

BOCES BITS

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

From the District Superintendent



The 27th annual Adult Literacy Celebration was held on May 26, 2010 at the Palace Theatre in Syracuse. Nearly 200 students were recognized for their completion of OCM BOCES literacy programs. Pictured above: Three (of the more than 200 graduates) take a moment to pose for a picture outside of the Palace Theatre prior to the ceremony.

Dear Staff:

June is a bittersweet month. It marks both endings and beginnings for many of our BOCES staff and students. I was reminded of this last week at our dinner honoring retirees as we recognized more than 800 years of service to BOCES, representing the work of 36 staff. I want to highlight the 13 staff who have 30 years or more of service to OCM BOCES: Valerie Christian (38 years); Ann Derr (37 years); Maryanne Fritzen (35 years); Ed Greaney (33.5 years); Dorothy Dicosta (33 years); Sue Nagen (33 years); Sharon Lanphear (32.5 years); Stephen Grossman (32 years); Kay Hewitt (32 years); Wendy Carey (31 years); Carol Eymer (31 years); Greg Carey (30.5 years); and William Krausnick (30 years). We thank all of the staff for their efforts on behalf of our students, our staff, and our districts!

This is also a time of many celebrations, awards ceremonies, and graduations for our students. I love to watch the beaming faces of the students, their parents, and their teachers as they receive the public recognition of their accomplishments. Our graduation ceremonies

are very special and because they typically involve small numbers of students, they are able to be very personal and extremely meaningful.

Our students grow and change so much in the ten months of the academic year. I was reminded of this as I participated in the evaluation of several students in the Criminal Justice New Vision program taught by Charlie Wilson and Denise Mecca. Each student provides a portfolio of work that has been done over the period of the year including resumes, essays, book reviews, and reflections on issues as different as the death penalty and the war on drugs. Their learning is evaluated by a team of six or seven adults including their teachers, administrators from BOCES and the component districts, and several members of the criminal justice community. I wonder if I would have done as well when I was 18 as some of our students did?

For those of you who have a break over the summer, I hope that you have a chance to rest and reenergize for next year. For those who will be working, planning, and preparing for the next school year, I hope that you find some time to relax and enjoy the wonderful Central New York weather.

Jessica

Payroll Transition to Begin July 1, 2010

The OCM BOCES transition to a semi-monthly payroll schedule will take place over the year with there being 25 pay periods during the 2010-11 year. The first payroll payment will be on July 2, 2010 for 12 month employees. After that, all staff will be paid on the 15th and 30th of each month. Beginning in 2011-2012, there will be 24 payroll periods for 12 month employees. For 10 month employees, the first payroll payment for the 2010-11 school year will be on September 15, 2010, with 20 pay periods for the school year. For more information and to download the 2010-2011 school year pay schedule, visit the payroll transition webpage at <http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1113>.



New Visions Students Compete/Take First in Health Competition

The New Vision Medical Careers class from OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus recently participated in the New York State HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Conference in Syracuse. During the conference, students participated in several competitions and two students placed first in their competitions! Arielle Pitcher (from Marathon CSD) took first place in the Pharmacology competition and Arielle Pitcher and Nicholas Lundberg (from Homer CSD) took first place in the Career Health Display team event. Due to their first place wins, Nick and Arielle qualify to compete in this month's National HOSA Conference in Orlando, Florida. The students started the chapter in September of 2009, so this was the first attempt at any competitions. Other students who participated at the conference were Douglas Medler (McGraw), Jeremy Skvarch (Fabius-Pompey), and Ashley Sullivan (Fabius-Pompey). Nick and Arielle are pictured right.



'Tis the Season for Festivals, Celebrations, Concerts and Awards!



Above: Students at Kasson Road participate in the school's Spring Concert on May 11. Students created colorful paper decorations for their performance of the Japanese Folk Song, "Koinobori."

Below: Congratulations to Tully Central School District's Superintendent, Kraig Pritts for being named Administrator/Advocate of the Year by the OCM BOCES School Library System!



Above: OCM BOCES had students from many programs and schools participate in the May 20th Special Olympic games at Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Below: Career Academy student Becky Frederick paints a dragon onto the arm of John Rolfe at the school's "Festival for a Cure" on June 4.



Congratulations & Best Wishes to our Retirees!

Congratulations to the following staff members who retired this year from OCM BOCES. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our students, districts, clients and the community.

Diane Bilecki 21 years of service	Valerie Christian 38 years of service	Carol Eymmer 31 years of service	Kathryn Lovier 15 years of service
Marcia Bulger 25 years of service	Beth Dennison 28.5 years of service	Gary Evans 11 years of service	Susan Merrill 25 years of service
Kathryn Canfield 24 years of service	Joanne Dermody 26 years of service	Maryanne Fritzen 35 years of service	Beverly Mitchell 12 years of service
Gregory Carey, Jr. 30.5 years of service	Ann Derr 37 years of service	Edward Greaney 33.5 years of service	Susan Nagen 33 years of service
Wendy Carey 31 years of service	Dorothy Dicosta 33.5 years of service	Stephen Grossman 32 years of service	Donna Oberlender 17.5 years of service
		Kay Hewitt 32 years of service	Regina Piper 22.5 years of service
		Kathleen Honis 21 years of service	Pauline Porcello 11 years of service
		Michael Irwin 28 years of service	Maureen Romano 12.5 years of service
		Christine Koehler 20 years of service	Beverly Roney 25 years of service
		William Krausnick 30 years of service	Margaret Scripa 21 years of service
		Daniel Lake 26 years of service	Sandra Stone 22 years of service
		Sharon Lanphear 32.5 years of service	Donna Thoreck 10 years of service
		Kim Loucks 10.5 years of service	Denise Weeks 12 years of service

REACH and Adult Education Students Collaborate for Seniors

Students and staff from OCM BOCES REACH and Adult Education Cosmetology programs at the Lee G. Peters Career Training Center recently collaborated to provide residents of Parkrose Estates Retirement Community in Liverpool with manicures and paper corsages for Mother's Day. During the week prior to the holiday, students from the programs treated residents to manicures and corsages, while several REACH students took the initiative to assist Parkrose staff with housekeeping and custodial tasks.

After their visit, REACH students held a candy sale in order to raise funds to purchase flowers that they later planted at Parkrose, along with two "Rose of Sharon" bushes donated by OCM BOCES' employee Denise Enright. After planting, the REACH students were invited to join the residents at a luncheon to thank them and celebrate the end of the school year!



Irene Hartung, a resident of Parkrose Retirement Community gets a manicure from BOCES Adult Education Cosmetology student, Rachael Keresey.

EAP Offers Help Year-Round!

Did you know that the Employee Assistance Program is a twelve-month program? You can contact the EAP during the summer and we will be there for you just like we are during the school year. The summer could be a good time to call us for the things you were too busy to get to during the school year, including short-term counseling, a referral for therapy, or information on a variety of topics.

Call us all summer long at 315-471-1361 or 1-800-EAP-8764 or visit our website at www.eap.ocmboces.org.

Have a Safe & Happy Summer!

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.



Employee Relations Officer Welcomes First Child

Congratulations to OCM BOCES Employee Relations Officer David Maestri and his wife, Fran, on the April 24, 2010 birth of their first child, son David Joseph Paul Maestri. David weighed 8 pounds and was 20.5 inches long. Fran and David Joseph are pictured left. Congratulations to the whole family!

Itinerant Employee is CNYAFCSE Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to OCM BOCES Itinerant Services Teacher Marlene Beyers for having been selected by the Central New York Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Educators (CNYAFCSE) as their 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year. The award is given annually to a current member of NYSAFCSE, recognizing excellence in the classroom and in the profession. Marlene was chosen

from all Family and Consumer Sciences teachers in the CNY area, which includes schools in Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego counties. Marlene was honored at the association's awards banquet on May 18 at Justin's Grill in Syracuse. Marlene is pictured (third from right) with student scholarship winner Zach Shirk, and other award recipients Sally Bakker, Marilyn Mandigo, Angela Turck, Danielle Phelps, Cheryl Welles, Heidi Hobbs and Shirley Ware. Congratulations to Marlene and all the award winners!



OCM BOCES Administrator Presents at International Conference

On March 25, 2010 OCM BOCES David Karam presented at the 7th International Conference on Positive Behavior Support, "The Expanding World of PBS: Science, Values, and Vision" in St. Louis, Missouri. David's presentation, "Trouble Shooting Behavior Plans," centered around the common errors which occur in the development of a behavioral intervention plan for students exhibiting challenging behaviors in school. In attendance were school professionals representing most of the United States as well as Canada, Australia, Norway and other countries. This was David's second year as a presenter at this annual international conference. Great job!



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