



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
- SAVE THE DATES
- STATE BOARD UPDATES
- AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
- CLASSIFIEDS

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Employee of The Month!



Karen Wentworth
Employee of the Month

MSDE is proud to announce our April 2017 Employee of the Month:

Karen Wentworth!

Karen is an Office Secretary III with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), Leonardtown, MD office. She was nominated by one of her colleagues, Lisa Millikan, along with the support of her supervisor, Suzie Miller, and Regional Manager, Michelle Stewart.

Karen excitedly received the news during a conference call with Sue Page, DORS Assistant State Superintendent, Jo Anne Materkowski, Director of Field Services, James Abrams, Chief of Employee Relations, and Steve Serra, Human Resources Director.

The wonderful nomination submitted on Karen's behalf, highlighted the hard work and dedication she has shown to her colleagues and her division:

"Karen Wentworth has been a state employee for over 30 years, and I have worked with Karen for 10 years. In the time I've known Karen, she has always excelled in her work. She goes out of her way to problem solve and ensure that our office runs smoothly.

Karen is the first person people speak with when contacting DORS. She serves as the first point of contact to our consumers and she is willing to assist them in any way necessary. Karen prides herself in knowing our school representatives and our providers.

If another area in our region is in need, such as when there are issues with staffing and vacancies, Karen is always the first to volunteer to assist. This month we are down a position for a secretary in our Waldorf office. While ensuring everything is running smoothly in Leonardtown, she is also ensuring everything is running well in Waldorf. Karen is doing the work of two secretaries with a smile on her face and she still asks if we need anything."

"Karen is friendly and professional and she is a very positive reflection of MSDE. She is one in a million and truly deserves to be considered for the employee of the month."

Thank You and Congratulations, Karen!

Save The Dates...

May 1st - 5th is National Public Service Recognition Week. This is the week we honor and celebrate the dedication, hard work, commitment and professionalism of government employees. Governor Hogan will proclaim Wednesday, May 10th as Maryland State Employees' Recognition Day to highlight the hard work of State employees.

We have SEVERAL activities planned during this week to celebrate! Check The MSDE Classifieds (Page 4) for more information!

State Board Meeting Actions: March 28, 2017

- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.06.01.02.03 *Programs for Food and Nutrition*, which governs the nutrition appeal procedures for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and other agencies participating in the federal nutrition programs. The proposed amendment updates the regulation to clarify several dates and State Administrative Hearing procedures specific to the Summer Food Service Program. In addition, the section regarding actions subject to Administrative Hearing by Program was reorganized for greater clarity and additional communications were added to include electronic methods.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.02.01.04 *Length of School Year*, to reduce from 5 to 3 the number of days by which school systems must extend their calendars in order to obtain a waiver of the 180-day school year requirement, when necessary. When the Executive Order established the school calendar to be from the Tuesday after Labor Day to June 15, school system calendar planning committees anticipated the difficulty school systems would have in meeting the June 15 closing date and also, the regulatory requirement to demonstrate in any 180-day waiver application that the school system had “modified its calendar by scheduling school on the make-up days provided in the original calendar and *by extending the school year 5 days beyond the previously scheduled closing date*” COMAR 13A.02.01.04(C)(1)(b) (emphasis added). Local superintendents requested that the number of days be reduced from 5 to 3 days.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.12.02.21 *Hearing Impaired* (New title: *Deaf and Hard of Hearing*). The proposed amendments update language, remove the special education certification requirement, and identify content-specific coursework required of applicants.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.05.10.01-.03 *Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program* in High Schools. The amendments expand the requirements of the AED Program mandated by Education Article, 7-425, Annotated Code of Maryland, to be implemented by each county board in each high school and middle school. The implementation of the AED Program in high school and middle school provides for increased safety during school-sponsored athletic events and during the regular school day.
- Denied the waiver request submitted by Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. “Jack” Young to waive the interscholastic athletics all-star game regulation, COMAR 13A.06.03.04C(5), to allow the President’s Cup all-star game to be held. All-star games permitted by this regulation support education based athletics to minimize absences from school, loss of instructional time, loss of students’ time from school teams during the sport season, and are intended to be school-based events to celebrate the achievements of students in their school. The President’s Cup is an all-star game that does not meet these purposes.

The following Opinions and Orders were rendered on March 28, 2017:

Board of Education of Howard County v. Renee Foose and Renee Foose v. Board of Education of Howard County – Petition for Declaratory Ruling – Opin. No. 17-13

Gabrielle G. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – student suspension – Opin. No. 17-14

Jeffrey U. v. Howard County Board of Education – residency – Opin. No. 17-15

Cathy G. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – student transfer – Order No. 17-04

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found at: www.msde.maryland.gov/stateboard/index.html

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7th Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days notice prior to the event is required. Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made

April is Autism Awareness Month

The Maryland State Department of Education, **Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services** is proud to participate in the global campaign for autism awareness. This month, we spotlight state, local and national activities that support greater understanding and acceptance of individuals living with autism, and their families.



MSDE will Light It Up Blue all month long!

We switched the Baltimore Street lobby table lamp from white to blue. *A small glow for a big cause. Visit the lobby for information.*



Maryland's Autism Waiver

A pioneer of the autism waiver retires after 41 years.

Marjorie Shulbank, Section Chief for Family Support Services in the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, retired this month after 41 years of dedicated service. MSDE joins Governor Hogan in recognizing Marjorie for her tireless efforts and rich contributions to the lives of children, students, families, educators and communities across Maryland. *Congratulations, Marjorie!*



Frederick County Public Schools

Students and staff bring autism awareness symbol to life.



Middletown Primary School in Frederick County showed its commitment to empowering students to strive for excellence and good character. Again this year, Principal Karen Hopson joined students and staff on the school's playground to form a human autism awareness ribbon. What a cool idea to celebrate diversity and acceptance. *Way to go, Middletown!*



Autism Speaks Light It Up Blue Campaign

A global mission to increase understanding and acceptance.

AUTISM SPEAKS

LIGHT IT UP BLUE

FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING +ACCEPTANCE

Light It Up Blue is a unique global campaign to increase understanding and acceptance of autism. Thousands of iconic landmarks and buildings join the hundreds of thousands of homes and communities around the world to "Light It Up Blue" in support of people living with autism. Autism friendly events and educational activities take place all month to increase understanding and acceptance to further support people with autism.

Learn more about autism awareness and support. Go to <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Special-Education/autismfactsheet.aspx>. Or visit autism-society.org or pathfindersforautism.org.

MSDE Classifieds

Say Hello...

MSDE would like to keep you informed of employees who are new to our agency. Be sure to check back each month for an updated list.

- Reginald Burke:** Education Program Specialist I- (Division of Student, Family, and School Support)
- Joseph Clark:** Instructional Assistant II- (Juvenile Services Education Program)
- Trisha Coyle:** Teacher- (Juvenile Services Education Program)
- Lisa Gillespie:** Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee- (Division of Early Childhood Development)
- Debra Hines:** Teacher- (Juvenile Services Education Program)
- Patrick Hruz:** Teacher- (Juvenile Services Education Program)
- Jerri Johnston-Stewart:** Education Program Specialist II- (Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services)
- Kim Jones:** Teacher- (Juvenile Services Education Program)
- Sarah Kilby:** Staff Specialist- (Office of School and Community Nutrition)
- Teonda Nelson:** Administrative Specialist II- (Library Development Services, LBPH)
- C. Scott Nichols:** Education Program Specialist I- (Division of Career and College Readiness)
- Matthew Nixon:** Administrative Specialist II- (Library Development Services, LBPH)
- Emily Tran:** Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee- (Division of Early Childhood Development)

Save The Dates!

EMPLOYEE AWARDS CEREMONY-Tues, May 2, 2017

By invitation only, this event will recognize those employees who have 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service. The event will start with a breakfast and then move to the State Board Room for an appreciation ceremony with Dr. Karen Salmon.

MSDE'S GOT TALENT SHOW- Thurs, May 4, 2017

8th Floor, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Here is your opportunity to share your talents! Group performances are welcome. A piano and Karaoke Machine will be available.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL- Friday, May 5, 2017

8th Floor, Conf. Rm. 6 and 7 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. We all scream for ice cream! Come and have some ice cream while catching up with friends. Served up by members of the MSDE Executive Team!

Best Wishes!

We would also like to share staff members who have recently retired from MSDE as well as their years of service! Be sure to send your well wishes!

Marsha Blanford- Computer Network Specialist –Desktop Support

Office of Information Technology
Retired January 2017- 46 years state service & 34 years at MSDE

Novania Buchanan-Child Care Licensing Specialist

Division of Early Childhood Development Region II Baltimore City
Retired February 2017- 10 years at MSDE

Marie Gordon-Management Associate

Office of Superintendent
Retired January 2017 - 16 years at MSDE

Denise Gwynn-Executive Associate

Division of Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Planning Assessment Branch
Retired January 2017 - 31 years state service & 18 years at MSDE

Delphine Morris-Office Secretary

Division of Early Childhood Development Region IX Lower Eastern Shore
Retired January 2017- 33 years state service & 22 years at MSDE

Joseph Price Shuler- Child Care Licensing Region Manager

Division of Early Childhood Development Region VIII Easton
Retired January 2017- 43 years state service & 26 years at MSDE

Sally Slade- IT Staff Specialist

Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services – Policy and Data
Retired January 2017- 31 years at MSDE

Heidi Deitchman- Child Care Licensing Specialist

Division of Early Childhood Development Region VI Howard and Region XIII Carroll
Retired March 2017 - 17 years at MSDE

Marjorie Shulbank- Education Program Specialist- Family Support and Dispute Resolution Branch Chief

Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Retiring April 2017 - 39 years state service & 20 years at MSDE