

BOCES BITS

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

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

James Thurber once said, "It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers." I am hoping he was correct because we are dealing with so many issues that none of us know the answers to and we are just trying to identify all of the questions! It was barely two weeks ago, when I saw on CNN a story about swine flu in Mexico. At that time, I never thought that much of our time would be working with the County Health Departments and our districts on policies and procedures to understand the extent of the H1N1 virus so that we could continue to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff.

As I write this letter, it appears that there is a lessening of the incidence of the flu in our area. But, as Dr. Cynthia Morrow, Commissioner of Health in Onondaga County has indicated, we really can not predict with any certainty what will happen with this "novel" virus. In the meantime, the recommendations are that we all use normal precautions

and stay home if we are ill with the flu. In addition, it is suggested that there are everyday actions people can take to stay healthy.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you are interested in seeing the letter that was sent home to parents of students at BOCES, it is on our web site. Please know that we continue to monitor the situation and to work with the county health department.

Jessica

Adult Education Students Support Ronald McDonald House Charities

Adult Education students in the Dental Assisting and Electrical Maintenance classes recently raised \$1,200 for a donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York. The Ronald McDonald House in Syracuse is currently undergoing a major renovation in order to make it



Students from OCM BOCES Adult Education Dental Assisting and Electrical Maintenance classes and BOCES staff recently visited Syracuse's Ronald McDonald House in order to present the organization with a \$1,200 donation!

accessible to more children and their families.

In order to raise money to help the charities, students in OCM BOCES classes, sold candy and pizza during lunch time breaks and raffled off a "preferred parking" space at the Lee G. Peters Career Training Center. Donations were made by adult education students and by OCM BOCES staff.



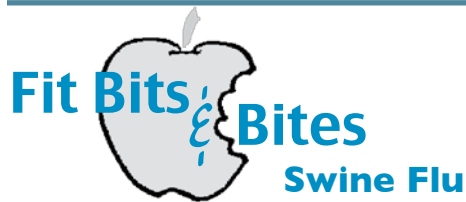
The mission of the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central New York is to create, identify, and support programs that directly improve the health and well being of children and families in Central New York and Northern Pennsylvania.

Many thanks to everyone who helped raise money for this charitable donation!

Career Academy Students Visit and Learn From Engineering Firm



On April 6, 2009 a group of OCM BOCES Career Academy students visited Peterson Engineering P.C. to explore the field of engineering as well as related professions and trades. The trip was a culminating activity for the House and Home Unit in Mrs. Hatt's Spanish class in which students learned about different building designs in Hispanic countries. Students had the opportunity to talk to engineers and designers at Peterson and explore different career and educational paths in their fields. Students also explored the use of math in the various trades and professions. This experience allowed the students to see real life applications and connections for various content area courses.



Swine Flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by Type A influenza viruses. A normal occurrence in pigs, this disease usually doesn't infect humans. Previously, person-to-person infection has been in a limited geographic area, restricted to only a few people, and usually originating with someone having direct contact with pigs. The present outbreak of Swine Influenza A (H1N1) has spread more readily from person-to-person and its presence continues to grow. Because there isn't a vaccine for Swine Flu, limiting the number of people infected is the best way to control this disease. Without actively trying to control Swine Flu's spread this could easily become a pandemic.

The best every day steps you can take to reduce your risk of infection is:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with influenza, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

If you do get flu-like symptoms see your doctor. Taking flu-fighting antiviral drugs can minimize the severity of this flu, help you feel better faster, and reduce complications.

More information is available online at www.cdc.gov/swineflu/.

Kasson Road Brings the "Big Apple" to Central New York

On Friday, April 24th, student's at Kasson Road School performed a beautiful medley of Broadway show tunes for their families, friends and staff of the school. Musical selections included, *Give my Regards to Broadway*, *Forty-Second Street* and *I Want to be Happy*. Two students narrated the show and several member's of the school band played along.

The stage was set to look like New York City, with paintings of the statue of liberty and the city's famous skyline. The set also boasted the bright lights of Broadway and some well known street signs. Additionally, several

other student made creative props. The turn out was wonderful and a good time was had by all!



EAP for Employee Health & Fitness

May is National Employee Health and Fitness month and your EAP (Employee Assistance Program) has many wellness topics to choose from. Please visit the EAP wellness months website at <http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=623> for useful links to sources of information on health and fitness and a variety of other wellness topics. June is Cancer from the Sun month and the EAP wellness month site also has links to cancer prevention websites...be sure to check us out!

Medical Information Use and Disclosure

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information.

Use and Disclosures

Payment - Your health information may be used to seek payment from your health plan, from other sources of coverage such as an automobile insurer, or from credit card companies that you may use to pay for services. *For example*, your health plan may request and receive information on dates of service, the services provided, and the medical condition being treated.

Health Care Operations - Your health information may be used as necessary to support the day-to-day activities and management of the OCM BOCES Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Plan. For example, information on the services you received may be used to support budgeting and financial reporting.

Law Enforcement - Your health information may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies, without your permission, to support government audits and inspections, to facilitate law-enforcement investigations, and to comply with government mandated reporting.

Public Health Reporting - Your health information may be disclosed to public health agencies as required by law. For example, we are required to report certain communicable diseases to the state's public health department.

Other Uses and Disclosures require your Authorization. Disclosure of your health information or its use for any purpose other than those listed above requires your specific written authorization. If you change your mind after authorizing a use or disclosure of your information you may submit a written revocation of the authorization. However, your decision to revoke the authorization will not affect or undo any use or disclosure of information that occurred before you notified us of your decision.

Additional Uses of Information

Information about treatments - Your health information may be used to send you information on the treatment and management of your medical condition that you may find to be of interest. We may also send you information describing other health-related goods and service that we believe may interest you.

Individual Rights

You have certain rights under the federal privacy standards. These include:

- The right to request restrictions on the use and disclosure of your protected health information.
- The right to receive confidential communications concerning your medical condition and treatment.
- The right to inspect and copy your protected health information.
- The right to amend or submit corrections to your protected health information.
- The right to receive an accounting of how and to whom your protected health information has been disclosed.
- The right to receive a printed copy of this notice.

Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES Duties - We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information and to provide you with this notice of privacy practices. We also are required to abide by the privacy policies and practices that are outlined in this notice.

Right to Reserve Privacy Practices - As permitted by law, we reserve the right to amend or modify our privacy policies and practices. These changes in our policies and practices may be required by changes in federal and state laws and regulations. Whatever the reason for these revisions, we will provide you with a revised notice. The revised policies and practices will be applied to all protected health information that we maintain.

Requests to Inspect Protected Health Information - As permitted by federal regulation, we require that requests to inspect or copy protected health information be submitted in writing. You may obtain a form to request access to your records by contacting Jean Marie Westlake.

Complaints - If you would like to submit a comment or complaint about our privacy practices, you can do so by sending a letter outlining your concerns to:

Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES

Jean Marie Westlake

Director, Personnel & Labor Relations

PO Box 4754

Syracuse NY 13221

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you should call the matter to our attention by sending a letter describing the cause of your concern to the same address.

You will not be penalized or otherwise retaliated against for filing a complaint. The name and address of the person you can contact for further information concerning our privacy practices is: **Jean Marie Westlake, Director, Personnel & Labor Relations, Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, PO Box 4754, Syracuse NY 13221; 315-433-2631**

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.

Automotive Technology Student Places in SkillsUSA Competition



Congratulations to David Lauber, an Automotive Technology student from Solvay Union Free School District. David, a student in Erick Dodge's class, was awarded third place in the SkillsUSA competition in the automotive service technology category. David is a senior Automotive Technology student. A senior at Solvay, David is planning on post secondary education at Ohio Technical College in Ohio and would like to work as a technician after he graduates from college. Congratulations on this accomplishment!

Hispanic Students Attend Albany Leadership Conference and Win Scholarships

Congratulations to Central New York's fourteen top Hispanic students who were selected to participate in April's Annual Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PRHYLI) in Albany, New York. The Institute is held each year in conjunction with the New York State Assembly's Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force Somos Uno conference. The Somos Uno, or "We are One" Conference, provides 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 fourteen student delegates, worked with OCM BOCES BETAC and recently traveled to Albany to participate in the conference and a mock assembly in the State Assembly Chamber. The student delegates (and their five alternates) are: from Cicero-North Syracuse High School, [Ana Alvarado](#); from Henniger High School, [Kaylesha Delgado](#) and [Christian Guerra](#); from Syracuse Academy of Science, [Aileen M. Figueroa](#); from Corcoran High School, [Yeisha Nuñez Merced](#) and (alternate) [Yarimar Ramos](#); from Jamesville-Dewitt High School, [Gleydis Merino](#) and [Jessica Varona](#); from West Genesee High School, [Jonathan Richardson](#); from Marcellus High School, [Joe Rodriguez](#); from Nottingham High School, [Aníbal J. Rosario](#), [Julyanne Rosario](#) and (alternate) [Leonard Sabbatino](#); from G. Ray Bodley High School, [Luisa Ruiz](#), (alternate) [Daisy Ruiz](#) and (alternate) [Daisy Vasquez](#); from New Hartford Senior High School, [Stephanie Marie Spetka](#); from Oswego High School, [Denisse Vazquez](#) and from Christian Brothers Academy, (alternate) [Claudia Valera](#). While in Albany, three of these students were also awarded \$500 scholarships. Those students are: [Anna Alvarado](#) from Cicero-North Syracuse, [Aileen Figueroa](#) from Syracuse Academy of Science and [Luisa Ruiz](#) from G. Ray Bodley High School. Congratulations to all student delegates!



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