

BOCES BITS

December 2009 Vol. 5 Issue 10

Jessica F. Cohen, District Superintendent • Laurie Cook, Editor

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff,

I am constantly reminded of the amazing things that we do here at BOCES. Last week, I responded to Michael Ruf's invitation to visit his Deaf Academy class and in doing so, was greeted by four very well dressed young men, wearing shirts *and* ties. The students greeted the guests, prepared a meal, and talked to us in American Sign Language (interpreted by Mr. Ruf and Mr. Welsh) about their lives. We learned about Ahmed who came to this country from a Somalian refugee camp and Woo, whose first school experience was as a teenager in the Deaf Education program two years ago. We also heard about Thomas and Ryan, two students learning to be successful workers and citizens within an environment of caring and competence. Thanks to Michael Ruf and Marcus Welsh for inviting us... and especially for teaching and guiding these students.

This visit reminded me of a story that I wanted to share with you as this holiday season begins – a man was walking down the street and came upon a construction site. He asked three of the workers what they were doing. The first man answered gruffly, "I'm laying bricks." The second man replied, "I'm putting up a wall." The third man, seeing beyond his routine work, said enthusiastically and with pride, "I'm building a cathedral."

Every day, I come across staff who show the positive attitude and demonstrate the same ability to see the bigger picture as did the third man. I am very proud of being involved in this organization. As we celebrate this holiday season, I thank you all for seeing beyond the routine and helping us to "build a cathedral."

Jessica

Eighteen McEvoy Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations to the eighteen Career and Technical Education students from McEvoy, who on November 12th, 2009 were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Students inducted at the ceremony were:

Cortland City School District

Kelsey Faberzak Construction Technology
Monica Mo..... Graphic Communications
Leanne Thomas..... Graphic Communications

Homer Central School District

Cody Chace..... Construction Technology
Joel Darmento Auto Collision Technology
Kaylie Eastman Health Occupations Technology
Bret Eccleston..... Construction Technology
Tyler Hollister Construction Technology
Eli Kabat Construction Technology
Ainsley Kannus..... Graphic Communications
Dominic Palladino Construction Technology
Derek Renninger Auto Collision Technology
Rachel Ryan Graphic Communications
Amber Vandee..... Health Occupations Technology

Fabius-Pompey Central School District

Douglas Windhausen Construction Technology

Tully Central School District

Sarah Dombrowski Culinary Arts Technology
Danielle Emert-Delles Health Occupations Technology
Joseph Wallingford-Stirner Automotive Technology



Pictured: Inductees from Homer Central School District

Weather-Related Announcements

For information about weather-related closings and announcements for facilities in **Onondaga County:** listen to Radio Stations: WSYR-AM 570, WYYY-FM 94.5, WBBS-FM 104.7, WNTQ-FM 93.1, WHEN-AM 620, WWHT-FM 107.9 and TV Channels: 3, 5, 9 and 10.

For information about weather-related closings and announcements for facilities in **Cortland County:** listen to Radio Stations: WKRT-AM 920, WIII-FM 99.9, WXHC-FM 101.5, WNBF-AM 1290, WHWK-FM 98.1, WAAL-FM 99.1, WWYL-FM 104.1, WINR-AM 680, WENE-AM 1430, WKGB-FM 92.5, WMXW-FM 103.3, WMRV-FM 105.7, WBI-FM 107.5, WMRV-FM 105.7, WHCU-AM 870, WNYY-AM 1470, WYXL-FM 97.3, WQNY-FM 103.7 and TV Channels: 3, 5, 9 and 12.

Children's Village and Park Hill Read Around: Literacy for Preschoolers

By Ken Thurston

The beginning steps of literacy and reading at school start before kindergarten, in preschool. At OCM BOCES, our Children's Village Program, along with the East Syracuse-Minoa Park Hill Pre-K ensures that all young children are exposed to literature at an early age. Not only do we have a formal reading curriculum, but we also have our annual "Read-Around" with invited readers. Cozy reading corners are set up throughout the Park Hill School where the invited readers sit and read a selected book.

One of our readers was Dr. Jessica Cohen. On October 22nd, Dr. Cohen read the book, The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything to several classes of preschoolers. Each group helped her act out the book with sound effects and props. Each group got to see the scarecrow in the book come to life.

We are grateful to all of our readers who helped to make our annual literacy event a great success.



Flexible Spending Plan Enrollment

OCM BOCES employees wishing to participate in Flexible Spending (Medical, Dependent or Premium Reimbursement) during the 2010 plan year (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010) must enroll or re-enroll by completing the Flex Spending form and returning it to Tammy Jones in the Personnel Office by **December 11, 2009**.

A copy of the form is available online at www.ocmboces.org/ and clicking on "Personnel Office/OCM BOCES Staff Only/News and Notes".

In order to estimate medical and dependent care expenses, use the Benefit Resource, Inc. website at <http://www.benefitresource.com/Employees/how-flexible-spending-works.htm>

Cortland Alternative Students Visit Raquette Lake

Students in grades 8, 10 and 11 at the Cortland Alternative School recently spent three days at Raquette Lake in the Adirondacks. While at the lake, students canoed, kayaked and participated in the high and



low elements ropes course. The field trip experience has been done biannually since the alternative program began over 25 years ago!

Holiday Stress? Think EAP!



Holiday time can be a joyous and wonderful time of the year but it can also be very stressful. Gift and food shopping, parties, family gatherings, and cooking can all be overwhelming. If the holidays are stressful, please remember the Employee Assistance program is here for you. You can call us at 315-471-1361 or visit our website at www.eap.ocmboces.org..we are here to listen!

Career Academy Students Brighten Windows Throughout Community

As part of a volunteer initiative at the Career Academy and through their Art classes, the students went into the community in late October and painted fall scenery and uplifting images on the windows of local non-profits and businesses. Windows at Liverpool Library, County North Children's Center, Canines Unleashed Doggy Day Care and Elmcrest Elementary School were all decorated with festive fall images. As with the Career Academy's September/October SPCA fund-raising project, it is the goal of the school's staff and students to dispel any misconceptions of BOCES alternative education students. Throughout this process, students are learning and developing their "soft" skills, a request from business partners teachers visited over the summer.



School Library System Hosts Successful Fall Conference

OCM BOCES School Library Systems' Fall Conference was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel on Carrier Circle. The conference, featuring Keynote Speaker Meg Ormiston, was held in conjunction with Oswego County BOCES and the Syracuse City School District. Special guest speaker, State Librarian Bernie Margolis, discussed the impact of school libraries on student achievement. Several additional workshops, focusing on technology and learning systems, attended by librarians, teachers, and administrators, were thought provoking and well received.



SLS Fall Conference Keynote Speaker, Meg Ormiston, gave an enthusiastic and interesting talk discussing technology use. Pictured above, Ormiston presents a "netbook" to the audience and discusses its use as an educational tool.

Teachers Share Their Expertise

Robert Canorro, Culinary Arts Instructor and Marilyn Davis, Pastry Arts Instructor recently visited the Foods II Career Exploration Program at the I.E. Henry Campus to share their professional expertise with students. Bob Canorro demonstrated to students on knife safety and how to make the proper cuts for vegetables. Marilyn Davis demonstrated various techniques in cake decorating. During both presentations, students were able to perform the skills as demonstrated.



Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

CONGRATULATIONS! KUDOS! GREAT JOB! WELL DONE! BRAVO!

If you know of an OCM BOCES student or employee that has done a great job on a project or if you know someone that should be recognized for an achievement they've made, please let us know about it! We'd like to get the word out about the great things that are going on in our organization. Send your information to Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces or call at 431-8597.

CTE Instructor Saves Neighbor's Child in Dog Attack

Congratulations to OCM BOCES Small Engine and Outdoor Power Equipment Instructor Scott Bolster of Fulton. Scott recently played a critical role in saving the lives of his young neighbor, Jeremy and the boy's pet Pomeranian, Leah. One Saturday morning in October, Jeremy was putting Leah out on a run for her morning routine, when the dog was attacked by a pit bull terrier. Jeremy tried to protect the smaller dog by putting himself between the two animals and was consequently bitten several times by the pit bull. The boy tried to grab his pet into his arms but she was soon ripped away by the aggressive, larger dog. Bolster, witnessing the attack, ran into the yard and yanked the pit bull away from Jeremy and Leah by the terrier's heavy duty collar. Another neighbor called 911 and the police arrived shortly. Jeremy was taken to the hospital by ambulance and returned home with several stitches. Leah was taken to her veterinarian, also received several stitches and had her left leg relocated. The pit bull was incarcerated by the dog warden and eventually marked as a dangerous animal. Thanks to Scott, both Leah and Jeremy have healed from their wounds and are doing well. Great job Scott!

Kasson Road Staff Provides Holiday Baskets for Students

Kudos to the caring staff at Kasson Road BOCES. They recently provided holiday baskets filled with all the makings for a complete Thanksgiving day dinner for 16 students in their program. The looks on the students' faces when they found out they would be receiving a basket were priceless. Great job Kasson Road staff!



CTE Students Picked as News Ten Now Fans of the Week

Congratulations to Syracuse Laboratory Technology student, Stephanie Bailey and Culinary student, Becky Frederick, both from Cicero-North Syracuse High School, for recently having been chosen by News 10 Now as "fans of the week" during a recent school football game. The students, both dressed in their professional BOCES attire, and with faces painted in the school colors, were selected for their spirit and creativity! The girls are pictured on the left. Congratulations Stephanie and Becky!

McEvoy Caring Classroom Project

Mrs. Whittington's High School students at McEvoy have been creating items for children hospitalized at Golisano Children's Hospital. They have created coloring pages, dot-to-dots, mazes, journaling pages, word search puzzles and Thanksgiving cards during their computer class with Mrs. Elliott. This is a way to both practice their computer skills and to benefit others. Pictured above are Mrs. Whittington's students with some of the items shipped to the hospital in November. Many thanks to McEvoy staff and students for their kindness and creativity!



OCM BOCES Board Members

Michael J. Brady
Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*
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Mark W. Gilbert
Mary Ann Haley
Mike Murphy
Lisa O'Reilly
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Sandra Rausa
Joan Reeves
Ann Wright, *President*

CTE Staff Members Get Into The Halloween Spirit



Several teachers and teaching assistants from OCM BOCES' Irvin E. Henry Campus got into the Halloween spirit by donning costumes the day before the holiday. Pictured incognito are: Back row: Rob Orioli, Donnetta Hayduke, Tom Garni, Mary Burzynski, Bill Heller and Russel Rush. Seated is Francene Ball.