

Instruction & Technology Weekly Bulletin

Volume III, No. 30

January 23, 2012



“ This is what I think is very essential... moderation can be good for you.”

- Robert Mondavi

Upcoming Events

- Mon., Jan. 23 – Chinese New Year
- Wed., Feb. 1 – National Freedom Day
- Thurs., Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
- Sun., Feb. 5 – Super Bowl XLVI Sunday
- Tues., Feb. 14 – Valentine’s Day
- Mon., Feb. 20 – President’s Day (All Staff Recess)
- Tues.-Fri., Feb. 21-24 – February Break (10, 11 Month Employees)
- Wed, Feb. 29 – Leap Day

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A Message from Mike



As I mentioned to you during our recent all staff meeting, several of us traveled to Utica last week for the most recent round of Network Team Training. The Network Teams are responsible for seeing that the Regents’ Reform Agenda is implemented in school districts and BOCES around the state. Utica was lovely this time of year. I learned that I am a big fan of Utica Greens – a more involved and delicious beans and greens than I was used to.

During our three-day training we spent more time on evidence-based teacher observations and how the Common Core State Standards and Data-Driven Instruction ought to integrate into the teacher observation and evaluation process. As part of this work, one of the Regents Fellows shared the results of a recent study about how the effectiveness of teachers impacts students’ futures. While no one would argue that it is better to have an effective teacher than an ineffective teacher, it was interesting to see the extent to which “having a higher value-added teacher for even one year in grades 4-8, has substantial positive long-term impacts

on a student’s life outcomes.” These long term impacts include the following:

- Likelihood of attending college (UP 1.25%)
- Likelihood of teen pregnancy (DOWN 1.25%)
- Salary earned in lifetime (UP \$25K per avg. student)
- Neighborhood (More college grads live there)
- Retirement savings (UP)

Here is the [link to the entire presentation](#).

❖ Staff News

❖ School Closing Information – Please read carefully:

If radio or television announces “Monroe #1 BOCES is closed,” that means that all programs on the Central Campus (the Foreman Center, the Harris Building on Baird Road, Linden Park and the Alternative Learning Academy) are cancelled. Central Campus programs include, but are not limited to, Adult Education, EMCC and Multi-Occupational/Bridge, Creekside, other classroom programs, the Diagnostic Center, etc. All other BOCES school age and preschool programs are closed only if the district in which that program is located is closed. The name of the program (e.g. Morgan, Lois E. Bird) will NOT be announced, so please listen/look for the name of the district in which the program is located.

Personnel Expectations

If a district to which a staff member is scheduled or assigned is open, that staff member is expected to be there. If a staff member determines that it is not safe to report to that assignment, (s)he must: Call the school which is open to report (s)he will not be there, and call BOCES to report that (s)he is taking a personal day or a day without pay. (In this case, a personal day can be taken retroactively and the five-day advance request will be waived.)

Broadcast Information

Television stations to be notified are: Fox (Ch. 7), WROC (Ch. 8), YNN (Ch. 9), WHEC (Ch. 10), and WHAM (Ch. 13). Radio stations to be notified are: WHAM (1180 AM), WHTK (1280), WBEE (92.5 FM), WZNE (94.1), The Fox (95.1), WCMF (96.5 FM), 98PXY (97.9 FM), The BUZZ (98.9 FM), The Drive (100.5 FM), WRMM (101.3 FM), Sunny-FM(102.3), KISS-FM (106.7), and Country 107.3.

Check the Website

In addition, information on Monroe #1 BOCES school closings will be posted on the BOCES [website](#)

- ❖ **CPR/AED Training:** Again this year, CPR/AED trainings will be offered for all Instruction and Technology Services staff. Mike will provide the trainings. If you are interested in obtaining certification, please contact Lisa Pickett, 249-7200. All trainings will be held at the Foreman Center, Building 9, Room B-6 (2nd Floor)
 - ❖ February 14, 2012 – 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
 - ❖ March 21, 2012 – 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM
- ❖ **Feedback Meetings:** As Mike mentioned in the All Staff Meeting, he will be available according to the following schedule, to meet with any interested staff for an open forum.

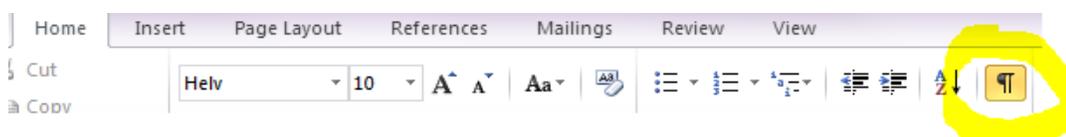
Date	Time	Location 11 Linden Park
January 25	1:00 PM	H1
February 13	10:00 AM	A10
March 19	2:00 PM	A10
April 19	1:00 PM	H1
May 9	11:00 AM	A10
June 13	2:30 PM	A10

- Carolyn

Technology Tip of the Week

Thanks to Diane Smith for sharing this Tip of the Week:

Displaying Hidden Symbols in Word – If your Word document is behaving strangely, it may be because you have extra tabs or hard returns (paragraphs) in the document. To view these hidden symbols, go to the Home ribbon and click on the paragraph symbol, circled below in yellow.



By selecting the paragraph symbol, formatting symbols which were invisible, will appear in your document. See examples below.

Formatting Options	Formatting Symbol
Paragraph	¶
Tab	→
Space	ABC···efg
Placeholder for Image	⚓

JENerally Speaking... Library, Media, and Arts News

Middle School students from five schools came together on January 19, 2012 to predict this year's Newbery Award winner. 85 students from Barker Road Middle School, Calkins Road Middle School, East Irondequoit Middle School, Twelve Corners Middle School and Willink Middle School were challenged to read 8 books and determine which one should win the award as part of this collaborative Mock Newbery Club.

Over the summer, the five participating librarians voraciously read the most well-reviewed children's literature published in the current year and then painstakingly selected eight books believed to be contenders for the Newbery medal. From October through January, student club members read the books and participated in regular meetings to discuss the books through the lens of a Newbery judge. Students from all five schools also participated in online book discussions through the educational social media site, Edmodo.



This year the reading list included eight books:

- *The Aviary* by Kathleen O'Dell
- *Breadcrumbs* by Anne Ursu
- *Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt
- *Jefferson's Sons* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Hidden* by Helen Frost
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *Sparrow Road* by Sheila O'Connor
- *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick

At the culminating event for the club, the groups from all five schools came together for a Mock Newbery Convention where students voted on the winner of the Mock Newbery Award. This year's winner is *The Aviary* by Kathleen O'Dell. The honor book is *Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt.

Congratulations to the School Librarians who have provided this opportunity to their students:

- Danielle Read, East Irondequoit Middle School
- Brian Regan, Barker Road Middle School
- Toni Baller, Calkins Road Middle School
- Andrea Rudolph, Willink Middle School
- Katie Lambert, Twelve Corners Middle School

On Monday, the School Library System will be watching the live announcement from the American Library Association's midwinter conference to learn which book wins this year's top honor.

In Arts News...

The BOCES Arts in Education program is pleased to offer a series of 5 classes this spring to help educators integrate the arts into their content area classrooms. We'll focus on lesson design that is engaging and inquiry based. The series is designed so that educators may attend one class or all five.

Monroe #1 BOCES is pleased to announce a new learning opportunity for educators. *Artful Teaching: Using Arts-based Elements to Leverage Core Learning* is a series of five workshops designed to help teachers integrate the arts into classroom learning. Teachers can attend one session or all five sessions and have a meaningful experience. Although we will focus on a specific subject area at each session, all teachers will benefit from the arts integration techniques demonstrated. Please share the information, below, with any educators who may be interested in joining us.

Artful Teaching: Using Arts-based Elements to Leverage Core Learning

A Series of Five Workshops

Spring 2012

Monroe #1 BOCES

- Quality arts integration is an energetic solution to the learning challenges faced by your students. The arts engage multiple learning styles, encourage inquiry and wonder, and can make your classroom a place where excitement, discovery and imagination thrive.
- **Join us for a series of five interactive workshops where you learn about and design arts-based approaches for the classroom.**
- *Each workshop is designed to address the needs of both arts specialists and classroom teachers K-12. You are welcome to attend individually or in sequence; any number or combination of these will provide tools for success.*
- Workshops will explore who, what, when, where, how and why of arts integration and its connection to specific core curricular areas. You will be encouraged to design and implement arts integrated approaches for your curriculum area and to become part of a learning community exploring arts-based strategies.
- Individual workshops will focus on integrating the arts into core learning under the following headings.

1. Science and Math	March 5, 2012	3:45 – 5:45
2. Social Studies and ELA	March 19, 2012	3:45 – 5:45
3. Library/Gifted & Talented/Arts Specialists	April 2, 2012	3:45 – 5:45
4. Science and Math	April 16, 2012	3:45 – 5:45
5. Social Studies and ELA	April 30, 2012	3:45 – 5:45

- Join us for one or more of these workshops where you will re-vitalize your engagement with classroom inquiry, creative problem solving, project-based learning and the joy of raising the stakes for your students through the arts.
- If you are interested please register through WinCap by clicking on this link: <https://wincapweb.com> (Under Professional Development -> Catalogs -> Monroe 1 BOCES Technology Model Schools)

-Jen

Up to the TASC

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities, NICHCY, recently published findings from a meta-analysis looking at best practices for special education students learning content at the secondary level. In their August 2011 abstract, 70 studies, spanning more than 20 years, indicate that explicit instruction, also referred to as direct teaching, is one of the top strategies to use with students with disabilities.

Explicit instruction can be described as; teaching information in small steps, followed first by guided practice and then by independent practice. We refer to it as the "I do", "We do" and then "You do". By definition it seems simple. Yet in nearly 170 recent classroom visits, only about 60% of observers saw evidence of "explicit instruction for students with disabilities".

- The TASC Team

Guest Writer

NOSING AROUND with Sally Bailey



Please take the time to watch/listen to [this video](#) (the link is also below). It is taken from the British series BBC2's *The Choir*. In the fourth series, Gareth Malone takes a group of military wives whose husbands/partners are away in Afghanistan on a 6 month tour and turns them into a choir. Gareth looks about 16 years old, but is actually in his mid-30s and a choirmaster for the London Symphony

Orchestra, among other things. They wrote a song based on excerpts from letters written by the couples, while apart and this is the **amazing** result. The single is out in the UK and all the money raised is going to military charities. The Military Wives was given the official single chart #1 award for 2011. I actually listened to it twice (ok, since finishing this, 4 times), as I am in awe!

<http://www.youtube.com/user/militarywiveschoir?feature=watch>



(Editor's Note: If you have something that you would like to share in the Weekly Bulletin as a "Guest Writer," please send it to Mike, Carolyn, or Lisa)
