

Students sizzle in McEvoy's Iron Chef Competition



On March 28, 2014, the senior Culinary Arts class at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Center, participated in their own version of the Food Network's "Iron Chef" competition. Under the direction of instructor Mrs. Adams and teaching assistant Ms. Brown, the student teams were challenged to prepare a three course meal that included an appetizer, an entrée, and a dessert. In addition, each team was required to research the cost of the ingredients and determine the mark up, then create a restaurant quality menu. To add to the challenge, students used a liquid fuel two burner stove during preparation.

Retired Culinary Arts teacher Mrs. Kay Stevens; Mr. Robert Oaksford, a chef and the purchasing director at Cortland Produce; and BOCES' own culinarian, Mr. Steve Duffy, all served as event judges. Students were evaluated on knife skills, sanitation, teamwork, professionalism, presentation

of their final product, and the ever important taste test. The array of culinary delights included jerked shrimp on escarole, homemade pasta, and homemade cannoli.

The Iron Chef competition was held in the McEvoy courtyard, and was open to the public. Staff, students, and several parents stopped by to view the students in action. All enjoyed the fun and camaraderie and are looking forward to next year's competition.



Kudos to You ~~All~~ of US!

Congratulations! Through the collective efforts of the OCM BOCES Facilities Department and all staff members and students at OCM BOCES, we have been able to reduce the consumption of electricity throughout all of our buildings by 2.5% in the five years from 2008-2009 through 2012-2013. This data is exclusive of the CNYRIC. This reduction is especially noteworthy because we have added a significant amount of technology equipment during this time period... AND we can do even better!

Please continue to be vigilant about turning off lights, computers, monitors, and all electronic devices when they are not needed. Think twice before you plug something in to be sure that you really need it. The dollars saved help contain utility costs paid by each and every one of our programs. If we're not spending dollars on utility costs, they can be used in other ways. **Thank you for continuing to help Save Energy @ BOCES!**



Healthy Schools NY Coordinator Works with Former U.S. Surgeon General through Healthy Syracuse Conference

OCM BOCES Healthy Schools NY Coordinator, **Stacy McNeill**, recently had the unique and exciting opportunity to work with former United States Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin, through her work on the Healthy Syracuse Coalition Steering Committee. The group held a work site wellness conference in March and because of her role on the steering committee, Stacy had the chance to meet and work with Dr. Benjamin.

From the District Superintendent



Dear Colleagues,
Your BOCES Bits this month is absolutely full of stories about the great things we have going on here at OCM BOCES. I continue to be impressed by the innovative programming and unique services that we have the ability to offer to our students and component districts.

Please take a few minutes to read through the stories about our students, staff, programs, collaborations and other initiatives and I think you will also be impressed and inspired.

Have a great month!

Sody

McEvoy Students are Learning to Love Literacy

Since this past January, students at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus have been engaged in monthly literacy challenges. McEvoy teachers established goals with students based upon specific target areas, such as the completion of intervention program software or successfully writing an essay. We are proud to share that over 40 students have regularly met the goals established for them. Congratulations and great job!

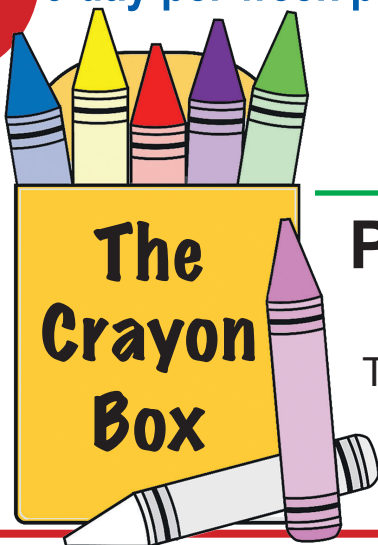


NOW
ENROLLING
AGES 3-5
YEARS

3 day per week preschool program at Thompson Rd. BOCES

Only \$190 Per Year!

Call 315/431-8403



Preschool

Thompson Road
BOCES

- Arts & Crafts
- Music Appreciation
- Creative Movement Activities
- Puppet Shows
- Computer Skills
- Cooking Activities
- Math & Science Skills
- Language Activities



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

MAY IS NATIONAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH & FITNESS MONTH!



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

- Exercise and Physical Activity
- Smart Food Choices
- Walking...a Step in the Right Direction
- Weight Loss and Nutrition Myths
- Your Guide to Healthy Sleep

Lace up & sign up for the OCM BOCES team in the Chase Corporate Challenge!



Tuesday, June 17 at Onondaga Lake Park

Race start time is 6:25 p.m.

Each year, OCM BOCES puts together a team to participate in the Corporate Challenge and it is that time of year again! All OCM BOCES employees are invited to join our team. Though it is an official race, you do not need to be a runner to participate. You can run, jog, walk or even crawl to the finish line! It is all about Team Spirit!

You can register on-line to be part of the OCM BOCES team, by going to <http://www.jporganchasecc.com>. On the left of the page, select "Syracuse," then "Registration." On-line registration is in the center of the page. When you register, select "OCM BOCES" as your company. You will need to pay a \$34.00 event fee upon registration. As part of the registration fee, you get a Corporate Challenge t-shirt and you help support local charities.

The deadline for registration is 5:00 p.m on June 6, however, we encourage you to register as soon as possible as we are trying to get an accurate count of how many are going to participate. EAP, once again, will host our team and provide snacks and beverages. This year's OCM BOCES Team Captain is David Cirillo (dcirillo@ocmboces.org).

Automotive students have the tools they need to succeed



Congratulations to the 13 OCM BOCES Automotive Technology and Automotive Collision Technology students who were recently recognized for their outstanding achievements through the Snap-On Tools for Success awards program.

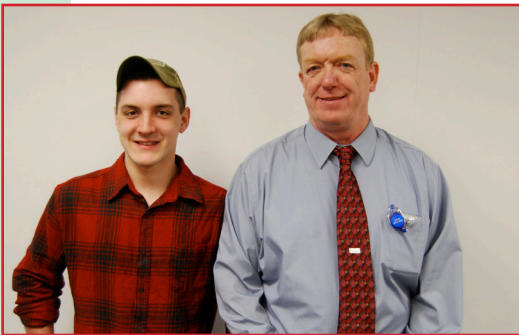
The students, selected by their OCM BOCES classroom instructors for excellent automotive technology, math and science skills, and outstanding classroom participation, attendance and attitude, each received a certificate of excellence and a Snap-On Tools screwdriver, valued at over \$100.

Of the 13 students selected for recognition, three were singled out to receive a black-handled screwdriver award, representing the "best of the best" in their field.

The following OCM BOCES students were recognized with Tools for Success awards. Those marked with an * were selected for the black-handled screwdriver award:



Automotive Collision Technology (Instructor, Matthew McGivney): Andrew Armstrong from the Solvay Union Free School District, Scott Barrett from the Chittenango Central School District, Adam Birkmier from the Liverpool Central School District and *Connor Mills from the Chittenango Central School District;



Automotive Technology (Instructor, Samuel Azria): *Kyle Bezner from the Liverpool Central School District, Shane Cole from the Baldwinsville Central School District, Nicholas Klosowski from the Chittenango Central School District and Ramil Fazliyev from the Jamesville DeWitt Central School District;

Automotive Technology (Instructor, Erick Dodge): Joseph Bell from the North Syracuse Central School District, Dan Gabriel from the West Genesee Central School District, Trevor Northrup from the North Syracuse Central School District and * Max Parsons from the North Syracuse Central School District; and



Automotive Technology (Instructor, Dennis Gladle): Mitchell Mahosky from the Chittenango Central School District.

Pictured: OCM BOCES Tools for Success award recipients from all classrooms. Top to bottom: Sam Azria and his students, Erick Dodge and his students, Dennis Gladle and his student and Matthew McGivney and his students.



Words of Wisdom

" The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. "

- William Arthur Ward

OCM students place at New York State SkillsUSA Competition

Congratulations to the OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) students who recently competed and placed in the State SkillsUSA competition. Held at the New York State Fairgrounds in April, this annual competition gave OCM BOCES the opportunity to compete against other schools from across the state in timed technical, trade and leadership contests.

Students from the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus in Cortland are pictured in the group photo to the right.

The OCM BOCES students who placed in the competition are:

- Bryan DeGone, OCM BOCES Automotive Technology senior from the Baldwinsville Central School District – 2nd place in Automotive Service Technology category
- Vi Nguyen, OCM BOCES Cosmetology senior from the Fayetteville-Manlius Central School District – 3rd place in the Nail Care category



Following is the complete list of OCM BOCES students that competed in the State SkillsUSA competition:

Baldwinsville - Paige Bell, Bryan DeGone and Connor Oakes; **Cazenovia** - Yesenia Rodriguez; **Cortland** - Alizabeth Knout, Hunter Moore, Nichole Nichol and Brandon Reynolds; **DeRuyter** - Breanna Hare; **Homer** - Tyler Purvis and Josh Stevens; **Fayetteville Manlius** - Vi Nguyen; **Jamesville-DeWitt** - Salwa El-Hindi; **Liverpool** - Miranda Harrington and Josh Ptaszek; **Marathon** - Marjorie Torres; **Marcellus** - Gabby Coon; **McGraw** - Ben Ackley; **North Syracuse** - Crista Baird, Mackenzie Lanoux and Kristin Rogers; **Tully** - Samantha Crawford and Katie Spaulding; and **West Genesee** - Jessica McCarthy and Sydney Timpano.

Skills USA is a national organization serving teachers and high school/college students preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations. The organization provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development and builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills.

For more information about OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education Programs, contact Robert Leslie at 431-8407. *Pictured below (left to right): Nicole Nichol (First Aid/CPR), Hunter Moore (Photography), Josh Stevens (Auto Collision Repair) and Samantha Crawford (Culinary Arts), some of the students from the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus during the State SkillsUSA competition. Many thanks to advisors Heather Hardke, Dale Gendron and Tonya Komar for submitting photographs.*



CTE Approval/Recertification ensures high quality programs

One of OCM BOCES' goals for student services is to develop and enhance programs for students that equip them with the skills they need for post-secondary education, military service, training or to enter the workforce. OCM BOCES has a well-known and deserved reputation for offering Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of the highest quality.

One of the many ways that OCM BOCES ensures that it continues to offer high quality CTE programs is by following the rigorous CTE Program Approval process set forth by the New York State Education Department. Approval is sought for all new programs being implemented and a recertification process is completed every five years for existing programs.

Over the course of the 2013-14 school year, the recertification process was completed for OCM BOCES' Health Occupations Technology, Graphic Communications Technology, Computer Technology and Construction Technology programs. Additionally, OCM BOCES has submitted for approval of a new Welding Technology program.

Approval for CTE program recertification is a two-step process that includes a self-study of all program components, including curriculum alignment to the Standards, followed by an external review. The external review is a comprehensive program analysis that involves many stakeholders, including business representatives, parents, students, teachers and administrators from OCM BOCES and its component school districts.



On May 1, external review processes were completed for the OCM BOCES Computer and Construction Technology and Health Occupations Technology programs. Overwhelmingly, stakeholder responses were very positive with many individuals commenting on how impressed they were with the programs. Some recommendations were provided and will be incorporated into the programs.

Completing the program approval and recertification process allows students the option of earning a CTE endorsements on their high school diploma if they meet the requirements of passing the course and an industry-based assessment and completing a student project.

BOCES holds "Preparing Students for their Future" showcase



On Thursday, May 8, 2014, dozens of educational professionals from Central New York gathered at the OCM BOCES Administration Building to attend a workshop and showcase of programs related to options available for their students, organized by the BOCES Special Education Department.

Bob Leslie provided an overview about the Career Development Program, and then representatives from Onondaga Community College and Tompkins Cortland Community College spoke about student options for higher learning. Additionally, representatives from ACCES VR and Liberty Resources were on hand to discuss alternatives for special needs students.

After the morning of presentations, conference attendees had the opportunity to visit a showcase of programs which included local colleges,

social needs programs and employment organizations.

Special thanks to all showcase participants and conference attendees for making the event a success.

OCM hosts conference on USDA's "Smart Snacks in Schools" guidelines

As school districts across the state and nation are looking for healthier alternatives to typical candy bar and potato chip filled vending machines in order to meet new healthy snack regulations that will take effect on July 1, 2014, a group of local agencies, including OCM BOCES, is working together to provide assistance.

On Thursday, May 1, 2014, OCM BOCES hosted the Healthier Central New York Challenge at the Rodax 8 building conference center. The event was a collaborative effort of Healthy Schools NY programs at OCM, OHM and TST BOCES, Action for Healthy Kids, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Dash NY, Fuel up to Play 60 and Hunger Solutions New York.

Mary Joan McLarney, a Registered Dietician/Nutritionist with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Northeast Regional Office, presented about the organization's new competitive foods regulations and Kathryn Hoy, of the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs, discussed smarter lunchrooms in schools.

The event was designed to provide assistance and ideas for local food service personnel, school district administrators and district staff.

Stacy McNeill is the OCM BOCES Healthy Schools NY coordinator and as such, works extensively with school district personnel regarding federal, state and local wellness guidelines. She said, "We have been working together to ensure that students across Central New York have access to healthier foods and increased physical activity in our efforts to optimize wellness and academic success as well as reduce obesity and the chronic diseases associate with it. In order for our schools to be able to offer healthier choices to their students and meet new federal guidelines, we offered this conference with a special focus on local success stories. We want our districts to have access to sustainable ideas and resources in an effort to make this transition to a healthier school culture as seamless as possible."



World War II Vet visits McEvoy

On May 7, 2014, students in Mrs. Vibbard's classes at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Center had an opportunity to listen to a special presentation by Mr. Gordon, a local World War II veteran. Students were fascinated by his presentation and listened to him for an hour and a half! Mr. Gordon discussed military life, his experiences during the war and their impact on his life.



Successful Annual Spring Show

On April 15, 2014, McEvoy students and staff presented in their Annual Spring Show. The event was attended by students, parents, component district partners and Board Members. We would like to thank all students and staff for their hard work and dedication to the McEvoy tradition.



OCM BOCES holds New York State Coaching Conference



On Wednesday, May 7, 2014, the OCM BOCES Regional Certification Office hosted a special conference for athletic directors and regional certification officers regarding New York State coaching regulations. The conference is one that OCM BOCES hosts annually, but that was expanded this year due to district coaching concerns and new regulations for coaching certification.

Guest speakers Ann Jasinski, Assistant Director for the New York State Office of Teaching Initiatives and Darryl Daily, Associate for Physical Education with the New York State Education Department were at the conference to discuss procedures and regulations and address district coaching concerns.

The conference was standing room only, with more than 100 superintendents, athletic directors and district officials from nearly 60 different districts and BOCES across the state in attendance. Many thanks to OCM BOCES Regional Certification Officer, Elaine Liszewski for making the conference so successful!

Pictured above left to right: Darryl Daily, NYS Associate for Physical Education; Elaine Liszewski, OCM BOCES Regional Certification Officer; Ann Jasinski, Assistant Director for NYS Office of Teaching Initiatives and John Rathbun, Executive Director of NYS Section III Athletics.

Cortland Alternative students participate in Youth Leadership



Cortland County Youth Leadership is a student participation program that provides an emphasis on developing significant personal skills and a deeper interest in, and commitment to, their community. Throughout the year-long program, students participate in community service activities and volunteer for local organizations through charity events.

This year, six OCM BOCES students from the Cortland Alternative School were asked to participate in the CCYL program. Those students, Kayleigh Toole (Tully), Joe Vasick (Cincinnatus), Ian Petrie (Homer), Collin Chorley (McGraw), Mackenzie Pendell (Marathon) and Terry Petty (Cincinnatus), went above and beyond the expectations for volunteering in the community.

The students helped organize winter coats for the Coat Drive in Cortland this past fall, rang the bell for the Salvation Army in the winter, packed over 1,000 participant gift bags for a swim meet for an agency in the community and even took some time during the day to make a hot lunch for the school community.

In addition they also met all requirements for volunteering with the CCYL group and celebrated with a Graduation Ceremony at the end of April. They truly stepped up every time they were asked to participate and did so with great enthusiasm.

OCM BOCES Board Members

Ann Wright, *President*

Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*

Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton

Barb Closson

Mark Gilbert

Mike Murphy

Lisa O'Reilly

David Paczkowski

William Pedrick

Joan Reeves

Maryam Wasmund