

# BOCES BITS

April 2011 Vol. 7 Issue 4

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

## From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff,

In my past notes for BOCES Bits I have talked about the financial crisis facing the BOCES and our component districts. As you probably know by now, our representatives in Albany have passed an on-time budget. The Legislature approved more funding for education than was included in the Governor's budget, but overall our component districts saw large reductions in their State aid.

It is inevitable that the reduction in State aid will have an effect on the OCM BOCES. Each of our component Districts is looking to control and cut costs wherever they can. The component districts responded to decreases in state aid through cutting programs, laying off staff and/or, negotiating salary and health insurance concessions with the unions representing their employees.

As component districts eliminate non-mandated programs, they may purchase fewer services from the BOCES. As they consolidate staff, they may employ fewer BOCES itinerants. Where it affords any type of savings, they will may take back students or limit student access to BOCES programs. Districts may also turn to BOCES to provide additional services. The districts' responses are still unknown.

We asked the unions representing OCM BOCES employees to consider a salary freeze or a move to a three tiered drug card program, in order to help us control costs. We felt that this act would also show our component districts, our customers, that we are working to help them through this difficult time as well as allowing us to lower costs so that districts could afford to purchase more services. The union representatives informed me that they did not feel that this was the time to make concessions. As we learn more about the impact that district decisions have on the BOCES budget and translate those decisions into potential staffing reductions, I hope that they may reconsider.

We know that this is not the last year for austerity. The fiscal crisis facing the State, and particularly education in New York, is not limited to this year. Over the course of the next few years we will all be asked to modify some of our expectations, and possibly make some reasonable sacrifices as we face this together.

This is not an easy time to be in education but it is an important time. Our students and school districts need us.

*Jessica*

## OCM BOCES Proposed 2011-2012 School Year Budget

### Initial OCM BOCES 2011-2012 Proposed Budget

Programs & Services	2011-2012 Proposed
Career & Technical Education	\$8,693,916
Special Education	22,491,299
Itinerant Services	3,367,757
Alternative Education and General Instruction	7,351,372
Instructional Support	3,388,593
Other Services	5,435,595
Regional Information Center	36,264,044
Total Programs	\$86,992,576
Administrative & Rental (Includes Capital)	\$7,914,964
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$94,907,540</b>

### Important Budget Dates

April 15 - Final Request & Contract for Services Due

April 25 - Annual Election & Administrative Budget Vote

June 30 - Final 2011-2012 Budgets Available to Districts

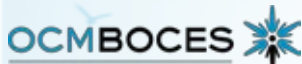
## OCM BOCES Cedar Street Students Selected for Special Chorus



Three students in the OCM BOCES Cedar Street program at Porter Elementary School recently participated in the "Reach for the Stars" program sponsored by the Syracuse City School District. The students are part of the Porter Possibilities Select Chorus that performed three songs during the Reach for the Stars program held at Nottingham High School. The three BOCES students, Thomas Whiting, Kyrasha Givens, and Alex DeRue tried-out and were selected for the 50-member chorus! The group will also be performing on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Darien Lake theme park. Congratulations!

## Thank You for Book Donations!

Kudos to OCM BOCES Henry Campus employees and CTE students for a successful book drive. Boxes overflowed with the hundreds of books donated and the generous contributions will provide many children throughout Onondaga County with new books to enjoy! Special thanks to Matt Tarolli who oversaw CTC's participation, to all the students in the Reach Program, teaching assistant Arethea Brown, and students Cody Benz and Tom Rapp.



Become part of the team!  
2011 Chase Corporate Challenge



**Tuesday, June 21, 2011**  
**Onondaga Lake Park**

**Join us for food, fun & festivities!**

\* The Department with the most participants will be awarded the Golden Sneaker Award

Team Captains: Mari Ukleya and  
Matt Tarolli  
Email: mukleya@ocmboces.org or  
mtarolli@ocmboces.org  
Phone: 433-2629

**CHASE**  
CORPORATE CHALLENGE  
Register online at:  
[jpmorganchasecc.com](http://jpmorganchasecc.com)  
\$30.00 registration fee



Three New Vision Criminal Justice students took part in the Syracuse St. Patrick's Day Parade as McGruff the Crime Dog and Vince and Larry, the Crashtest Dummies. The students are posing with Onondaga County Sheriff Kevin Walsh.

## OCM BOCES School Library System to Honor Baldwinsville Administrator



Congratulations to Baldwinsville Central School District's Director of Technology, R.J. DeLisle, for having been selected by the OCM BOCES School Library System as the recipient of their 2011 Administrator/Advocate of the Year award. DeLisle will be honored at a May 11, 2011 ceremony at the OCM BOCES Henry Campus Rodax 8 Conference Room at 12:00 noon.

The intention of the award is to honor an educational administrator or library advocate in the OCM (Onondaga, Cortland, Madison) region who has made significant contributions to school librarianship. Mr. DeLisle has demonstrated innovative administrative initiatives in the area of school libraries and stresses the importance of the library connection to instruction.

For more information about the OCM BOCES School Library System or their Administrator/Advocate of the Year Award, contact School Library System Coordinator Judith Dzikowski at 315/433-2655.

## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program Students Take Field Trips

On March 26, 2011 students from the OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Solvay Elementary School visited BOCES' preschool program at Children's Village in Park Hill Elementary School. Upon their arrival, the students met and interacted with the deaf and hard of hearing toddlers in Erika Bird's class at Children's Village. Some of the elementary students were former preschoolers at Park Hill and were excited to return.

When it came time for lunch, the students from Solvay Elementary School traveled to the OCM BOCES Henry Campus to eat a lunch specially prepared for them by Bob Canarro's Culinary Arts students. The kids loved the pizza that was made just for them and enjoyed meeting the Culinary Arts students in the Electric Apple.

After lunch, the students returned to Children's Village to read to Erika Bird's Pre-Kindergarten class, which also has deaf and hard of hearing students enrolled. Since the letter of the week was "E" one group of deaf and hard of hearing Solvay students read, signed, and acted out the book Elmer. The other group read, signed, and acted out Elmer Plays Hide and Seek. When the performance was over they all sat together eating elephant ear cookies for a snack.

The experience was a positive one for everyone involved and provided the Pre-K students an opportunity to meet some older hearing impaired peers, while allowing the older students a chance to be role models. Mary Dematteo-Vitale, Susan Davoli, and Jaimie Williams' students at Solvay worked very hard rehearsing for their big day. All of the children had a wonderful time.

## Employee Assistance Program Can Help You Cope With Unexpected Change

The staff of the OCM BOCES Employee Assistance Program (EAP) want to remind you that they are available to help you cope with unexpected life changes. There has been a lot of change recently due to budget issues, the economy, early retirements, job changes and job losses. Call the EAP whenever you need someone to listen and help you work through the changes in your life!

**315/471-1361 or 1-800/EAP-8764**

## BETAC Prepares Students for Albany



Each year, OCM BOCES Bilingual Education Technical Assistance Center (BETAC) staff work with designated local 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic students to prepare them for a Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PRHYLI) in Albany. The PRHYLI takes place as part of the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force's *Somos Uno* conference. The purpose of the *Somos Uno* conference is to provide a forum for Hispanic and interested individuals to share their concerns on Hispanic issues and suggest legislative remedies and programs to address these concerns.

The first Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute was sponsored in conjunction with the *Somos Uno* conference in 1990 and the Institute has taken place each year since. The 2011 conference was held in Albany from April 2-4.

In preparation for the conference, student delegates attended four training sessions with BETAC. This year 11 student delegates traveled to Albany to participate in the conference and a mock assembly in the State Assembly Chamber. Those student delegates were from the following five area school districts: Fulton City, Ithaca, North Syracuse, Solvay and Syracuse City.

During the conference, 20 students from across the state were awarded scholarships by the NYS Assembly Hispanic Task Force. One of those students was Jordan Ramos, an OCM BOCES Student Delegate from the North Syracuse Central School District. Students also had opportunities for the unique experiences of hearing from Congressman Paul Tonko and receiving a signed copy of Esmeralda Santiago's book on tape, *Almost a Woman*, the sequel to her famous novel *When I was Puerto Rican*.

## 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 or call at 431-8597.

### Graduations Celebrate Accomplishments of Hundreds of Adult Students

During the past few months, OCM BOCES has celebrated the accomplishments of hundreds of our adult students from across Central New York during graduation ceremonies in Syracuse and Cortland. Each year, record numbers of new students come to OCM BOCES seeking training and/or retraining in one of our specialized career fields. Classes offered through our full-time adult education and career training currently include AutoCAD Drafting, Web site Design & Maintenance, Office Technology, Cosmetology, Dental Assistant, HVAC/R Technician, Central Service Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant & Home Health Aide, LPN, Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Welder/Fitter, Construction Trades and Electrical Maintenance Technician. In uncertain economic times when many people are losing their jobs and looking to begin new careers, education and training are essential.



Pictured above: (left and middle) OCM BOCES' Syracuse-area Dental Assisting and LPN program students at their graduation ceremonies at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool in February of 2011. (right) Cortland-area Cosmetology program student Richard Fellows receives a rose and certificate from instructor Diane Morton at the March 10 ceremony at the McEvoy Education Campus.

### Two OCM BOCES Employees Shave Their Heads for St. Baldrick's Events to Support Childhood Cancer Research



On Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, two OCM BOCES employees were among the great number of others across the area to shave their heads in support of childhood cancer research. Library Clerk Sue Kline and Matt Parry, a teaching assistant in the OCM BOCES Stellata program had their heads shaved in front of hundreds of people at a St. Baldrick's event to raise critical funds for childhood cancer research. Sue has taken part in the event for the past six years in honor of her granddaughter, Brianna, a leukemia survivor who was diagnosed at age six. Matt grew his hair for nearly three years in order to donate it to Locks of Love and chose to have it shaved as part of St. Baldrick's to have more of an impact. Great job Sue and Matt! (Sue and her family are pictured)

### OCM BOCES Board Members

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