

DutchessBOCES



November/December 2011

Volume 3, Issue 2

Dutchess BOCES Highlights

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DUTCHESS BOCES

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The 2011-12 school year will soon reach its half-way point. The *Highlights* e-newsletter continues to share our great accomplishments and successes. Dutchess BOCES is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of individuals who work very hard to help our students succeed in so many ways.

As always, we welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Best wishes for many more wonderful experiences in 2012!

[Anna Marie Paolercio](#)

Director - Communications and Grants Research



School Delays, Early Dismissals and Closings

Please be reminded that in the event Dutchess BOCES has school delays, early dismissals and closings, the information may be obtained in a variety of ways:

- Dutchess BOCES Web site homepage: www.dcboces.org
- Web site Cancellations.com: www.cancellations.com
- Dutchess BOCES Telephone Greeting: 845.486.4800 and 845.486.4840
- Radio Stations: WEOK/WALL; WRRV; WPDH; WKXP; WCZX/WZAD 97.7/97.3; WBWZ; STAR 93.3; WRWD; WRNQ Q92; WRKP Kiss-FM; WRKW; WKIP; WELV; WGHQ; WBNR; WLNA; WHUD; WSPK; WDST; WGNV ---TV Station: WRNN-TV

Keep Your Family Safe

As announced by *Senator Stephen M. Saland*, **NY-Alert** is a web-based, early warning program offered through New York State All-Hazards Alert and Notification Web site. The information posted includes severe weather warnings, significant highway closures, hazardous materials spills, and many other emergency conditions. By signing up for NY-Alert, you can receive warnings and emergency information via the Internet, your cell phone, email, and other technologies. You can select the type of warnings you want to receive, and how you want to receive them. Signing up for NY-Alert is free. Your information is protected and never shared with anyone else. You can modify what type of information you receive and unsubscribe at any time. Sign up for NY-Alert by visiting [Senator Saland's Web site](#) and clicking on the NY-Alert link.



Superintendent's Conference Day

Deputy Superintendent *Linda Heitmann* was pleased to report that the Superintendent's Conference Day held on November 8 was another successful one. Staff gave high marks on the evaluations and enjoyed *Sandra Alberti's* keynote address [Instructional Implications of the Common Core Standards](#). Various topics were covered that day including Mobile Learning Project, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, Engage NY and CTETAC Web sites, Addressing Aggressive Student Behavior in Schools, Program Procedure Handbook Development, and more. **The next Superintendent's Conference Day is April 9, 2012.**

Students Brighten PHS Cafeteria

Dining tables in the Pawling High School cafeteria have been graced lately with themed centerpieces made by *students in the Pawling High School BOCES class*. "They really brighten up the cafeteria," said cafeteria manager, *Janice Traynor-Hack*. Students also made centerpieces for Memorial Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. The students are happy to display their work and as a result, they feel connected to the greater school community. "We enjoy working with the staff and students at Pawling High School and are grateful for the opportunity to be more involved," said BOCES Special Education Teacher *Martha Schultz*.





Grant Program Funds CTI Field Trip

More than 2,500 students from Dutchess County school districts will be able to visit the Bardavon, the Sloop Clearwater, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a range of other educational venues, thanks to an innovative grant program offered by the [Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley](#). The group recently announced the first round of awards under its Field Trip Grant Program, which provides funding for education-related trips. In all, more than \$34,400 in funding was allocated to twenty-nine classes from several Dutchess County school districts. The Field Trip Grant Program is funded by a grant from the Dyson Foundation. **Dutchess BOCES received one of the grants - 33 computer and technical students from the Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute will get to visit Google headquarters and the Hayden Planetarium in New York City!**



Rudolph Wins!

Each year, the students and staff at the Alternative High School compete for the distinction of *Best Holiday Door*. The winners used mixed media to decorate and create their holiday theme. The winning door included painted holiday artwork, cotton balls and small wrapped packages. This event truly captures the holiday spirit and it's a joy to see so many classrooms participating.

The annual AHS door-decorating contest took place during the week of December 20. **Congratulations to Stephen Blair, Kelly Repinz and the students in Room 133 who created the winning door!**

A New Face in the Business Office

It is with pleasure that we welcome *Marianne Heslin* to Dutchess BOCES. Marianne, who prefers to be called Mimi, is the Assistant Business Manager in our Business Office. Prior to coming to BOCES, Mimi worked for Dutchess County as the Director of Budget and Finance for the Department of Health. Welcome, Mimi!



School Building Leader Certification

The Leading to Learning Program for the School Building Leader Certification program is a joint effort between [Pace University](#) and Dutchess BOCES. Dutchess BOCES and Pace serve as an intermediary between participating school districts and participants regarding the interviewing and hiring of school building leaders and the placement for field experiences and

internships. For more information, contact *Jodi DeLucia* at 845.486.4840, extension 4614, or email [Jodi DeLucia](#).

Community Solutions for Transportation

Dutchess BOCES Transportation Broker Deb Goodpaster announced that two pre-determined families received donated vehicles from the Community Solutions for Transportation (CST) and Wheels for Work (WFW) programs during the week of Thanksgiving. Transportation services under CST and WFW in Dutchess County are administered by Dutchess BOCES and are funded by the Dutchess County Department of Social Services through an allocation from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Division of Employment and Transitional Supports.



The two families selected to receive donated vehicles were chosen based on specific program guidelines, including their work-related need for transportation. Over the past several months, they have been part of a Dutchess BOCES program that prepares them for car ownership. In addition, they have all displayed the perseverance and the commitment necessary to continually take steps towards financial independence. Having their own vehicle will help them to obtain and retain employment or gain access to higher education to increase their wage potential. Both individuals have indicated a work-related need as well as demonstrated the responsibility and discipline to maintain employment and establish a savings account to meet car maintenance expenses.



Culinary Delights Offered at CTI

As part of their course work, CTI culinary students make an assortment of baked goods, such as pies, cakes and cookies. On Thursdays and Fridays, the students sell the goodies to students and staff. This is a great learning experience for the students, and of course, those who are lucky enough to arrive in time to buy the culinary delights. So make your way to CTI's dining room to bring home some of the best baked goods in the county. You won't be sorry!

Dutchess BOCES Interact Staff and Students at UN Day

Sheri Hazel (CTI), Paula Goehring (SPC) and Jodiah Jacobs (SPC) were part of the event's panel of presenters at the Rotary International United Nations' Day in NYC on Saturday, November 5. BOCES staff member and Rotary Liaison, Roger Risko, recommended their participation in this annual event. Hazel,

a global studies teacher, opened the general assembly of global-based youth with an overview and history of the UN.

Goehring and Jacobs assisted SPC's Interact students with putting together a brilliant program about their chapter that was so impressive. SPC students Andrew Higgins,

Ryan Lynch and Ethan Pine were articulate, connected, and inspiring! Their presentation evoked more questions than any other presenters and peaked the global-based audience's interest throughout their presentation.



The SPC chapter is the first middle school chapter in the Rotary District representing Columbia Greene, Putnam, Dutchess, Ulster, Broome, Orange and Rockland counties. Hazel's opening remarks and SPC's presentation were both high points of the day. Risko co-chairs the program with the UN Youth Committee Chair and has done so for the past five consecutive years. Goehring thanked Risko for giving the Interact club officers a chance to shine at Rotary International. She was so proud of how they represented themselves. "It will be a day they will never forget, thanks to you and the Rotary."

Rotary is the only non-governmental organization (NGO) privileged to conduct a global-based conference and seminar at the United Nations. Now Dutchess BOCES is a contributing partner to that mission of community service both locally and internationally!

Keeping Up with Technology: BARS on the Web

Yet another new tech term ... BARS on the Web. So, what is it? It stands for *BOCES Assessment Report System (BARS)*. In short, it's a web-based tool that a school district can use to analyze previous student performance on NYSED state assessments. It can be useful for determining achievement gaps among the district's entire student population or specific sub-groups within it (e.g. ethnic backgrounds; special education; English language learners). It can also be used to identify specific achievement gaps of any particular student in the district.

With BARS on the Web, test-scoring reports can be generated and printed or saved beyond those available through the Mid-Hudson Regional Information Center NYS assessment services. Data can be exported, reports filtered to disaggregate on subgroups, and desktop data comparisons can be performed. Multiple years of data are available for analysis and reporting. BARS on the Web uses data at the Level 1 data warehouse to provide comprehensive and up-to-date information. Reports and data will be added as new tests are administered and results become available. Reports for all state assessments are available.



Literacy Students Participate in *The Big Read*

From the middle of October through November 16, *Jane Schanzenbach's* adult literacy students participated in *The Big Read* initiative sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Public Library. In class, students read *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, written by Thornton Wilder. Schanzenbach's students said they found it easy to relate to Wilder's central message about love's impact and could readily apply its meaning to their own lives. In the process, they enhanced their critical thinking, history, geography, reading comprehension, and written communication skills.



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2012 Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walks

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Vassar College, Walker Field House, Poughkeepsie, NY

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Dietz Stadium, Kingston, NY

Registration: 8:30 am ~ Walk Begins: 10:00 am

2 or 4-mile walk

For walk information:

Anna Marie Paolercio at 845.486.4840, extension 3030

Kathleen Gibson Ferris at 845.486.4840, extension 3008

Visit [Dutchess/Ulster Heart Walk](#)

Work-Based Learning Program News

- For the Work-Based Learning Program, we now have a substitute driver on board for transporting students to job sites in Red Hook and Pine Plains.
- *The Best Western* in Poughkeepsie (formerly known as Inn at the Falls) is a new job site. Two other new sites include the nursery at *Christ Church on Quaker Hill* in Pawling and the new *Adams Fairacre Farms* in Wappingers.

BOCES Assists Districts with Instructional Practices

Districts are beginning to address all of the changes in instructional practice being mandated by the NYS Education Department. Dutchess BOCES is quickly becoming one of their first calls as they explore how to effectively and efficiently proceed. Most recently, we were invited to both Pine Plains and Millbrook to work with their respective staff in forming building-level data inquiry teams. The goals of such teams include reviewing the assessment data of their students, identifying a specific area for improvement within a specific subset of students, creating an action plan for improving their performance on future assessments, and measuring the success of the intervention.





BOCES Employees Contribute to United Way

Dutchess BOCES completed another successful [United Way](#) fund drive. At Dutchess BOCES, we have earned a reputation for caring about the communities where we work and live. This year, our campaign took place in October during which time employees donated a total of **\$6,611.25** to United Way! Most sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the fund drive, as well as our United Way Building Team Leaders for their help in collecting the donations.

Dutchess **BOCES** ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE

- The Adult Learning Institute (ALI) staff nominated a student for the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education (NYACCE) *Student of the Year Award*. In September 2010, *Tachina Parchment* came to the United States from Jamaica. At that time, her reading and math test scores indicated that she was performing at a sixth-grade level. Within eleven months, she participated in the Nursing Assistant Program, landed a job and completed her GED® requirements. Congratulations Tachina, on this nomination!
- Thanks to the efforts of our *Facilities and Operations Division*, "on-demand" hot water is now available at ALI for the nursing program students! It is essential that the nursing students have hot water available to complete a part of their testing requirements.

Alternative and Special Education News

- *Lauren Kroll* was delighted to chaperone three AHS students at a workshop entitled "Students Making Connections." The Chamber Foundation of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce sponsored the workshop, held at Marist College on November 4. Attending students included *Shannon O'Brien*, *Jesse Margiotta* and *Sereena Starzyk*. They had a great time at Marist and stated that the workshop was very informative.
- The AHS incentive committee is up and running and planning monthly incentives for all those students that meet qualifications.
- AHS Guidance Counselor *Kathleen Garrison* said that the work program is off to a great start. The program gives many students the opportunity to explore different work experiences.
- Congratulations to AHS students who recently recognized by the Arlington-Poughkeepsie Rotary as Student of the Month: *Joseph Page* (October) and *Sereena Starzyk* (November).



- *Helping Hands* is part of the AHS Interact club. Volunteers went to the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie to help serve food to the homeless, shoe boxes were filled with various essential and basic-needs items and delivered to the homeless.
- The *BETA Boosters* completed their "Annual Afternoon of Pie." A wide variety of pies were sampled. In addition, the "Cookies and Milk with Santa" was held on December 20. The AHS staff enjoyed a selection of over fifteen different cookies.

- Director of Alternative and Special Education Norah Merritt received two gift certificates from *Michael's* amount of \$200 that were issued by the Attorney General's office. These cards will be used to purchase various store items for SPC and AHS.
 - At AHS, *Norah Merritt* and *John Jeffrey* are in the process of centralizing printers for teaching staff. This project will result in a saving to the division of approximately \$8,000 each year.
 - *Norah Merritt* and *Barbara Cesario* advised that Dutchess BOCES transitioned to a digital system for reporting Medicaid-related service information. This will result in savings by decreasing the amount of staff hours required to produce reports by approximately 20 hours a month or \$6,000 annually.
- The Salt Point Center holiday show was held on Tuesday, December 1. This year's event was an *International Expo*. Each classroom at SPC chose a different country and everything in that room highlighted the culture and heritage of that country. In addition, there were live student performances that delighted those friends and family members who stopped by.



District Classroom Events

- *Lindsay Paolercio's* class at Unionvale Middle School held its German Culture celebration at the end of December.
- *Maureen Moloney's* class held an annual holiday cookie celebration on Monday, December 19.
- On December 21, the *BOCES satellite class at Pawling High School* celebrated a Community Day at Pawling's Dutchess Rehabilitation Center for Senior Citizens.
- Each year, the *BOCES graduating students from our Arlington*

High School satellite class participate in a field trip activity. This year, on December 9 our students travelled to NYC to attend a Broadway show.

- Congratulations to *Nathaniel Fisher* for being chosen as *Student of the Week*. Fisher is a student in *Ann Marie Banas's* class at Vail Farm Elementary School.
- The *BOCES PEACCE class at Nassau Elementary School* held its holiday event on the afternoon of December 2. Also, the most recent issue of the BOCES PEACCE newsletter was sent home to our families.
- At Vail Farm Elementary School, Kelli Schwarze was pleased to share two special accomplishments -- Vitaly Andruk and Tyler Parrotte participated in the Diversity Reflections Program at the school. They had to complete a project that showcased what diversity meant to them. Vitaly created a poster and Tyler used Braille to create a poem on diversity. To celebrate, they had a ceremony at the school for the participants of the contest. Schwarze also had a pizza party in her classroom to celebrate their accomplishments.

Dutchess BOCES CTI Holds Online Auction

A new way to raise money for Dutchess BOCES CTI was recently instituted by CTI Principal Mitchell Shron. Through an online company called Auction International, Shron submitted five lots of items for bid including a Scag Cougar riding mower, a Yerf-Dog utility vehicle, seven Olde Town Tandem kayaks, two Coats tire changes, and 104 new laptop shoulder bags. The bidding for the five lots closed on December 20. Pending final approval, funds due to Dutchess BOCES total \$7,540.



Lead Safety for Remodeling, Repair and Painting

Dutchess BOCES Adult Learning Institute (ALI), in collaboration with Dutchess County Department of Health is pleased to offer a One Day EPA Certification Class entitled *Lead Safety for Remodeling, Repair, and Painting (RRP)*. Effective April 22, 2010, The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require that all landlords, contractors, property management firms, or handymen who do renovation, remodeling or painting work, in pre-1978 housing or child occupied facilities, complete RRP training.

Program Coordinator *Robert Butler* reported that so far more than 20 people participated and received their certification to renovate, repair and paint in accordance with the latest EPA regulations. Some participants were recent graduates of the O1CTR-12A-12 HVAC Technician Program at CTI and ALI. The RRP test scores were at least 80% or higher for all participants.

The HVAC program at the high school and adult level has kept aspiring technicians abreast of changes in the industry through ongoing interaction with manufacturers, policy makers and industry professionals. This year marks another strategic change that impacts the entire building industry, as well as public health. Dutchess BOCES implemented the RRP training to enable our students and interested parties in the region to gain this valuable training and certification. In addition, it provides our graduates with a key that may open another door of opportunity for seeking a career in the building industry.

For more information about RRP, visit the [Dutchess BOCES Web site homepage](#)



2012-2013 Services Guide Moves to a Web-Based Format

The 2012-2013 Dutchess BOCES Services Guide will soon be available and expected to be posted on our Web site in early January 2012. New this year, school district personnel and BOCES administrators will have access to information about our 2012-2013 programs and services online in a web-based application called [WinCapWeb](#). This format is also expected to become available in January 2012.

Dates to Remember

- December 30 and January 2 - New Year's Holiday (schools and offices closed)
- January 11 - Dutchess BOCES Board Meeting
- January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (schools and offices closed)



Dutchess **BOCES**

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Dr. John C. Pennoyer, District Superintendent

"Begin somewhere; you cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do." ~ *Liz Smith*

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