Adult and Continuing Education

BCCE HOSTS EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION EVENT

The BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education (BCCE) and the Workforce Development Board partnered to present “Get Ready to Get Hired,” an employment preparation event for local residents searching for work. The October 29 event offered a variety of job-readiness resources, services and skills to prepare them to actively join the workforce.

During the event, participants had the opportunity to attend a variety of small breakout sessions throughout the day focused on preparing for job interviews, dressing for success, creating a resume, understanding employers’ expectations and basic personal finance. They also were able to speak with local job placement specialists about work-readiness and browse racks of gently used interview attire.

Four area business sponsors helped support the event - 31 Express, Circle K and Price Chopper, all in Oneida, Freihofer’s Bakery Outlet in Verona and Isbell Excavating in West Eaton. In addition, students from the Rome ACCESS Site volunteered at the event, adult Cosmetology students ran the mini-makeover stations, and MOBOCES board members John Costello Sr. from Oneida and Donna Isbell from Morrisville-Eaton helped make the event a success.

Career and Technical Education

CULINARY STUDENTS SUPPORT RESCUE MISSION

Culinary Arts students took a work-based learning field trip to the Rome Rescue Mission on November 19 and 20 to help prepare Thanksgiving dinner. The Rescue Mission feeds nearly 1,000 people in the community each Thanksgiving through food donations from area businesses and residents. MOBOCES students spent two mornings at the center preparing potatoes and turkeys for the dinner.

Teacher Mona Chandler said that in addition to providing students with real-world cooking experience, the field trip also gives them an opportunity to see and help the community and meet people they may not otherwise meet. This is the second year students have helped with the Rescue Mission dinner.

EQUINE, CBOE CARVE DONATED PUMPKINS

Equine and Animal Science students helped their classmates in the Community-Based Occupational Education (CBOE) program carve and decorate pumpkins on Halloween for the second year in a row. Critz Farms in Cazenovia donated 36 pumpkins to the CBOE class.

Management Services

LOCAL DRIVERS COMPETE IN BUS ROAD-EO

Eleven school bus drivers from five area districts competed in this year’s Bus Road-eo at the Costello Transportation Center in Oneida. Drivers from Canastota, Oneida, Adirondack, Mount Markham and Whitesboro completed bus challenges, including safety inspections and navigating through narrow spaces.

Drivers from Oneida, Adirondack and Mount Markham took the top three prizes and Oneida received the team plaque. The Mohawk Regional Transportation Supervisors Association (MRTSA) organizes the Road-eo every year during school bus safety week. MOBOCES Regional Transportation Supervisor Frank Slawiak is a member of MRTSA.

December FYI continued on back...


**Early Childhood Education**

**MECS, SVCS FAMILIES CELEBRATE THE SEASON**

Morrisville-Eaton and Stockbridge Valley had special holiday-themed activities this month leading up to Thanksgiving. In Morrisville-Eaton, parents visited the class on November 15 to learn more about the learning centers that students use daily. Parents and children then worked together to make fall-themed and holiday-themed wreaths, and children sang a Thanksgiving song about turkeys for their guests.

In Stockbridge Valley, students celebrated Thanksgiving on November 20, learning about a pow wow, or social gathering of Native Americans, and writing stories on skin.

**Regional Information Center**

**MORIC STAFF PRESENTS AT NYSCATE CONFERENCE**

Seven members of the Model School team attended and presented during this year’s NYSCATE Annual Conference in Rochester. The conference is aimed at technology educators from across the state. Model Schools Coordinator Derek Lalonde presented two sessions during the conference – one on 3D printing, alongside a team from Town of Webb school district, and another on distance learning and virtual reality. In addition, Coordinator of Technology Leadership Maria Rocker and Educational Technology Leader John-Henry Lane presented a session on Strategic IT Planning with a colleague from NERIC.

For the last several years, the conference has been paired with Maker Faire Rochester, a public event highlighting makerspaces, engineering, art, crafting and other “making” activities. Model Schools Coordinator Laurie Yager is one of the Maker Faire co-chairs, as well as an at-large director on the NYSCATE Board, and Model Schools Coordinator Heather Bagnall ran several of the student sessions during the event.

**Alternative and Special Education**

**STUDENTS COMPLETE KIND ACTS FOR HOLIDAY**

Special Programs Coordinator Gina Calabro and her team led a week-long initiative encouraging students to complete acts of kindness around the school. Those who did wrote their names and acts on a construction paper feather and added it to a paper turkey that would eventually be hung up in the Triplexus Commons. The feathers served as students’ invitations to the school-wide Thanksgiving celebration.

All 68 students in the program contributed at least one feather to the Kindness Turkey and attended the dinner, which was prepared by CTE Culinary Arts students.

**Staff and Curriculum Development**

**SLS AWARDS GRANT TO JOY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The School Library System has awarded a $500 mini-grant to Joy Elementary School Librarian Nicole Iverson to support a 6th grade virtual book discussion group. Nicole and Rome 6th grade teacher Tracy Giuliano have partnered with a 6th grade class in Indiana to read and discuss a book using the FlipGrid platform. FlipGrid allows teachers to post discussion questions or topics to students and then allows students to record video responses. Each class will watch the other class’s video responses and then add their own thoughts and comments.

The classes are reading “Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus.” In addition to FlipGrid, the classes will have whole group discussions over Skype or Google Hangout. The project will continue throughout the school year with different books.

**MORIC CREATES NEW DATA SECURITY NEWSLETTER**

MORIC’s Director Heather Mahoney and Data Security Leader Ryan Mahoney have spearheaded a statewide initiative to create a new data security newsletter for schools. The publication was created on behalf of RIC One, a cooperative initiative of the state’s 12 Regional Information Centers.

The first issue, released in November, was a 3-page electronic publication that outlined best practices for identifying and protecting sensitive information and for recognizing malicious emails. It also offers information security tips and administrative best practices regarding data and compliance with Ed Law 2-d.

MORIC has distributed the newsletter to its component superintendents, business officials and technology coordinators, and it is posted on the MORIC website so all area school staff can access the information. Other RICs have similarly distributed it to their district leaders.