

**From the District Superintendent** —

Dear Staff,

During this holiday season, I wish you peace, joy, and lots of laughter with the ones you love. Let me thank you all for your commitment, hard work, and dedication to the OCM BOCES and to those we serve. 2008 has been a year of many significant accomplishments for our BOCES, its students, its staff, and our districts. I feel privileged to work with you and look forward to our continued efforts in 2009.



**Save Money With Mail Order Prescriptions**

Excellus BCBS has chosen PrimeMail to replace Express Scripts to provide mail order prescription services effective January 1, 2009. If you currently fill prescriptions through Express Scripts, you should have already been notified of the change.

If you have never utilized the mail order service, now is a good time to consider it. If you currently take maintenance medication and you receive a 90-day prescription, you qualify to have that prescription filled through the PrimeMail service.

Your co-pay for mail order scripts is \$10 for generic drugs and \$20 for brand name drugs. This saves you one retail co-payment each time you renew your prescription through mail order.

If you would like more information on the mail order plan, contact Tammy Jones in the Personnel Office (315-433-2632) for a brochure and the necessary forms to begin the plan.



**Loss of Special Education Supervisor Will Be Felt by All at BOCES** —

Lynn Reney had worked as a Special Education Supervisor for OCM BOCES since October of 1993. On December 17, 2008, Lynn passed away after a short illness. Her loss will most certainly be felt by her family and friends, and also by those of us at BOCES who had the good fortune to work with her.

Prior to coming to OCM BOCES, Lynn had worked in the field of Special Education for many years as a teacher and administrator. It was obvious to everyone who knew her, that she had a special affinity for the populations she helped serve and it was apparent in the genuine and loving way she worked with children.

In addition to supervising Special Education programs, Lynn oversaw Related Services and was instrumental in OCM BOCES provision of such high quality summer school Special Education programming.

Lynn will be missed personally and professionally.

**Learning Lab for Lab Tech Students**

Students in OCM BOCES Laboratory Technology class have been experiencing learning in several “real-world” classrooms via field trips to local laboratories. Most recently, the students visited Upstate Laboratories and observed employees running labs for the company, which performs soil and environmental sampling and testing for their clients. Lab Tech Instructor, Janet Clark, has arranged



for many additional field opportunities for her students. Look for more on this program in upcoming issues of *BOCES Bits*.

## Career Academy Participates in Great American Smoke-out



*Pictured above: Career Academy students Torie Donahue, Kayla Munro and Jessica Ptaszek created an anti-smoking video by researching the topic and interviewing staff and students at the school. Their video was uploaded to YouTube and was shown to teachers, family, friends and fellow students during the Career Academy's award ceremony on November 20, 2008.*

During the month of November, students at the Career Academy participated in the American Cancer Society's "Great American Smokeout" by creating anti-tobacco messages using their medium of choice. Most students opted to create posters, which were displayed throughout the halls of the school. Two groups of students instead chose to turn their anti-smoking messages into video projects, which were shown to parents, teachers and other students at the school's November 20<sup>th</sup> award ceremony, which coincided with the day of the Great American Smokeout.

### Think EAP in Tough Economy

Financial times are difficult from Wall Street to your home's checkbook. During this difficult period families are faced with tough choices about where to cut back and where to continue to spend. The stress of financial problems caused by loss of income, debt and high expenses can lead to strained relationships with spouses, children, extended family, friends and coworkers. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, call the Employee Assistance Program at 315-471-1361 or visit our website at [www.eap.ocmboces.org](http://www.eap.ocmboces.org).

## Fine Dining at OCM BOCES

OCM BOCES Culinary Arts and Pastry Arts Students presented a fantastic holiday dinner in early December. The meal consisted of lentil soup, mixed green salad, cranberry relish, rosemary prime rib, pan seared salmon, potatoes, vegetables and assorted breads and rolls. A fabulous dessert buffet was also available with an assortment of tempting choices. The holiday dinner was very well attended by BOCES staff and patrons. A big thank you to OCM BOCES outstanding Culinary and Pastry Arts Programs!



# Literacy Connection Sponsors Workshops in Deaf Program

On November 17<sup>th</sup> members of the Literacy Connection: Brenda Anderson Thomas, Barb Brigham, Tracie Clark, Susan Davoli, Mary DeMatteo Vitale, and Rosanna Grund sponsored the first of four literacy workshops for parents and students in the OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Solvay Elementary School.

The parents participated in a workshop given by Brenda Anderson-Thomas, a school psychologist, Barb Brigham, and Mary DeMatteo Vitale, teachers of the Deaf at Solvay Elementary School on strategies to promote literacy at home with their children. The parents each were given

a reading binder with strategies which included story mapping activities, reading logs, and key ideas while reading to their children. They were also each given their own copy of the book, Annie and the Wild Animals by Jan Brett. Brenda modeled how to share this book with their children. While the parents were at the parent workshop, the students worked with Susan Davoli, a speech and language teacher, and Traci Clark an interpreter/assistant in creating their own “reading bags” and literacy activities.

The parents, staff, and students joined for a book sharing. Parents shared the book Annie and the Wild Animals with their child with support from a staff member. The next parent workshop will be on January 29<sup>th</sup> and the topic will include information on language development and how it relates to literacy development.



## Kasson Road Students Learn About Fire Safety in Social Studies



In November, Mrs. Braun's K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class at Kasson Road School studied fire safety in Social Studies. Assistant Fire Chief, Fred Isgar, of the Howlett Hill Fire Volunteer Department spent time explaining to the students how to protect themselves in case of fire. He demonstrated how his equipment was designed to keep him safe while fighting fires. He then let the students have the opportunity to try on different pieces of his fire fighting equipment. Assistant Fire Chief Isgar gave each of the students a firefighter hat and a bag with safety tips, coloring sheets and stickers. The students were great listeners and asked important questions on how to keep themselves safe. Mrs. Braun was very proud of how polite and patient her class was during Mr. Isgar's presentation.

# Defensive Driving Course



**February 3 & 4, 2009**  
**4:30pm to 7:30pm**



**OCM BOCES Administration Building**  
**Conference Room**

**National Traffic Safety Institute's**  
**Traffic Survival Workshop!**

**Saves you 10% on your auto insurance**  
**for three years!**

**Cost is \$22 per person -**  
**Family Members Welcome!**

**Minimum 20 people/Maximum 40**  
**You must attend both sessions**

**Being there will enter you into a**  
**drawing for two \$25 gas cards!**

**Bring in a copy of your current auto policy and**  
**get five extra tickets for the drawing.**

**Please respond to Cynthia Payne**  
**by January 27, 2009 at**  
**315-468-4000                      54076 OR**  
**[cynthia.payne@libertymutual.com](mailto:cynthia.payne@libertymutual.com)**

## OCM BOCES Board Members

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

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](mailto:lcook@ocmboces) or call at 431-8597.

## Meet the Newest Dadey!



Congratulations to OCM BOCES' Teacher of the Deaf, Rebecca Dadey and her husband Matt on the birth of their daughter, Caleigh Elizabeth Dadey! Caleigh was born on Saturday, December 6th at 7:06pm weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches long. She joins the Dadey family welcomed by mom, dad and big brother, Bryce. Congratulations to the whole family!

