Career and Technical Education

STUDENTS ATTEND ANTI-BULLYING PRESENTATION

Students participated in an anti-bullying workshop in December as part of a program-wide effort to enhance school climate and raise awareness about bullying-related issues. Coordinator of Student Services Susan Keller and Guidance Counselor Anna LaBella led the workshops.

The students viewed video simulations on what different types of bullying – such as physical, emotional, social and cyber bullying – look like and then discussed key issues surrounding the topic. Presenters shared tips on how to interact during a bullying encounter and encouraged all students to be “upstanders” when they see a situation that appears to be bullying.

OUTREACH COORDINATOR VISITS DISTRICTS

CTE Outreach Coordinator Rachel Helmer has begun her annual visits to component high schools to inform 10th and 11th graders about CTE program options. She visited Canastota, Stockbridge Valley and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill in January and plans to visit Hamilton and Madison in early February. Other district visits will happen later in February.

During her visits, Rachel meets first with 10th graders and shares a brief overview of each of the 17 two-year CTE programs available. She discusses integrated credits, college articulation agreements, internship opportunities and collaborative opportunities. This year, some of the CTE instructors have joined Rachel to speak in greater detail about curriculum and daily work in CTE.

She then meets with 11th graders to share information on the four one-year New Visions programs offered. New Visions instructors and students have an opportunity to speak about the programs and answer questions from the 11th graders.

Early Childhood Education

PRE-K STUDENTS CELEBRATE MLK DAY

MOBECES pre-k students at Stockbridge Valley had a hands-on lesson about the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As a class, students read several books about Dr. King’s life and had an age-appropriate discussion about his dream of having people get along and act nicely toward each other. Teachers tied this lesson into “Have You Filled A Bucket Today?” which they read earlier this year.

Following those discussions, students brainstormed ways they could show kindness and decided to make thank you cards for people around school. They selected bus drivers, the nurse, the maintenance team, secretaries and librarians. The students then delivered the cards to their selected person and saw first-hand how a personal connection and a thank you can mean so much to people.

Regional Information Center

MORIC HELPS DISTRICTS PREPARE FOR CBT

As New York State continues the transition to computer-based testing (CBT), MORIC is providing ongoing support to our participating districts. During the fall, schools had the opportunity to attend NYSED’s CBT Roadshow at MORIC, during which State Education Department staff shared lessons learned and tips to determine if a district is ready to administer operational CBT.

Following the state’s December deadline, the MORIC is gearing up to support 26 districts from the region, including Canastota, that have chosen to participate. Support includes leadership and planning, application and technical support, and a regional command center to support strategic communication before and during testing.

CBT simulations are scheduled for February and March, and an informational webinar was held January 30 to help districts prepare.
**WORKSHOP EXPLORES CODING AND COMPUTING**

The School Library System led a coding-based workshop on January 10 that utilized BBC micro:bits. This tool allows users to explore physical computing and coding fundamentals, and they work toward making their own inventions come to life. The workshop used real-world challenges similar to what teachers might do in a classroom with students. Participants were from Canastota, Camden, Rome, and Taberg Correctional Facility.

**SLS GRANT SUPPORTS ONEIDA HOLOCAUST PROJECT**

The School Library System has awarded an Expanding Our Students’ World mini-grant to Linda Zuber of Otto Shortell Middle School in Oneida. The grant supports school-based initiatives to engage students in a virtual or digital communication experience to enhance learning and encourage collaboration.

Linda plans to set up a videoconference between students and a Holocaust survivor to enhance their Holocaust unit. Students will be reading books about the Holocaust and researching that time period prior to the videoconference so they will have good questions to ask the person they speak with. The final portion of the unit will allow students to create their own Holocaust picture book with a dedication to the survivor they met virtually.

**Management Services**

**RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICE ASSISTS DISTRICTS WITH FIRE AND BUILDING INSPECTIONS**

The Risk Management Service conducted annual fire inspections for all component districts this fall, successfully assisting all districts in receiving annual Certificates of Occupancy for all structures. Risk Management Specialist Jack Angrisano worked with district facilities leaders to inspect about 80 structures. This included both instructional and non-instructional spaces.

In addition to the annual inspections, Jack conducted both a pre-inspection and final inspection for the renovation work at Strough Middle School in Rome prior to opening at the beginning of the school year. He also conducted three “new construction” fire inspections for the building addition in Madison.