

Instruction & Technology Weekly Bulletin

Volume III, No. 5

August 1, 2011



“Change is inevitable-except from a vending machine.”

-Robert C. Gallagher

Upcoming Events

- Tues., August 2 – Time and Attendance Fingerprinting (8:00 AM – 3:00 PM)
- Wed., August 3 – Time and Attendance Fingerprinting (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM)
- Sun., August 7 – National Kids Day

A Message from Mike

Greetings from Albany. I am here with over 500 colleagues from around the State to participate in the Network Team Training. Jeremiah will be joining me to represent Monroe #1 BOCES, and Glen will be attending to represent the RIC Directors. This five-day institute led by the State Education Department is designed to prepare us to come back to our respective regions to provide training to school districts and BOCES related to the Regents Reform Agenda. Specifically, we will be supporting area teachers and administrators with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, the roll out of the new teacher and principal Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR), and the leading of data inquiry teams. Glen provides a more detailed description of what we will be doing this week below. While I am not thrilled to be spending the week in Albany away from my family, I am excited about the work we will be doing, and I hope to share more upon my return.



I met with Shelia late last week to talk about the new time and attendance procedures. I shared our concerns as a department, and we agreed to begin the implementation slowly. After a few weeks we will look at the data to see what adjustments can be made in the system to make it as unobtrusive as possible. As we discussed as a department, once the system is up and running for us, everyone should punch in in the morning whenever they arrive, and then out at the end of the day when they leave. Supervisors will be working with groups to figure out how to manage special circumstances. I am confident that we can find a way to make this work for our department. Thank you for being patient as we comply with the directives of our auditors.

www.AskCarolyn.info (now a real website)

• Staff Reminders

- ❖ Capital Computer Associates will be at 11 Linden Park to register all staff for Time and Attendance this week. Please plan on registering on August 2 (All Day) or August 3 (AM only). If you are unable to register on either day, please contact me for a time when you can complete the necessary paperwork and fingerprinting.

-Carolyn

Technology Tip of the Week

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

“Conditional Formatting” is a high powered tool in Excel 2010. It offers the ability to highlight duplicate information and is really cool. The "Conditional formatting" icon is on the Home Ribbon. If you would like a “quick” demo, please see Diane or Derrick.



(Anyone is welcome to submit a tip.)

Steve's Space

Challenger Camp

Please take a few minutes to watch the YouTube link below. Our Challenger Camp team puts a video like this together each week for parents to watch and share with grandparents. As I watch this video, I'm reminded of how many BOCES departments play a role in the experience provided for these students.

I'll just name a few and apologize in advance for those I don't include. Remind me of any one I have forgotten and I'll add them next week. Model Schools staff helped set up the Geocaching activity. BoSAT provides the science materials. Campus Technology makes sure that Andy's computer is capable of everything he needs it to do in order to create the video, which is no small task. The Distance Learning team supports the Challenger Center. The Repair Team fixes the equipment. Debbie Croce and the Business Office, constantly try to stay ahead of the last minute ordering thrown at them. The point is the work you all do at Technology Services impacts instruction in ways you may not see very often. I am lucky; I get to see it on a regular basis. I am always impressed by the quality of your work. Watch the video and see the fruits of your labor. Nicely done.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISCbwgeVHtU>

-Steve

Regional Services Updates

This Sunday morning I am preparing to leave for Albany to attend a 5 day NYSED Network Team Institute which is aligned to the Regents Reform Agenda. The 5 day institute has three themes: Common Core State Standards (David Coleman), School-Based Inquiry (Paul Bambrick-Santoyo), and New Performance Evaluations for Teachers (Albert "Duffy" Miller, Ed.D.). The institute has additional evening learning sessions (7:30-9:00 PM focused on student growth and valued-added models and the teaching as leadership rubric. There are many stakeholder groups attending the institute to implement the Regents Reform Agenda - I will be attending as the statewide representative for the Regional Information Centers (RICs). I look forward to sharing what is learned with our component districts and beyond.

-Glen

JENerally Speaking... [Library, Media, and Arts News](#)

Recently I was intrigued by two articles that were back-to-back in a journal I was reading. The first offered suggestions on how to avoid burnout for School Library Media Specialists. With so many new demands with changes in standards, Regents reform, decreased funding, etc. it can be difficult to maintain the pace at which programs and services are provided. The second article suggested that we need to consider how to “do more with less” in difficult economic times. Avoid burnout, yet do more... how can we make that possible?

The common theme between the two articles was the suggestion that Librarians find opportunities for professional growth by attending a conference. To gain the momentum to lead innovative change within the school, attendance at a

conference provides new ideas and a new outlook of the field while also renewing spirits. This renewal leads to the ability to do more with less.

The School Library System (SLS) recently announced that it will be awarding \$20,000 in grant money to School Library Media Specialists this year. Librarians received an application to request up to \$1,500 in grant money to assist them in meeting their goals, including professional development. This is the third year that the SLS has provided this opportunity. In previous years, SLS grants have been awarded to Librarians to attend regional, state, and national conferences. Please encourage your Library Media Specialists to apply for a mini-grant. The SLS can help provide them with the opportunity for professional growth which will result in the energy and ability to strengthen their programs.

For more information or a copy of the grant application, please contact Jen McLaughlin at [Jen McLaughlin@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:Jen_McLaughlin@boces.monroe.edu).

- Jen

The Grant Rant

Got EBP? (Evidence Based Practice) Those of you out in the field often have the best perspective on which districts are providing the most effective instructional practices. The S3TAIR Project would LOVE your insight on where these pockets of excellence are. Please forward your recommendations of best practices in literacy, behavior or special education to: [Jackie czaminske@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:Jackie_czaminske@boces.monroe.edu). For further information about the S3TAIR project and local resources, visit the Monroe #1 website and search the "School Improvement" for "evidence based practice."

- Jackie

Connecting with a Colleague

Each week, a staff member will be randomly selected to complete a brief questionnaire to help us get to know him or her. This week's lucky winner is **Sally Bailey!**

- **Primary Responsibilities:** *"I support Library Automation–District Software Support for Follett Destiny"*
- **How long have you worked at BOCES?** *"I have been with BOCES for ten years and six months."*
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** *"Working with so many different people in our districts, and making them happy!"*
- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** *"Going to my son, Trevor's, softball and hockey games, boating, reading, and socializing with my friends."*
- **What is the one thing you would like people to know about you?** *"Since I work in cube land, I'm pretty sure everyone knows just about everything there is to know about me, however, in case someone doesn't already know: I worked in the restaurant business for 20 years and finally went to college when I was 33."*
- **Is there anything else you would like to share?** *"I have a twin sister, and we live on the same street. I have two awesome sons, Trevor-26 and Justin-22. I am the proud owner of my Dad's 1962 white, wooden boat, named Therapy!"*



If you are interested in participating before your name is "randomly" selected, please see Carolyn or Mike.
