

# Weekly Bulletin

“Give light, and the darkness will disappear of itself.”  
- Desiderius Erasmus

## Upcoming Events

- 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
- Mon., November 11 – Veterans Day
- Nov. 11– Nov. 17 – National School Psychology Week
- Nov. 11– Nov. 17 – American Education Week

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

## A Message from Mike

There is something about heavy work that brings out the conversation in Emma. The other night on the way home from swim practice, here’s how the conversation went:

*Mike: How was practice?*  
*Emma: Good. My muscles hurt.*  
*Mike: That’s how you know you worked hard.*  
*Emma: Coach gave me my ribbons from the last meet – four seconds and one first.*  
*Mike: That’s cool. How do you feel when you don’t win first place in a race?*  
*Emma: Fine, as long as I get a best time.*  
*Mike: So it’s about getting better?*  
*Emma: [with dramatic and excessive eye roll] Of course it’s about getting better.*

Continuous improvement is bigger than a ten-year-old getting best times in five races. Recently I have met with several teachers for post-observation conferences, and that was the recurring theme with these thoughtful and reflective teachers. I was impressed with their willingness to look at their own practice and think about different ways to approach instruction and meet students’ needs.

You may have heard about a little something called APPR. The changes to state law and Commissioner’s Regulations related to the annual professional performance review (APPR) have resulted in significant shifts for the 723 school districts and 37 BOCES across New York State in the way teachers and principals are being evaluated. As we continue to negotiate our local process and roll out our new procedures, it’s important to

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## Data Snapshot

97%

The percentage of former EMCC students who are employed or in college (based on 2010-2011 data)



remember that the primary purpose of any evaluation is to improve practice. Like Grandma Doughty used to say, “You don’t have to be sick to get better.” And according to Emma, “Of course it’s about getting better.” No eye roll necessary.

- Mike Doughty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

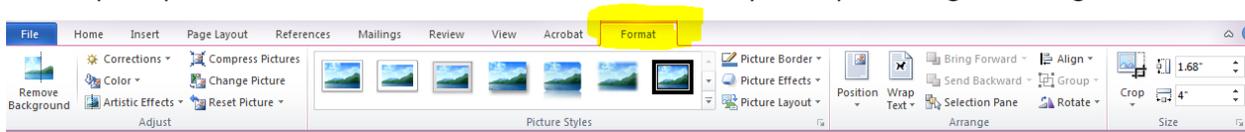
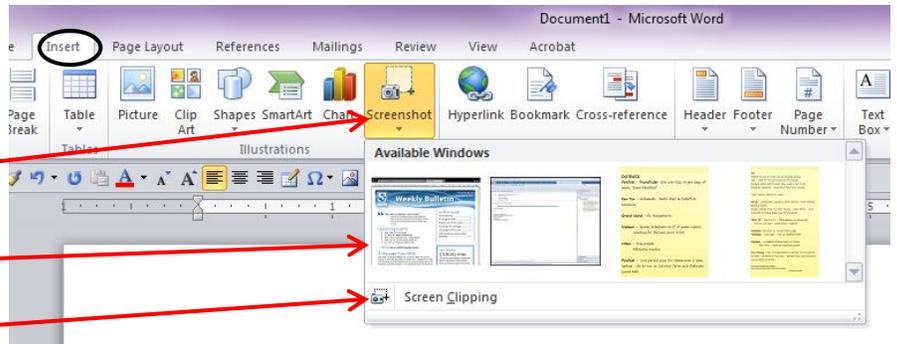
## Technology Tip of the Week

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

### Grabbing a Screen Shot while in Microsoft Word

If you have multiple windows open and want to copy something from another window into your Word document you can do it easily from Word.

1. Make sure you have a window open with what you want to capture.
2. In Word, go to the **Insert** ribbon.
3. Click on **Screenshot**.
4. If you want the whole window, click on the one you want here.
5. OR - To select just a portion of the window, click on **Screen Clipping**.
6. Then **Drag** to select the part of the screen to paste into Word.
7. Word will open up the **Format** ribbon with commands that will let you crop or change the image.



## Programs and Services Update

### Adult Education

The Monroe #1 BOCES Adult Education Department is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET III) Grant by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The grant will be used to support educational and job training programs provided to Food Stamp recipients in order to help them obtain and retain employment. Monroe #1 BOCES will be responsible for providing adult literacy education (ESOL and/or High School Equivalency preparation), career training, career counseling, job readiness, assistance with finding employment, follow-up, and job retention. This will require one part time counselor, Amy Burmeister, to work closely with our literacy and career training staffs as we identify eligible students and provide additional services to assist them in obtaining their goals.

- Arlene Crestuk, Coordinator for Adult Literacy



(From left to right)-Annette Christensen, Exec. Coordinator, Adult Ed/HS GED/MOF/Assessment Center, Amy Burmeister, Counselor for the FSET grant, and Arlene Crestuk, Coordinator. for Adult Literacy.

## Instructional Services

We always hear about how important it is to work together to maximize efficiency and to work smarter. Over the last few weeks the warehouse, repair, and courier service have demonstrated these concepts. The warehouse has been shorthanded for several weeks. Steve Schoen and Ken Owens have filled in on the big truck and Matt Loiacono, one of our couriers, has been tagging equipment as fast as it comes in. Chris Jehle has also stepped out of her typical duties to help out with tagging. Matt has also been trained to operate the forklift and large cube truck thanks to Steve Schoen and Health and Safety. By sharing responsibilities across three departments and showing a willingness to step up and help out, you have demonstrated what can be accomplished by working together. Thank you to everyone involved for your help and support. Your actions are fine examples of teamwork and initiative. Keep up the great work.

- Steve Orcutt, Director of Instructional Programs

## 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 **Wendy Petry**.

- *What are your primary responsibilities?* At the School Library System, the Arts in Education program helps participating school districts get aid for events. Schools can support their curriculum with a museum visit or by having a guest speaker. We make sure the events meet NYS standards, which allows districts to submit for state aid. The aid goes toward school events for the following year. My desk is also the conduit for InterLibrary loan materials from public libraries to the schools. It is a long path of paperwork, but also involves much customer service with many different schools.
- *How long have you worked at BOCES?* I started in 2002, and felt very lucky to be hired during the recession after September 11th, 2001. My previous work was with several non-profits that ranged from disability rights to environmental grants. A large part of my time at BOCES was with the Mid-West Regional School Support Center and I just came to Technology Services from the Harris Building. I had no knowledge of the School Library System before this past June.
- *What is your favorite part of your job?* Finding a method that works, whether it is for storing papers or a way to streamline data entry. It is easier for me to focus when there is less visual clutter.
- *What do you enjoy doing in your free time?* I spend time with friends and family, listen to audio books (I'm thinking of getting a Kindle Fire), walk, swim, and play cards. My mom just turned 95 this summer, so I try to spend as much time with her as I can.
- *What is the one thing you would like people to know about you?* Life goes by so fast. Take a little time to slow down, take a deep breath, and enjoy what is around you.



Look for a different colleague to be profiled each week.

## SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

Thanks to Alissa Mayer, Jennifer Marafioti, and Margarita Reyes, Midwest RSE-TASC, for the following explanation:

**LEP/ELL (Limited English Proficient/English Language Learner)** Pupils with limited English proficiency shall mean pupils who by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, speak a language other than English, and

- 1) either understand and speak little or no English; or
- 2) score below a state designated level of proficiency, on the Language Assessment Battery-Revised (LAB-R) or the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT)

# News and Notes



October is National Disability Employment Awareness (NDEAM) month. NDEAM is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can **YOU** Do?"

NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." For more information about NDEAM, please follow this [link](#).

- Teena Fitzroy, Family Information Specialist



## Garbage Plates in the Morning

Thank you to the students in Shannon Speranza's Advanced Culinary Arts class at EMCC for inviting me to sample the garbage plates they made on Friday. Their hot sauce was some of the best I have ever tasted. There's nothing like a garbage plate at 9:30 in the morning.

## Required Trainings Now Available Online

Monroe #1 BOCES subscribes to a service called Global Compliance Network (GCN), which allows employees to complete required trainings (e.g., Right to Know training, which includes Bloodborne Pathogens, Fire Extinguisher, and Hazard Communications). If you have missed the training(s) in your department or would like to explore the hundreds of other trainings available, please follow this [link](#) to the Staff Zone where you will find the directions.

## Dignity Act Training

Another DASA Training for Monroe #1 employees will be offered 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

On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> through Monday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 250 New York State administrators gathered in Saratoga Springs for the Annual Fall Conference, entitled Overcoming the Odds. BOCES administrators, Dennis Glaser, Coordinator of Admissions, Shomar Burroughs, Assistant Principal of the District Based Program, and I were among the lucky participants of this learning opportunity. As most of you are aware, New York State is in the midst of many school reform efforts. Faculty and staff, as well as administrators, are feeling the effects of implementing APPR, SLOs, and Common Core Learning Standards in addition to making sure the quality of instruction and support for our students continues to be the stellar service BOCES has always strived to provide. Throughout this conference, the message was clear: Our students need us to continue providing sound instructional programs. They need to continue hearing the message that they, the students, are the reason we come to work every day and our commitment is to ensure they receive programming that supports their strengths and develops their areas of need.

Throughout the two day conference, uplifting messages of motivation and hope were delivered by Darrell "Coach D" Andrews and Dr. Almitra Berry who reinforced that our students, now more than ever, need us to focus on how to help them achieve all that they can be. On Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, Board of Regents Chancellor, Merryl Tisch addressed the conference participants. During her speech, she acknowledged that the APPR process has not been easy and there are things that could have/should have been done differently (most importantly she noted that participation and input from teachers and administrators in the



*Shomar Burroughs (left) and Johnathon Kozol, keynote speaker at the conference*

development of the process could have been different/better). She verbally committed to us that this process will most likely need revisions and that input from the stakeholders will be used to revise the system as needed. Her participation in the conference sent a powerful message to the group of leaders in the room who want to support our teams through this process while ensuring that New York State students are receiving what they need to be successful.

President Elect, Karl Thielking, in his Acceptance Message, encouraged us all to focus on the students and find the opportunities for growth in these new initiatives. Karl's message "not to dwell on the negativities and let the process unfold" was one of encouragement and hope that SAANYS will continue to do whatever is needed to support our students. With change, comes frustration, angst, uncertainty, and opportunity to do things differently. The District Based Team is poised to weather these changes by remembering that "Our Iceberg might be melting", but as a team we will come together to use this as an opportunity for supporting one another, learning together, and continuing to provide outstanding programming for the students of the District Based Program. We will work together to support our students. We realize that it won't be an easy journey, but together, we will 'change and succeed under any conditions' because as a team we can do it. We will do it for our kids.

Keynote speaker, Jonathan Kozol, author of many books including his latest, *Fire in the Ashes*, has dedicated his life's work to supporting some of the neediest students of New York City. Kozol reminded us that "Childhood should be a time of joyfulness and playfulness. We need to focus on the children, not the numbers. You only go through childhood once." To my District Based team, continue to believe in the work you do each day, continue to strive for greatness for your students, and continue to remember that as a team we will make it through these challenges and in the end our students will be enriched. Thank you for all you do for our kids every day.

- Cyndi Lembo, Principal, District Based Program

