Weekly Bulletin

MONROE #1 BOCES
Innovation
Collaboration
Leadership

" Truth is a point of view, but authenticity can't be faked."

- Peter Guber

Upcoming Events

- Thurs., Oct. 10 – World Mental Health Day
- Thurs., Oct. 10 – Monroe #1 BOCES Cyber Safety Awareness Day
- Sun., Oct. 13 – National Children's Day
- Mon., October 14 – Columbus Day
- Wed., October 16 – National Boss Day
- Thurs., Oct. 17 – Regular Board Meeting
- Thurs., Oct. 24 – United Nations Day
- October 28 - November 1 – School Board Recognition Week

Follow this link to the BOCES Calendar of Events

In this Issue

A Message from Mike

"Mr. Doughty, when are we ever going to use this?" When I was teaching high school math, I often heard this question, particularly when the students were learning how to do Euclidean geometry proofs. Students struggling to connect learning to the real world is nothing new. In 1916, educational philosopher John Dewey wrote the following:

> From the standpoint of the child, the great waste in school comes from his inability to utilize the experience he gets outside while on the other hand he is unable to apply in daily life what he is learning in school. That is the isolation of the school--its isolation from life.

Last week students from our EMT class at EMCC had the opportunity to apply their learning when they participated as victims in a decontamination drill for staff at Strong Memorial Hospital.

One of the greatest benefits of Career and Technical Education is that nearly everything our students learn is immediately applicable to real world situations and contexts.

- Mike Doughty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Technology Tip of the Week

Keyboard Shortcuts
Did you know that you can rotate a picture using just a few keys on the keyboard?
Ctrl + Period (.) will rotate a picture 90 degrees clockwise and **CTRL + Comma (,)** will rotate a picture 90 degrees counter-clockwise.

News and Notes

Upcoming Email Change
We are working closely with the Email Team to move all BOCES staff from Lotus Notes to Microsoft Outlook Web App (OWA). The team has been working hard to ensure that everything is in place to make the migration run as smoothly as possible. At this point we are planning on switching over to the new system over the weekend of November 10th. We will definitely be providing additional information regarding the move as well as resources to help you prepare for utilizing the new system.

- Bill Gregory, Coordinator of Technology Operations

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 **Gina DiTullio,** Assistant Principal, District Based Program.

- **What are your primary responsibilities?** My primary responsibilities are the supervision and evaluation of the teachers, associate teachers, and speech and language pathologists assigned to me. Although, I like to think of myself as more of a support system for staff with a focus on problem solving and constantly improving teaching and learning.
- **How long have you worked at BOCES?** I am currently in my sixth year at BOCES. Before that I worked for the RCSD for 15 years; I spent those years as an elementary classroom teacher, mentor, and elementary math coach.
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** My favorite part of the job is working with students and teachers and still being able to really focus on teaching and learning. I love the fast pace of the job and that every day is different from the one before. It's always a joy to work with such talented staff! And, as crazy and hectic as it can be, I really enjoy the fact that I get to work directly with our component districts.

Gina and her daughter Giuliana

- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** I enjoy spending time with my husband and two wonderful children, Michael (who's 10) and Giuliana (who's 7). I also enjoy reading professional literature, writing, cooking/baking, entertaining, and playing my viola.
- **What is one thing you would like people to know about you?** I genuinely struggled with the decision to leave the RCSD because I had made a commitment to that population and I really loved my students and the teachers that I was coaching. But, leaving helped me to venture out of my comfort zone and stretch myself professionally. I have learned so much about special education and meeting the needs of a diverse population while in my tenure at BOCES. I believe that this knowledge has really helped me to become a much better educator and administrator and I am so thankful that Cyndi hired me!

Programs & Services Update

START/ALA Students Explore STEM Career Paths

Students at START/ALA participated in the CSI investigation on the Green Machine on September 25th. This cross curricular scenario allowed students to engage in the areas of Ecology, Zoology, Geography, Medical, and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI). Aboard the Green Machine, they were able to work in teams to help solve a mystery, and at the same time, they discussed applying similar skills to possible career paths. The students worked well in teams, sharing information and getting excited about future possibilities!

"My science students had a blast on the Green Machine. They worked as a team to find out what happened to the lady in the hospital. They were taking fingerprints, doing blood pressures, learning/reading about birds and animals, mapping out the GPS locations of various points along the canal, testing water samples and looking at x-rays. They were very engaged and it was a great opportunity for them," stated START/ALA Science teacher, Aimee Johnson.

The underlying premise of the Green Machine laboratory is to support elementary science curriculum. The formative time span for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is grades 4 - 8, when students are either turned on or off to these fields of study. Today's students gain maximum benefit when their learning experiences are interactive, challenging, and hands-on with team building that reinforces the standard curriculum.

- Steve Orcutt, Director of Instructional Programs

SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

Computer Recycling for Education and Technology Enhancement: CREATE - The Computer Recycling for Education and Technology Enhancement Act (CREATE) was passed to promote computer literacy in order to produce a competitive workforce. Follow this link to find more information regarding the process to be used to receive surplus computer equipment, owned by the state, which may be of use in the educational system.