Career and Technical Education

HRC EVENT SUPPORTS SUICIDE PREVENTION

Seniors in the Health Related Careers classes hosted a Suicide Awareness event on September 13 to help inform their classmates about the risks for suicide and ways to offer help someone in crisis.

Students in Jill Kelly’s and Karen Murphy’s classes set up interactive stations around the Courtyard with games, quizzes and prizes to help educate others. They created a “Promise Wall” where students and staff could pledge not to engage in bullying behavior and to help those in need of support. Participants could apply temporary tattoos and face paint of semicolons and other symbols used by the national suicide prevention movement.

Captain Nice made an appearance, this year played by two HRC seniors: Elizabeth Hodge from Camden and Elizabeth Love from Canastota. Captain Nice has been a fixture of CTE for several years, spreading the message of acting kindly toward others and supporting each other.

The HRC classes distributed information and question sheets to other CTE classes in advance, and several of the classes used the information to begin their own conversation about mental health and where to turn for help.

This is the second year HRC has held a Suicide Awareness event. Both events have coincided with National Suicide Prevention Week.

Early Childhood Education

FAMILIES ATTEND BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

The Madison County Early Childhood Committee held its 3rd annual “Back to the Farm and Back to School” event for families with children ages 2-10 on August 27 at Heritage Farm in Bouckville. The event, offered at no cost to families, included dinner, farm animal visits, a hay ride and activities to help children and parents prepare for the new school year.

During the evening, each child received a book and a backpack of school supplies. Adults received school district calendars, open house and orientation dates, and a 3-ring binder to help keep their children’s information organized. The Hamilton school district sent a school bus and driver to talk with students about bus safety and procedures.

Families also had the opportunity to meet Pete the Cat, a title character from a popular series of children’s books. A staff member from Heritage Farm donned the costume for the evening.

MOBOCES is one of several partners in the Madison County Early Childhood Committee. The committee is a coalition of early childhood leaders in the region who meet to share, discuss and create resources for parents, childcare workers and agencies to better support children ages 0-5.
**Staff and Curriculum Development**

**AUTHOR CELEBRATES PASSIONATE READERS**

Nearly 100 teachers, librarians, pre-service educators and community literacy advocates spent an evening in Hamilton with noted teacher and author Pernille Ripp during the regional Cultivating Readers for Life event on August 22.

The MOBOCES School Library System partnered with the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Library System, the Central New York Library Resources Council and the Colgate University Teacher Education program to present the program, which focused on building a culture of literacy in schools and developing passionate student readers.

The theme tied in with regional literacy goals set by school leaders over the last few years, SLS Coordinator Sue Leblanc said.

Pernille, a 7th grade English teacher in Wisconsin, is the author of several books about student engagement and reading as well as and the founder of the Global Read Aloud project. She is a strong advocate of creating passionate learning environments that spark a lifelong interest in reading.

“We cannot say we value reading as a life skill and then also tell kids that we simply don’t have time for it in our school,” she said.

Prior to her event in Hamilton, Pernille spent the morning with administrators from the MOBOCES region discussing independent reading skills in relation to the Next Generation ELA Standards.

**Regional Information Center**

**MORIC HOSTS DATA SECURITY WORKSHOP**

The MORIC hosted two recent professional development opportunities for district leaders to learn more about the updated Part 121 Regulations related to Education Law 2-d.

During the sessions, held in August and September for different parts of the region, MORIC leaders discussed a wide range of issues related to the law, including identifying a Data Protection Officer, planning annual employee training plans, reviewing contracts and developing a complaint and incident timeline.

Participants received reference materials and workbooks to assist their in-district planning work.

Following the Ed Law 2-d presentations, participants finished their day with updates on current cybersecurity threats and received tools to assist them in security their district networks and information.

**Emergency Response Tabletop Drill in Camden**

Risk Management Specialist Jack Angrisano led dozens of back-to-school trainings and workshops in August and September at all nine component districts and at MOBOCES to help various employee groups prepare for the new school year.

Training topics included: right-to-know, mental health awareness, violence prevention, emergency response, sexual harassment, blood-borne pathogens, workplace safety, lock outs, fire safety, and electrical safety, as well as other topics on request. He worked directly with maintenance, custodial, cafeteria, transportation and instructional staff groups in various districts.

Jack also led a Laboratory Safety training in Oneida and an Emergency Response Tabletop Drill in Camden.

**Alternative and Special Education**

**CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON POVERTY**

Social worker Deb O’Connor recently participated in “Bridges Out Of Poverty,” a one-day conference led by Community Action Partnership of Madison County. The workshop offered participants a comprehensive approach to understand poverty and provided strategies and tools that professionals can use to support their communities. Presenters discussed poverty research, hidden social rules, language and other key concepts related to socioeconomic status. Deb will be able to utilize what she learned to better support students in the region from a variety of backgrounds, and she will share resources with her colleagues.

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**Management Services**

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