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BOCES BITS

November 2017

Message from the Superintendent



With Thanksgiving soon upon us, my message this week is simple: Thank you.

Thank you for all the hard work you do for OCM BOCES to make our organization successful. Thank you for all the small, extra sacrifices you make that may not be acknowledged or recognized.

Thank you for ensuring the health and well-being of our students, whether it's teaching them directly, training faculty, maintaining facilities, assisting our districts behind-the-scenes, or simply being committed to your responsibilities. I am grateful for all you do.

This year, I would like to share an OCM BOCES "first" — our first-ever sponsorship of "Lights on the Lake" at Onondaga Lake Park to promote our Adult Education programs.



OCM BOCES is the official Friday night sponsor, which means we will have a sponsorship banner, a festive "greeting card" sign near the entrance (see photo) and dozens of radio references on TK99, Sunny 102, K-Rock and ESPN Radio. I hope you will get an opportunity to support this event on a Friday night or any night of the week over the next seven weeks. Lights on the Lake has become a great source of civic pride and holiday spirit for our Liverpool neighbors and our entire Central New York community. We are proud to be part of it. For more information, check out lightsonthelake.com or visit their [Facebook page](#).

In the meantime, I would like to wish all of you and all of your loved ones a very warm, happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jody Manning
District Superintendent

2017 Student of the Year

Literacy student Rebecca Jones, who recently received her high school equivalency diploma at OCM BOCES, was recently honored as a 2017 Student of the Year by the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education. Jones was one of 20 recipients recognized for her intelligence, hard work, determination and commitment to success, said her literacy instructor, Timothy Y. Jachim. Jones hopes to continue her education and go to college to become a registered nurse. Please read [the entire story on our web site](#).



Spreading the word

Sean Joyce, manager of OCM BOCES Central Services, gave a well-received presentation at the New York State Nutritional Association (NYSNA) Statewide Conference on October 27 at Turning Stone Casino. Joyce discussed cooperative purchasing, bidding and how BOCES can help local districts. He also led a breakout session with 60 participants.



Baldwinsville Food Director Brian Wright said the information was greatly appreciated and sparked a great deal of discussion among district food directors. Wright said the feedback proved that all the effort “you and our group put into this whole procurement process was worthwhile!”

Karen Clark is retiring

After 28 years of dedicated service to OCM BOCES, Alternative Education Director Karen Clark will be retiring in December and starting a new chapter in her life. Please join us for a retirement celebration on Tuesday, December 12, at Justin's Grill in East Syracuse. The party runs from 4 to 7 p.m. with the program starting at 5 p.m. The cost, \$35/person, includes food and gift. If you are interested, please contact Sheena Russell at 315-433-2627 or send her an email at srussell@ocmboces.org.



Go Green 2.0

The competition has just begun, and the results are ... shocking! For the first time ever, the OCM BOCES Main Campus is in the lead in this year's Go Green Challenge. Do you know where your building stands? Find out today by checking our [Go Green web site](#). Please note that those purple bonus points, which blasted McEvoy into the winning position last year, have not yet been allocated.



As always, 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, through January, with the winning building getting a free pizza party and the coveted Go Green trophy lamp. Although the Go Green challenge is focused on OCM BOCES, Facilities Director John Wisniewski offered these tips for promoting sustainability at home:

- Break down all cardboard boxes to maximize recycling dumpster capacity.
- Contact the sender to cancel magazine and catalog subscriptions that you don't want. The best way to reduce waste is not to receive it at all.

Library Conference a huge success

The central role of teacher-librarians in preparing students for the future was apparent at the School Library Systems Annual Conference on Oct. 25 at the OnCenter.



OCM BOCES presented 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 have been more appropriate for keynote speaker Mary Ray, chief digital officer for Vancouver Public Schools in Washington and advisor with the Future Ready Initiative. Ray was instrumental in transforming libraries into a proactive force for technological innovation in Vancouver Schools. Also invited was award-winning author Marina Budhos, a prolific writer with worldwide reach. She touted the benefits of books in opening up our minds to other cultures and ideas. [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 wasn't surprising that the second annual science conference on Nov. 7 boasted another sold-out crowd. This year's conference, called “It's Go Time: Science for All,” stemmed from an ongoing partnership between OCM BOCES and Syracuse University. It was 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. The conference featured students and teachers doing “live” lessons on the new state science standards. It also incorporated a research strategy called “lesson study” as a means of improving instruction. This year's conference was a new and expanded version from 2016 because it included secondary-level lessons and an emphasis on how the standards promote access and equity for all students. [Find out more in this Go Time! article on our web site.](#)





Hot off the Presses

Check out the newest editions of our OCM BOCES Adult Education course catalogs for Liverpool and Cortland. They offer the latest information about full- and part-time classes and literacy programs. If you are not interested in full-time programs, you might want to check out dozens of part-time courses that could put a little zip in your step during this long winter: dancing, cooking, karate, yoga, computer classes, art, essential oils and so much more. Catalogs will be arriving in mailboxes soon. You can also find them online at ocmboces.org/adulted.



Disaster

Sixteen students from Innovation Tech displayed their research on natural disasters this month outside the WonderWorks attraction at Destiny USA. Mall guests and about 150 students from Syracuse and Fabius-Pompey visited the displays and asked questions. Innovation Tech facilitators Kyle L. O'Sullivan and Sagen Johnson said students initially took a tour of a natural disaster display at WonderWorks. Later, they jumped into their own research on tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanoes. Students had to incorporate tactile and visual elements and develop a concise pitch to communicate their findings. The project stemmed from an Earth Comm class that combines Earth Science with communications. Find many more photos and a list of student participants [on our web site](#) and on the Innovation Tech [Facebook page](#).



Students at Cortland Alternative High School have been refurbishing bicycles for local families under the direction of their teacher, Patrick McGowan. For the past two years, they have partnered with Cortland Prevention Resources to identify youth and families in the community who can benefit from refurbished bikes. To date, this group has supplied 14 bikes to families in the community. This story and photo was posted on the web site for [Family Counseling Services of Cortland](#), which gave a big shout-out to “DJ, Will, Cam, Dylan, Mekhi, and Patrick!”



Raising a barn

Adult Education students in the full-time Construction Trades program are tackling a huge project: a 40-by-80-foot pole barn for the OCM BOCES Operations & Maintenance Department on the Thompson Road Campus. Instructor John Sweeney said the project is a perfect challenge for his students. “It’s a super job for these guys, a great experience,” he said. “They are doing everything they would be doing on a construction site.” The goal is to finish the roof before the harsh winter weather hits.



Required Online Training

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

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 #lloveexamples

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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