

## From the District Superintendent

I have always looked forward to September. As a child, it was marked by the anticipation of wondering what my new teachers would be like. I remember the smell of a new box of crayons, the freshness of new books, and adjusting to new routines. As an adult who has spent most of my life as an educator, September remains a new beginning.

For many of our staff, this month is the ceremonial start of the school year, but truly it marks just a change in dress and activity because they have been hard at work all summer. The past few months have been busier than I remember any summer having been. To name just a few things that OCM BOCES staff have spent the past two months doing:

- Our special education administrators and teachers provided summer school classes to more than 600 students in our extended year summer schools at North Syracuse Junior High, the Career Training Center, Kasson Road School, McEvoy Center, Onondaga Road, Cedar Street, and Stonehedge Elementary.
- Our business office “closed out” the 2009-2010 year and prepared for the annual external audit.
- More than 400 teachers, administrators, and other staff spent three days learning about 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills from the nation’s preeminent authors in a collaborative workshop put on by ISS and the RIC.

### Reminder – OCM BOCES New Website to Go Public in October



We’re almost ready to switch over to OCM BOCES’ new and updated website. October 1, 2010 has been identified as the deadline for all pages to be ready to go public under the new guidelines describing the desired “look and feel” of all our web pages. The actual switch to the new look will happen soon after the October 1st deadline. The new website will provide us with a more modern, userfriendly interface that includes video, calendar, and news feeds in addition to all of the information and links about our services and programs. **Please check any page(s) you are associated with for any last minute changes.**

- OCM BOCES’ Facilities department did the annual summer “magic” of moving classes, creating new spaces, cleaning, and getting facilities ready for a new school year.
- The personnel office was very busy recruiting, hiring, and orienting the summer school teachers and the more than 50 new instructional staff who were hired this summer.

We begin this year with more than 40 new teachers, teaching assistants, and administrators who are as excited to begin school as we hope our students will be. Staff have been working hard to get ready for the start of school. Our facilities staff have been working hard to make sure that our buildings are ready for the start of the year.

I am once again this year, looking forward to what the new school year will bring. Have a great month!

*Jessica*

## Ice Cream Social Provides Warm Welcome for New Instructional Staff!



*OCM BOCES' new instructional staff attended two days of orientation activities on August 25 and 26, including an ice cream social at the Irvin E. Henry Campus. New staff, their mentors and other OCM BOCES employees were "treated" as District Superintendent Cohen and Assistant Superintendent Viggiano scooped sundaes for the staff!*

OCM BOCES new instructional staff had an opportunity to meet each other and BOCES administrators at the annual two-day new staff orientation on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. An overview of BOCES and information about personnel, technology, instructional support and available resources were provided.

OCM BOCES Administrative Cabinet, consisting of District Superintendent Jessica Cohen, Colleen Viggiano, Jeff Craig, Deb Ayers, Mike Fay and Mark Pettitt created an entertaining way of orienting staff by acting out a BOCES 101 "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" game. One of the questions asked of contestants was, "What is the OCM BOCES slogan?," the answer to which is, of course, "Committed to Your Success."

of events including an ice cream social, with ice cream served by Superintendent Cohen and Assistant Superintendent Viggiano.

Throughout the two day orientation at the Henry and McEvoy Campuses, new staff had an opportunity to meet OCM BOCES Board President, Ann Wright, share with their mentors, learn about BOCES many programs and services, log into their BOCES e-mail and participate in departmental meetings. New OCM BOCES staff members were also able to get to know each other through a series

In an effort to continue our support of new instructional staff, ongoing training will once again, be provided throughout the school year. Thanks to all our staff who made the orientation possible and again, "Welcome" to all our new staff!

## Fun Programs and Events Make Summer Special for BOCES' Students

All OCM BOCES Special Education programs for severely disabled students take place for the entire 12 months of every year. During the Summer of 2010, OCM BOCES held Special Education summer schools at North Syracuse Junior High, Lee G. Peters Career Training Center, Kasson Road School, McEvoy Center, Onondaga Road, Cedar Street, and Stonehedge Elementary. During July and August, BOCES' dedicated Special Education summer school staff worked with our students to provide many unique and fun educational experiences.

Some of the many exciting events that students in these special education programs



were a part of during the Summer of 2010 were Special Olympic games, carnivals, concerts and dances. Parents and families were invited to these special school events through OCM BOCES and had many opportunities to witness how special the Summer of 2010 was for their children. Many thanks to our dedicated staff!



## Deaf Program Lemonade Stand Has Sweet Success for a Great Cause!



For the second year in a row, students in Lisa Austin's Deaf and Hard of Hearing class at North Syracuse Junior High School, a part of OCM BOCES Special Education Summer School, created a lemonade stand to raise money for a great cause! During last year's summer program, Ms. Austin was teaching her students about money and the importance of giving back and thought a Lemonade Stand would be a great way to teach students about both concepts. After researching, and finding several books on the topic, Austin came across the book *Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand*.

The book, about giving back and helping others, talked about Alex Scott, a little girl with cancer who set up a lemonade stand to help

doctors find a cure for the disease. Alex's Lemonade Stand, now a national organization, has raised more than \$30 million dollars in the fight against childhood cancer...part of that money coming from right here in Central New York!

Last year, Austin's students raised \$100 at their lemonade stand. This year, they set the same goal but far exceeded it with the over \$300 their stand brought it! Austin is proud of the hard work her students did to promote and staff the stand, including making flyers and announcements and working various jobs and shifts at the stand. Congratulations to Austin and her students for a job well done! For more information on Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, visit their website at <https://www.alexlemonade.org/>.



## Kasson Road Students Asked to "Show me the Mone't"

For some students, the Summer of 2010 proved to be one of slowing down and taking notice of the wonderful things surrounding them. Students in Mrs. Kathleen Morsey's art class at OCM BOCES' Kasson Road School, learned a new form of expression this summer and worked with water color paints. The students enjoyed the form of painting, and especially being able to do so in the school's beautiful garden courtyard.

## EAP Fall 2010 Workshop Schedule

Your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a free, voluntary and confidential assessment and referral service for employees and their family members who are experiencing personal or work related problems. In addition to individual counseling, EAP staff provide workshops on a variety of topics. For more information on the EAP or to print a registration form for any of these workshops, visit their website at [www.eap.ocmboces.org](http://www.eap.ocmboces.org). All workshops are free of charge.

October 6 Wednesday	<i>Money Matters</i> with Michelle Stolicker	CRC Conference Room - Oswego BOCES, Main Bldg., Mexico Campus 179 Rt. 64, Mexico, NY	4-5:30 pm
October 13 Wednesday	<i>How to Dejunk Your Life</i> with Michelle Stolicker	Ithaca City School District - Boynton Middle School Conference Room - 1601 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY	4-5:30 pm
October 20 Wednesday	<i>Creative Retirement: Planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Life</i> with Michelle Stolicker	OCM BOCES Henry Campus Admin. Bldg. Conference Room - 6820 Thompson Road, Syracuse, NY	4-5:30 pm
October 26 Tuesday	<i>Cancer and Coping</i> with Michelle Stolicker	OCM BOCES McEvoy Conference Center Room 701 - 1710 NYS Route 13, Cortland, NY	4-5:30 pm
November 9 Tuesday	<i>Holiday Survival Guide: Food, Family &amp; Finances</i> with Michelle Stolicker	Liverpool Public Library Carmen Community Room - 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool, NY	4-5:30 pm
November 17 Wednesday	<i>NYS Employee Retirement System</i> with NYS TRS Representative	OCM BOCES Henry Campus Admin. Bldg. Conference Room - 6820 Thompson Road, Syracuse, NY	4-6:00 pm

## 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.

### OCM BOCES' Extended Family Grows by Many "Feet" over the Summer!

The Summer of 2010 saw the expansion of OCM BOCES' family by a great number of "feet" with the births of several children to some of our employees' families.

On June 13, 2010, Amanda Graham, Account Clerk II with OCM BOCES' Central Business Office, and her husband Ronald (R.J.) welcomed their first son, Jamie Ryan Graham. Jamie weighed 5 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches long at birth. Congratulations Amanda and R.J. and welcome Jamie! Jamie is pictured (right) in mommy's arms on August 12, when Amanda brought her son to work for a visit.



On August 18, 2010, the Regional Information Center's Systems Training Assistant Noelle Hickok, and her husband, Corey, welcomed their first child, a baby girl, Penelope Anne. Penelope, pictured left, weighed in at 9 pounds, 1 and a half ounces. Congratulations, Noelle and Corey!

On July 24, 2010, Payroll Supervisor Dennis Hill, his wife Nicole and their son, Ryan, welcomed the family's second child, a daughter, Ainsley Jane. Ainsley, pictured right with her father, weighed 6 pounds and was 20 inches long at birth. Congratulations Dennis, Nicole and Ryan on the newest member of your family!



### CNYRIC Open House: Media in the Digital Age – September 22, 2010

The Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC) will be hosting their annual open house on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. The event, entitled "Media in the Digital Age," will take place at the CNYRIC (6075 East Molloy Road) in Syracuse. Event registration will take place from 7:45 until 8:15 AM with coffee and pastries served during registration. There will be vendor booths set up during registration and throughout the day. Three featured sessions and a wide offering of workshops will take place at 8:15 AM, 10:00 AM and 1:40 PM. NBC Television Washington News correspondent Luke Russert will present the conference's keynote address at 11:30 AM.

To view open house workshop information and event details, visit the open house website at <http://www.cnyric.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1029>. For general and registration information, contact Rick Pollard at (315) 433-2652 or by e-mail at [rpollard@cnyric.org](mailto:rpollard@cnyric.org). For general information attendee registration, contact Rick Pollard at (315) 433-2652 or by e-mail at [rpollard@cnyric.org](mailto:rpollard@cnyric.org).

#### OCM BOCES Board Members

Michael J. Brady  
Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*  
Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton  
Roseann DuBrava  
Mark W. Gilbert  
Mary Ann Haley

Mike Murphy  
Lisa O'Reilly  
David Paczkowski  
Joan Reeves  
Ann Wright, *President*