

[<Back](#) [Print](#)Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

# BOCES BITS

June 2017

## Message from the Superintendent



To begin this month, I want to say congratulations and thank you to our first-ever OCM BOCES Race for the Cure team and to everyone who helped by volunteering or donating. Our team (pictured here) had more than 80 participants and raised over \$3,300 in the fight against cancer. It was a

beautiful day to support our survivors, remember those we have lost to cancer and build community with our co-workers.



As you are aware, school districts held their budget votes and board member elections on May 16. Twenty-two of OCM BOCES' 23 component districts had their proposals pass with a simple majority of votes. Congratulations to those districts for successfully navigating another very challenging budget season and passing your proposals. I also want to acknowledge the hard work that the DeRuyter Central School District put into their budget proposal. Unfortunately, because their proposed budget was above the property tax cap, requiring a super majority of votes, the budget was defeated by just 14 votes. I applaud DeRuyter's dedication to students and schools and their foresight and bravery in presenting a budget that factored in future needs and expectations.

Congratulations also to the newly elected and re-elected board of

education members. The New York School Boards Association has dedicated the week of June 26 as New Member Appreciation Week, so please join me in welcoming our new members. Your commitment to the success of all students is appreciated and we look forward to working with you.

As always in this month's BOCES Bits, I want to offer sincere thanks to our 2016-2017 OCM BOCES retirees, [who are listed here](#). Together, you have dedicated more than 700 years of service to our great organization! I speak from the heart when I say THANK YOU for everything you have done, in so many ways, to contribute to the success of our organization. I wish you nothing but the best during this new chapter of your lives.

[I recently wrote a letter to staff regarding new campus names for OCM BOCES. The names will go into effect September 1 to coincide with start of the 2017-2018 school year.](#) As a reminder, please contact your supervisor if you have any questions about the new names or how materials should be changed.

Finally, with warmer weather finally arriving, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer. Whether you have extended time off, are taking a vacation, or simply enjoying your weekends, I hope you and your families get a chance to relax, refresh and rejuvenate.

Dr. Jody Manning  
District Superintendent



**Special Day for Special Olympians:** On Thursday, May 18, hundreds of student athletes from dozens of school districts and various OCM BOCES programs gathered at the Michael J. Bragman stadium at Cicero-North Syracuse High School to compete in the 2017 Special Olympic Games. A parade of athletes



kicked off the day of track and field events, which included running, jumping and throwing competitions with several adapted for athletes of all abilities. Special Olympics games promote fitness, coordination and cardiovascular improvement. Additional benefits include self-confidence, discipline and self-esteem. Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers that helped make the day a special one for some very special students!

### **Student's Eagle Scout project benefits school:**

William Harvey Doane Rogers, a 10th grader at OCM BOCES' 7 Valleys New Tech Academy and a member of Boy Scout Troop 90 of Marathon, achieved the highest honor in scouting, the Eagle rank, on April 27. William will be participating in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on July 15



at the American Legion in Cortland. William was required to earn 21 merit badges, 13 of which are required for the Eagle rank. He also had to successfully lead and organize an Eagle project for a non-profit organization. For his project, William chose to build an 8 x 12 athletic storage shed for 7 Valleys New Tech Academy. [Read more about William's efforts and history with the Boy Scouts online.](#)

### **School Library System honors local educators and assemblyman:**

Teacher librarians and their champions gathered at OCM BOCES in Liverpool on May 10 for an annual recognition ceremony that reminded

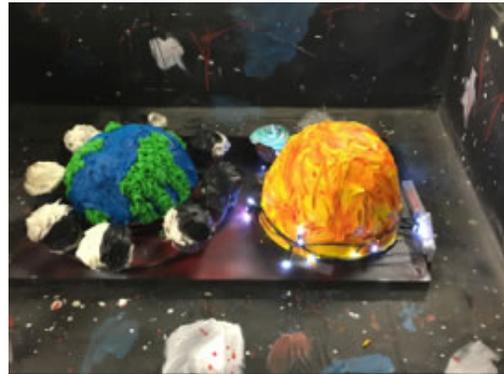


everyone about the power and importance of reading. Keynote speaker Adam Welcome, educator and co-author of "Kids Deserve It!," kicked off the event with inspiring words about the timeless role of school libraries and librarians. During the ceremony, Cazenovia Middle School Principal Jean Regan, Ed.D. was honored as this year's OCM BOCES School Library System's Administrator of the Year. Later, NYS Assemblyman Al Stirpe Jr. of Cicero was honored as Advocate of the Year. New this year was an award for Library Staff Member of the Year, which went to 17-year librarian assistant Marcia Gere of Marcellus High School. Thank you to

OCM BOCES School Library System Coordinator Doreen Bergman and her team for hosting the event.

**CTE Hall of Fame Winners to be recognized:** Congratulations to Dean Catlin of Cincinnatus and Anthony Nappa of Camillus for being selected as our 2017 OCM BOCES CTE Alumni Hall of Fame winners. The two will be inducted during awards ceremonies for their respective campuses on June 8 and 12.

**Innovation Tech students showcase their “Passion Projects”:** Students at Innovation Tech publicly presented their “passion projects” May 18 during the school’s Spring Exhibition of Learning. Families and friends had the unique opportunity to listen and watch as students exhibited and explained their projects – the culmination of five months of work.



Christine Alexander, a facilitator at Innovation Tech, explained the significance of the showcase: “In January, our students began working on various projects as they explored passions within their advisories and general classes. This showcase allowed attendees to experience the personal growth of students through their educational journey, resulting in a passion project.” Congratulations to all student presenters for their excellent presentations!

**Eight OCM BOCES students awarded in Snap-On “Tools for Success” program:** Eight OCM BOCES Automotive Technology and Automotive Collision Technology students were recognized in May for their outstanding achievements through the Snap-On Tools for Success awards program. Students from each of OCM BOCES’ four automotive program classrooms were selected by their instructors for their excellent automotive technology, math and science



skills, outstanding classroom participation, attendance and attitude. Each student received a certificate of excellence and a Snap-On Tools screwdriver valued at more than \$100. [A listing a student award-winners is online along with photos from the event.](#)

### **Auto Tech Career Reality Check:**

Students from the two Henry Campus/Thompson Road-based Automotive Technology classes, as well as from the OCM BOCES Auto Tech class embedded in Driver's Village, recently enjoyed a morning of candid conversation with representative members of the Syracuse Auto Dealers Association (SADA). The real-world discourse was part of an OCM BOCES/SADA symposium aimed at communicating the value of learning and embracing 21st Century employability skills related to the automotive repair industry. [Read more online.](#)



### **CTE and CDOS students recognized:**

This year, OCM BOCES' Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Career Development Occupational Studies (CDOS) counseling staff implemented a quarterly 21st Century Classroom 4 C's award program for their Syracuse and Cortland students. Each marking period, students were selected for their demonstrated excellence in one of the four key areas of 21st Century readiness: collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.

Jackie Popkess, a school counselor with the career development program in Syracuse said, "These students have gone above and beyond. They have moved past the basics and are embracing the four Cs – super skills for the 21st Century." CTE welding student Kyle Myers from the Marcellus Central School District is pictured here. Kyle was one of the students to receive a "creativity" award. [The complete list of student award recipients can be viewed online.](#)



**Six Solvay Students Receive Seal of Biliteracy:** Alina Zdebska knew only four words of English as an 8-year-old third-grader experiencing her first day of school in Solvay after moving here from the Ukraine. “I don’t speak English,” she kept saying, over and over, as she stood inside the elementary school, scared and confused in a strange building with no idea where to go. On May 30, nearly a decade later, Zdebska recounted that story as salutatorian of Solvay High School. [Find out more about how Alina and five of her classmates were recognized with a very distinct honor at an annual awards ceremony.](#)



**McEvoy wins Go Green Challenge!** The first-ever OCM BOCES Go Green Challenge championship trophy lamp goes to students at staff at McEvoy, who ended up with more than 300 points in the four-month competition, easily beating its nearest competitor by 14 points. As a result, students and staff will celebrate this month with a free, building-wide pizza party. [Read more here about McEvoy’s final push to victory](#) as well as major accomplishments by all OCM BOCES buildings that took part in the challenge. Thank you to everyone who participated.



**DO THIS NOW: Like us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter! Check us out on YouTube!** While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization now has a general Facebook page, Twitter account and YouTube channel that we can use to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news! **PLEASE like us** on [Facebook](#) and **follow us** on [Twitter](#) (@ocmboces). Check out our [YouTube Channel](#) as well, especially if you want to review the Opening Day video about our goals and targets. For all of our social media platforms, check out our **social media hub** at [ocmboces.org](http://ocmboces.org).

**Employee Assistance Program**



Don't forget about our confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which can help you with anything from job stress to aging parents to a death in the family. Go to [ocmboces.org/eap](http://ocmboces.org/eap) for more.



*If you would like to contribute to the BOCES bits, which is generally distributed the first week of each month, please contact Laurie Cook at [lcook@ocmboces.org](mailto:lcook@ocmboces.org) or Jackie Wiegand at [jwiegand@ocmboces.org](mailto:jwiegand@ocmboces.org)*

## OCM BOCES Board of Education

**Ann Wright**, *President*

**Wayne Brownson**, *Vice President*

Robert A. Crabtree  
Mark W. Gilbert  
Mike Murphy  
Lisa O'Reilly  
David Paczkowski

William Pedrick  
Peg Peri  
Joan Reeves  
Maryam Wasmund

© 2017 \*OCM\* BOCES. For more info, contact **Laurie Cook**

OCM BOCES IS, PO Box 4754, Syracuse, NY 13221

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [ocmbocesis@gmail.com](mailto:ocmbocesis@gmail.com) in collaboration with



Try it free today