



Weekly Bulletin

“What people need to do is specialize in the impossible.”
- Theodore Roethke

Upcoming Events

- Oct., 14 – Oct. 20 – National School Lunch Week
- Tues., Oct., 16 – National Boss Day
- Sat., Oct. 20 – Sweetest Day
- Oct., 21 – Oct. 27 – National School Bus Safety Week
- Wed., Oct. 24 – United Nations Day
- Wed., Oct. 31 – Halloween
- Tues., November 6 – Election Day

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

A Message from Mike

“What are you working on?” That’s the question I usually open with when I talk with students in classrooms. One of the best parts of my job is that I have the opportunity to visit many different classrooms during the week. From Bird/Morgan to EMCC to Creekside to START/ALA and to District Based, I get to see students of all ages and ability levels engaged in meaningful, respectful, and productive work. When I ask that question, I’m sure you can imagine the diversity of responses I receive. Most students are able to tell me exactly what they are doing:

- “We have to read this article and fill in this graphic organizer”
- “I’m folding towels for the cafeteria.”
- “We’re learning how to factor quadratics.”
- “I’m sorting these keys.”

Often students go beyond describing what they are doing by telling me why they are doing it. This is what one of our Emergency Services students in the basic class told me last week about an activity they were doing:

“We are trying to tell the people on the other end of the radio how to build this so that we can see how hard it can be to give directions over the radio.”

This was a very difficult task. If you’ve ever tried to tell someone how to put something together over the phone you know how hard it can be. All I could think of as I watched these students work was the story of the Apollo 13 Mission. The students’ level of understanding of the purpose of the task and the expected learning goes way beyond, “because the teacher told me to.” In one way or another, we all plan for instruction. Whether it’s a lesson on poaching pears or a meeting about APPR, there needs to be a clearly articulated purpose for the work. Do the participants know what they are doing and why they are doing it? Could they explain it to someone else? Everyone is busy, and time is a precious commodity. Clarity of purpose is essential for doing quality work.

- Mike Doughty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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Data Snapshot

1,450

the number of people that Monroe #1 BOCES employs

Programs and Services Update



October is **National Physical Therapy Month**. Here are some statistics about our wonderful Physical Therapy Department:

- We have 15 physical therapists.
- We are in over 49 different schools in and around Monroe County for Physical Therapy Services.
- Our Physical Therapy department serves over 350 students.

- *Jamie R. Wing, MS Ed. OTR/L, Coordinator of Occupational and Physical Therapy Program*



Two BOCES services, the Monroe County School Business Partnership (School to Career) and the Rochester Area Career Education Collaborative (RACEC) are currently being restructured and will be offered as the **College and Career Ready Partnership (CCRP)** for the upcoming 2013-14 program year.

College and Career Ready services will specialize in creating valuable business-education connections and career experiences for students **and** teachers. Focus will be placed on strengthening students' 21st century skills and college and career readiness.

Services will include developing career pathways in areas growing in our region, providing events and activities for teachers and students in member districts to strengthen awareness of 21st century skills, and providing connections to the Rochester Business Alliance, the STEM Hub, Rochester Works, and numerous business partners.

Another focus during the upcoming year will be to enhance relationships with local post-secondary institutions and to develop additional activities that will link the K-12 system with our local colleges.

- *Jeff Dillon, Coordinator, College and Career Ready Partnership*

Technology Tip of the Week

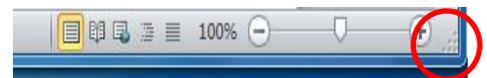
Thanks to Diane Smith for submitting this Tip of the Week:



Enlarging Windows Dialog boxes

Did you know that many windows can be enlarged? They have a "Magic Corner." Look in the lower right corner of the window for a triangular arrangement of dots or lines. Click on that corner and you will get an arrow. When you get the arrow, you can click and drag the window to a larger size.

(Anyone is welcome to submit a tip.)



News and Notes

October is "National Bullying Prevention Month"



What began as a week-long campaign in 2006 has evolved into a month-long effort that encourages everyone to take part in efforts to reduce bullying and harassing behaviors. It is my belief that this should be a continuous effort. We should always do all that we can to protect and guide our kids in an ever-changing world. Recently, the Dignity for all Students Act, also known as DASA or the Dignity Act, was enacted in New York State to help schools work on achieving this goal. Specifically, the Dignity Act seeks to provide a safe school environment, free of all forms of harassment or discrimination, by requiring schools to update policies, develop improved procedures for response, document incidents of harassment, and provide staff and student awareness training.

While these are important initiatives that will be ongoing at Monroe #1 BOCES, we must also take a hard look at ourselves and ask if we are doing enough to prevent and respond to bullying and harassment. In our roles as educators, parents, and community members, are we doing enough to teach our kids how to manage their emotions, problem-solve, show empathy and concern, and make ethical and responsible decisions (offline or online)? Are we ourselves role-modeling appropriate behaviors by always treating others with respect and dignity? Are we building the necessary trust so that young people will report instances of bullying to adults? Are we working with parents to collaborate on this issue together? Are we consistently intervening when we witness bullying?

Bullying and harassment of young people should be called what it is—**peer abuse**. It is abusive because it results in emotional harm for the target, who is a real child, not a statistic. We will continue to make strides in reducing harassment by recognizing that we all play a role in teaching our students positive life skills and knowing that we can only accomplish this by working together. Bullying prevention starts with you!

- Jim Colt, Coordinator of School Safety and Security



Bill Hurley will present another DASA Training for Monroe #1 employees on **October 22 at 3PM in room 1AB at 15 Linden Park**. Please email Bill Hurley if you are interested in attending.

- Bill Hurley, Program Coordinator, Mental Health

SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

Thanks to Alissa Mayer, Regional Special Education Training Specialist, Midwest Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center (RSE-TASC), for the following explanation:

LEP/SPED (Limited English Proficient and Special Education Students) for more information refer to section 154.3(l) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, or please contact Margarita Reyes at the Midwest RSE-TASC at margarita_reyes@boces.monroe.edu.

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 **Alii Farrell**.

What are your primary responsibilities? I am an English teacher in the ALA/START high school program. This year, I primarily teach 6:1:1 English 11 and English 12 classes. Additionally, I teach English 11 and 12 for General Education students who have had a difficult time working within the constraints of their district high school. Three years ago, the START and ALA teachers, along with Instructional Specialist, Jay Rotundo, began working on completely revamping our curriculum maps. Based upon our work, we were prepared for the implementation of common core curriculum. I am really proud to be among this group of teachers implementing the common core.



How long have you worked at BOCES? I began with BOCES at Rush Campus, also known as Harris Green, in August, 2005. I still miss being able to look out my classroom windows to see huge horses rolling around in the meadow (although, I do not miss being blocked by a very large cow on my way into work one day!) I followed the RUSH program to building 9 and later into the merged ALA program in building 10 on the Foreman Campus.

I met Joann Genthner my first summer working for BOCES and loved working with her so I was very excited to discover she would be the principal for the new ALA/START program. BTW, if we had a "Best Shoes on Campus" award, she would win it!

What is your favorite part of your job? Working with students who often claim to "hate" English! I live, breathe, and sleep all of the elements of ELA (English Language Arts). I believe our purpose in life is to share with others. It is what drives my passion for everything I do. I think people everywhere are searching for ways to make meaning of their lives. I truly believe there is a way to make a connection between what any individual student currently loves and ELA. For some, it might take many attempts but eventually they will realize that reading will open up windows into new worlds and ways of thinking. Reading encompasses so much more than 'paper' books; ereaders, Facebook, street signs. Writing can be used as a powerful tool to express themselves. It doesn't have to be *War and Peace*, it can be posting on a Facebook wall or texting on your smartphone. Hopefully, all of my students will recognize the power of reading and writing and incorporate them into their own lives.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? Reading (surprised?). I am usually reading four books at a time and I am addicted to reading an eclectic assortment of magazines like *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, *Vanity Fair* and *American Cinematographer*. My absolute favorite thing to do is snuggling with my daughters while we read together. My youngest daughter has lately become enamored of Skyrim and I love sitting as a family and watching her as she slays dragons. I also LOVE XBOX Kinect and my daughters and I are currently dancing with the Black-Eyed Peas. I love to dance and, as a former vocalist in a band, I enthusiastically sing along really loudly to music (as long as it is not country ☹). My favorite time? Sunday nights when my three step-sons join us for dinner and we all play family games like *Loaded Questions* or *Hoss*.

What is the one thing you would like people to know about you? Only one thing?! I have a love/hate relationship with red pens as I feel they have been used too frequently by English teachers to torture students with grammatical corrections and, in the process, squelch awesome ideas. Also, I want Alanis Morissette to write a song that actually has instances of irony rather than coincidence!

Look for a different colleague to be profiled each week.