



Weekly Bulletin



I never made a mistake in grammar but one in my life and as soon as I done it I seen it.”

- Carl Sandburg, American Poet

Upcoming Events

- Mon., Aug. 13 – International Left Handers Day
- Aug. 16-17 – Regents Exams ([link to the schedule](#))
- Fri., Aug. 17 – Last Day of ESY
- Mon., Sept. 3 – Labor Day
- Mon., Sept. 9 – Grandparents Day
- Sept. 16-18 – Rosh Hashanah
- Wed., Sept. 19 – International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- Wed., Sept. 26 – Yom Kippur

Follow this [link to the BOCES Calendar of Events](#)

A Message from Mike

Look at your phone. What are the last five text messages you received? If you had to give a grade to each of the senders of those texts based on correctness of their grammar, what would they receive? There are many websites devoted entirely to displaying the funny, sad, scary, and unfortunate text messages from all kinds of people. I will spare you those links.

In a recent study published in the journal *New Media & Society* titled, "[Texting, techspeak, and tweens: The relationship between text messaging and English grammar skills](#)," Authors Drew Cingel and S. Shyam Sundar found that how teens text has a relationship to how they perform on English grammar assessments:

Results show broad support for a general negative relationship between the use of techspeak in text messages and scores on a grammar assessment...These results indicate that adolescents may learn through observation in communication technologies, and that these learned adaptations may be transferred to standard English.

I am happy to report that my bride and my parents nearly always text in complete sentences and use appropriate punctuation. My ten-year-old daughter...not so much. I suppose when you send or receive 2,316 text messages in a two-week period, it might be necessary to abbreviate. As I was writing this, Emma and I exchanged the following texts:

Me: I need you to send me a picture of yourself making a "come on, Dad" face with a lot of attitude, the kind of face you make when I tell you that you need to use complete sentences and correct grammar in your text messages.

Emma: Done. LMK if you want a different one.

Me: Really? You are wearing your bathing suit? Put on a shirt.

Emma: I can edit it out.



I can't imagine **not** writing complete sentences in text messages. I remember how excited I was when I finally got a cell phone that had a semicolon key. Yes, I am kind of a nerd when it comes to grammar. Theresa would tell you there is

In this Issue

Upcoming Events 1

A Message from Mike 1

Technology Tip of the Week 2

ESY News..... 2

Services Update 3

Program Updates 3

Connecting with a Colleague 3

News and Notes 4

nothing “kind of” about it. Now that it is illegal to text while driving, there is no excuse for poor grammar; haul out those semicolons. Please be sure you use them correctly; semicolons can only connect two independent clauses. Based on the results of the study above, it’s our job as adults to demonstrate appropriate communication for the children and young adults in our lives. The next time you get ready to hit send on your phone, remember that you are modeling the communication that you expect and that how students text may translate to how they use written language in other media. Based on Emma’s picture, you can see how much she loves it when I tell her to use real words and complete sentences in her texts. With that, C U L&R.

- Mike Doughty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Technology Tip of the Week

Thanks to Bill Gregory, Coordinator of Technology Operations, for submitting this Tip of the Week:

With Windows 7 you can quickly and easily have a “split” screen with your one monitor. In order to accomplish this, do the following:

1. Open the first application.
2. Ensure it is not maximized (filling the whole screen).
3. Now move your mouse to the title bar at the top of the window, click the mouse and drag that window to the left edge of the screen. Keep dragging until the mouse reaches the edge of the screen and you will see the outline of the window jump out to the center of the screen. Let up the mouse button. The application will now be automatically sized to fill only half the screen.
4. Repeat steps 1 and 2 with the second application.
5. Drag it, as in step 3, but this time to the RIGHT side of the screen.

You will now have equally sized applications on the right and left sides of your monitor.

ESY News

As the world turns its attention towards the much anticipated Summer Olympics in London, the Monroe #1 BOCES District-Based Program created their own Olympic Opening Ceremony to usher in the 2012 Extended School Year. After three weeks of academic rigor and preparation in the classroom, all District-Based teachers collaboratively provided students with the unique opportunity to expand their horizons and gain a global perspective on the world in an interactive manner.



All 17 District-Based classrooms chose a nation participating in the 2012 Summer Olympics and researched important facts about their nation to present at the ceremony. On Monday, July 30, 2012, the ceremony commenced. Each student and classroom, dressed in costumes traditional to their chosen country, showcased their nation with a parade in the ERHS Gymnasium. Each classroom and student shared their chosen nation’s flag, a classroom flag, and important facts with the audience comprised of Bird-Morgan School and District-Based Classes. In keeping with the ancient Greek Olympic tradition, the ceremony concluded with the passing of a torch to one student nominated by each classroom to represent the torch passing. As the torch passed from hand to hand, the audience applause and appreciation grew tremendously in size and volume.

Congratulations to all students and teachers who participated in the 2012 Extended School Year Olympic Opening Ceremony. This event created a platform and opportunity to learn about the culture of other nations, as well as develop a rooting interest as they watch the Olympics. Now Let the Games Begin...

- Shomar Burroughs, Emily Dailey, Linda Lucey, & Daniel Tyler

Services Update



IT's about the Learning

The Teaching, Learning, and Technology Conference was a big success this year. The staff from BOCES and our lead district, HFL, did an amazing job. We had participants who came from as far as the Oswego area to participate. Many commented on the quality of the presentations and the importance of the conversations that occurred between sessions. Due to budget concerns this year, we planned for a smaller conference. However, we actually had about a 25% increase in attendance. Nazareth, our host college, was as accommodating as ever.

Here are some of the comments from participants:

- "This is one of the best technology conferences I have been to. The quality of the presenters, they really knew their stuff. They took the time to be sure we all understood."
- "I know we don't have any money to buy new equipment, but I'll give up my textbooks if we will be able to use this."
- "I think I may have come the farthest and it was worth the trip" (I looked it up. He came the second farthest.)
- "I have been coming here for four years. I figured I had run out of anything to learn...thanks for proving me wrong."
- "Please tell me you are doing this next year."

For me it was nice to see all of the state initiatives wound throughout the conference AND YET the focus was on something else: Teaching, Learning, and Technology

- Jeremiah Okal-Frink, Director of Learning and School Improvement

Program Updates



I have been an administrator for the Eastern Monroe Career Center (EMCC) since 1999. I spent the first four years as an assistant principal and the past nine years as the principal. As principal of EMCC I am responsible for the successful delivery of 18 Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs that are supported by our 10 component districts. Approximately seven hundred 11th & 12th graders are enrolled. Every program meets industry standards, integrates academics and provides students with the technical skills needed to acquire certifications/licenses for their chosen career. Additionally, eleven programs offer Dual Enrollment (*formerly Dual Credit*) covering 26 college courses from MCC or GCC.

This past year 160 students earned a total of 1,099 college credits through their CTE program. Approximately 70 % of the students who attended EMCC and graduate enroll in college. Almost 30% work and go to college at the same time.

Our website is: www.monroe.edu/emcc where you can find course descriptions, data and videos regarding our programs.

- John Lisak, Principal, EMCC-WEP

Connecting with a Colleague

Each week, a staff member will be selected to complete a brief questionnaire to help us get to know him or her. This week we are connecting with **Karen Barner**.

- ***What are your primary responsibilities?*** My primary responsibilities include writing FBA/BIPs for students, collaborating with classroom PLCs, training staff, and analyzing data to monitor behavior plans.
- ***How long have you worked at BOCES?*** I have worked at BOCES for 23 years. I started as a speech language pathologist in an integrated pre-K program. As an SLP, I have worked with the ASD population in pre-K, District Based, and Bird/Morgan. Last summer, I switched positions to Behavior Specialist.



- ***What is your favorite part of your job?*** My favorite part of the job is seeing the smiles on the kids' faces when they know they have done a great job!!!
- ***What do you enjoy doing in your free time?*** I enjoy shopping. I LOVE shoes!!! I also like hiking and kayaking.
- ***What is the one thing you would like people to know about you?*** I have worked with students on the Autism Spectrum for 30 years. I believe every student is a puzzle and it's my job to fit the pieces together to help them be the best they can be.

Look for a different colleague to be profiled each week.

News and Notes

- 2012 GED Graduating Class – On July 19th, thirteen adult GED graduates participated in the 2012 graduation ceremony at the West Irondequoit High School Auditorium. Of the 64 GED graduates who successfully completed the program, these thirteen graduates were available to participate in the ceremony. Congratulations to you all! The 2012 Adult GED class expressed "Thanks to our teachers, counselors and... [more info](#).



- If you have news or notes that you would like to have included in the Weekly Bulletin, please send the information to Lisa Pickett at lisa_pickett@boces.monroe.edu by the end of the day on Wednesday.