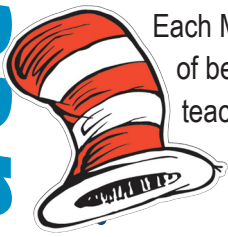


STUDENTS HAVE THE NEED... TO READ, READ, READ!



Each March, schools all over the world recognize National Reading Month by celebrating the birthday of beloved author, Dr. Seuss and planning a variety of literacy-themed activities and events. Some teachers hold contests, family literacy events, parades and much more. The goal is ultimately to motivate kids to read every day of the year.

This March, classrooms throughout OCM BOCES were celebrating National Reading Month and Read Across America with a unique variety of fun, educational and creative events. Improving the literacy of students is among the organizational goals that OCM BOCES sets for itself each year. All of these March reading events help move BOCES forward in reaching that goal.

Some of the many programs that coordinated March reading events took time to send pictures and stories for inclusion in BOCES Bits. Thank you to everyone that shared their activities!

STARS GLOW WITH WHAT THEY KNOW!



On Wednesday, March 5, three students from the OCM BOCES STARS Alternative High School were able to read to students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program at Solvay Elementary. The collaboration was done as part of the National Education Association's Read Across America Day initiative, coinciding with Dr. Seuss' birthday.

The STARS students, Chase Cowen (Liverpool), Alicia Leach (Marcellus), and Spencer Surrette (Marcellus) are all seniors in Denise Lodor-Morris' English Language Arts 12 class. The group worked with Jamie Williams and Mary DeMatteo-Vitale, instructors in the Deaf Education program, to organize a visit so that they could read to the Deaf Education program students in grades K-3.

Prior to their visit to Solvay, the high school students went to Barnes and Noble and selected two books, *Are you My Mother?* and *Forget Me Not Beautiful Buttercup* to read with the younger students. During their visit, all of the students worked with each other to decorate Dr. Seuss hat cutouts and then shared a snack together.

The high school students were taught how to sign their names and ages from the elementary students and it was a very positive experience for both programs. Both programs (STARS and Deaf and Hard of Hearing) are planning future visits with other high school students leading the elementary students through educational games and possible tutoring opportunities.



From the District Superintendent



Dear Colleagues,

As we are quickly approaching this year's Annual Meeting and component districts' budget votes, I can't help but think of OCM BOCES as truly part of the solution... helping students, schools, and districts tackle their challenges.

At our Annual Meeting each year, we are able to share with districts our information on savings through collaborations as well as the highlights of our services. There is a shared understanding of BOCES, support for the work that we do and recognition that we are part of the solution.

As the world is changing, the solutions we offer are changing as well. The educational community of Central New York knows that the world has changed and consequently, a regional vision for college, career and citizenship readiness has emerged. Our regional vision is founded on an uncompromising and relentless commitment to preparing students for their future.

Our regional vision includes, but is not limited to, two "New Tech High Schools" located in the OCM BOCES. Those schools, Innovation Tech and NTH@CNY will be places where the instruction is engaging, the culture is empowering and the technology is enabling. I am excited about these schools and the direction in which BOCES is growing! Our first New Tech High School, Innovation Tech, will open in September of 2014 at the Lee G.

Peters Career Training Center and NTH@CNY will open in September of 2016. I know that you'll join me in celebrating these new programs and offering new solutions in our community.

Thank you for your help in making us "part of the solution."



OCM BOCES Proposed 2014-2015 School Year Budget

Initial OCM BOCES 2014-2015 Proposed Budget

Programs & Services	2014-2015 Proposed
Career & Technical Education	\$7,837,246
Special Education	29,575,059
Itinerant Services	3,251,707
Alternative Education & General Instruction	7,679,411
Instructional Support	3,736,635
Other Services	6,179,470
Regional Information Center	43,983,086
Total Programs	\$102,242,614
Administrative & Rental (Includes Capital)	\$8,282,340
Total General Fund Budget	\$110,524,954

Important Budget Dates

- April 2 - OCM BOCES Annual Meeting @ Henry Center
- April 15 - Final Request & Contract for Services Due
- April 28 - Annual Election & Administrative Budget Vote
- May 16 - Final 2014-2015 Budgets Available to Districts in WinCap

Our Energy Analyst is reporting that many computers, printers, monitors, SmartBoards, projectors, and lights are still left on when rooms are unoccupied. Please remember to do your part and shut down at the end of the day.



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 such as:

- Alcohol and/or Drug Abuse
- Emotional problems
- Stress management
- Marital and/or family conflict
- Compulsive gambling
- Financial difficulties
- Aging parents
- Grieving
- Wellness
- Other personal matters

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



- Making Divorce Easier on You and Your Kids
- Co-Parenting with Your Ex after the Divorce
- Coping with a Breakup or Divorce
- Managing Income and Expenses after a Divorce
- Coping with Stress and Change

Your OCM BOCES EAP - Employee Assistance Program is offering a variety of FREE workshops again this spring. 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 spring!

April 9, 2014 Wednesday	Employee Retirement System: Overview with NYS ERS Representative	OCM BOCES, IEH Campus Henry B Admin. Bld., Lg. Conference Room 6820 Thompson Road Syracuse, NY 13221	4:30-6 p.m.
April 30, 2014 Wednesday	Feed the Need: What You Need to Know About Eating Disorders with Michelle Stolicker	OCM BOCES, McEvoy Campus Room 701, Conference Center 1710 NYS Route 13 Cortland, NY 13045	4-6 p.m.
May 7, 2014 Wednesday	Caregiver Camp: Understanding Alzheimer's & Related Dementias with Michelle Stolicker	Ithaca City School District Boynton Middle School, Conference Rm 1601 N. Cayuga Street Ithaca, NY 14350	4:30-6 p.m.

Deaf athlete reads to and teaches students



Matt “The Hammer” Hamill is a deaf American amateur wrestler and mixed martial arts fighter. Matt was a three-time NCAA Wrestling Division III National Champion from 1997-1999 while attending the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. He is currently a fighter for the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) and takes time to visit schools to speak with young people.

Matt came to Solvay High School through the help and support of Le Moyne College’s American Sign Language class in connection to the literacy incentive, *Read Across America*.

While at Solvay

High School, Hamill read and signed the story *Ferdinand the Bull* to the students. He also gave a presentation on his life and the many challenges he has faced and overcome due to his hearing loss.

OCM BOCES Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Lisa Austin, helped arrange Matt’s visit to the school and was very pleased with the students’ reception of him. She said, “The students enjoyed having a famous athlete come and sign a story to them. Hamill really encouraged the students to strive for their dreams and to not let anything stand in their way of what they want to accomplish in life. He was very inspirational.”



After his presentation, Hamill signed autographs, took pictures with the students and spoke to them on a personal level. The day was a complete success.



Chili and soup cook-off helps Henry Staff warm-up on a cold winter day

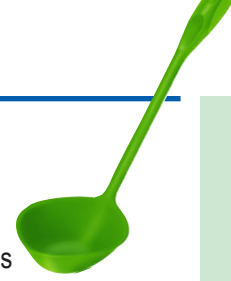


On Monday, February 28, OCM BOCES employees at the Henry Campus Administration Building had a chance to spend some time together warming up with each others' culinary creations at their annual chili and soup cook-off.

Sponsored by the Personnel Department, employees brought in crock-pots filled with different varieties of homemade soup and chili to be sampled and voted on by their coworkers. Employees got together on their lunch break to sample the recipes and select their favorite.

This year's winner in the soup category was Tina Gilligan (pictured below with her spoon award) for her spicy sausage soup. Sue Thomas' chili recipe was chosen for the top honor in that category.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all the contributors and samplers too!

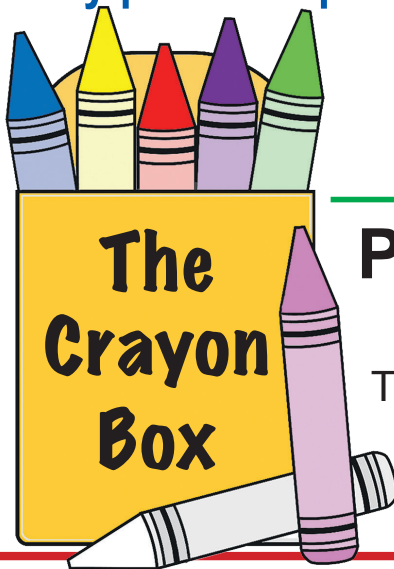


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Words of Wisdom

“The more that you read, The more things you will know.
The more that you learn, The more places you'll go.”

- Dr. Seuss



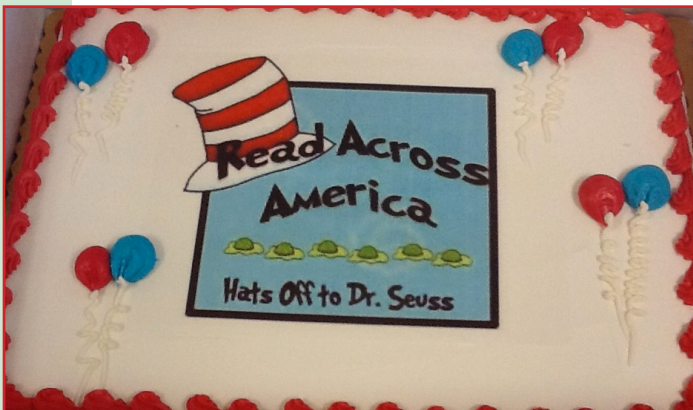
CTC STUDENTS CELEBRATE READING WITH SEUSS!!



During the first week of March, students and staff in special education programs at the OCM BOCES Lee G. Peters Career Training Center planned some unique and fun activities in recognition of Read Across America.

Their week-long celebration, which centered around a literacy theme, included a breakfast of green eggs and ham, guest readers, a book crossing scavenger hunt, project-based learning exhibits and a parade with floats that students designed based on Dr. Seuss books.

The students had a great time with the activities and learned at the same time!



Kudos to You!



OCM BOCES' Biggest Losers!

Staying active and eating healthy presents everyone with a challenge as we endure the winter months in Central New York. The Polar Vortex this year has tested our resolve.

Twenty-five staff and faculty members at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus took on the winter blues and entered a Biggest Loser contest. Participants competed in a weight loss contest that focused around developing healthier eating habits and increased physical activity.

Weighing in each Tuesday, teaching assistants, teachers, staff and administrators in Special Education and CTE committed to losing at least one pound each week.

Congratulations to the top two losers, **Erin Crabtree** and **Phil Grome**. More impressive is that the healthy competition resulted in a total loss of 121 pounds at the McEvoy Campus!

Cheers to each participant for their accomplishments and commitment to becoming healthier!

Deaf Program students help make wishes come true

Students from the OCM BOCES Deaf/Hard of Hearing program recently spent time researching various local charities and as a result, decided that they wanted to give back. They chose to reach out to Make-A-Wish of CNY.

Students met with Debbie Simon and Bethann Kistner from Make-A-Wish, learned all about the organization and saw the "Wall of Stars," which has a personalized star for each child granted a wish.

They then organized a sell-a-star sale during all lunch periods. Stars cost \$1.00. Their goal was to raise \$100. After two days of sales the students were pleasantly surprised to have surpassed their goal.

They were able to present a check for \$320.00 to Make-A-Wish!



The money will help make a wish come true for a child facing difficult circumstances. Great job!

OCM BOCES Board Members

Ann Wright, *President*

Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*

Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton

Barb Closson

Mark Gilbert

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