



Weekly Bulletin

“ It’s the most wonderful time of the year.”
- *That Staples Commercial*

Upcoming Events

- Mon., Sept. 3 – Labor Day (Recess)
- Tues., Sept. 4 – First Day of School for Teachers
- Wed., Sept. 5 – First Day of School for Students
- Mon., Sept. 9 – Grandparents’ Day
- Wed., Sept. 11 – Patriot 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

Many people have rituals or routines that they perform before big, important events. Before my first day of teaching fifth grade at Churchville-Chili Middle School, I watched one of my favorite movies: *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*. Since that Labor Day in 1996, I have done the same thing before every opening day of school. It has gotten to the point that Emma has already started asking when we are going to watch “Ferris” this year. If you have never seen the movie, it revolves around the title character (played by a very young Matthew Broderick) who fakes out his parents with a phony illness so that he can skip school to hang out with his friends. At one point Ferris tells the camera, “Life moves pretty fast; if you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

I remember one late August early in my career as an elementary school principal. The building in which I was working had been under heavy construction all summer. One afternoon in the midst of dust and debris, I was talking my father, who at that time was a high school principal. I told him that I was worried that we would not be ready for the students the following week. I will never forget what he said: “It doesn’t matter if you’re ready or not; the kids are coming.” The kids are coming, and I would like to thank all of the people from many departments who have worked so hard to clean, move, build, set up, and prepare classrooms for students. School buildings do not get themselves ready. Please do not underestimate the importance of your time and effort in getting ready for the inevitable arrival of our students.

In this crazy and busy time, I encourage you to enjoy the excitement and anticipation of opening day and opening week, but please make sure that you heed Ferris Bueller’s advice: *stop and look around* at all the great things going on.

- Mike Doughty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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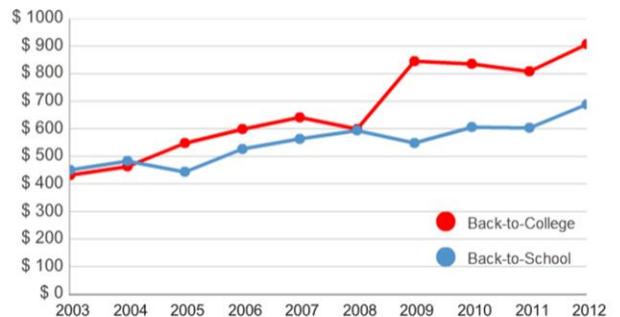
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Data Snapshot

**Back-to-School and Back-to-College
Average Spending by Year**



2012 Back-to-School and Back-to-College Surveys conducted by BIGinsight, 8,509 respondents

(Source: [National Retail Federation](#))

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 **Helen Ramos**.



- **What are your primary responsibilities?** I support Business Office administrators and staff, process cell phone and Option 2 mileage reimbursements, and have many other clerical responsibilities.
- **How long have you worked at BOCES?** I have been happily employed for three years in October.
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** The people I work with at BOCES are the favorite part of my job.
- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** I enjoy spending time with family and friends, taking long walks, bike rides, and leisurely rides in my convertible.
- **What is the one thing you would like people to know about you?** I live by the golden rule...treat others as you want to be treated.

Look for a different colleague to be profiled each week. We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please email [Lisa Pickett](mailto:Lisa.Pickett@booces.org).

Services Update

Instructional Programs

The Green Machine will kick off opening day of school at Flower City School #54 on Wednesday, September 5. We were invited to be part of their opening day, which will focus on getting students excited about science, technology, engineering, and math STEM. Senator Robach and the Rochester City School District Superintendent, Dr. Bolgen Vargas plan to attend as do representatives from the mayor's office and Louise Slaughter's office. Our goal is to excite students about learning, on their very first day of class, in the hope that they will maintain a positive attitude all year long.

- Steve Orcutt, Director of Instructional Programs



Technology Tip of the Week

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

Quickly insert a horizontal line in your Word document without going to the Borders and Shading dialog box. All you need to do is type three dashes and then quickly hit the Enter key. I have also included examples of other lines you can insert by typing other symbols three times quickly, followed by the Enter key.



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(three equal signs) === Enter

(three asterisks) *** Enter

(three pound signs) ### Enter

(three tildes) ~~~ Enter

(three underscores) ___ Enter

News and Notes

Monroe #1 BOCES programs were featured in an article in the September 2012 issue of the magazine *In Good Health*. Author Ernst Lamothe described how special education programs continue to change to meet the needs of students. To read the full text of the article, follow this [link](#).

In this picture from the article, Autumn, (left), a University of Rochester Transition class student, works with teacher Sherri Stulpin to learn how to balance a checkbook. Students participate in campus programs half days and work half days to develop living and workplace skills.



SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

Thanks to Kelly Endres, Coordinator, Midwest Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center (Midwest RSE-TASC), for the following explanation:

What is a PLC?

A PLC or Professional Learning Community is an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively to achieve better results for the students. PLCs focus on inquiry and action research with a commitment to improved learning.

Three Big Ideas threaded throughout PLCs include

- 1. Ensuring that students learn not that they are taught*
- 2. Creating and maintaining a culture of collaboration among professionals*
- 3. Focusing on results and holding yourselves accountable*

For more information on PLCs, please check out the [link](#). If you have an acronym that you think needs explaining, please email [Lisa Pickett](#).