006.



Robert Mathis, social studies resource teacher at Walt Whitman HS, recently completed a Fulbright Teacher exchange to St. Peter's School in York, England. He taught A-level courses on American politics and British politics. □



In remembrance

Becky Combs, a retired MCPS elementary school principal, died Jan. 11. She had 35 years with MCPS as a teacher, vice principal and then principal (at Takoma Park ES and the old Arcola ES) before retiring in 1982.

Lynn Henning, a former first grade teacher, died Feb. 16. Her last assignment was at S. Christa McAuliffe ES. She worked for MCPS for 30 years before retiring four and one-half years ago. □

This document is available in an alternative format upon request, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, by contacting the Public Information Office, Montgomery County Public Schools, 301-279-3391.

**Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Rockville, MD
No. 201**