Career and Technical Education

CTE CLASSES COMPETE IN DECORATING CONTEST

The Culinary Arts classes organized the 1st Annual Rossetti Gingerbread House Challenge on December 13 to bring some light holiday fun to campus. Student teams from different CTE classes received pre-built gingerbread cookie houses, frosting and a small amount of candy. Teams could supplement with any other candy and decorations they wanted and competed for the best looking creation.

Elementary students from the STARRS program served as judges and voted Cosmetology as the winner.

After the contest, the houses remained on display in the Culinary Arts classroom windows until the holiday break.

Early Childhood Education

PRE-K FAMILIES BUILD GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Students in MOBOCES pre-kindergarten programs across the region worked on their annual gingerbread house projects throughout December. The family holiday tradition allows parents to come to school and help their children build edible houses using milk cartons, graham crackers, frosting and candy decorations.

The activity promotes parent involvement and allows the students to practice their colors, shapes, counting, motor skills and creativity in a fun, hands-on way. Pre-k students and family members from Canastota, Morrisville-Eaton, Stockbridge Valley and Chittenango participated.

Early Childhood Education

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEAM LEADS PLAY WORKSHOP

Early Childhood Director Colleen Wuest and Canastota pre-k teacher Robin Pierce recently led a full-day workshop called “Hip, Hip, Hurray! We are back to play!” The workshop was geared to educators and support staff who work with students in pre-k through second grade.

Throughout the day, participants learned about current research and developmentally-appropriate practices and strategies to encourage children ages 3-9 to develop positive social and life skills through purposefully planned play. They also learned about Next Generation Early Learning Standards for PK-2 and social-emotional development and expectations for early learners.
**Regional Information Center**

**DATA PROTECTION GROUP FACILITATES DISTRICT PLANNING DISCUSSIONS**

MORIC hosted a recent Data Protection User Group meeting at Oneida BOCES for district administrators and technology leaders to learn more about protecting sensitive school information.

Participants brushed up on Education Law 2-d and heard a cybersecurity framework overview from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Most of the meeting was devoted to district team planning work and individualized support from MORIC data security experts on specific issues and projects.

Participating districts included Canastota, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, Rome and VVS.

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**Management Services**

**GENERATOR HELPS SUPPORT NETWORK SERVICES**

The MOBOCES Maintenance Department recently completed a generator installation project at the Network Operations Center (NOC) on the Verona campus. The generator helps support the NOC’s increased power needs due to higher demand for technology services from 50 school districts and four BOCES centers, additional HVAC in the server room, and customer expectations for uninterrupted network service.

Discussions for installing a generator began about eight years ago, but other hardware upgrades met some of the NOC’s power and reliability needs at the time. About 2 years ago, the generator discussion began again, and it is now substantially completed, allowing the NOC to continue providing service during multiple power outages.

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**Alternative and Special Education**

**DECEMBER LESSONS INCLUDE ORNAMENT PROJECTS**

Students spent December making holiday ornaments as a way to practice physical, social and executive function skills while enjoying the season.

Students at McAllister Elementary made cinnamon dough ornaments from scratch, mixing, flavoring, shaping and baking it to take home.

The Community Outreach Club held its annual ornament sale to benefit a local nonprofit. Students make and decorate ornaments that they sell on campus and to family and friends for $1 each, and then deliver in person before the break. The students will work together to determine which organization they want to support in the spring. Last year, they chose suicide prevention efforts at Bridges.

Students at VVS Middle School completed a whole unit on holiday traditions. Students researched customs and symbols of winter holidays around the world, wrote about their findings and then created an item to represent their research findings. After students presented their work in school, they wrapped and labeled their projects to take home as gifts for their families.

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**Staff and Curriculum Development**

**MADISON TEACHER BEGINS NEW REGIONAL PLC**

Teachers from 10 districts participated in the first meeting of the new middle level ELA PLC on December 13. Teachers of grades 6-8 talked about literature, curriculum and even took some time to journal as a way to reflect on their work, practice a task they often ask students to do, and relax during a busy time of year.

Jessica Mortensen of Madison facilitated the group and the Mid-State Teacher Center provided books highlighted at a recent School Library System conference for a giveaway activity.

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**Adult and Continuing Education**

**BCCE INCREASES COMPUTER-BASED ASSESSMENT**

The Adult and Continuing Education division reached a major milestone in its quest to maximize the use of technology in its programs and assessments. Through an investment in Chromebooks and increased teacher and student buy-in, more than 95 percent of required literacy program assessments are now being administered through computer-based platforms.

For students, the use of computer-based assessment better prepares them for college and career readiness and accommodates their testing needs with tools such as screen magnification, highlighters, calculators, and line guides built into the platforms. It also helps prepare them for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), which is administered online.

Teachers have said they appreciate the additional information gained from computer-based assessment score reports, and they find that the students take the computer-based assessments more seriously. The buy-in from students, teachers and administrators – coupled with the improved technology infrastructure and support in adult education centers – have all come together to help the division lead the way in computer-based assessment.