

## Message from the Superintendent



The influence a teacher can have on our lives is profound. Almost all of us can remember a teacher who believed in us, inspired us, or pushed us in a significant way to become a better person. That's why National Teacher Appreciation Week (through May 14) offers a special opportunity to thank and

appreciate a teacher for his or her critical role in shaping our youth. We are fortunate to have so many excellent teachers here at OCM BOCES. If you are one of them, **THANK YOU** for your hard work and dedication.

In addition to a dedicated week for teachers, this week is also a national recognition time for nurses, including the school nurses in many of our buildings as well as the instructional staff in our adult LPN program. If you are one of these nurses, **THANK YOU** for your hard work and dedication in treating, teaching and caring for our students.

Now that nicer weather is finally here, I can't help but think how fast the time has gone by since we first moved into our new Main Campus in April of 2016, freeing up space in many of our other BOCES buildings. I think we all can agree that the move has been successful and well worth the effort. Thank you for your patience throughout the year as we sorted out many of the logistics associated with the move.

Finally, I would like to remind you, as always, that **May 16th** is the day to vote for your school budgets and school board representatives! Mark your calendars and spread the word. Our component districts need your support and the support of the people they serve.

Until next time, enjoy this beautiful spring.

Dr. Jody Manning  
District Superintendent

## Committed to the Cure

Because cancer has touched so many of our lives, OCM BOCES would like to invite you and your loved ones to join our team for the



Susan G. Komen “Race for the Cure.” The 5K run/walk is set for Saturday, May 20. Our team will meet that morning at the NYS Fairgrounds Orange Lot for the run/walk along the beautiful Onondaga Lake West Shore Trail. OCM BOCES is partnering with COMBO, OCM BFT, and Mid-Level Administrators to make this a fun, exciting and meaningful event for all. Family and friends are welcome to join. Because of the support of our bargaining units, the first 100 participants will get a **FREE TEAM T-SHIRT**. The cost to participate is \$40 (\$35 for cancer survivors), but participants are also encouraged to raise money beyond the registration fee to support the fight against cancer. To register, [please click here and scroll down to the pink button that says "JOIN OUR TEAM."](#) Registration is available online through noon on Friday, May 19. If you cannot participate, but would like to [make a donation on behalf of the OCM BOCES team](#), that would also be appreciated. Questions about the OCM BOCES team can be sent to our team captain, Adult Education Director Mari Ukleya, at [mukleya@ocmboces.org](mailto:mukleya@ocmboces.org). Finally, [CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO](#) to learn more about our OCM BOCES team and the experience of one of our employees, Crystal Smith, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

## Playing a video game ... to learn

High school students at our McEvoy campus recently joined forces to create one of the most entertaining and engaging tools they could think of – a video game – to give players a virtual tour of the building and information about its Career & Technical Education programs. Kolby Aitchison, a computer tech student from



Cincinnati, launched the project by creating a role-playing game (RPG) that has a pair of students getting off a bus at the Cortland campus. Players lead the students around the winding McEvoy corridors and enter rooms where a simple click on a teacher offers pop-up explanations of programs for interested students. Jon Easton, Kolby’s instructor, said the project was impressive by itself but reached new heights other students joined in so it could be presented at a regional “CNY Innovation Challenge” at Le Moyne College. Read more about the [McEvoy video CTE project](#) on our web site and [play the game here](#).

### **In the news**

Manufacturers in Central New York are desperately looking for employees to fill hundreds of openings. So why can't they find them? Check out this piece by Sarah Moses on [syracuse.com](http://syracuse.com) that explains this phenomenon and discusses how OCM BOCES can fill the void. One article in the series [highlights two OCM BOCES](#)



[Adult Education students](#) who were trained in our [manufacturing technician program](#). Mark Giamartino, left, was laid off from New Process Gear in 2012 and now works as a quality technician for Cryomech plant in Mattydale. Chris LaPan worked in fast food before getting jobs in manufacturing at Berry Plastics and then Cryomech, where he now works as a test technician. "The program actually helped me get two jobs," LaPan said. "I'm very happy here. Joining the program was a great decision."

### **Culinary at its best**

School board members and district officials from Cortland, Madison and Onondaga counties were treated to a taste of "joie de vivre" at the OCM BOCES Annual Meeting dinner, held April 5 at the McEvoy Campus. Students from DeRuyter, Cortland, Marathon and Homer prepared and served a springtime-inspired French feast. With



traditional French cafe music playing in the background, attendees were treated to appetizers of Shrimp Rouille, Sweet Potato Fritters and a delicious salad of roasted vegetables with feta sauce. Students showed off their carving skills on a garlic herb crusted strip loin, which was served with chive cream and Maître d'Hotel Butter. They also demonstrated their sauté technique with a sauté of chicken and asparagus with Béarnaise butter. The meal was topped off with a fabulous dessert of Crepe Suzette Cups with vanilla ice cream and orange sauce. – Submitted by Chef Lori Rossi, McEvoy culinary arts teacher

## Skilled in Safety

OCM BOCES TEAM students from Solvay Middle School recently traveled to Fowler High School's Public Service Leadership Academy (PSLA) to learn about emergency medical procedures and safety precautions.

Prior to the visit, Fowler's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students set up stations for our students to learn about:

- performing CPR on both adults and babies,
- accessing and providing pertinent medical information to emergency responders,
- following proper hand washing techniques, and
- taking vital signs, such as blood pressure and pulse.

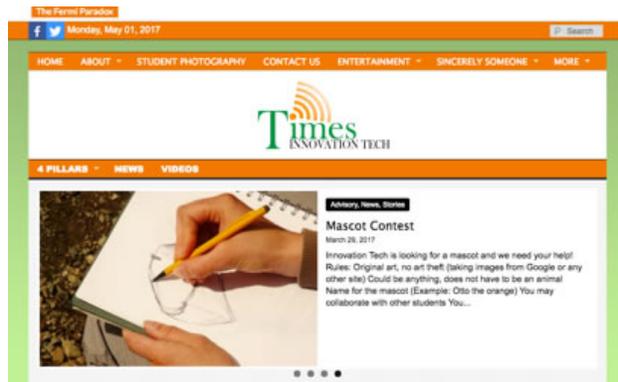


Additionally, students talked and listened in on walkie-talkies to pass important messages to a partner, tried on fireman and EMT clothing and played a sign language game about symptom and illness identification. The PSLA helped our students learn how to help others and they learned more about our community's medical safety professionals, both EMT and firefighters. – submitted by Jacqueline Feneran/Special Education Teacher

## Read all about it

Check out the newest online newspaper, [innovationtechtimes.com](http://innovationtechtimes.com), the brainchild of students at Innovation Tech in Liverpool. Students in the high school's Multi-Media Marketing class worked hard since the fall to research, design, edit and create

the content. Students organized an official launch on April 27, when each newspaper contributor stood at a podium and explained his or her role in the process. One student, for example, said she was excited to write the first story for the web site and thinks she found "her true calling" as a writer because of the experience. Facilitators **Christine Alexander** (art) and **Ryan Howlett** (English Language Arts) said it was a true example of Project Based Learning, a hallmark of this New Tech school, because students guided their own instruction at every turn and worked collaboratively to take on tasks and solve problems. "We let them figure out every single problem," Alexander said.



## Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to **Maria Britton**, a social studies teacher at **Cortland Alternative School (CAS)** who was honored as a Teacher of the Year by the Rotary Club of Cortland. Britton was nominated by **Pam Charron**, the social studies department chair, and CAS Principal **Jayne Coffey**. Britton was chosen because she exemplifies the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." Specifically, the award recognizes teachers who demonstrate teaching excellence and commitment; engage in service outside the classroom; encourage students to be service-oriented; and continuously seek self-improvement. Britton received a \$100 stipend as part of the award. She was recognized at a Rotary meeting May 2 and is pictured (third from left) with other Rotary teachers of the year.



## KAPOW! BAM!

The OCM BOCES School Library System department assisted high school librarians and teachers with a very popular event slated for May 6: Free Comic Book Day.

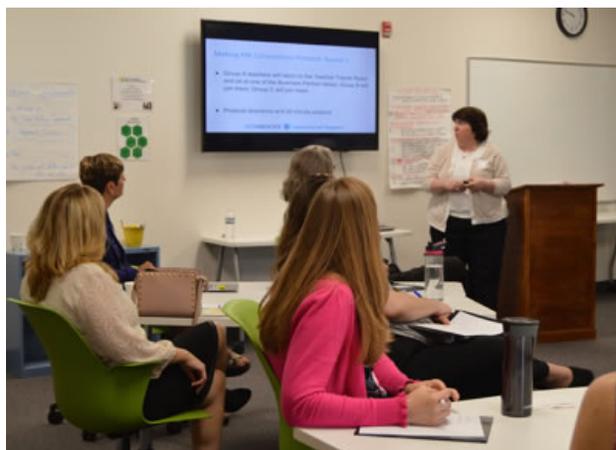
Participants received a free comic book for all tenth-graders to kick off the event in their schools and heard from two inspiring and funny comic book authors and illustrators, Deb Lucke and Adam McGovern. Work of the [Comic Book Defense Fund](#) was also highlighted. In the photo, Librarian **Allison Comes** gives a presentation at the daylong workshop at our Main Campus.



## Reaching out

The April 28 "Connections" event, held at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland, brought together students, educators and representatives from outside businesses for the purpose of sharing the effectiveness of Project Based Learning and forging new school-business partnerships.

**PBL Coordinator Joanne Keim** of Instructional Support Services facilitated the event with the goal of educating participants about PBL, giving them a chance to explore creative and successful PBL projects through a school-wide "Gallery



Walk,” and letting participants talk to each other about future collaborations. In the photo, **Joanne** talks to the group about how these discussions would unfold.

### **Emerging Artists**

Each year, the artwork of selected Cortland County students is chosen for display in the “Imagination Celebration” art show at [Homer Center for the Arts](#). The yearly event is a community-wide art exhibit, with two shows divided by grade level. It is on display throughout the month of April. Artwork submitted for students in grades 7-12 is judged by outside artists. [This year, two McEvoy students received special recognition by the juried artists.](#)



### **Seven Valleys students promote school at business showcase**

On April 8, 2017, OCM BOCES Seven Valleys New Tech Academy students spent their Saturday morning connecting with representatives from local businesses at the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce’s annual business showcase. The showcase is one of the Chamber’s signature events, attended by thousands of community members in a “trade show” format. The students made some great connections and used the opportunity to promote their school and its focus on Project Based Learning.



### **Go GREEN Challenge: Will it be pizza for McEvoy?**

With less than a month to go in OCM BOCES’ Go Green Challenge, McEvoy is holding tight to their lead, earning purple bonus points to nudge them ahead of their closest competitor – Operations and Maintenance/Central Receiving. In addition to now having “Go Green Ambassadors” – students who spread the word and monitor proper recycling – on both sides of their building, McEvoy students and staff have been collaborating to begin composting at the school. Students in the Building/Construction Trades classes are even building a composting bin



for the school. Renee Mitchell-Compton, who is McEvoy's Sustainability Committee representative, is proud of her school's efforts. She said, "This will be a great building-wide project with all programs collaborating." Other efforts for McEvoy include a class PBL project and the distribution of bottle and can collection boxes throughout the building. Be sure to track McEvoy's progress on our [Go Green website](#) throughout the month of May. You never know what building could be getting close!

### **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.

### **DO THIS NOW:**

**Like us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter! Check us out on YouTube!**

While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization now has a general Facebook page, Twitter account and YouTube channel that we can use to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news! **PLEASE like us** on [Facebook](#) and **follow us** on [Twitter](#) (@ocmboces). Check out our [YouTube Channel](#) as well, especially if you want to review the Opening Day video about our goals and targets. For all of our social media platforms, check out our **social media hub** at [ocmboces.org](#).

### **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](#) for more.



*If you would like to contribute to the BOCES bits, which is generally distributed the first week of each month, please contact Laurie Cook at [lcook@ocmboces.org](mailto:lcook@ocmboces.org) or Jackie Wiegand at [jwiegand@ocmboces.org](mailto:jwiegand@ocmboces.org)*

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