

# Instruction & Technology Weekly Bulletin



Volume III, No. 16 October 17, 2011

“Once we rid ourselves of traditional thinking we can get on with creating the future”

- James Bertrand

## Upcoming Events

- Week of Oct. 16 – National School Bus Safety Week
- Mon., Oct. 24 – United Nations Day
- Mon., Oct. 30 – Halloween
- Wed., Nov. 9 – BOCES Celebrates, 7:00 PM-Lois E. Bird School

## A Message from Mike

In the most recent issue of the *Councilgram*, which is the newsletter of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, appeared an interview with NYS Commissioner of Education, Dr. John King. When asked about the Role of the Commissioner and the Department “in educating policymakers and the public about the financial challenges schools are facing and the need for resources and other policy changes to give them a better chance at success,” the Commissioner responded, in part, with the following:

*“I don't know if we are thinking creatively enough how we regionalize services and activities – different from consolidating districts - how we regionalize activities. In order, not only to get efficiencies, but to maximize programmatic opportunities.”*

Consider the Monroe #1 BOCES motto – Innovation, Collaboration, Leadership. We are in a perfect position to help districts in these increasingly difficult financial times. The key is making sure that we continue to innovate, collaborate, and lead in a ways that make districts **want** to use our services.

<i>In this Issue</i>	
Upcoming Events.....	1
A Message from Mike .....	1
Technology Tip of the Week .....	1
<a href="http://www.AskCarolyn.info">www.AskCarolyn.info</a> .....	2
JENreally speaking.....	2
Steve’s Space.....	2
Connecting with a Colleague.....	3



## Technology Tip of the Week

Thanks to Tadge O'Brien for sharing this Tip of the Week:

*Password Protection Humor!*

(Anyone is welcome to submit a tip.)

<p>UNCOMMON (NON-GIBBERISH) BASE WORD</p> <p>ORDER UNKNOWN</p> <p>Tr0ub4dor &amp; 3</p> <p>CAPS? COMMON SUBSTITUTIONS PUNCTUATION</p> <p>(YOU CAN ADD A FEW MORE BITS TO INCREASE THE TIME THAT THIS IS ONLY ONE OF A FEW COMMON EXAMPLES)</p>	<p>~28 BITS OF ENTROPY</p> <p>2<sup>28</sup> = 3 DAYS AT 1000 GUESSES/SEC</p> <p>(PLAUSIBLE ATTACK ON A WEAK PASSWORD WITH SERVICE: YES, COUNCILS, A STOLEN MIDDLE IS POSSIBLE, BUT IS NOT AN IDEAL ATTACK. USER SHOULD LEARN ABOUT...)</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: EASY</p>	<p>WAS IT TROMBONE? NO, TROUBADOR. AND ONE OF THE 0s WAS A ZERO?</p> <p>AND THERE WAS SOME SYMBOL...</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: HARD</p>
<p>correct horse battery staple</p> <p>FOUR RANDOM COMMON WORDS</p>	<p>~44 BITS OF ENTROPY</p> <p>2<sup>44</sup> = 530 YEARS AT 1000 GUESSES/SEC</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: HARD</p>	<p>THAT'S A BATTERY STAPLE.</p> <p>CORRECT!</p> <p>DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: YOU'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED IT</p>

THROUGH 20 YEARS OF EFFORT, WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED EVERYONE TO USE PASSWORDS THAT ARE HARD FOR HUMANS TO REMEMBER, BUT EASY FOR COMPUTERS TO GUESS.

❖ **Staff Reminders**

- ❖ The open enrollment period is coming for medical, dental (if adding a dependent); flex spending, and optional life insurance. The enrollment period will begin on November 1 and ends on November 30. Employees will have the month of November to make any enrollment changes or elections to take effect on January 1, 2012. Please remember to sign up for your Flexible Spending every year. The HR office will be holding informative Benefits Review meetings for Open Enrollment. The purpose of these meetings is to inform employees on options for Open Enrollment and review current benefits. The meetings will also include review of the Retirement System. The meetings will be held in the Student Cafeteria with the Foreman Center on the following days. Each meeting will review the same information.
  - ❖ **Monday, 10/24 – 3:30-4:30 PM**
  - ❖ **Wednesday, 10/26 – 3:30-4:30 PM**
  - ❖ **Tuesday, 11/1 – 3:30-4:30 PM**
  - ❖ **Thursday, 11/3 – 3:00-4:00 PM**
- ❖ Section 159-b of the Civil Service Law entitles employees to take up to four hours of paid leave annually, without charge to leave credits (sick days), for Breast Cancer and Prostate screenings during your regular work hours. This type of leave is not cumulative and expires at the end of each calendar year. Absences beyond the four hour cap must be charged to your leave credits. Monroe #1 Boces requires you to provide supporting documentation for the absence. A notice or receipt from your doctor's office confirming the appointment and completed screening will be required as proof and must be given to your Supervisor so that your absence is reported correctly.

- Carolyn

---

## JENerally speaking....

Broadway actors visited the stage at Calkins Road Middle School this week to present "No Snap Judgments". Through the technology of Safari Montage Live, four actors from *The Addams Family* musical discussed the themes of tolerance and acceptance with students. 250 schools across the nation participated in the event with four schools, including Calkins Road, having the ability to interact with the actors. Many thanks to everyone at Calkins Road who worked so hard to make this first "No Snap Judgments" event possible. Our friends on Broadway sincerely appreciate your work as well. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.nosnapjudgments.org/>.



---

## Steve's Space

### Non-Public Textbooks:

The Non Public Textbook Service crew has settled in to its new space at 15 Linden Park. This year, Canandaigua City School District joined our service, and has expanded our area to include private schools as far away as Geneva and Seneca Falls. We now coordinate the purchase and delivery of textbooks on behalf of 14 public school districts to approximately 50 private schools.

Now that school has begun and October is upon us, we are winding down, although new textbook orders continue to arrive as classroom needs are being finalized. We have received in, labeled, and delivered approximately 13,600 textbooks this summer. We will now begin the process of retrieving old textbooks no longer in use, inventorying and connecting with Districts regarding the disposition of these books.

Our new web-based order entry processes are working great and have received many rave reviews from the both the public and private school users.

Nice job Kathy, and thank you for your technical support Diane.

-Steve

---

## 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 we are connecting with **Mary Sleight!**

- **Primary Responsibilities:** *“Supporting the Library Automation and Electronic Database CoSer for the SLS office and the new Arts in Education program.”*
- **How long have you worked at BOCES?** *“Twenty four years, in August. Not bad for someone who was only going to work for a few years and then life happened...”*
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** *“Resolving issues. I’m a digger.”*
- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** *“Spending time with my family and granddaughters Sophie, Isabelle and Mikaela, gardening, watching my hummingbird feeder, reading, reading and more reading, listening to the oldies, and pretending that I can dance...oh, and laughing with my friends and shopping....”*
- **What is the one thing you would like people to know about you?** *“My sister has more energy than I do, and compared to her, I am the quiet one of my siblings. Seriously.”*
- **Is there anything else you would like to share?** *“My dad took a trip in 1927 to Yosemite National Park in California with his buddies in an old Ford and kept an amazing diary. My two sons, and nephews have gone on the same adventure to discover Yosemite, and one of my sons stayed for four years. Genetic? I think so.”*



Look for a different colleague to be profiled each week. If you are interested in participating before your name is “randomly” selected, please see Carolyn or Mike.

---