

# BOCES BITS

June 2011 Vol. 7 Issue 6

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

## From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

What a year this has been! As I write this, we are just a few days away from the close of another school year full of student successes. Over the past month, it has been my pleasure to attend and participate in twelve graduations, award ceremonies, and other end of year celebrations.

Each and every one of those celebrations highlighted the part that our staff plays in helping every student reach beyond their expectations. Stevie Wonder, the singer and songwriter who was blind since birth once said, "We all have ability. The difference is how we use it." The abilities of our students are identified and supported by the OCM BOCES staff that work with them.

As I have driven to work each morning, I have watched the gradual demolition of the Carrier buildings along Thompson Road. For many years, the Carrier Factory Complex was one of the symbols of Syracuse's industrial core. Thousands of area residents worked there and many more have benefitted from the legacy of the Carrier Company's charitable contributions to this area—from the

Carrier Dome to the impact on arts and theater. Since late fall, the buildings have been coming down, and with them the symbolism of the end of an era. It has caused me to think about how our world is changing—and how we all deal with those changes.

I know that we will all be facing significant changes in our world, our profession, and our workplaces over the next few years. Some of those changes will be monumental and some will be minor. All of the changes, big or small, may cause us some discomfort and a need to adjust. As those changes are made, I am committed to increasing our communications about those changes so that everyone may prepare for them.

A small change will occur in BOCES Bits for next year. In order to save costs, we will be providing it electronically to staff, rather than in paper copies. You will hear more about that in early fall. A second change that we are expecting this summer will be the production of salary notices for all staff. Our Internal Auditors have indicated that we are required to prepare these notices. Look for a notice by mid-July. You will be asked to sign the notice and return it to Personnel.

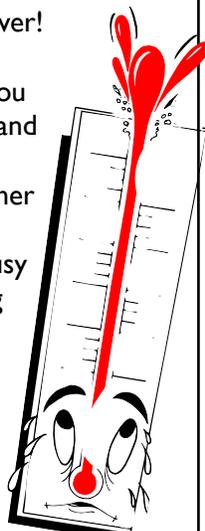
Many of our instructional staff will take the next week off and then be back to work in our special education or regional summer schools. Others will use the time for coursework or just relaxing. For our non-instructional and administrative staff, June is a time of endings, followed by the quick beginnings of the next fiscal year that starts on July 1. For all of us, however, the summer marks a time of a change in pace. Enjoy your summer, whether it is spent at work or at home.

*Jessica*

### EAP Offers Help Year-Round!

Don't let summer stress make you boil over! Your OCM BOCES Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a 12-month program! You can contact the EAP during the summer and a counselor will be there for you just the same as during the school year. The summer could be a good time to call the EAP for the things that you may have been too busy to get to during the school year, including short-term counseling, a referral therapy, or information on a variety of topics.

Call EAP all summer long at 315/471-1361 or 1/800-EAP-8764 or visit their website at [www.eap.ocmboces.org](http://www.eap.ocmboces.org).



## Criminal Justice Students Help Honor Officers Who Died in Line of Duty



New Vision Criminal Justice students from the OCM BOCES Henry Campus recently took a class trip to Washington, DC, where they spent two days working at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The memorial honors law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. It is a focal point of the National Police Week observance in Washington, DC, with one of the ceremonies being a formal Candlelight Vigil, held each year on May 13<sup>th</sup>. While in Washington, the students served as



ushers for the vigil; the only high school group in the country that volunteers for this occasion.

The students also had the opportunity to meet with and talk to New York State Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle during their visit. For some more information on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, visit their website at [www.nleomf.org](http://www.nleomf.org).



## CTE Students Donate To Ronald McDonald House in Many Ways



Early in the 2010-2011 school year, OCM BOCES students from Janet Clark's laboratory technology classes and Robin Willey's health occupations classes at the Irvin E. Henry Campus, began a recycling project to support the Central New York Ronald McDonald House. The students were learning about recycling and reducing as part of their science curriculum and decided to do some recycling of their own for a good cause. In October of 2010, the students began collecting pop tops to support the charity. Their efforts caught on and were supported throughout their school, becoming somewhat of a contest between classrooms. In all, the students and staff collected more than 70 pounds of pop

tops, which were donated to the Ronald McDonald House on June 7, 2011.

The students involved in the collection efforts brought the donations to the Ronald McDonald House and performed a variety of community service projects while they were there. Some of the tasks that the students completed at the home included assembling toys for the residents, cleaning out a shed, weeding gardens, sweeping the parking lot, picking up trash and thoroughly cleaning the inside of the house. The students were also given a tour of the facility and had the opportunity to see how their efforts would benefit others. The trip provided a very rewarding experience for the students!



# 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.

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|--|---|---|
| Marlene Beyers, Home Economics Teacher – 25 Years of Service     | Thomas Hanley, Safety Officer 10 Years of Service                   | Timothy Reardon, LAN Tech Support Spec. – 12 Years of Service         |
| Peggy Carroll, Systems Consultant 13 Years of Service            | William Heppeler, RIC Assistant Director – 29.5 Years of Service    | Allene Rossler, Health Occ. Coordinator – 28 Years of Service         |
| Cheryl Cronin, Special Education Teacher – 25.5 Years of Service | Kay Hewitt, Account Clerk I – 32 Years of Service                   | Michael Rozniak, Systems Consultant – 30 Years of Service             |
| Barbara Duncan, Special Ed. Teacher – 29.5 Years of Service      | Douglas Jakway, Storekeeper 23 Years of Service                     | Uzella Scoville, School Nurse 14 Years of Service                     |
| Kathleen Freer, Music Teacher – 23 Years of Service              | Donna Lillis, Information Systems Coordinator – 10 Years of Service | Donna Setrella, Employment and Training Counselor 18 Years of Service |
| Barbara Grimes, Teaching Assistant – 25.5 Years of Service       | Carol Marshall, Teacher Trainer – 10 Years of Service               | Linda Shapess, Teacher Trainer 13 Years of Service                    |
|  |   | Ken Thurston, Special Education Supervisor – 37 Years of Service      |
|  |   | Christopher Welter, Special Education Teacher – 18 Years of Service   |
|  |   | Jolinda Willis, Special Education Teacher – 23 Years of Service       |
|  |   | William Wipper, LAN Tech Support Specialist – 13 Years of Service     |

## McEvoy Auto Collision Goes Green

*It's what's in the water that really counts!*

Phil Ramey's Automotive Collision Technology classes at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus have been a great example of education and industry working together this year. In February, PPG Corporation, a local company, donated their new *Aquabase Waterborne* refinishing system to the McEvoy Educational Campus Automotive Collision Technology Program.

Ramey's classes have been working with PPG for twenty years. He is thankful for the connection saying, "Due to [the company's] support, the program has always been able to stay updated with the latest refinishing technology."

In a waterborne refinishing system, the solvent is always the same: water. The color is made with latex particles and an outer sheet that dissolves outwardly into tendrils. It is the tendrils that bind the paint together. The high-tech nature of these particles is a major reason for the system's durability and ease of use.

Ramey and his students have received a great deal of training on the new technology by representatives from PPG. Many thanks to the corporation for their time and generosity!



## 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
- David Paczkowski
- Joan Reeves

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

### STARS Student Places in Teen Art Competition

Congratulations to Zack Davis, an OCM BOCES STARS Alternative High School junior from the Jamesville DeWitt Central School District, for recently having placed third in the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Teenage Competitive Art Exhibition! Six students from the STARS Alternative High School, and hundreds from school districts across Central New York, entered various works of art in the exhibition, and Zack's work placed third in the 3-dimensional division. On June 4, Zack was presented with an award during a ceremony honoring all winners at Syracuse's Community Folk Art Center on East Genesee Street. Congratulations Zack!



### STARS Students Celebrate National Nursing Home Week with New Friends at Van Duyn Home



During National Nursing Home Week (May 8-14), students from the OCM BOCES STARS Alternative High School spent time with residents of Van Duyn Home and Hospital and presented them with a mural they had made. Students visited the residents on numerous occasions this school year and decided that they would like to make a special presentation to their new friends in recognition of National Nursing Home Week. Prior to their May visit, the students spent time working on the design and creation of the mural, which displayed messages of peace, love, respect and personal sentiments of thanks for the time they spent together.



### Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program Students Do Project Based Learning

Fifth grade students in the OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing program recently worked on a project based learning assignment by researching this past March's earthquake in Japan. After researching the tragedy, students encouraged their peers and the staff of the school to join them in writing Hope Letters to support the Japanese people in their time of need. Through the project, students learned how to write business letters, send e-mail messages, use video phones, create and present a Power Point slide show, and develop commercials. Thanks to OCM BOCES Regional Information

Center employee, Ed Loftus, students were also able to explore the job of a videographer. Ed worked with the students to teach them about his job at BOCES, part of which involves videography. The experience provided a true 21<sup>st</sup> century learning opportunity for the students, making a real life connection to jobs!

