

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

Happy New School Year!!! A special welcome to our new staff who are starting at OCM BOCES this September.

A traditional assignment when I was in school was to write an essay on “what I did this summer.” When I thought about the types of essays that our staff might write, they would include:

- Our special education staff writing about the summer school programs that they taught for most of the summer at North Syracuse, McEvoy, CTC, West Genesee, and Solvay...
- Our facilities staff writing about the moves and renovation at CTC, McEvoy, CNC, Rodax, and the soon to be completed bus loop at the Henry Center.
- The business office staff’s essay would include closing the books on the 2008-2009 school year, opening the books on the 2009-2010 school year, and the external auditing process that occurs every summer.
- Our administration would write about the process of hiring teachers, teaching assistants, interpreters, and administrators.
- Essays from alternative education would talk about teacher in the work place workshops and the plans for the new REACH alternative education program morphing the 7th and 8th grade BRIDGES.
- Staff at the RIC would talk about technology installations, data analysis, test scoring, and planning for the Open House.
- Science center staff might write about refurbishing 5000 science kits.

Our essays are as diverse as our programs and staff. In addition to work activities, though, I hope that everyone had some time for enjoying some rest and relaxation.

2009-2010 brings us many opportunities. The OCM BOCES Board approved our goals for this year. As they have for the past two years, they focus on the

improvement of literacy for students, support for leadership development, an emphasis on providing instructional technology that improves learning and work, enhanced student programs, increased use of regionalized services, and a focus on facilities.

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



Creating the 21st Century School District - CNYRIC Open House September 23, 2009

The Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC) will be hosting their annual open house on Wednesday, September 23rd, 2009. The event, entitled “Creating the 21st Century School District,” will take place at the CNYRIC (6075 East Molloy Road) in Syracuse. Event registration will take place from 8:00 until 8:45 AM with coffee and pastries served during registration. There will be vendor booths set up throughout the day and three sessions with a wide offering of workshops will take place at 8:45 AM, 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM. Keynote speaker, Steve Dembo, Online Community Manager for the Discovery Educator Network, will present “The Power of Glass Schools” from 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM.

To view open house workshop information and event details, visit the open house website at <http://www.cnyric.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=935>.

For general information attendee registration, contact Rick Pollard at (315) 433-2652 or by e-mail at rpollard@cnyric.org.

Summer Program Students Take a Trip Around the World in an Afternoon



Above: Students in Lisa Austin's summer school program deaf and hard of hearing class at North Syracuse Junior High School signed the words to "America the Beautiful" during OCM BOCES summer school concert at the junior high. Each class selected a country around the world and performed music related to their country of choice.

On Monday, August 10th, 2009 the OCM BOCES Summer School Program, located at North Syracuse Junior High School, put on the musical concert "Around the World" under the musical direction of Mr. Robert Orioli. Two hundred and fifty five students from several different school districts worked together with the summer school staff to put together the lively musical production. Throughout the summer, the entire school worked on the theme, "Around the World." Classrooms signed up for different countries which they learned about and presented at the summer school concert, as was the summer Olympics that was held on August 11th with the help of Casey Brown, Renee McCall and Jon Conley, the summer school adaptive physical education teachers. In addition to the summer school concert, an art exhibit was set up in the foyer of the North Syracuse Junior High School so families could view the art work that students completed during the summer in their classrooms and during art classes. The students and staff worked very hard to put this production together, and it was enjoyed by all who attended and participated.

Preparation is Key for H1N1 Flu

Medical experts believe that the H1N1 virus (swine flu) will become more prevalent and widespread than ever beginning this fall. Last year's onset of the virus brought about the closing of several local schools, as districts worked with Onondaga, Cortland and Madison County Health Officials to control the spread of the flu.

As the new school year begins, preparedness is becoming the key to managing the flu. On Monday, August 10th, OCM BOCES brought together representatives from many of our 23 component districts with Onondaga County Health Commissioner Dr. Cynthia Morrow, stressing that "this is not a time for fear, but instead, a time for preparation."

There are steps that families can take to guard against the flu, including frequent and regular hand-washing, getting vaccinated against the flu, covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, learning about the flu and staying home from work or school for at least 24 hours after becoming symptom-free without medication.

This year, families are being encouraged to take the additional steps of developing a plan if a child becomes sick and needs to stay home, talking to your child(ren) about the flu and getting vaccinated against the H1N1 virus when the vaccine becomes available. It is possible that school districts will be providing the H1N1 vaccine at some school sites. Details will be provided as they are available.

For more information about the flu and H1N1 flu, visit the government's pandemic flu website at www.flu.gov.

Keep Our Facilities Looking New!

With all of the new and freshly-painted walls throughout OCM BOCES facilities, a plan for mounting papers, posters, pictures, etc. to walls in classrooms, offices and conference rooms has been developed. A large quantity of adhesive mounting putty has been ordered, and once received, will be distributed to all buildings for use by all staff. This adhesive mounting putty should be used instead of scotch tape, masking tape, staples and tacks, for anything that is mounted to a wall.

Anyone that uses conference rooms for meetings and presentations should be aware that this applies to them as well. The "post-it" chart paper is acceptable, but everything else should be adhered to the wall using the mounting adhesive.

While this may be a culture change for many, we appreciate your assistance in our efforts to keep OCM BOCES facilities looking their best! If you have any questions, please contact John Wisniewski at 315-431-8577 or Deb Ayers at 315-433-2614 at your convenience.

OCM BOCES Board Members

Michael J. Brady
Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*
Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton
Mark W. Gilbert
Mary Ann Haley
Mike Murphy
Lisa O'Reilly
David Paczkowski
Joan Reeves
Sandra Rausa
Ann Wright, *President*

EAP Fall 2009 Workshop Schedule

October 7 Wednesday	How to DeJunk Your Life with Michelle Stolicker	CRC Conference Room - Oswego BOCES, Main Bldg., Mexico Campus 179 Rt. 64, Mexico, NY	4-5:30 pm
October 13 Tuesday	Secrets to Slumber: Strategies for a Good Night's Sleep with Michelle Stolicker	Conference Room - Boynton Middle School - Ithaca City School District	4-5:30 pm
October 27 Tuesday	Money Matters: Constructive Communication for Couples with Michelle Stolicker	Sargent Meeting Room - Liverpool Public Library - 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool, NY	4-5:30 pm
November 4 Wednesday	Cancer, Coping and Colleagues with Michelle Stolicker	Conference Room B - Administration Bldg., Henry Campus 6820 Thompson Road, Syracuse, NY	4-5:30 pm
November 10 Tuesday	Down on the Pharm: The Facts About Prescription and OTC Drug Abuse with Michelle Stolicker	Room 701 - McEvoy Conference Center - OCM BOCES, Cortland	4-5:30 pm
November 17 Tuesday	NYS Employee Retirement System with NYS TRS Representative	Conference Room B - Administration Bldg., Henry Campus 6820 Thompson Road, Syracuse, NY	4-6:00 pm

For more information on EAP workshops or for registration forms/information, go to www.eap.ocmboces.org. All workshops are free of charge.



Jet-Set in Cortland

If you were in Cortland this summer, you probably took time to see the New York Jets during their training camp at SUNY Cortland. OCM BOCES special education students attending summer program at the McEvoy Center were no exception. Many of the classes took public transportation across town to watch the Jets during practice and obtain autographs.

Pictured left: OCM BOCES student, Peter Kembrowski, with Jets tackle Nevin Mc Caskill. You can tell from Peter's smile that this was a special day for him!



BOCES Employees - Get Your Flu/Pneumonia Shot!

BOCES has once again approved having an on-site flu clinic at several key sites. This will allow employees to conveniently get their flu and/or pneumonia shot without having to make a doctor's appointment or travel to area clinics. Access further information about the flu and the flu vaccine at www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm.

This year the recommendation is to get the seasonal vaccinations earlier than usual to allow time for the H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available.

The cost for the vaccines is: flu - \$30.00; Pneumonia - \$60.00. Payment can be made by cash or check, payable to Regional Medical Services. Insurance forms will be available to submit for reimbursement. For those with Medicare or Medicare advantage programs, they will be accepted for payment.

Site schedule:

McEvoy Campus on **September 22**, 2009 from 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM (Location: Balcony)

Kasson Road School on **September 22**, 2009 from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Henry Campus on **September 28**, 2009 from 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (Location: Administration Building)

Lee G. Peters Career Training Center on **September 28**, 2009 from 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

NYS Department of Education To Hold Local Technology Plan Forum



On Wednesday, October 14th, at Roxboro Road Middle School (300 Bernard Street) in Mattydale, the New York State Department of Education Board of Regents will be holding a community forum on their statewide educational technology plan. Anyone with an interest in transforming learning and teaching through technology is invited to attend the forum, which will take place from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, with registration necessary by October 9, 2009. The forum will be convened by OCM BOCES' District Superintendent, Jessica Cohen.

The forum is one of many taking place throughout the state to provide the Regents and the State Education Department with a representative sampling of stakeholder recommendations on the action steps needed to achieve their goals toward the development of a technology plan. The Regents have already developed a mission, vision and six goals for educational technology statewide. The documents can be found online at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/edtech/>.

To register for the October 14th forum at Roxboro Road Middle School, go to www.cnyric.org and click on the link for the workshop registration. When you RSVP, please indicate whether you will need any reasonable accommodations.

New Instructional Staff Orientation Includes Jeopardy and Ice Cream Social



Above: On August 25th, OCM BOCES new instructional staff learned about the organization by watching Administrative Cabinet take part in a Jeopardy-like game show about programs, services and benefits. Below: Superintendent Cohen and Assistant Superintendent Viggiano take a break from scooping ice cream at the new staff ice cream social.



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 25th and 26th. An overview of BOCES and information about personnel, technology, instructional support and available resources were provided.

As a new twist this year, OCM BOCES Administrative Cabinet, Colleen Viggiano, Jeff Craig, Deb Ayers and Mike Fay acted as contestants in a Jeopardy-like game: BOCES 101, created by Jeff Craig and led by Jessica Cohen as Alex Trebek. In Jeopardy fashion, the four contestants provided the questions to answers about BOCES, including the answer, "every other Friday" (question: "when is payday") and the answer, "the OCM BOCES slogan," to which the question was, "what is 'Committed to Your Success'?"

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 meet each other through a series of events including an ice cream social, with ice cream served by Superintendent Cohen and Assistant Superintendent Viggiano.

In an effort to continue our support of new instructional staff, ongoing training will be provided throughout the school year.

Thanks to all our staff who made the orientation possible and again, "Welcome" to all our new staff!