March FYI continued on back...
**Early Childhood Education**

**SVCS Pre-K Hosts Sweetheart Brunch**

MHBOCES pre-k classes at Stockbridge Valley held their annual Sweetheart Brunch on Valentine’s Day. Parents, grandparents and special adults were invited to school to help students deliver cards to their friends and enjoy a light breakfast. Parents then visited classroom learning centers to see what their children are working on this month.

**Adult and Continuing Education**

**BCCE Continues Adult Cosmetology Training**

The Adult & Continuing Education Licensed Cosmetology program, located at OHM BOCES, continues to train individuals to take the New York State Appearance Enhancement Licensing Exam. The 1,000-hour program operates year round, with start dates in both the spring and fall. Participants receive extensive hands-on training as well as classroom instruction on the theory of cosmetology, operating a business and interacting with clients.

Each week, the class hosts a salon night, which allows students to provide authentic hair, nail and skin services to members of the public under the supervision of their instructor as well as practice their customer service skills.

**Regional Information Center**

**Rome Conducts Google AI Project**

Instructional Technology Specialist Heather Bagnall is working with Rome Free Academy teachers on a Google AI project using AutoDraw, GoogleDraw and Google Sheets. The project’s goal is to help students become content creators rather than just consumers, and it introduced them to digital citizenship and internet safety.

During the project, students in grades 9-11 wrote their own Pourquoi stories, created blackout poetry, and applied comprehension lenses to literature. Students were also able to explore assistive applications to identify their personal strengths, career clusters that match their personalities, and college, career or military pathways available to them.

Teachers learned to quickly customize creative writing, comprehension, poetry, and storytelling lesson plans to better serve each child. Teachers have said students are more engaged in the curriculum and classroom activities by increasing technology integration opportunities.

**Staff and Curriculum Development**

**SLS Awards Grants to SVCS, VVS Librarians**

The School Library System has awarded two new Expanding Our Students’ World mini-grants to librarians in the Stockbridge Valley and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill districts. These grants support school-based initiatives to engage students in a virtual or digital communication experience to enhance learning and encourage collaboration.

Elizabeth Collins, the librarian at J.D. George Elementary School, plans to collaborate with fourth-grade teacher MaryKay McAndrew on a student research project. All fourth graders will be completing research about animal adaptations specific to their habitats and presenting projects to their classmates. To further their research, the teacher and librarian will set up a Skype meeting with an animal expert to help answer students’ questions and provide additional information about the concept of adaptations. To prepare, students and staff will brainstorm questions and outline the information they are looking for, and they will complete reflections on the experience afterward.

Amanda Ingalls, the librarian in Stockbridge Valley, will collaborate with first grade teachers Lindsey Taylor and Nicole Byron on an astronomy lesson called Postcards From Space. Through the grant, first graders will take a virtual field trip into space with non-fiction author Alexandra Siy to explore planets, see NASA imagery and learn how the author conducts research about space. Students will then use FlipGrid to write about what they learned about space, what they learned about writing non-fiction, and what they liked about Skyping with an author.