



Weekly Bulletin

“ Collaboration is the best way to work. It's only way to work, really. Everyone's there because they have a set of skills to offer across the board.”

- Antony Starr

Upcoming Events

- Sun., Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- Thurs., Dec. 11 – Regular Board Meeting
- Tues., Dec. 16 – Chanukah
- Mon., Dec. 22 – Holiday Recess Begins
- Sun., Dec 21 – [Winter Solstice](#)
- Mon., Jan. 5 – Students Return to BOCES Programs
- Thurs., Jan. 8 – Regular Board Meeting

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

A Message from Mike

Welcome to December. It's hard to believe that the first quarter of the school year has come and gone so quickly. This week I'll be traveling to the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) conference. This association brings together organizations that provide services to school districts. According to the AESA website, there are 553 educational service agencies across the country. This includes the 37 BOCES in New York State. Some other states have "BOCES." Others have "Intermediate Units" or "Educational Service Agencies." The BOCES structure in New York is unique because in addition to providing services to districts, we (specifically our District Superintendent) are also the local representative of the New York State Commissioner of Education and the New York State Education Department.

Additionally, New York is one of the few (maybe the only) states that has State Aid (BOCES Aid) attached to the services that districts purchase. So depending on a district's aid ratio, they receive back from the State a certain percentage of the money they spend with BOCES in the following budget year. There are many rules and formulas that determine the specific amounts. The BOCES Aid Ratios for our component school districts range from 70% to 74%. This mechanism does not exist in other states and is a tremendous benefit to the 700 school districts in New York. During the 2013-2014 budget year, 120 school districts purchased services from Monroe #1 BOCES. It is estimated that our component school districts will receive a total of more than \$20 million back from the State based on the services they purchased through BOCES during the 2013-2014 school year.

- Mike Dougherty, Deputy Superintendent

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Data Snapshot

533

The number of educational service agencies nationwide.

(source: [AESA](#))

Technology Tip of the Week

Thanks to Diane Smith for the following tech tip:

Instant Auto Correct – If you find a word that is underlined in red, it's misspelled. Simply **right-click** on the word and Microsoft Word will provide suggested spellings.



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 **Christine Bates**.

- **What are your primary responsibilities?** I work for the Consultant Teaching and Tutoring Department. We are pushed out into schools in different districts and this year I have a caseload of middle and high school students. We provide resource room support and push in services for students.
- **How long have you worked for BOCES?** This is my 5th year with BOCES.
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** I like that with teaching, no two days are the same. There is always a fresh slate to begin each day with. It is also great when you see students making connections by using the strategies that you have worked with them on and achieving success.
- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** In my free time I enjoy spending time with family and friends, doing activities outside, and reading a good book.
- **What is one thing you would like people to know about you?** This September I went up to Fourth Lake in the Adirondacks and participated in the One Square Mile of Hope and we created (hopefully a Guinness Book of World Records) the Largest Floating Raft with over 3,000 kayaks and canoes!



Programs & Services Update

Bird/Morgan School held their annual Turkey Trot on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Staff and students were encouraged to wear harvest colors and dress up in festive gear. Everyone followed a ½ mile course around campus and received a certificate for participation. It was a great way to welcome the holiday season! Thanks go to Bill Dattalo and the PE staff for coordinating the Trot.



Music Therapist Leslie Hunter is Head Turkey.



Teachers Kelly Bindert and Karen Cole dressed up as the Wednesday Turkey and the Thursday Turkey.



Students from Mr. Snyder's class show off their Thanksgiving spirit.

- Ellen Howe, Principal, Bird/Morgan School



On November 21st, for the ninth consecutive year, the combined Mental Health Departments of Monroe #1 BOCES and Monroe #2-Orleans BOCES hosted the Regional School-Based Mental Health Conference for School Social Workers, School Psychologists, and School Counselors. Attendance at this year's conference reached new heights with 125 participants representing 30 area school districts. With a goal of offering school-based mental health professionals high quality, low cost professional development, the conference featured workshops provided by national and local experts in areas ranging from anxiety to motivation and wellness. The keynote address was delivered by internationally renowned Dr. Edward Deci who demonstrated how his Self Determination Theory is readily applicable in schools. His presentation highlighted effective, research-based strategies for providing supportive learning environments and fostering achievement. Professional learning continued with sessions on salient topics such as Collaborative Proactive Solutions, Wraparound services, supporting parents and creating conditions for optimal learning. Throughout the day, school mental health professionals took advantage of the many opportunities to network with colleagues while honing their skills for helping students. The conference's success is a credit to the collaboration between the Office of School Improvement and the Mental Health Department with special thanks going to Cathy Boynton and Audrey Davis for their work on registrations.



Dr Deci presents Self Determination Theory at the Annual School-Based Mental Health Conference.

- Bill Hurley, Coordinator, Mental Health

News and Notes

Come join the Monroe #1 BOCES Polar Plunge Team!!

The Plunge is Sunday, February 8, 2015 at Ontario Beach Park in Charlotte. All the donations go towards the Special Olympics, which supports many of our students.

There are many ways to participate in this event:

- Join the team of plungers
- Donate money to one of our teammates
- Be a spectator on the day of the event - this is a family event with food and activities for kids

For those of you who want to participate, but are nervous about the cold, each person can decide how far into the water you want to go, from your toe to all the way under.



In order to participate, each person needs to sign up on line and raise at least \$60 by the day of the event. Please visit the [website](#) for more information, to donate and/or to join the team.

To join the team, please follow these directions:

1. Go to the website
2. "Easy on line registration"

3. "Register to Plunge"
4. Join a team
5. Choose "Monroe #1 BOCES" and then fill in your information

Once you have signed up, you can then send out emails or put your information on social media so that you can have friends/family donate.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Etlinger.

- Rebecca Etlinger, Assistant Principal, Creekside School



SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

JAWS – Job Access with Speech

Notice of Non-discrimination

The Monroe #1 BOCES does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, religious practice, national origin, ethnic group, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation (the term "sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or asexuality), political affiliation, age, marital status, military status, veteran status, disability, domestic violence victim status, arrest or conviction record, genetic information or any other basis prohibited by New York state and/or federal non-discrimination laws in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. In addition, students are also afforded protection based on weight.

For more information, contact one of our Civil Rights Compliance Officers: Nancy Carr, 585-249-7010, Nancy_carr@boces.monroe.edu; James Colt, 585-383-2298, James_colt@boces.monroe.edu; Dennis Glaser, 585-383-2232, Dennis_glaser@boces.monroe.edu