

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff,

I spent time last weekend doing one of my favorite things...being with my two grandchildren. Sawyer turned six this weekend and is excited about being in school, playing kindergarten soccer, and riding his bike. Iselle, who is two, follows her big brother around and wants to be just like him! Sawyer and I spent some time at his new school and he proudly showed me his classroom, the playground, and the principal's office. We talked about his school and "my school," and he asked if I was a teacher. Struggling to put what I do into words that a six year old can understand, I said that I worked in schools and worked with teachers and principals. We had a long discussion about being a superintendent and the "boss" and he asked if it was fun and if it was hard being the boss.

My answers to those questions to Sawyer and to you are that it is fun and it is hard. It is fun at those times when I see students feeling like BOCES is a place that they truly belong and when I have the opportunity to meet a parent in the community who tells me how BOCES saved their child and kept them in school. It is fun at events like the Regional Information Center Open House when I see teachers, administrators, and board members from the 50 school districts served by the RIC learning about the latest uses of technology.

It is fun (and rewarding) to work with the eleven members of our BOCES Board of Education who are committed to helping us provide the best services to our students, our school districts, and our communities. The week of October 19-23 is National School Board Recognition week and we will be thanking our board members for their support, energy, and involvement.

It is also hard being a superintendent particularly when something happens to our staff. This week we lost a very special member of our staff when Jo Ellen Johnson died from cancer. Jo Ellen was a graduate of our occupational education programs as a high school student. She did her work experience with Robyn Prell in word processing

and came to work for the Onondaga-Madison BOCES right after graduation. She spent some time as a Teaching Assistant in the word processing class and then came to the administrative building where she has done word processing, publication development, and most recently was in charge of the personnel recruitment service. But most of all, Jo Ellen has been a committed professional, a mentor, and a friend. BOCES will not be the same without her.

As we enter the month of October, I hope that your position at BOCES is also fun even though it sometimes may be hard.

Jessica

Making a World of Difference in 21st Century Student Learning - SLS Fall Conference - October 27, 2009

Don't miss this year's School Library System's Fall Conference, to be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the East Syracuse Doubletree Hotel on Carrier Circle from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The conference, featuring Keynote Speaker Meg Ormiston, is being held in conjunction with Oswego County BOCES and the Syracuse City School District. Special guest speaker, State Librarian Bernie Margolis will discuss the impact of school libraries on student achievement. Additional workshops, focusing on technology and learning systems, include *Technology Resources for the Struggling Reader*, *Clearing Administrative Hurdles to Web 2.0 Technology*, *Infoclutler: Processing Information in New Ways* and *Web 2.0 Tools for Every Instructional Leader*. To register for the SLS conference, download and print a registration form online at <http://sls.ocmboces.org>. Registration and payment is due October 13, 2009. For additional information, contact Judi Dzikowski at 315/433-2670.

BOCES Welcomes Mark Pettitt as Director of Personnel and Labor Relations



Above: Mark Pettitt, OCM BOCES' new Director of Personnel & Labor Relations.

Mark Pettitt began working for OCM BOCES on September 8th, but he is no stranger to a BOCES. Mark's work history includes nearly 20 years of service at Delaware-Chenango and Jefferson-Lewis BOCES. His history with BOCES includes negotiations, grievance and arbitration, labor relations and working with personnel policies and procedures. Mark has already met several times with his staff here at BOCES and in the next month, he will be taking time to meet the superintendents and board members of our 23 component districts. In addition to his responsibilities at OCM BOCES, Mark serves as the treasurer of a statewide group of BOCES, a position he has held for 16 years.

Immediately prior to coming to OCM BOCES, Mark served as the Chief Human Resource Officer for Webster Central School District. Because Mark's most recent job history is with a school district, rather than a BOCES, he says working at OCM BOCES is like "coming back home".

As you look around the many buildings and other facilities that make up OCM BOCES, you will notice some of the many projects that occurred this summer and several that are still ongoing. Our facilities team has done an outstanding job of renovating, constructing, reconstructing buildings and accommodating our new programs and staff. Some of the many projects that you will take note of:

- Cortland adult education programs moved from the Center for New Careers building on Port Watson Street in Cortland to the McEvoy Educational Campus.
- The Cortland Alternative Junior High has relocated to the Cortland Alternative School (formerly Center for New Careers) on Port Watson Street to create one Alternative School that houses students in grades 7-12. Major renovations were done in this building to create classrooms, and a computer lab, cafeteria, library, and science lab.
- A new bus loop was constructed at the Henry Educational Campus at the front of the Career and Technical Education building. The main bathrooms in the CTE building were updated to make them ADA-compliant.
- The Henry Campus Administration building is now home to GED and Project Effective Parent programs as well as audiologists and teachers of the visually impaired.
- The McEvoy Educational Campus is currently undergoing pavement repairs and will also have the main bathrooms updated to make them ADA-compliant. Additionally, the overhead doors in construction trades room will be replaced.
- At the Kasson Road School, a fire alarm system upgrade was completed.
- At the Lee G. Peters Career Training Center (CTC,) a complete makeover of the Adult Cosmetology lab has been completed
- Due to the closing of the Bridges program, renovations were made to CTC and STARS at St. Cecilia's to accommodate students.



Above: Adult Education Cosmetology Program students practice in one of the lab's newly created pedicure areas.



Above: Buses fill the space of the new loop at the Henry Campus.

Employees and Students Get Vaccinated at BOCES-Sponsored Clinics

OCM BOCES employees and students recently had the opportunity to receive their flu/pneumonia vaccines at four BOCES sites during late September. Clinics, staffed by Regional Medical Services, were offered on September 22nd and 28th at McEvoy, Kasson Road, CTC and the Henry campus. More than one hundred vaccines were administered at the CTC and Henry campus clinics alone. Many adult students from OCM BOCES Medical Professions classes took advantage of the opportunity to be vaccinated at the convenient locations. *Pictured right: An OCM BOCES Central Service Technician program student receives her flu shot at the Lee G. Peters CTC campus on September 28th.*

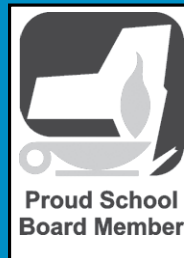


Successful CNYRIC Open House



Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's CNYRIC a success! Workshops were very well attended and keynote speaker, Steve Dembo, provided an informative and dynamic presentation. Many thanks to everyone involved!

Thank You to our Board!



October 19 - 23, 2009 is National School Board Recognition Week

New York State Governor, David Paterson has declared October 19-23, 2009 to be School Board Recognition Week. During this special week, please be sure to thank OCM BOCES school board members for their dedicated service.

We thank you for your dedication to learning, our children and to the community!

OCM BOCES Board Members

Michael J. Brady
Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*
Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton
Mark W. Gilbert
Mary Ann Haley
Mike Murphy
Lisa O'Reilly
David Paczkowski
Joan Reeves
Sandra Rausa
Ann Wright, *President*

De-Stress With EAP

The start of the school year and thoughts of fall holidays and winter weather can be stressful for students, teachers, parents and families. If you're feeling the stresses that autumn can bring, keep in mind that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is here to help! EAP is a free, confidential program providing short-term counseling, workshops, wellness information and referrals to community resources. EAP has an informative and easy to navigate website. Be sure to visit us online at www.eap.ocmboces.org.

Career Academy Students Tour SPCA as Part of Careers II Class



Career Academy tenth-grade student, James Haselmayer, looks face to face with "Sammy," a mixed-breed male puppy, during the school's trip to the Central New York SPCA.

On Friday, September 18th, students in Leah LaChausse's Careers 2 class at OCM BOCES Career Academy visited the Central New York SPCA and were given a tour of the facility by employee, Stephanie Woyciesjes. Students are in the process of working with the SPCA to see how they can help the organization to help animals. They have consulted the SPCA's wish list and have come up with ideas for items they can make in class to donate and/or sell, and give the money to the SPCA.

Included in their product criteria was the requirement of making products out of recycled or donated materials. Some of the objects to be created include cat scratch posts, leashes, toys, biscuits, pet shampoos, and blankets. Career and Technical Education students will demonstrate construction ideas (for the posts), and recipes for making animal biscuits and shampoo.

In order to complete their projects for the SPCA, Career Academy students are asking for donations of the following items: feathers, fleece, fabric, stuffing, carpet scraps (big

enough to cover a foot tall 4x4 post), soap flakes, flour, oat meal, peanut butter, plywood, large and mini hot glue gun sticks, leash clasps, thin wooden dowels (1/4 in), 3/4 in wide **non-satin** ribbon and catnip.

LaChausse's class is working with the SPCA as part of the "Teacher in the World of Work" program, aimed at working with local businesses and organizations to provide students with proper job training and to help them gain the experience they need to become job ready upon graduation. A secondary goal of the program is to break down negative stereotypes that may exist about teenagers and alternative students.

For information or to make a donation, contact the Career Academy at 315/453-4473.



Teaching American History Grant Enters Third and Final Year at BOCES



The Teaching American History Grant's third year participants met each other and learned about the project specifications at the grant's initial meeting on September 30th.

On Wednesday, September 29th, a group of almost 40 social studies teachers met for the first time to begin year three of a nearly \$1 million grant on "Teaching American History." The grant, again being led by OCM BOCES Staff Development Specialist, Daryll Wheeler, is particularly exciting this year, it's third and final, due to the fact that the cohort is not only from OCM BOCES, but includes teachers from 20 of our 23 component districts! Districts involved include Syracuse City School District and the Diocese of Syracuse, Baldwinsville, Cazenovia, Chittenango, East Syracuse-Minoa, Fabius-Pompey, Fayetteville-Manlius, Homer, Jamesville-Dewitt, Liverpool, Lyncourt, Marathon, Marcellus, McGraw, Onondaga Central, Solway, Tully, West Genesee and Westhill.

The focus of this year's grant is on post-World War II America and the Civil Rights Era. Participants will take part in monthly historian-led professional development sessions, including instructional strategies for teaching the material in their classrooms, a summer institute and evaluation study activities. Additionally, the group will take a field trip to Washington, D.C. in April/May as a way of viewing the city from an historical perspective and hearing "background" stories.

OCM BOCES' Daryll Wheeler is currently working with Kevin Sheets, Associate Professor of History at the State University of New York at Cortland and other project members in order to provide participating teachers with sustained professional development and build a district and regional community of instructional best practices on American History.