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BOCES BITS

June 2018

Message from the Superintendent



This is always the time of year when school is winding to a close and the promise of summer lies wonderfully within reach. I would like to encourage all of you to finish strong and make the most of these last few weeks of school. As I spend time at numerous graduations and year-end celebrations, I am constantly

reminded of the successes we achieve at OCM BOCES and the importance of our educational mission for students of all ages and backgrounds. As the American writer Ralph Marston once said, “Start strong, stay strong and finish strong by always remembering why you are doing it in the first place.”

School safety update

As I promised in a previous issue of BOCES Bits, I would like to keep you up-to-date on efforts within OCM BOCES to address the threat of school violence. This fall, our organization will implement three initiatives to improve and enhance safety for students and staff. They are:

- The implementation of school safety software called [NaviGate Prepared](#) to facilitate real-time communication in a crisis situation.
- Training from a Syracuse-based emergency preparedness company called [Armoured One](#) to prepare our staff for a major attack or shooting. All OCM BOCES staff will receive training starting this summer and continuing into the fall.
- Continued negotiations with the Onondaga County Sheriff’s Department and the Cortland County Sheriff’s Department to contract for the presence of school resource officers at our Cortlandville and Thompson Road campuses.

I hope you will take the time to check out the web sites for [NaviGate Prepared](#) and [Armoured One](#) to learn more about their services, their

credentials and their results.

Making the switch to Gmail

After months of research, discussion and committee reviews, I am very excited to announce that OCM BOCES employees will soon be switching from our current Lotus Notes email software to Gmail, a popular and user-friendly email service developed by Google. **This switch will take place June 29.**

Here are some answers to essential questions you may have:

1. **How long will this transition take?** New email will come into your Gmail inbox immediately, but it may take several days for existing email to migrate over.
2. **Which emails will come over?** All existing emails in your inbox from the last 10 years will migrate over, as well as saved items and folders. Again, this process may take several days.
3. **What will happen to Lotus Notes?** Lotus Notes will be available for 30 days after the switch for verification purposes only. That way, you can check your emails and calendar items during the migration period, but you should not send emails using Lotus Notes. Please keep in mind that a permanent archive of Lotus Notes emails is being created to ensure no information is lost.
4. **What support options will be available?** To make sure all of our staff is fully prepared and ready for this transition, our employees at the Central New York Regional Information Center have been working hard to set up a multitude of training services. These efforts include an online resource page with video tutorials and one-page help documents; a full schedule of in-person training sessions that will be accessed through My Learning Plan; and a live help desk that will be put in place once the rollout begins.

Please be assured that our transition to Gmail involved a collective decision about its ease of use, its universal appeal and its compatibility with other applications, among many other benefits. Thank you ahead of time for all of your support and patience as we begin this process. I think you will be very pleased with our decision to implement this first-rate email service.

School budget votes and elections

As you may already know, voters gave the green light to spending proposals for all 23 of our component districts for the upcoming school year. Congratulations to all of our districts for successfully navigating

another challenging budget season! Thank you to everyone who voted in their districts and encouraged others to do the same.

Farewell to our retirees

Finally, I would like to offer a sincere thank you and congratulations to [our 2017-2018 retirees](#)! I truly appreciate everything you have done, in so many ways, to contribute to the success of our students. I wish you a fond farewell as you move beyond your time at OCM BOCES and hope you all have a happy and healthy retirement.

Until next time, I wish all of us here at BOCES a safe and fun summer. Be sure to relax, refresh and rejuvenate before another busy year starts in the fall.



Dr. Jody Manning
District Superintendent

Our employees make us great

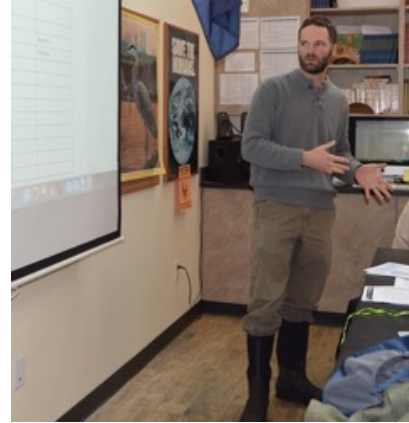
Congratulations to our staff members who were recognized recently at the Employee Recognition Luncheon. In the photo, from left to right, are **Jimmy Lottermoser** and **Terri Scannell**, stock attendants in the Science



Center; **Dan Case**, inventory manager in the Science Center; **Cindy Zajac**, Science Center typist; **Lisa Benedict**, a teacher in Innovative Education; **Karen Kruth**, a teacher in Special Education; **Carrie Prior**, a clinical instructor in Career & Technical Education; **Terri Hewitt**, an account clerk in Innovative Teaching & Learning; **Dan Hesler**, TCI coordinator in Special Education; **Barb Wells**, a teacher in Special Education; and **Chris Gilkes**, a teaching assistant in Special Education.

Cortlandville instructor wins prestigious scholarship

Chad DeVoe, our New Vision Environmental Science instructor at Lime Hollow Nature in Cortland, was recently selected as the winner of a \$1,200 scholarship to attend a premier conference — the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference — from June 26-29 in Portland, Maine. According to a news release from Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, **DeVoe** was one of 51 classroom teachers, eight Cornell Cooperative Extension educators and one post-secondary administrator from across the state who were selected for this honor. Congratulations, Chad! More than 400 educators from across the country are expected to attend.



NYSCATE "TurnIT Up Summit" partners with OCM BOCES

The OCM BOCES School Library System partnered with NYSCATE to host a [TurnIT Up Summit](#) on June 5 at the OCM BOCES Main Campus. The Summit attracted 70 educators who were pushed beyond their comfort zones to learn about topics such as Google Apps for Education, Microsoft in the Classroom, Minecraft EDU, robotics, STEAM education, technology integration, coding and more.



Crown Road Campus transformed with art

Students in our special education programs at OCM BOCES shared their artistic talents through a Fine Arts Show in May that transformed the Crown Road Campus into a color-splashed gallery. About 150 guests strolled the halls and viewed the art during an evening exhibit that also featured lively artistic performances by students who shared their talents in music. The entire Special Education team put in countless hours to make this meaningful night for students and families.



Crossroads students embrace Rachel's Challenge

Students in the Crossroads Program at our Crown Road Campus participated in a Project Based Learning Showcase on May 25 to display their work related to Rachel's Challenge. Students held a Gallery Walk and presented projects about helping the homeless, participating in an Earth Day cleanup, making ornaments for the elderly and spending time with the residents at Parkrose Retirement Community, and helping animals by making birdfeeders that were placed at Beaver Lake and Onondaga Lake. In addition, the Friends of Rachel Club shared a display of their events and kindness acts that they completed throughout the year. One student, **David Bedford**, created his own display that was inspired by Rachel's Challenge.



Local auto dealers honor exceptional students

Every year, the Syracuse Auto Dealers Association (SADA) recognizes students who have shown exemplary work and dedication in the fields of auto technology and collision, which continue to be high-demand career fields in Central New York and across the nation. The prestigious SADA recognition came with a sizeable tool kit for each award winner.

[Check out the winners who were recognized during a May 8 luncheon at our Thompson Road Campus.](#)



Interest booms for Seal of Biliteracy designation

Are you fluent in more than one language? Could you demonstrate your proficiency in front of a panel of strangers? This year, 86 students from Central New York did just that during evaluations for the New York State Seal of Biliteracy held May 22 at the Main Campus. The number of local students earning the seal on their diplomas represented a nine-fold increase from last year, thanks to the efforts of Coordinator **Tanya Rosado-Barringer**, **Maria Fenton** and the entire staff of the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network, or RBERN. [Read more about these inspiring students at ocmbores.org](http://ocmboces.org). In the photo are students and staff from Solvay.



New Tech students share their passions

Students at our two New Tech schools — Innovation Tech in Liverpool and Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland — gave culminating presentations recently to parents, friends and other guests who were invited to attend. Each student's "passion project" reflected weeks of research and preparation on topics that ranged from firefighting to aquatic photography to the opioid epidemic. Assistant Superintendent for Student Services **Colleen Viggiano** said she was impressed with the ease with which the students presented to large audiences. "They made excellent eye contact and were animated and professional in their presentations," she said.



Mental health, drug addiction, resiliency and more addressed at Prevention Conference

OCM BOCES co-hosted the Central New York Prevention Conference May 11 at the DoubleTree Hotel in East Syracuse. A full day of speakers and workshops covered topics such as the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), youth drug trends, the Community Resiliency Model for mental health, sexual violence and internet safety, among others. In the photo, OCM BOCES Youth Developer Coordinator **Penny Williams** (in blue) honored **Jeanne Elmer**, a mental health consultant, for her longtime and significant contributions to the conference and local prevention efforts.



Students test their expertise at Academic Bowl

Students in the OCM BOCES Deaf & Hard of Hearing program put their academic prowess to the test this spring at two “Academic Bowls” for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing.

Speech/Language Therapist **Kathy Garty** took high school students to a pair of bowls in Connecticut and Washington, D.C. Congratulations to all the students who participated!

[Read more about the Academic Bowl online.](#)



Athletes shine at Special Olympics

It was an exciting, sun-filled day for more than 800 student-athletes from OCM BOCES and local districts who competed in the 2018 Special Olympic Games on May 17 at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. Special Olympics promote fitness, coordination and cardiovascular health, not to mention self-confidence, discipline and self-esteem. Congratulations to all of our great athletes!



21st Gallaher Golf Tournament is August 15

Save the date! Please join us for a fun day of golf that also serves as an annual fundraiser to assist students who need financial support for our Adult Education programs in Liverpool and Cortland. This year's event is August 15 at The Links at Erie Village in East Syracuse. Registration information will be available soon. This event was created more than two decades ago to honor former OCM BOCES Deputy Superintendent Jack Gallaher.



OCM BOCES honors advocates for school libraries

The 2018 Administrator & Advocate of the Year Celebration for our School Library System was held May 9 at the Main Campus. Awards went to:

- West Genesee Middle School Principal **Stephen Dunham** for Administrator of the Year
- Lyncourt School District Business Leader **Cathryn Marchese** for Advocate of the Year
- **Rachel Hyde** of Marcellus High School for Library Staff Member of the Year



In case you missed it: OCM BOCES conference rooms relocated

In an effort to accommodate program needs, the Oneida and Onondaga conference rooms at our Rodax 8 building have been relocated. The Oneida conference room is now located at our Main Campus in Room 108 on the first floor, accessible through the Adult Education entrance facing the Thruway. The Onondaga conference room is now on the first floor of 200 Elwood Davis Road, adjacent to the Main Campus. Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions. [Here is a helpful map.](#)

What's going on at the RIC?

[Click here for their latest newsletter.](#)

Employee Assistance Program

If you are experiencing a difficult time, the confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help you with anything from job stress to aging parents to a death in the family. Please go [to ocmboces.org/eap](http://ocmboces.org/eap) for current offerings.

Follow us!

Please follow OCM BOCES on social media and encourage others to do the same. While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization has a general [Facebook page](#), [Twitter account](#) and [YouTube channel](#) to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news. For all of our social media platforms, check out our social media hub at <http://ocmboces.org/follow>.

How to reach us

If you would like to contribute to BOCES Bits, which is generally distributed the first or second week of each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org or Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces.org. If you are looking for work from our communications department outside of BOCES Bits, you can send us an email or use [a request form](#) to get started.

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