

BOCES BITS

June 2009 Vol. 5 Issue 6

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

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

June is such a bittersweet time for those of us who work in schools. I can hardly believe that the year is already over. It seems like just yesterday that we were introducing the new teachers, meeting the new students, and beginning the new programs. However, the events of the past few weeks are indicative of the completion of yet another year.

Last week, we recognized more than 300 years of service to BOCES when we bid farewell to our retirees at our annual retiree dinner. We know that we are losing many years of knowledge, commitment and effort with the departure of our colleagues. We also know that there is a life beyond BOCES and we wish them well.

Almost every day during the month, we have the opportunity to see the successes of our students and staff. We can be very proud of:

- The first graduating class of the Career Academy for showing that committed and caring staff,

incredible support from districts, and a lot of hard work can turn at-risk students into successful graduates;

- The completion of our first year of our new Career and Technical Education programs in Laboratory Technology and Computer Technology;
- The increasing number of students in Career and Technical Education students who completed their programs and received the New York State Technical Endorsement on their diplomas;
- The students in our Special Education Programs who have been supported by staff, parents, and their peers and will be receiving their Regents, local, GED, and IEP diplomas.

The 2008-2009 school year is almost over. It was a very good year and we look forward to the next school year.

Jessica

Partners for Business Education Student of the Year



Congratulations to OCM BOCES Career Academy Student, Brendi Frederick, for recently being selected as a "Student of the Year" by The Partnership for a Work Ready Syracuse. Brendi is a senior student at the Career Academy and will graduate with their first-ever class on June 25. She attends the Career Academy and also takes Cosmetology with Ms. Anthony. In addition to the above honor, Brendi was also named the Career Academy Student of the Year and has received the school's Principal's award several times during her three years at the Career Academy. Congratulations Brendi!

OCM BOCES Board Members

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Bridges Students Win in “Clear Minds, Clear Messages” Campaign



During the 2008-09 school year, Bridges Alternative School once again participated in the Clear Minds, Clear Messages Campaign through the Syracuse Onondaga Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission. The students worked on media messages supporting the themes of positive choices and healthy lifestyles. Two winners were chosen from the Bridges Program; Brittany Bombard (pictured left) won for 9th grade for her calendar graphic design in the prescription drug abuse category and Elibeth (pictured far left) Collazo won for 9th grade for her calendar editorial in the alcohol category. Congratulations!

A Big “Thank You” to Student Teacher at Kasson Road



Alyssa Bell was a student teacher at Kasson Road this spring, working with Mrs. Kathy Freer in music. Alyssa is a voice major at Syracuse University. She helped produce the Kasson Road spring play, “Broadway, Here We Come!” She also wrote the poetic dialogue that went with the songs and did many of the creative props. Alyssa also plays saxophone and the students enjoyed having her give them instrumental lessons. Alyssa received her Bachelor’s degree in Music Education in May and is currently working on her masters degree. Alyssa worked hard teaching at Kasson Road School and the staff and students miss her!

SkillsUSA Members Organize Community Events



The SkillsUSA student members at the I.E. Henry Campus organized a community event to help out local charities. The morning SkillsUSA students chose Vera

House as the recipient of their community fund drive and the afternoon students chose the Central New York SPCA. Faculty/staff and students donated items that were posted on each of the organizations’ wish lists. Numerous new and “gently used” items were collected. Mrs. Morabito’s morning Cosmetology students and SkillsUSA members, Hanna Kiefer, Liverpool High School; Jennifer Calabrese, Liverpool; Ashley Trombley, Liverpool; and from Mrs. Slominski’s Early Childhood Education Class, Kate Mueller, West Genesee, brought the items to Vera House.

Pictured above left to right: Kate Mueller, Hanna Kiefer and Jennifer Calabrese.

BOCES’ Many Special Olympians

“The potential for greatness lives within each of us.”

-Wilma Rudolph

This quote served as an inspiration for a student on one of the many OCM BOCES teams during the May 21st Special Olympics, held at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. OCM BOCES had teams of students from the following programs: Deaf and Hard of Hearing, TEAM, SKATE, Stonehedge Elementary and Camillus Middle. To see a gallery of event photos, go to <http://www.ocmboces.org/photogallery.cfm?teacher=746>.

EAP Offers Help Year-Round!

Did you know that the Employee Assistance Program is a twelve-month Program? You can contact the EAP during the summer and we will be there for you just like we are during the school year. The summer could be a good time to call us for the things you were too busy to get to during the school year, including, short-term counseling, a referral for therapy or information on a variety of topics.

Call us all summer long at 315-471-1361 or 1-800-EAP-8764 or visit our website at www.eap.ocmboces.org.

Congratulations & Best Wishes to our Retirees!

Congratulations to the following staff members who retired this year from OCM BOCES. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our students, districts, clients and the community.

Barbara Lehmann
(deceased)

31 years of service

Cynthia Falcone-Den
Bleyker

28.5 years of service

Nancy Winnie

28.5 years of service

Linda Armstrong

25 years of service

Patricia Crawford

23 years of service

Betty-Lou Fields

21 years of service

Kathleen Smith

20 years of service

Leonilde Beals

19 years of service

Lynda Farney

19 years of service

John Poulos

15 years of service

Eucala Doctor

14 years of service

Gayle Hull

14 years of service

Lucia Strail

13.5 years of service

Mary Miuccio

13 years of service

Colleen Zawadzki

11 years of service

Kasson Road Student Council

The Student Council at Kasson Road School is an initiative, new in the 2008-2009 school year, to offer students a venue to voice their thoughts about improving their school and to develop leadership skills

The idea for council came from student, MP Jones, who wrote his proposal this past summer, conducted a survey, and scheduled time to present everything to the principal. His proposal was accepted and he presented the information at an assembly to kick off the initiative. Election of officers was held in October, 2008.

Since that time, the council and its representatives have sponsored a Halloween party, formed a decorating committee and decorated for the Holiday concert and worked on a literacy project for the school's 100th Day Celebration.

Kasson Road School's Student Council: MP Jones, President; Brad Whaley, Vice President; Olivia Brown, Treasurer; Chris Fredenburg, Representative; Justin Tennant, Representative; Andy Snyder, Representative and Matt Vivalo, Representative.

Deaf Program Students Visit Wonderland



Students, staff, and parents from the OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program traveled by a Solvay School District bus to Rochester on Saturday, May 9th to see the production, Alice in Wonderland at the Robert F. Panara Theatre on the RIT/NTID campus. The production was presented in American Sign Language and was also voiced. The cast was made up of both deaf and hearing actors. There were also special guest appearances by the dancers from the RIT/NTID dance company. At the end of the play, the students had the opportunity to meet the cast. It was a great opportunity to learn more about Deaf Culture and view the NTID campus.

SLS Administrator of the Year

Congratulations to Onondaga Central School District's Superintendent, Joseph Rotella and Director of Technology, Robert Sauro, for being named Administrator/Advocate of the Year by the OCM BOCES School Library System. Rotella and Sauro accepted their awards at a May 13th luncheon ceremony at Barbagallo's restaurant.



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.



Pictured above: David Daignault (left) with Bill Brandt of the CNY Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

Health and Safety Coordinator Recognized

Congratulations to OCM BOCES Health and Safety Coordinator, **David L. Daignault**. The Central New York Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers awarded David the Safety Professional of the Year award at their annual professional development conference on May 21, 2009 in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Chapter, the safety profession and the school community in Central New York. Congratulations!

School Library System Coordinator Receives Distinguished Service Award

Congratulations to OCM BOCES School Library System Coordinator, **Judith Dzikowski**. Judi was recently awarded the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the School Library Systems Association of New York State. The award is presented annually to a School Library System Director whose work exemplifies six areas of consideration: professional leadership, professional service, information sharing, collaboration, quality programs and creative service. Judi's work with the Partners in Student Achievement: Libraries and Students (PALS) project was noted as an influence on library instruction throughout the country.

Congratulations!



Pictured above: Judi Dzikowski (left) with School Library Systems Association President, Judy Marsh from Wayne-Finger Lakes School Library System.

Cedar Street Educators Receive Literacy Grant

(Pictured left) Congratulations to OCM BOCES', **Dawn Cooley** and **Kathy Turenne** for recently being selected to receive a Literacy Grant from the Central New York Teaching Center. Dawn and Kathy were selected for a grant for their "Listen Up! Read" Program. Congratulations!



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