

BOCES BITS

December 2011 Vol. 7 Issue 10

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

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

It is hard to believe that it is December 15 and we have not yet received any significant amounts of snow. And yet, it is apparent from the holiday concerts, Secret Santa exchanges, and decorations that it is the holiday season.

Thank you to all the offices and programs who are helping to make the holiday season a better one for some students in our programs whose celebrations would be limited. Every year, I hear about different groups of staff who try to do something special for groups of families. It is done quietly and without much fanfare but makes a difference in the lives of children and families.

Over the next few weeks, please take some time to reflect on the gifts that we all have—the families and friends that care about us and that we care about. Enjoy your holidays. I wish all of you a happy and healthy 2012.



OCM BOCES Exploring Options for Using Social Networks

OCM BOCES is currently exploring using social networks as an information source for Board members, parents, students, teachers, staff, media and the community at large. Special thanks go to OCM BOCES Speech Language Pathologist Mary Humphrey and her colleagues for researching the issue for BOCES as part of a SUNY Oswego course. As a result of their extensive research and the resulting information they presented to BOCES on November 21st, BOCES will be moving forward to implement their recommendations.

Recognition should also go to Lisa Jones, a special education teacher at the OCM BOCES at the McEvoy Education Campus, and her group for their issue analysis on the necessary practices to enhance Academic Intervention Services in the Central Square School District.

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!

Students in the Spotlight!



Barb Wells, OCM BOCES TEAM classroom teacher, shared that her students undertook a project this year to provide gifts for children and families in need. The students wrapped shoeboxes and then shopped for items to place in the boxes, such as socks, pencils, crayons, coloring books, toys, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The students also wrote letters for the children and included a class picture with their gifts.

The completed shoeboxes will be delivered to local recipients this holiday season. Great job!



Coffee and Conversation

District Superintendent Jessica Cohen is pleased to be able to host Coffee and Conversations sessions with the staff of OCM BOCES. The schedule for January 2012 is as follows:

Wednesday, January 4, 2012, 3:00 PM

Kasson Road School

Monday, January 9, 2012, 3:00 PM

Lee G. Peters Career Training Center, Cafeteria

Thursday, January 12, 2012, 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM

Henry CTE - Large Group Instruction Room (2:30)

Rodax 8 Large Conference Room (3:30)

Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 2:30 PM

St. Cecilia's School - Conference Room

Thursday, January 26, 2012, 3:15 PM

St. Cecilia's School - Conference Room

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 3:00 PM

McEvoy Education Campus Courtyard

Please remember that these meetings are subject to change and will be confirmed via e-mail one week prior to the scheduled date.



We Need Your Input!

Across Alternative Education, Adult Education, Career & Technical Education, and Special Education, we are interested in gaining your input regarding the vision for using technology in BOCES programs to prepare students for their future.

Members of the Student Services Curriculum & Instructional Council have generated three questions to spark a conversation about what our staff, students, and programs need to achieve this goal. The key questions are listed in the box below.

What do you need in your daily practice?

What do kids need for their future?

How do we get you there?

Student Services Curriculum & Instructional Council members, Jeff Craig, and Colleen Viggiano will plan on being present 15 minutes prior to each Coffee & Conversation session and will stay after each session for 15 minutes to gain input on the technology vision from any staff members who are interested in giving us feedback.

CNYRIC Programming Department Plays "Santa" in a Different Way this Year



The CNYRIC Programming Department, under the management of Mary Brady, has always had an departmental gift exchange, usually a 'Secret Santa', during the holiday season. This year, the staff reassessed in light of the economic problems many people are facing, and decided to use the opportunity to help those in need. The department considered donating money to an organization, but after much deliberation, decided that to take a more personal approach and do something locally. The next step was to find families who needed help.

Everyone immediately thought of Theresa Donnelly who is an active member of St Francis of Assisi Church in Bridgeport. The church's Community Outreach Program provides assistance to families in need in the Chittenango, East Syracuse Minoa and North Syracuse school districts. Theresa contacted the Outreach Coordinator and got information for two families. Everyone in the department contributed money and staff spent several lunch periods shopping and then wrapping gifts for six children ages 3-17. The department was able to get almost everything on their wish lists and even had enough money to add additional items of their own selection.

Each child will receive a mixture of clothes, mittens, games, and even small items such as pencils in tiny stockings, compliments of the CNYRIC Programming Department, their 'Secret Santa'. Everyone enjoyed the entire activity so much that it will likely become a yearly tradition.

New Vision Criminal Justice Students Get Visit from Australian Educators



During the week of December 5, 2011, students in the Tully Central School District were visited by educators from Queensland, Australia as part of an International Link program between Tully and Education Queensland. The group of three teachers and their spouses was in the United States comparing the similarities and differences between schools in each country.

Prior to the visit, New Vision Criminal Justice Instructor Charlie Wilson, was in contact with Tully Superintendent Kraig Pritts about the potential of the foreigners visiting his classroom, as the spouse of one of the educators is a constable with the Queensland Police Department.

During the week, Constable David Hume of the Queensland, Australia Police Department spoke to students

in the OCM BOCES Criminal Justice class about differences in law enforcement and culture. After class, Charlie Wilson and Herb Wiggins of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department introduced Hume around the office and took him on a tour of the Heliport, Navigation and SWAT teams, and the Canine Training Center. The visit provided a multi-cultural learning opportunity for both students and visitors!

McEvoy SkillsUSA Students Adopt-a-Highway and Clean up Campus

SkillsUSA students from the OCM BOCES McEvoy Educational Campus in Cortland recently completed the Adopt-a-Highway project to clean up New York State Route 13 by the school. Participation by morning session students was so good, that the afternoon students even had time to clean up around the campus! SkillsUSA advisor, Kay Kraatz would like to extend a big "thank you" to Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Brown and the McEvoy Culinary Arts students for preparing hot chocolate, cookies and sandwiches for the project's participants.



Construction Technology Students Build First Aid Station for Greek Peak

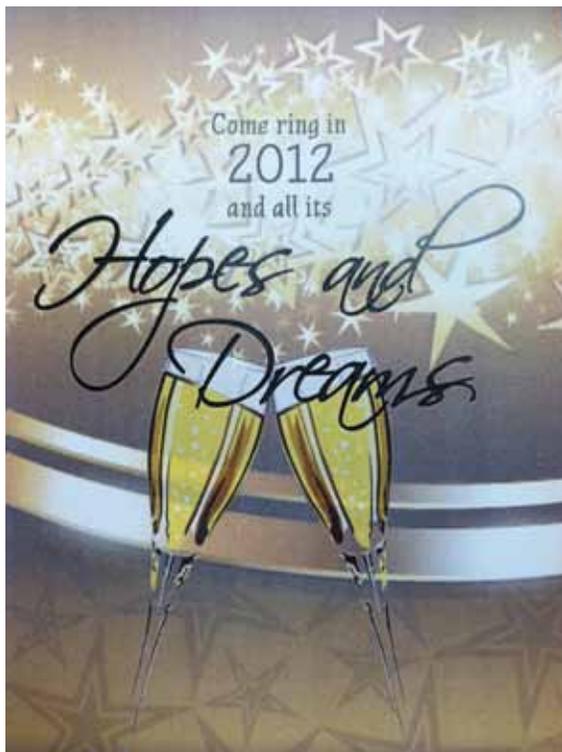


OCM BOCES Construction Technology Seniors at the McEvoy Educational Campus recently completed a year-long project for the Greek Peak Ski Patrol. The project, a 12'x16' cabin, will be used as a "first-aid substation" for the ski patrol and will be placed at the terminus of the "Elysian Fields" ski lift on the popular ski resort mountain. The cabin was built using standard construction framing materials, and the students were able to do some finish work using stained cedar siding on the outside and white pine wainscoting on the interior. The cost of the cabin's materials was sponsored by a number of area businesses and organizations, while the project idea and planning were supervised by Ski Patrol Leader John Megivern, Construction Technology instructor James Bender, and teaching assistant Jeremy Benedict. Some

building materials were donated by several local suppliers. Nearly two dozen students were involved in the construction and loading process of the cabin, and they were all very excited to see that it made it safely to its spot on the mountain where it will be a functional and beautiful addition to the resort for years to come.

Pictured above: Construction Technology seniors (from left to right): Austin Parker, Brandon McCracken, Dylan Beaumont, James Thompson, and Tyler Bishop in front of the new Greek Peak first aid substation built by OCM BOCES Construction Technology students.

Pictured right: Construction Technology student Austin Parker looks on as the first aid substation is prepared to be moved from the campus of OCM BOCES.



OCM BOCES School Social Worker Encourages Attendance at Fundraiser

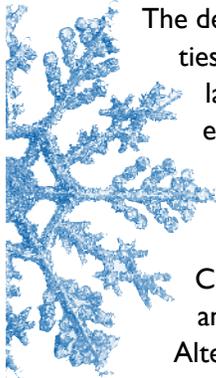
Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES School Social Worker, Jennifer DiBianco, is volunteering for a good cause this year and would like to spread the news to her coworkers about a New Year's Eve event. DiBianco's efforts are for the Jonathan Cancer Fund's New Year's Eve Gala, "Hopes and Dreams." The event is being held on Saturday, December 31, 2011 from 8:00 PM to 1:00 AM at the Crowne Plaza in Syracuse. For more information about the event or the cause, please visit the website at www.jonathancancerfund.org.

OCM BOCES Emergency Closing Procedures for the 2011-2012 School Year

Since weather conditions can vary greatly across the OCM territory, different criteria are used to close our campuses. For this year, there are some slight changes to the procedure.



ONONDAGA COUNTY FACILITIES



The decision to close OCM BOCES student facilities is based on whether or not some of our larger districts decide to close impacting the expected attendance. If Baldwinsville, East Syracuse Minoa, Fayetteville-Manlius, Liverpool, and North Syracuse are closed, then OCM BOCES facilities in Onondaga County will typically be closed for students and instructional staff. These facilities include:

Alternative to Homebound, Career Academy, Career Training Center, Henry Campus, Kasson Road, Onondaga Alternative High School (STARS),

Cedar Street Educational Program, New Vision Program Sites, and Reach. Please note change: Kasson Road is closed only if OCM BOCES is closed.

The following BOCES classrooms that are located in component school district buildings will close if the district is closed: Behavior Management (Chestnut Hill Elementary in the Liverpool District,) Children's Village (Park Hill Elementary in the East Syracuse Minoa District,) SKATE (Allen Road Elementary in the North Syracuse District, Morgan Road Elementary in the Liverpool District and Onondaga Road Elementary and Camillus Middle School in the West Genesee District,) STAR (Homer Elementary, Intermediate, Junior High and High School in the Homer District,) and TEAM (Stonehedge Elementary in the West Genesee District, Solvay Middle School in the Solvay District and Liverpool High School in the Liverpool District.)

We will use several radio stations and television stations to air the announcements. They are as follows:

Radio Stations: AM 570, AM 620, FM 93.1, FM 94.5, FM 95.7, FM 104.7, FM 105.9 and FM 107.9.

TV Channels: 3, 5, 9 and 10

ADMINISTRATIVE, CLERICAL AND SERVICE PERSONNEL

Administrative, Clerical, and Service Personnel –

Administrative, clerical, and service personnel are expected to report to work when BOCES facilities are closed for students and instructional personal.

When Onondaga or Cortland area BOCES facilities are closed, and there is a “no travel” order declared in that county, no employees are to report to work, except maintenance personnel and other individuals designated by the District Superintendent. Employees who reside in, or must pass through a county where there is a “no travel” order in effect, will not be charged for workdays lost.

CORTLAND COUNTY FACILITIES

If Cortland and Homer districts are closed, then OCM BOCES facilities located in Cortland County will be closed. If only one of the aforementioned districts is closed, and the Career and Technical Education program enrollment by all districts totals one-half or more, OCM facilities located in Cortland County will remain open. Under certain extenuating circumstances a decision to remain open may be made. Under all circumstances, the safety of our staff and students will be considered.

The OCM BOCES facilities located in Cortland County include: McEvoy Campus, Cortland Alternative School, and New Vision Program Sites.

We will use several radio stations and television channels to announce the closing of OCM facilities located in Cortland County. They are as follows:

Radio Stations: AM 680, AM 870, AM 1290, AM 1430, AM 1470, FM 92.5, FM 97.3, FM 98.1, FM 99.1, FM 101.5, FM 103.3, FM 103.7, FM 104.1, FM 105.7 and FM 107.5.

TV Channels: 3, 5, 9 and 12

ADULT EDUCATION & WORKSHOPS



Adult Education –

Adult Education daytime classes will be closed for students if the OCM facilities are closed in the designated county. Evening class closings will be announced separately by JoAnne Flood (Onondaga County) and John Iorio (Cortland County).

Workshops –

Any workshops that are scheduled through OCM BOCES Instructional Support Services will occur unless there is a state of emergency.

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.

OCM BOCES Music Teacher Recently Featured in "Cortland Standard" for Release of New Jazz CD



Congratulations to Steve Daniels, an OCM BOCES instrumental music teacher, on the upcoming release of his first CD, "In a Mellow Tone." Daniels was recently featured in the Cortland Standard for his work, which is a CD of jazz standards with Tom Bronzetti on guitar and Cameron Kayne on bass. In addition to playing tenor sax on the CD, Steve also performs four vocal pieces. Steve works as an itinerant teacher of music for OCM BOCES and the Marathon Central School District. He has also been playing music professionally for nearly 30 years. His group, the Steve Daniels Trio, has played at various locations in Cortland and Daniels has also played in rock bands and jazz groups in Syracuse and Rochester. Congratulations Steve on this outstanding accomplishment!

Photo courtesy of The Cortland Standard/Bob Ellis, staff photographer

OCM BOCES United Way Campaign Proves to be a Great Success

OCM BOCES has just wrapped up their United Way campaign for 2011-2012 and we are happy to announce that this was the best year ever for contributions! OCM BOCES employees donated a total of \$14,836.52 to the United Way. At a time when we are all facing economic challenges we are thrilled to announce an increase of 18.8% in giving over last year, as well as an 8% increase in the number of people contributing. Thank you for your generous contributions.

Prizes were generously donated and winners were randomly selected. This year's prizes were presented to: Cindy Lester, from the Lee G. Peters Career Training Center in Liverpool, who was the winner of a beautiful Syracuse University stained glass window and Gail Rausch, from the Irvin E. Henry Campus, the winner of a framed photograph of a peaceful Adirondack scene. Congratulations Gail and Cindy!

Each year we look to improve our United Way Campaign. If you have suggestions for next year's drive or comments on what we did this year, please contact Mark Pettitt or Donna Robillard in Personnel. Thank you again to everyone who contributed to this most successful campaign!

OCM BOCES Board Members

Ann Wright, *President*

Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*

Michael J. Brady

Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton

Roseann DuBrava

Mark W. Gilbert

Mary Ann Haley

Mike Murphy

Lisa O'Reilly

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