

BOCES BITS

September 2013
Volume II, Issue I

Adult education students give “confidence” makeovers



This past July, students and staff from OCM BOCES Adult Education Cosmetology programs provided free makeovers to participants of Huntington Family Center support programs. The recipients were men and women who have struggled with social and economic hardships. Organizers of the event hoped that the physical transformations would inspire emotional transformations as well.

OCM BOCES hosted the “confidence makeover” event in collaboration with ProLiteracy’s Literacy for Social Change initiative. After being provided with makeovers, participants also had the opportunity to tour all adult classes and learn about vocational programs.

Representatives from ProLiteracy were on hand to conduct pre-and post- makeover surveys with participants to gauge how the event impacted them. A makeover recipient is pictured above being interviewed and having her photo taken before her makeover.

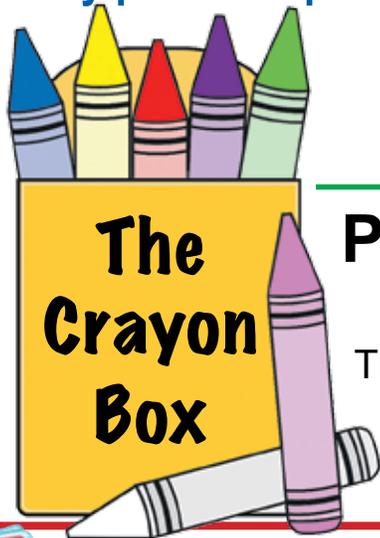
OCM BOCES Literacy and Adult Education Program Coordinator Mari Ukleya said, “I’m excited that our adult cosmetology students could be a part of this event. Even more though, the students were excited to use their skills for such a great cause. It was awesome to see the physical and emotional transformations.”

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Extra, Extra!! We want your news for BOCES Bits!

Please submit your ideas and suggestions for publication in future issues of *BOCES Bits* by e-mailing Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces.org.

From the District Superintendent



Dear Staff:

Welcome to the start of what I hope will be a great year for our students and our staff. For our many new staff, welcome to OCM BOCES! While we will undoubtedly face our share of challenges – fiscal pressures, student needs and changing requirements, it will also be a time when we are more ready than ever before to help our students succeed and our districts save money through collaboration.

Our 11- and 12- month employees worked hard this summer and we began the school year well prepared because of their efforts. Thank you to each and every staff member for the work you do to make OCM BOCES the outstanding place it is. I also want to offer my sincere thanks to all involved this summer with our Extended School Year and Regional Summer School programs – both were very

successful due to the dedication and hard work of our staff.

This summer, as we have evaluated our past year's work, OCM BOCES has set the following goals for 2013-14:

- Literacy: Improve the literacy of students in BOCES student programs and in the supervisory district by establishing a culture that supports literacy.
- Student Programs: Develop and enhance programs for students that prepare them for the skills they will need for post-secondary education, military service, training or the workforce.
- Financial Sustainability: Plan for long-range fiscal health of the organization.
- Leadership: Assist area leaders with the implementation of changing standards, assessments, data, and evaluation practices.
- Technology: Develop a seamless approach to the use of technology by staff and students that improves learning and work.
- Regionalized Services: Engage districts and other approved agencies in the development and use of regionalized services.
- Facilities: We will have state-of-the-art facilities that meet the present and future needs of the organization.

Students in all of our programs will certainly benefit from our continued emphasis on literacy. In student programs this year, we are excited to be offering our high school students some unique opportunities through two embedded CTE programs: a physical therapy program at Strength in Motion in East Syracuse and automotive technology at Driver's Village in Cicero. Similar to our New Vision CTE programs, these courses provide in-depth overviews of the chosen professional field by placing students in an actual work environment outside of school.

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Words of Wisdom



“ Each new day is a blank page in the diary of your life. The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can. ”

- Douglas Pagels



EAP News...

Your EAP is a free, voluntary, and confidential assessment/referral service for employees and their family members who are experiencing personal or work related problems.

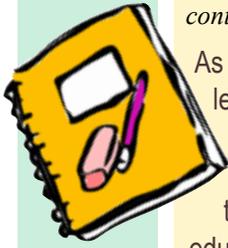


Your OCM BOCES EAP has a variety of educational information about this month's wellness topic, drug abuse. Please contact us to receive information about the following topics:

- Drug IQ Challenge
- Prescription & over the counter medications abuse
- Drugs, brains & behavior: the science of addiction
- Treatment approaches for drug addiction
- Seeking drug abuse treatment: know what to ask

Your OCM BOCES EAP - Employee Assistance Program is offering a variety of FREE workshops again this fall. For details about any of these workshops or to find out more about the OCM BOCES EAP, visit <http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=599>. Here you will be able to see the full details of any of the workshops and to download registration forms. You can also simply go to the EAP website at www.eap.ocmboces.org and click on the Workshop Schedule Link on the home page. Hope to see you this fall!

October 9, 2013 Wednesday	<i>Fighting Fatigue: Solving (Your) Energy Crisis</i> with Michelle Stolicker	Oswego BOCES Temporary District Office 806 W. Broadway St., Room 156 Fulton, NY 13069	4:30-6 pm
October 13, 2013 Wednesday	<i>Caregiver Camp: Understanding Alzheimer's & Related Dementias</i> with Michelle Stolicker	OCM BOCES, IEH Campus Henry B Admin. Bld., Lg. Conference Room 6820 Thompson Road Syracuse, NY 13221	4:30-6 pm
October 23, 2013 Wednesday	<i>Feed the Need: What you need to Know about Eating Disorders</i> with Michelle Stolicker	Liverpool Public Library Sargent Meeting Room 310 Tulip Street Liverpool, NY 13088	4:30-6 pm
October 29, 2013 Tuesday	<i>Clearing Clutter: Home Edition</i> with Michelle Stolicker	Ithaca City School District Boynton Middle School, Conference Rm 1601 N. Cayuga Street Ithaca, NY 14350	4:30-6 pm
Nov. 5, 2013 Wednesday	<i>NYS TRS Overview</i> with NYS TRS Representative	OCM BOCES, IEH Campus Rodax 8, Large Conference Room 6820 Thompson Road Syracuse, NY 13221	4-6 pm
Nov. 19, 2013 Tuesday	<i>Holiday Survival Guide: Food, Family & Finances</i> with Michelle Stolicker	OCM BOCES, McEvoy Campus Room 701, Conference Center 1710 NYS Route 13 Cortland, NY 13045	4:30-6 pm



Superintendent article

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As we have explored our goals, some challenges have been identified to be overcome. Some of those concerns include: increasing enrollment in special education, limited opportunity to expand adult education offerings, inconsistent quality in buildings leased by OCM BOCES, lack of adequate space for instructional programming, high costs associated with rental property and limited opportunities for joint programming.

In order to overcome our challenges and work toward our goals, OCM BOCES is exploring an opportunity to purchase a new facility to consolidate several functions into this location. Details will follow as progress is made.

Additionally, as we move into the school year, we continue to explore the possibility of implementing New Tech schools locally. We are working with our component districts to move forward with this vision for education. It is refreshing to see leaders in our region thinking about such innovative programming.

In the non-instructional area, more districts are participating in our central business office taking advantage of our very highly qualified staff to process payrolls, pay bills, and audit claims. Our instructional support services division has been incredibly busy supporting districts with APPR, Common Core and much more. Our Regional Information Center continues to be the source of technology support across the region's 50 school districts.

There are so many exciting things happening at OCM BOCES. I would be glad to talk to you in more detail about the BOCES goals or plans for the future of BOCES. Please feel free to contact me at anytime.

I'm looking forward to what this year might bring and I hope you are too. Be sure to check out the OCM BOCES webpage often to keep informed about all that is taking place.

Have a great year.

Sody

New sun shelter at McEvoy will let students experience nature

This past spring in the gardens at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus, flowers weren't the only things starting to grow. A beautiful new sun shelter was taking shape, thanks to the collaborative efforts of OCM BOCES, Franziska Racker Centers, two local construction companies and the Tully Rotary Club.

The Children's Garden, now in its 14th growing season, was begun as a group effort by Susan Thomas, Turning Point Day Treatment Program Director, and many students and staff at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus. Students were directly involved with the garden's design in order to promote working with nature, health and wellness, acts of generosity, and a sense of belonging to their school.

Through the years, the need for shade within the garden became evident, as many of McEvoy's students cannot be in the sun for prolonged periods of time. A collection was started to fund the building of a structure in the garden. After a lot of hard work, the sun shelter was recently erected on a rainy day this past June. In addition to the shade it offers, it is hoped that it will be therapeutic, fostering healing and promoting learning for students, staff and visitors.

Special thanks are due to Tim Bearup, a local builder and owner of Bearup Construction, Byran Bartholomew, a BOCES construction trades program graduate and local business owner, the Tully Rotary club; and construction trades and Career Explorations students, who all came together to build the shelter.

The OCM BOCES Turning Point Day Treatment Program is a part of the Racker Centers' Counseling for School Success programs, licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health. OCM BOCES employs Racker Centers' mental health professionals to help support their students in the Turning Point Program.



Deaf Program lemonade stand in 5th year

This past summer, the OCM BOCES Special Education Summer School Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program celebrated their 5th anniversary of holding a lemonade stand to benefit Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. The project began all those years ago when teacher Lisa Austin was working with her students about money and the importance of giving back. Lisa thought a lemonade stand would be a great way to teach students about both concepts.

Upon researching the topic, she came across the book *Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand*. The book, about giving back and helping others, tells 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 Foundation, a national organization, has raised millions of dollars in the fight against childhood cancer...part of that money coming from right here in Central New York!

For the first time, this year's lemonade stand was turned into more of an event than in the past, expanding to include face painting, bubble activities, games and crafts. Additionally, there was a quiet corner for teachers to utilize and read the story of Alex with their students.

Ms. Austin is especially excited that the students achieved their increased monetary goal, raising \$1,000 for the Lemonade Stand Foundation. She said, "This year it was a huge success! We hope to do just as well next summer school!"

Congratulations to Lisa Austin and her students for a job well done!

Watch online news coverage of the lemonade stand on WSYR's Bridge Street program at <http://www.9wsyr.com/mediacenter/local.aspx?videoid=4177984&navCatId=20640>. For more information on Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, visit their website at <https://www.alexlemonade.org/>.



Kudos to You!

OCM BOCES employees participate in Corporate Challenge

Congratulations to the many OCM BOCES employees who participated in this past June's Chase Corporate Challenge at the Onondaga Lake Parkway.

Pictured from left to right: Eileen Miller, David Cirillo, Connie Roberts, Carrie Mocyk, Greg Hamilton, Jennifer Merkel, Heather Francey, Michelle Stolicker, and Dan Hesler (kneeling in front.)

Other participants not pictured: Jason Mocyk, Chavonne Potts, Kerri Pudish, Kristin LaClaire, Heather Coon, Maryrose Balloni, Kerry Dal, and Liz Ganley.



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