



## From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff,

I read something a few days ago that resonated with me...and I wanted to share it with you. Daniel Pink, the author of several books on the nature of work, including **A Whole New Mind** and **Drive**, wrote the following in his blog:

*There are two kinds of people in the world...*

- *Those who make your life easier – and those who make it harder.*
- *Those whose presence helps you perform better – and those whose presence makes you do worse.*
- *Those concerned about doing the work – and those concerned about getting the credit.*
- *Those who leave you feeling up – and those who leave you feeling down.*
- *Those who simplify – and those who complicate.*
- *Those who listen when others are talking – and those who wait when others are talking.*
- *Those who give – and those who take.*
- *Those who last – and those who fade.*

*Which are **you**?*

I feel as though, at the OCM BOCES, we are surrounded by those who are described first. Our staff works hard to be responsive, positive, and concerned with our customers, whether they are students, district staff, or community members.

These characteristics are important in any time, but especially in a time of tightening financial pressures. The next few months will be difficult for our districts and for BOCES, as we attempt to develop budgets that are responsive to needs but also within the limits of the monies that schools have available.

Over the next month, I will be sharing with you some additional information on BOCES finances and budgets. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact your supervisor or me.

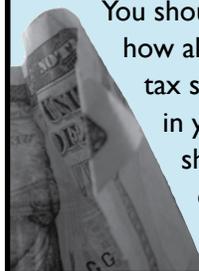
## Important Payroll Notice

On December 17, 2010, President Obama signed into law, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

Two provisions of the Act that may impact your paychecks are:

1. For 2011, the employee FICA tax rate was reduced from 6.2% to 4.2%
2. For 2011, the Making Work Pay tax credit was not restored and expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

You should contact your tax advisor to see how all the changes will impact your 2011 tax situation. If you need to make a change in your payroll tax withholdings, you should contact the OCM BOCES payroll department at (315) 433-2626 or (315) 433-2667.



## Coffee and Conversation

The tentative schedule for Coffee and Conversation sessions with District Superintendent Cohen for the remaining of the school year is as follows:

Thursday, January 27, 2011, 3:00 PM  
**Kasson Road School**

Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 3:00 PM  
**Rodax 8 Large Conference Room**

Monday, February 7, 2011, 3:00 PM  
**Lee G. Peters Career Training Center, Cafeteria**

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



---

## Worker's Compensation: What to do if You are Injured on the Job

No one wants to get hurt on the job, but if it happens to you, it is important to know what steps to take as an OCM BOCES employee. First and foremost, if you are injured and require care, get treated immediately. An initial evaluation can be provided by a school nurse, but if more serious care is needed, go to a local urgent care, your own doctor or a hospital emergency room.

In the event of a non-life threatening injury, a report should immediately be filed with your supervisor. The report should include the names and statements of any witnesses. If consulted, the school nurse's statement should be included as well. In cases where care is provided outside of the school nurse, that person's name, address and phone number should be given.

It is the employee's responsibility to supply their medical providers with OCM BOCES' Worker's Compensation third party administrator's information:

Corvel Corporation/Eagle Claim Services  
251 Salina Meadows Parkway, Suite 150  
Syracuse, NY 13220  
315-453-6440

Injuries that **do not** involve outside treatment or care from the school nurse, are **not required** to be reported to

OCM BOCES' third party administrator and the Worker's Compensation Board. If however, outside care is provided that generates expenses, the incident **must be** reported in order to have those bills paid. It is preferable that OCM BOCES be notified prior to treatment. If that is not practical, then it should be done as soon as possible after initial treatment.

Copies of paperwork from any relevant treatment should be filed with your supervisor as soon as possible, so they can be submitted as backup to your injury report. Please bear in mind that payment for any follow-up treatments requires approval by the third party administrator.

If an employee misses any time from work due to a work related injury, it is critical that the Personnel Department be notified immediately as it requires additional paperwork to be filed by both OCM BOCES and the employee.

The current procedure and form for reporting an on the job injury are available on the OCM BOCES web page. The procedure can be found on the Personnel page under procedures and the form is available through "OCM BOCES Forms" or on the Personnel page under forms.

Questions regarding Worker's Compensation at OCM BOCES should be directed to Donna Robillard in the Personnel Department at 315/433-2631.

---

## Exploring 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Commons through School Library System



*Pine Grove Middle School student Adrienne Becker, left, discusses her learning environment and ideas for improvement with librarians and teachers at an OCM BOCES training on creating "learning commons" at her school. Photo courtesy of Marcia Kelley, East Syracuse Minoa School Information Officer.*

What will libraries look like in the future? Instructional leaders and lead librarians from OCM BOCES' component districts are working together to answer that question in the Learning Commons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (LC21) project. The project is taking place over the course of the 2010-2011 school year, with districts working to clarify their

individual visions of their own library media centers and making plans to achieve their visions.

In December, students from Pine Grove Middle School in the East Syracuse Minoa Central School District, helped librarians and teachers explore how to shift library programs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The students provided input during a portion of a day-long training session by answering questions about the current state of their learning environments and what changes they would like to see.

The session was led by Dr. David Loerschter, nationally recognized author of *The New Learning Commons: Where Learners Win*. The training focused on creating both virtual and physical "learning commons" with a significant portion of the day focused on the importance of the library as an open commons that is the cultural center of the school and is "owned" by its patrons.

Participation in the LC21 project is paid for by a member item grant from New York Senator David J. Valesky. For more information on the project, contact Judi Dzikowski, OCM BOCES' School Library System Coordinator at 315/433-2665 or by e-mail at [jdzikowski@ocmboces.org](mailto:jdzikowski@ocmboces.org).

## New Vision Criminal Justice Students Complete Holiday Safety Project

Students in OCM BOCES' New Vision Criminal Justice class successfully completed their 20<sup>th</sup> annual DWI Awareness and Holiday Safety Project at Shoppingtown Mall this past December. The project, led by Instructor Charlie Wilson, allows the students and the public to witness the negative effects of alcohol, through a controlled drinking experiment with members of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department.

Sergeant Marty Ferguson, a New Vision class of 1996 graduate, volunteered as the subject of the experiment, consuming controlled amounts of alcohol at set intervals, while deputies Mike Walton and Jeff Passino conducted field sobriety tests every half hour. The students observed and charted Sergeant Ferguson's progress from baseline through low levels of impairment.

Instructor Wilson began doing the project in 1982, while working as a police officer with the Town of DeWitt. When he came to OCM BOCES for the start of the New Vision program in 1991, Wilson decided to continue the project with his students, recognizing it as a great learning opportunity for the kids to see the effects of alcohol up close and personal. Wilson said, "It is very gratifying to watch the kids get involved with the shoppers and our audience and it is always an eye opener for the kids and Christmas shoppers." And yes, Charlie drove Sergeant Ferguson home from the mall!



### Flexible Spending Accounts

*The 2010 Plan Year has ended!*

*A reminder that the 2010 Flexible Spending Account (FSA) plan year ended as of December 31, 2010.*

**Use it - Don't lose it!**

*Check your balance at the Benefit Resource, Inc. website at [www.benefiresource.com](http://www.benefiresource.com). According to IRS regulations, you will forfeit any money left in your account at the end of the run-out period. All claims for unpaid monies must be postmarked to Benefit Resource, Inc. **by March 31, 2011** for expenditures from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.*

### OCM BOCES' Mail Bag

OCM BOCES' Gayle Lawler recently wrote to *BOCES Bits* about a student whose honesty impressed her:

"Last week one of the TEP students was here at CTC doing some shredding as part of his job placement. While shredding, an envelope was too thick to go through the shredder, so he took out the papers. In there was a \$100 bill. Without hesitation, he promptly brought the money to me and before long we were able to find the owner of that envelope."

The student is Lucas Bloss, a student from Gina Morabito's TEP class at the Henry Center. Great job!

### REACH Program Spreads Holiday Cheer at Carousel

Students from the OCM BOCES REACH program helped spread cheer this holiday season and raised money for a good cause. Some of the program's students volunteered their time as bell ringers for the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. Well done!



### January is Depression Awareness Month; Let EAP Help

January is Depression awareness month and your OCM BOCES EAP has a variety of resources on the topic. To view any EAP resources, visit <http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1373>.

## 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 Employees Donate to United Way in a Record Way!

Each month, this newsletter contains many stories about our staff and students giving their time to collect for several wonderful, charitable causes, and it is heartwarming to hear about the generosity of the people around us. It is thanks to that same generosity that OCM BOCES' 2010 United Way campaign was one of the most successful since we have been tracking our giving. Donations increased 15.5% from last year, for a total of \$12,839 going to the United Way! Many thanks, and a big KUDOS to all of those who were able to give!

### STARS Alternative High School Helps Golisano Children's Hospital



Students and staff from the OCM BOCES STARS Alternative High School were busy helping others this holiday season. In addition to their service learning visits with residents of VanDuyn Home and Hospital (featured in last month's *BOCES Bits*), students held several candy sales, with the proceeds of their efforts going to the Syracuse Golisano Children's Hospital. Students personally delivered a check totalling \$175.00 to the hospital in late December. Great job!

### Porter Students' Gingerbread House Places Second in Erie Museum Contest

Students in Jim Bay's classroom at Porter Elementary School recently won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Youth Division of the Annual Gingerbread House Contest held at the Erie Museum. Five students, who come from Baldwinsville, Jordan Elbridge, Syracuse City, Jamesville DeWitt and East Syracuse Minoa School Districts, were involved in the construction of the house. Of the experience, two students wrote, "Making a gingerbread house is about skills and patience. It's harder than it looks. We had to work as a team. We had to help each other and work carefully so we did not bump into each other. Our class had to be creative because we did not want our houses to look like other



houses. We had to use math skills so that we could fit our houses in the space that the rules told us we could use. You have to be very careful so you don't knock anything over. It was a lot of hard work but we had fun and learned a lot."

#### 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*

### Dietitian Puts Districts "Ahead of the Game"

During the 2009-2010 school year, OCM BOCES added dietitian services to those services available to our component districts. Through the Central School Food Management Service, participating districts have the option of working with Melanie Schreiner, a Registered Dietitian, to meet the nutritional requirements of their students with allergies and other health concerns. Melanie is currently providing services to five districts: Baldwinsville, Cortland City, Liverpool, North Syracuse and Solway. On December 13, Melanie was featured on the WSYR Channel 9 television news to discuss healthy school meals. The station presented the story in relation to President Obama's plan to make school lunches healthier. During the news segment, Melanie's work with Liverpool schools was touted as putting them "ahead of the game." Great job Melanie! The news clip featuring Melanie can be viewed at: <http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/School-lunch-menus-to-change/r-ejHwC2LEulFsZxZd8vUA.csp>.