

Instruction & Technology Weekly Bulletin

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February 06, 2012



“ You must do the things you think you cannot do.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt

Upcoming Events

- 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
- Fri., Mar. 16 – Superintendent’s Conference Day (8:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

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A Message from Mike

There has been a bit of a friendly competition going on near the front of 11 Linden Park. Somehow Carolyn, Lisa, and I got on the subject of how many words each of us could type per minute. One thing led to another and we started challenging one another (and others) on

www.typingtest.com. I was pretty happy with my 51 words per minute until Carolyn put up some serious numbers – 88 words per minute. Doug even felt compelled to email me a screenshot of his score (and a note of encouragement):

BAM!



This whole scenario begs the question, “If I can consistently type more than 50 words per minute, how important is handwriting?” Maybe it doesn’t *beg* the question, but that question does come to mind. Recently the debate about teaching handwriting has surfaced again, this time on the website of *Education Week*. While I am sure that many of you were busy celebrating National Handwriting Day on January 23, others were wondering why precious instructional time is spent learning cursive with the Common Core State Standards looming. Apparently there is enough interest in handwriting to warrant a national conference titled “Handwriting in the 21st Century: An Educational Summit.” This get-together was sponsored by Zaner-Bloser, the publishers of handwriting workbooks. Here are some of the claims made in the *Education Week* article:

- Ms. Berninger noted that when students struggle with handwriting, “people usually think, well, just put them on the computer.” But her studies of normally developing and struggling students learning handwriting suggest that may not be the solution. “It turns out that many of the problems relating to

why they have trouble learning handwriting might also affect how they use a keyboard.”

- When handwriting is not taught, reader comprehension may suffer, according to Steve Graham, a professor of special education and literacy at Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, Tenn., whose research was slated to be presented at the conference.
- But more commonly, having legible but shaky handwriting "strongly impacts people's perception of the quality of the message," he said. In a meta-analysis of research on writing, his research team found that teachers and others scoring students' tests are more likely to give lower marks to papers with less-legible handwriting.
- Not practicing the motor skills associated with writing also makes it more difficult for people to communicate their ideas, Mr. Graham said. If handwriting skills aren't automatic, he said, "it interferes with the whole writing process."

Here is a link to [the full article](#). Steve Graham, a professor of special education at Vanderbilt University, summed up a more centrist view on the subject:

As far as I'm concerned, kids need to have a legible and fluent style of handwriting, and they need to have fluent typing skills," he said. "But that's because I don't want kids to have to think about those things. I want them thinking about what they're going to say and how they're going to say it.

This whole debate seems kind of silly as the cover story of the February 2012 edition of *Wired*, "[Let the Robot Drive: The Autonomous Car of the Future Is Here](#)," is all about how cars will be driving themselves in a few years. So if cars can drive themselves and we no longer require handwriting instruction, can the Trooper still "write" me a ticket? Oh that's right, the tickets are now printed on plain paper from inside the patrol car.

www.AskCarolyn.info

- **Staff News**

- ❖ **Feedback Meetings:** Please review the schedule below for upcoming open forum meetings with Mike.

Date	Time	Location 11 Linden Park
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

- **Staff Reminders**

- ❖ **FMLA Leave** – Please be aware that if an employee is out of work for 5 days or more for the same reason, ie. 5 days for their illness or 5 days for a family illness, they need to complete leave paperwork. This is so Human Resources can complete the regulation form to designate if the time taken qualifies for the Family / Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Time less than 5 days can also be designated as FMLA. If an employee is having surgery, even if it is less than 5 days, it should be designated as FMLA. Directions can be located on our [website](#). Paperwork must be submitted to Robin Hyatt or Tracy Destino as soon as possible.

- ☰ **Human Resources**

- ⊕ **News**

- ⊕ **Benefits**

- ⊕ **Employee Assistance Program**

- ⊕ **General Forms**

- ☑ **Leave Forms**

- 📄 **Leave - Instructions (PDF - 1698 KB)**

- 📄 **Leave - Request for Leave of Absence - Form 1 (DOC - 36 KB)**

- 📄 **Leave - Physician Documentation - Form 2 (DOC - 28 KB)**

- 📄 **Leave - Transportation Return to Work (PDF - 213 KB)**

- 📄 **Emergency Sick Bank (PDF - 42 KB)**

- Carolyn

Technology Tip of the Week

Thanks to John Lydum for sharing this Tip of the Week:

INTRA-CAMPUS FOUR DIGIT DIALING – John Lydum

Tired of trying to remember what number to dial when calling coworkers? Do I dial 8 or 9 to call the O'Connor Campus? Do I dial 4 or 7 digits? Well worry no more, the D.E.P.C. (Department of Extraneous Phone Codes) has dropped the 8! When making Intra-Campus calls to or from the locations listed below you can save time and money by simply dialing the 4 digit extension. We have left in place the ability to dial 8 and the extension for those of you who like to use excessively complex number combinations. Just remember the nausea inducing catch phrase..."Drop the 8, it's great!"



Dial 4 digits when calling

- 11 Linden Park
- 15 Linden Park
- O'Connor Road Campus
- Transportation

Dial 9 when calling

- Emergency 911 calls (Example: 9-911)
- All local or long distance calls (Example: 9-1-800-947-2481)
- Calls to Morgan Bird, Baird Road, Saint James, Saint Ann's, Rochester Museum and Science Center and all other BOCES satellite sites (Example: 9-586-1850)
- Calls to other schools districts (Example: 9-267-3942)

Steve's Space

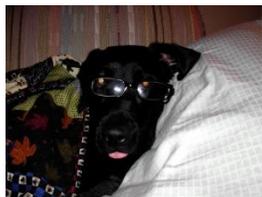
As part of the Skyway Open, on Saturday, February 11, 2012, the [Green Machine](#) will be located inside Eastview Mall next to the BonTon. The Skyway Open is an indoor miniature golf fundraiser which benefits the Rochester Area Mental Health Association. Best Financial, a big supporter of the Challenger Center through Astronaut Pam Melroy, has invited us to represent them and decorate Hole #2. Instead of posters and pictures, we are going to decorate Hole #2 with a 30 foot, bright green, trailer. Tim Allen would be proud. If you are at the mall on Saturday, February 11, 2012, stop by and say hello.

You may remember from a recent bulletin, the Pittsford Central School District was piloting the "Reasons for the Seasons" video conference for their students. This video conference has been well received. In addition to the Pittsford Central School District participation, the Saratoga Springs City School District in Saratoga, NY, has requested this program for their students. Additionally, a teacher from Indiana recently contacted us to discuss this programming and confirm their participation. Nice job everyone.

-Steve

Guest Writer

NOSING AROUND with Sally Bailey



This week my director asked me to write about something work-related and since she's the Big Dog, I thought I should. So, here's what's happening in the library. There is a really cool module in Follett Destiny that we're testing out and offering a **Free 30 day trial** to district librarians. The module is State Standards, at a cost of \$250.00 per year, per site. It is a service designed to assist educators in implementing a curriculum that is aligned to standards. By simply clicking on one of the folders, you can drill down until you reach the level of the standard that meets your needs.

When you click on **Find It**, Destiny returns related websites and the materials in your library that align with the standard.

New York State common core standards can be searched. If your library isn't currently participating in the trial and you're interested in seeing this, call me at 383-6601 or email sally_bailey@boces.monroe.edu.

Browse Subject

-  Communication, Language, and Literacy - Prekindergarten Learning Standards - 2011 [PreK]
-  English Language Arts - Core Curriculum - 2005 [PreK-12]
-  English Language Arts and Literacy - New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards - 2011 [PreK-12]
-  Language Arts - Learning Standards - 2005 [PreK-12]
-  Mathematics - Core Curriculum - 2005 [PreK-12]
-  Mathematics - New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards - 2011 [PreK-12]
-  Science - Core Curriculum - 1999 [K-12]
-  Math, Science and Technology - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  Social Studies - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  Social Studies - Core Curriculum - 2003 [K-12]
-  Economics, the Enterprise System, and Finance - Core Curriculum - 2002 [12]
-  Participation in Government - Core Curriculum - 2002 [12]
-  Health Education - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  Physical Development and Health - Prekindergarten Learning Standards - 2011 [PreK]
-  Physical Education - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  Career Development and Occupational Studies - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  Social and Emotional Development - Prekindergarten Learning Standards - 2011 [PreK]
-  Languages Other Than English (LOTE) - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  English as Second Language - Learning Standards - 2004 [PreK-12]
-  Arts: Dance - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  Arts: Music - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  Arts: Theatre - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]
-  Arts: Visual Arts - Learning Standards - 1996 [PreK-12]