

Lifelong passion for teaching wins Jones recognition



Jones

The 2009 Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year is Janet Jones of General Smallwood Middle School.

Jones was born into a home that nurtured and valued education. Some of her earliest childhood photographs show her "teaching" her father, who played along by sitting in an old school-house desk, according to a school system press release. As a child, Jones also taught her brother and his friends in a makeshift school room in her basement. "I can't remember a time when I did not value learning," Jones said in the release.

Jones, a 33-year veteran educator and reading resource teacher at General Smallwood Middle School, said that throughout her career, she has never lost the desire to watch students grasp new ideas, play with language and become enthusiastic readers. Her experience and desire to teach and instill children with a love for reading earned Jones the award, according to the release.

When Superintendent James E. Richmond visited Smallwood last week to announce she had won the award, Jones said she thought she had been called into a regular meeting with her principal and other school staff. "I thought maybe the school received a grant. I was truly and totally surprised, but I am glad that it was a surprise," she said in the release.

Jones was encouraged to apply for the award by Smallwood Principal Cynthia Baker and Vice Principal Kathy Perriello. "Jones is energetic, innovative and enthusiastic and is doing a fantastic job. She creates a hunger in all staff to read and to share their readings and learning with others," Baker

said in a nomination statement, according to the release.

Jones said the process was intense, but beneficial to her because it required her to re-examine her career.

"It is a very reflecting and satisfying experience to go through this process. It brought up memories of past teaching experiences and positives with students over the years. No matter how long I teach, I continue to strive to learn how to reach one more student," Jones said.

Jareika Swann, an eighth-grade student at Smallwood, is an example of a student on whose life Jones has made an impact. Swann has worked with Jones since she started at Smallwood in the sixth grade. Swann credits Jones with getting her excited about reading.

"As a sixth-grader, I disliked books and reading. Now, I enjoy reading. This is all because of Mrs. Jones. She would work with me on vocabulary and she taught me strategies [to use] for before, during and after reading. I now feel confident in myself and my reading ability. Every child should have a Mrs. Jones," Swann said in the release.

Jones is a consultant with the National Writing Project and is a member of the National Assessment of Educational Progress reading committee. She is also involved in local, state and national reading associations, including the Southern Maryland and State of

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Staff photos by EMILY BARNEY

The Charles County public schools Adult Independence Program Class of 2009 stands up and is recognized by the audience at its graduation ceremony May 13 at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. Pictured are Shannon Carr, left, Patrick Dwyer, Joseph Garner, Jennyne Proctor, Samuel Swann and Jorina Young.



Charles County Board of Education Vice Chairwoman Roberta S. Wise shakes hands with Patrick Dwyer of Waldorf after he received a graduation certificate.



Jennyne Proctor, left, of Waldorf has her photo taken with her mother, Davena, after Jennyne received her certificate.

Graduates learn skills to live on their own

Six students in the Charles County Public Schools Adult Independence Program graduated May 13 in a ceremony held at the Jaycees center in Waldorf.

Certificates were presented to Shannon Carr, Patrick Dwyer, Joseph Garner, Jennyne Proctor, Samuel Swann and Jorina Young.

The Adult Independence Program provides students with community learning

experiences that parallel experiences of independent adults. Throughout the duration of the program, which is designed for students 18 to 21, they acquire adult skills and apply them to community environments.

Students in the program are trained to search for employment, to complete job applications and to use the public transportation system. Participating employers

in the 2008-'09 program range from the Capital Clubhouse, Dollar Tree, March of Dimes Southern Maryland and Lifestyles Inc. to Giant, the Children's Aid Society and the Charles County Health Department.

The program was launched in 1999 and has assisted more than 100 students in transitioning into work and community environments.

School briefs

Students raise funds, collect food

The National Junior Honor Society and students at Piccowaxen Middle School recently held a Pennies for Patients fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The fundraiser was inspired by the story of Madison Major, a 4-year-old leukemia survivor and niece of Piccowaxen teacher Lisa Quarters. The students raised \$746.91 and sixth-grader B.J. Carter contributed nearly \$200 of the total donations. The school presented a check for the donation to representatives from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society on April 22.

Students at North Point High School recently donated more than 1,000 pounds of food to the Southern Maryland Food Bank. The food will



Submitted photo

Students at Piccowaxen Middle School held a penny drive and were able to donate \$746.91 to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

be used to assist more than 50 needy families in the area. The food drive was coordinated by North Point English teacher Nancy Sinnes.

System to update racial, ethnic data

At the request of the Maryland State Department of Education and under federal and state laws, Charles County Public Schools will update all student racial and ethnic classifications.

This week, all schools and centers will be sending home with each student a Race and Ethnicity Identification form and information sheet. The form must be returned to the school no later than June 1. Parents are asked to complete two areas, ethnicity and race. The form contains two ethnicity descriptions to indicate heritage: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino. Only one heritage designation can be selected.

The form contains five race descriptions: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black

or African-American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander and White. At least one race must be selected, but more than one race can be chosen.

Parents do not need to fill out the form if the information already on file is correct. Call 301-392-7510.

Financial workshop for students to be offered

Charles County Public Schools is offering a free summer financial literacy workshop at Maurice J. McDonough for public school students in the county in grades 10 and 11.

The workshop is from 8:30 a.m. to noon, June 29 through July 9, Monday through Thursday. Students must complete a registration form to enroll for the workshop and are responsible for their own transportation. The form is available on the school system Web site at www.cchoe.com/gifted/summer.cfm.

The deadline to register is June 12.

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