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BOCES BITS

October 2017

Message from the Superintendent



Now that the 2017-2018 school year is off to a fantastic start, I would like to thank each and every one of you for all the hard work you do for students. Whether it's teaching in a classroom, training the faculty in our districts, job coaching, managing business services or keeping our facilities in top-notch

condition – among a multitude of other duties – it takes a collective team of 1,000+ OCM BOCES employees to make this organization successful.

On a similar note, it is always fitting that a special week in October is dedicated to honoring the men and women who serve on public school boards across the state. Please join me in celebrating [School Board Recognition Week Oct. 23-27](#) and thanking the representatives of our nine-member OCM BOCES Board of Education. A few of our OCM BOCES board members do double-duty as dedicated volunteers because they also serve on school boards in their own districts. We appreciate everything they do for us and, more importantly, for our students. [Please go to our web site to find our full list of board members.](#)

One person who was instrumental at OCM BOCES, Assistant Superintendent of Administration Deb Ayers, retired Oct. 6 after 17 years of service to our organization. Dozens of OCM BOCES staff, colleagues, friends and family turned out for her retirement celebration Oct. 2 at The Cider Mill in Syracuse. As I said at the party, Deb made my job easy. She kept OCM BOCES



financially sound but was also 100% committed to our component districts. Please join me in wishing her all the best in her post-career adventures. At the same time, please welcome our new assistant superintendent for administration, Andrew DiBlasi, who started Oct. 2. You can read more about his [impressive background on our web site](#).

Finally, I hope you and your loved ones find a little time to enjoy these beautiful days of fall, the “grand finale” of nature in Central New York before winter arrives.

Dr. Jody Manning
District Superintendent



Chain Reaction of Kindness

“Rachel’s Challenge” is going gangbusters at schools throughout OCM BOCES, with students and staff enjoying “high-five Fridays,” complimentary popcorn, walls of inspirational quotes and more to ignite and sustain a culture of kindness in our schools. In September, students and staff in every building heard emotional presentations from the organizers of Rachel’s Challenge, a program that evolved from the deadly Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colorado, on April 20, 1999. In that shooting, Rachel Joy Scott was the first victim. Her writings evolved into a national program that

espouses a culture of caring in schools and communities. At OCM BOCES, students are now forming “Friends of Rachel” (FOR) Clubs and planning other activities to promote a “chain reaction of kindness,” which is one of the challenges. Read more about [our OCM BOCES activities](#) and the [history of Rachel’s Challenge](#).



Go Green 2.0

Another Go Green Challenge has officially begun! Please remember to turn off monitors, recycle wisely and conserve energy so we can reduce our carbon footprint and protect the future of our planet. This year's challenge will run four months, October-January, with the winning building getting a free pizza party and the coveted Go Green trophy lamp. Congratulations to McEvoy students and staff, who proudly won the trophy last year. Updates will be available soon on our [Go Green web site](#).



Why Go Green? Last year's competition produced great results:

- Five of the nine buildings that participated were able to increase their recycling volume by 10 percent or more. Those buildings were Cortland Alternative School, Seven Valleys New Tech Academy, McEvoy, the Henry Student Services building and the Main Campus.
- Three buildings reduced their monthly trash volume, freeing up more space in landfills. Those buildings were the Henry Student Services building, the Henry Career & Technical Education building, and McEvoy.

Future Ready Schools

An amazing lineup of speakers and presenters is expected for the 2017 School Library Systems Annual Conference set for Oct. 25 at the OnCenter. OCM BOCES is presenting the event in conjunction with Citi (Oswego) BOCES, Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES and Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, as well as the CNY/Oswego County Teacher Center. The theme, "Fostering Future Ready Schools," could not be more appropriate for keynote speaker Mark Ray, Director of Innovation and Library Services for Vancouver Public Schools and Future Ready Librarians Lead for the Alliance for Excellent Education. Ray was instrumental in transforming libraries into a proactive force for technological innovation in Vancouver Schools. Also invited is award-winning author Marina Budhos, a prolific writer with worldwide reach. [Check out all the amazing speakers and presenters on our event web page](#).



Science for All

With OCM BOCES at the forefront of the new state science standards, it is not surprising that the second



annual science conference set for Nov. 7 is expected to have another big crowd. This year, the theme is “It’s Go Time: Science for All.” Once again, OCM BOCES is co-organizing the event in partnership with the School of Education at Syracuse University. It is also



supported by the Smithsonian Science Education Center and several local teaching centers: Central New York/Oswego County; Jamesville DeWitt/Syracuse University; West Genesee/Syracuse University; Syracuse; and Cayuga-Onondaga. [Check out the impressive lineup of speakers on our event web page.](#)

Communications Awards

Our crew of communications professionals at OCM BOCES recently received eight awards in the statewide 2017 New York School Public Relations Association Communications Contest. Our communications teams work at the main campus of OCM BOCES in Salina and at the Central New York Regional Information Center in Syracuse. They also work for many of our local school districts in the region. Please go to our web site for a [full list of the winning OCM BOCES entries.](#)



Patriot Day Honor

In honor of Patriot Day on Sept. 11 (also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance), students at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland gave special recognition to a student’s father who is a distinguished veteran and an accomplished DeWitt police officer with 20 years of experience in law enforcement.



Officer Glen Wintermute, Gillian Wintermute’s father, received a certificate of appreciation for his service. Wintermute served as a sergeant in the Army Reserves from 1983 to 1987 and a corporal in the Marine Corps from 1989-1992. He spent time in Germany, Granada and Desert Storm. He is also a veterans’ advocate for a suicide-prevention foundation called #22Kill, offering his phone number to veterans who need someone to talk to. Gillian said she and her father were very touched by the honor.

Human Bingo

One of our business-embedded Career & Technical Programs is at WCNY, the public broadcast station in Syracuse. Students in our Media Marketing Communications program spend part of each day working side-by-side with industry professionals in a state-of-the-art facility close to downtown. Read this story from instructor Kathleen Labulis about [one activity that allowed students and staff at WCNY to break the ice.](#)



Main Campus Improvements

You many have noticed a new street sign that leads from Seventh North Street to the Main Campus. It's called "OCM



BOCES Drive," a must-have change from the former "Nationwide Drive" that reflected the former occupants of our building. You will also notice some fresh landscaping on and near the front of the Main Campus building.

Campus Names & Signs

Don't forget to use our new OCM BOCES campus names, which include Main Campus, Crown Road Campus, Thompson Road Campus, Cortlandville Campus, Port Watson Street and the Central New York Regional Information Center. Please remember that campus names refer to a larger site for OCM BOCES facilities and may not affect specific building names, which could still be referred to as the "Henry CTE building" or "Seven Valleys New Tech Academy," for example. New OCM BOCES signs will be installed by the end of this year at the front of each campus.

Bleeding Orange

Every year offers a chance for Syracuse University fan Elaine Liszewski, our regional teacher certification officer, to bring in a huge, glowing Otto to celebrate all things orange. This time, the occasion



was Joseph Bufano's 40th birthday. Joe is our human resources director/school attorney who started in April. His office is decked out in SU paraphernalia because he, too, loves all things orange – a love that began in childhood and blossomed in adulthood when he rowed for the SU crew team and earned two degrees from our home-town university.



Required Online Training

This is important! Don't forget to do your required online training for Right-to-Know (RTK)/Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) no later than December 15, 2017. Access to this presentation can be found by going to our [OCM BOCES Health & Safety page](#).

Barnes & Noble

The bookseller at 3454 Erie Boulevard East in DeWitt is offering Educator Appreciation Days until Oct. 15, which means teachers in grades Pre-K through 12 get 25% discounts on select books, toys, games, music and movies. The Central New York Reading Council is also offering a "Books & Brunch" at the store at 9 a.m. Oct. 14. The brunch includes a discussion of "STEAM Reading" at 9:30 a.m. for grades K-5 and "Book Hooks for Great Discussion" at 10:30 a.m. for grades 6-12.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The OCM BOCES non-discrimination policy has been updated and added to our web site. [Please click here to view it in full.](#)

Follow us!

If you have not done this already, please like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and check us out on YouTube. While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization has a general [Facebook page](#), [Twitter account](#) and [YouTube channel](#) to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news. The latest? Check out this Youtube video about [our goals and results from 2016-2017 across all divisions](#). For all of our social media platforms, check out our social media hub at <http://ocmboces.org/follow>.

Hooray for Hashtags

This year, your communications department @ocmboces is encouraging

you to use special hashtags, such as #BOCESProud, #CTEStrong and #itsgotime so people can search, find and share all the tweets/posts associated with a certain topic. #sharingiscool #hashtagsrock #bocesbits #rachelschallenge #iloveexamples

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 current offerings.

How to reach us

If you would like to contribute to BOCES Bits, which is generally distributed the first or second week of each month, please contact Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces.org or Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org. If you are looking for work from our communications department outside of BOCES Bits, you can send us an email or use [a request form](#) to get started.

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