

# Instruction & Technology Weekly Bulletin

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“Today or any day that phone may ring and bring good news.”  
- Ethel Waters

## Upcoming Events

- Sun., April 1 – April Fool’s Day
- Thurs., April 5 – School Librarian Day
- Fri., April 6 – Good Friday and Passover Begins (All Staff Recess)
- Sun., April 8 – Easter
- Mon.-Fri., April 9 – 13 – Recess for 10 and 11 month Staff
- Sun., April 15 – Tax Day

## A Message from Mike

The Pew Internet and American Life Project recently released the results of a survey about [Teens, Smartphones, and Texting](#). If you had to guess, what would you say is the median number of daily texts for a 14-17-year old in the U.S.? Like many of the people I asked informally, I over-estimated. In 2009 it was 60, and by 2011 it had grown to 100 per day. I thought it would have been much higher based on the behavior of my own ten-year-old daughter.

Ever eager to verify my own thinking (or misconceptions) with data, I headed to the Verizon Wireless website look at the numbers. During February 2012, Emma logged 5,822 text messages. This averages out to about 200 per day. She shattered the median. When I wrote about [Emma’s texting habits a little over a year ago](#), she had racked up 3,227 text messages in one monthly billing cycle. At the time, I thought that was a lot. While two data points does not a trend make, I think it is safe to say that Emma’s use of texting has increased. As a person who is deaf, texting is Emma’s primary means of remote communication with her hearing friends and family members. It almost feels like a piece of assistive technology – or better yet, universal design. The proliferation of texting has leveled the playing field when it comes to communication between deaf and hearing people. Now if I could only get her to look up from the phone when I am talking to her in person...that would be an accomplishment...one thing at a time.

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## [www.AskCarolyn.info](http://www.AskCarolyn.info)

- **Staff Kudos**
  - ❖ Mike Langridge, Assistant Principal for Monroe # BOCES Alternative Learning Academy, sent this email to **Jen McLaughlin** praising her work, as well as **Chuck Luke** and **Doreen Pietrantonio**. “Thanks to you and

*your department for the fast response, coaching, and now courteous follow up! I was able to set up an iTunes account and was easily able to download OverDrive. On a personal note, I've already "read" two audio books (I have an hour commute each way) and love it! Thanks again for your great service!"*

- ❖ Brett Daggs, a high school librarian from Honeoye-Falls Lima, sent this note about **Doreen Pietrantoni**. *"Just wanted to say thanks again for the time spend with our attendees yesterday. You are a valuable resource and we will miss your expertise in this area when you make your transition. That said, I am hoping to begin the use of Moodle next year so I will likely be leaning on you for assistance as I attack that learning curve!"*
- ❖ Praises to the Campus team for their support on Superintendent's Conference Day. **Linda Schreib**, who also was a critical component in the success of Superintendent's Conference Day, sent an email to Bill Gregory and Mike Doughty. *"Today made me proud to be a part of **Campus Technology**. We were one of a very few departments throughout campus that had to deal directly with the nuts & bolts of making today work, and every technician on our team made the day look easy. As with every large event we were given information late, and decisions had to be made on the fly and in the moment. Every technician stepped up to the plate and covered the areas we requested them to cover and made those decisions. I heard from a number of people how smoothly the technology in each of the sessions flowed, and the issues that could not be solved were few, and a work around was found for the most part. The technicians on this team definitely deserve a huge kudos for their hard work, but mostly for their flexibility. I would also like to say that while I say technician, I use that term loosely, I would like to include **Debi**, our non-tech guru of all, she facilitated all the equipment I got ready to be loaned out for this event, and put up with all my changes and last minute decisions. I work with a wonderful team."*
- ❖ **Joey Guisto** received this email from a student's parent, Mike Sutton. Mike was thanking Joey and Susan VanAcker, School to Career Coordinator, Wayne Central High School for their support and help with his son, Trevor. *Thank you so much to both of you and what you have done to make opportunities like this available. I have been a dedicated listener since I moved back to Rochester from Florida. It was nice to find a station playing the likes of The Smiths, Morrissey, and Erasure. Incredible things WBER has done for our music community. Next year for a WBER fund raiser, they should do bidding on the NCAA brackets. Don't be afraid to put Trevor to work!! You can tell him his father said so. Thanks again, WBER.*

- **Staff News**

- ❖ **2 hour Absence Requests**

- All 2 hour absence requests must be approved. Forms must be completed and submitted 48 hours in advance. PSP unit members are **not** required to provide documentation. BUP unit members are required to provide a doctor's note. All doctor's receipts are filed in the staff members personnel file, which is located at the Foreman Center. Only the HR director and the employee have access to his/her personnel file.

- ❖ **Baby Congratulations**

- Paulette and John Costanza have announced the arrival of a second grandchild. Proud parents, Chet and Amy welcomed **Zack Holcomb** on Monday, March 19, 2012. As his proud grandma stated, *"He's a healthy, 8 lb. 5 oz. baby boy with blue eyes, dark brown (peach fuzz) hair and the cutest button nose."* Zack has a 17 month old brother named Luke.



- **Staff Reminders**

- ❖ **11 Linden Park Staff:** This is a reminder that when staff leave the premises for lunch or meetings (this does not include going to 15 Linden) you are required to sign in and out at the front desk.

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

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

-Carolyn

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## Technology Tip of the Week

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

### Quick Copy in Excel & Access

Cut and paste is a 4 step process. However, if you know the trick, you can easily copy in just 2 keystrokes.

To enter data in Excel (or in Access Datasheet mode) you can copy the data from the cell above by holding down the **Ctrl** key and typing a single quote ' (the key next to the Enter key.) This can save you typing strokes, and you don't have to touch the mouse.



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## Jeremiah's Jottings

It has now been three months since we completely converted to the new help desk system. The transition has been extremely smooth. What has helped with this is the purposeful and thoughtful implementation that the help desk team has gone through. Now that the new system is solidly in place, we are beginning to review the workflow of help and support for each service. We have two basic questions:

- 1) How do the users of the service find help when they need it?
- 2) What happens when the answer to #1 doesn't work?

You may be hearing from us as we move forward and review the way the help desk supports each service.

Speaking of the help desk, I had the opportunity to be present when someone met Pam in person for the first time. It was wonderful to hear the thanks and appreciation for the high level of support provided. Way to go Pam and the whole help desk team, Ken Owens, Steve Schoen and Nancy Eppstein.

-Jeremiah

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

We're sure that after you see *The Hunger Games* at the movie theater this weekend, you will want to know more about Katniss and Peeta. Visit [OverDrive](#) to check out the trilogy written by Suzanne Collins. The audiobook of *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay* have been among our top circulating items.

A brief summary of *The Hunger Games* from OverDrive:

- ❖ "In the ruins of a place once known as North America, lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen, to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.
- ❖ Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead before-and survival, for her, is second nature. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love."



On another note, the Monroe #1 BOCES School Library System presents a full day [workshop](#) with Stephen Abram. Steven is a veteran library watcher, strategic technologist and library futurist. In this session he shares his perspectives on these issues, challenges, and opportunities. Steven is the past-President of the Canadian Library Association and is currently the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Markets for Cengage Learning (Gale). He will present on April 2, 2012. Seats are still available. If you are interested, please contact Bobbi Persson at [bobbi\\_persson@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:bobbi_persson@boces.monroe.edu).

-Jen

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## Steve's Space

The Green Machine made its first debut in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year. Check out the photos. As we drove by, we had a great deal of fun listening to "excruciatingly happy" people chant Green Machine! Green Machine! In addition to the chants as we drove by, Senator Joe Robach introduced us over the loud speaker. A long day, but the day was very rewarding.



-Steve

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## Up to the TASC



Happy Spring! As we welcomed in the first official day of spring this week, it actually felt a little more like summer. The unseasonably warm weather and sunshine leaves those winter lovers longing for a good snowstorm. I, for one, am a huge fan of spring or even summer-like weather and sunshine. I think it makes everyone smile a little more and feel a little better, perhaps hopeful. So, given all of the initiatives snowballing toward educators, the unexpected mild weather is like a breath of fresh air. It makes the overwhelming, somehow a little more manageable. It's a good reminder, that although there is much work to be done, we need to celebrate the little surprises in life. Hopefully, you all had the opportunity to take time to breathe it in and just enjoy the unexpected mild weather earlier this week!

-The TASC Team

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