

Alternative and Special Education

Erin Scott's Red Oaks Mill Community-Based students are completing their spring projects. Recently the students collected over 50 DVDs to send to the Ronald McDonald house, assisted Alamo EMS with putting together "Files for Life", made spring floral centerpieces for the dining room for the residents of the Elant Nursing Home to enjoy, and shopped for toys to deliver to Vassar Hospital Pediatric Unit. In addition, Scott recently received confirmation from the Fund for Excellence in Education Grants program that her grant application to create a yearbook for special needs students was accepted. Congratulations Erin!

On March 18, the SPC chorus members visited the Hudson Fireman's Home in Hudson, NY for a St. Patrick's Day celebration. The SPC chorus, along with some student senate members, presented an Irish program of song and historical information to the residents. The senior citizens definitely enjoyed being in the company of our students. After the program, the students mingled with the seniors. After a brief lunch, the chorus took a guided tour of the Fireman's Museum, which is adjacent to the home.

During the month of April the BOCES students at Arlington, with the assistance of Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Slagle, had a very successful children's book drive. They received over 150 books. The books will be donated to the Astor Head Start Program and used in their "Parents as Teachers First" Program. The students will deliver the books to Astor on May 1st where they will have some time to share snack and read to the children.

In celebration of Autism Awareness month, the students in Mrs. Slagle's PEACCE classroom took a trip to New York City. They took the Metro North train from New Hamburg to Grand Central, visited Madame Tussauds Museum then went to a Broadway play. Several students got to see Mary Poppins' take flight across the theater while others enjoyed the enchantment of WICKED. Those who viewed WICKED were very fortunate to receive a backstage tour from one of the actors. They got to meet several other actors (including the green witch Elpheba), try on costumes, use props and find out the secrets behind the magic of WICKED. The students ended their day with dinner at Planet Hollywood. All who attended would agree that this trip created an everlasting memory! It afforded all our students the opportunity to study life skills, technology and the theater while having loads of fun. A special thanks to the Community Foundation of Dutchess County who awarded Scott with a \$500.00 grant to support this trip.

Alternative High School (AHS) Principal John Jeffrey advised that the AHS Character Education Committee developed "project green day", wherein newspapers and plastic bottles were collected. In one day, the students collected over 130 plastic bottles! Before the bottles make their way to the recycling center, AHS art teacher Caroline Van Wagner is using the bottles and other recycled items as part of a special Earth Day student art project. It began with the students watching a video interview with John Dahlsen, environmental artist from Australia. To see a video of Dahlsen's work visit www.johndahlsen.com (videos are located under movies). Van Wagner emailed the artist to advise him of her student project and how he has inspired the staff and students! A huge plastic bottle was made as "art" from a collection of recycled water bottles. Courtesy of Van Wagner, one student will be awarded a lunch from a local restaurant for the most creative artwork made during the 2-3 day process.

At AHS, several students participated in the contest "List how many ways you can recycle at home or at school." AHS student Lauren Rizzo was the winner with a list of 100 ways to recycle. Several students participated in putting together an Earth Day display table, which included the "plastic bottle project". The display also featured a "table" made from recycled cans and a poster display with recycling facts. Eighteen students participated in Earth Day awareness activities and were invited to attend an Earth Day celebration. At the Earth Day Celebration students participated in four interactive activities using the Smart Board. One of the activities featured students calculating their carbon footprint using multimedia software from the Earth Day network website. By using edible ice cream cups, gummy worms, cookies, and pudding, students made "edible recycling art" to enjoy at the Earth day celebration. Special thanks to Mrs. Borchers, Mrs. Como, Ms. FitzMaurice, Mrs. LeClair, and Ms. White for helping with this project and event.

Congratulations to AHS art student Xavier Perez! His mural of the Mid-Hudson Bridge, which he painted last summer, was on exhibition at the F. D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park. There was a reception on April 24 displaying the artwork of many students, including Perez's awesome mural!

At a recent Youth Aide/Job Support Staff meeting, the Management of Ruby Tuesday at The Galleria Mall and Fishkill restaurants provided a private meeting area for over twenty-three BOCES staff who work in the Work Based Learning Program. Ruby Tuesday staff John Barrella, Mark Edwards, and Julie Wazlinski put together a wonderful meeting environment to show their appreciation for the BOCES staff who collectively serve over sixty special and alternative education students and forty-five employers throughout Dutchess County. Thanks to the efforts of Job Coach Marie Villa who helped plan this meeting with Ruby Tuesday's management staff. The event was the first of its kind and was highly educational and meaningful for all in attendance. One of the guest speakers was Josephine Dayger, Manager of the Poughkeepsie Plaza. She expressed her appreciation for the BOCES staff and students and their contribution to the community.

On our March 31st Superintendent's Conference Day, the Work-Based Learning staff were part of a special Autism Awareness and Strategy Training Session. "Austism, the Musical", a movie that won two Emmy Awards, focuses on five case studies about autistic students who play roles in a school musical written specifically for autistic students by their special education teachers. The film was followed by a presentation given by Dr. Jeff Saffir, a local specialist who deals with many diet, exercise, and behavioral topics. Staff evaluations indicated high ratings for interest and useful information.

NEW SITES FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING: Perkins Pancake House, Walgreen's, Drums-2-Go, The Axe Shop, and the Hudson Valley Academy of Music and Art. Students from both Special and Alternative Education Division have enjoyed learning new skills at these sites, which now brings our total to 48 employer work sites!

On April 24, over 150 Salt Point Center students and staff participated in an Earth Day Walk around the grounds of SPC. Each class was suited with gloves and plastic bags to pick up the garbage that was on the school property. Over thirty bags of garbage was collected. Students from our Academics, Behavior and Community (ABC) program sorted the trash into appropriate bins, separating the trash from items that can be recycled. Many thanks to all who participated for beautifying our campus!

Business Services

All of our Administrators have submitted budgets, which illustrated a great deal of effort to keep our numbers as fiscally prudent as possible. The local school district Boards of Education in Dutchess County each met on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, to cast their votes for two questions with the following results: The Dutchess BOCES Administrative Budget for 2009-2010 was approved. Edward McCormick, Robert Meade and Sam Shufelt were each elected to serve a three-year term on the Dutchess BOCES Board of Education.

Various audits have taken place over the last several months. We had an internal audit on the inventory system, an audit on our federal grants, and an audit on both our DEHIC health consortium and our Workers Compensation Fund. Additionally, we have had the State Comptroller's Office at our location for the last several months.

The 2009 Mid Hudson Chapter of New York State Association of School Business Officials Annual Scholarship announced scholarship winners. At least 20 applicants came in from Dutchess County. The scholarship winner from Dutchess County is Charlie Dale from the Wappingers Central School District.

Career & Technical Education

The environmental studies instructor at CTI, Mark Angevine, along with his Dutchess Academy of Environmental students, will be participating in some very exciting events. Angevine will be taking a group of five students from Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park on a weeklong field trip aboard the environmental conservation sloop, the Clearwater. They will live and work alongside the regular crew. The Clearwater will be taking two educational sails a day, and our students will be teaching other students, mostly from NYC, about the Hudson River, its history, biology, physical structure, and conservation. During this week the Clearwater will be based at 79th Street Boat Basin on NYC's Upper West Side. The story gets even better! Pete Seeger, who is turning 90 on May 3, founded the Clearwater. Seeger is hosting a birthday party at Madison Square Garden featuring many of the biggest names in music. While they are not participating in Seeger's birthday party at the Garden, they will be the volunteer crew aboard the boat starting on May 4th. This trip, for them, is like an art class going to Italy, an astrophysics class going to Johnson Space Center, or a computer programming class going to Seattle to meet with Bill Gates!

An evening Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program is starting in late April. The evening class helps us meet the need to train additional CNAs, and to make the program available to people unavailable to take classes during the day. We also will offer CNA classes during the summer. There is a big demand for Certified Nursing Assistants, and their employment outlook is very bright.

MTI Instructor Bill Parlapiano will teach a special Introduction to Construction Technology course during the month of June for youth from Dutchess Youth Career-Works. Once a student completes this core curriculum, he/she is prepared to take the first exam in the national certification sequence. Through a special agreement, many of these young people will be employed by Dutchess County Community Action Agency in their weatherization program.

An open house and informational session held in March to provide an evening cosmetology class went well, with twelve potential students in attendance. Several of those who attended have already completed some hours and are looking to finish their license requirements with the BOCES. The class will be taught by experienced cosmetology instructors and will prepare students for the New York State licensing examination. Cosmetology is one of the fields that is known as "recession proof" and is particularly appealing now for its flexibly and entrepreneurial aspects.

New Ventures Being Pursued: The Adult Division is currently in discussion with Beacon City School District to provide a conversational Spanish class for their staff. In addition, we continue to work with the Dental Laboratory Association of New York to develop a course in denture technology.

Several of our Cosmetology students were invited to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) to participate in a "pamper the students" night. Several local hair salons pampered CIA and CTI students. Our students also enjoyed the culinary cuisine of this distinguished institute.

CTI Instructor, Chef Darcy Sala, led a luncheon at CTI for a group of individuals from the LaGrange Library. Twenty-five individuals from the library district attended. After the luncheon, the guests were given a guided tour of CTI. Thanks to the many CTI staff and students who helped with this event. The Poughkeepsie Journal recently featured a story entitled "BOCES kids cook up a feast".

The largest group ever, comprised of 51 very talented CTI students, recently attended the SkillsUSA state finals competition in Syracuse, NY. CTI Principal Mitchell Shron is proud to announce that several students took honors. Congratulations to the following students:

- 2nd place in Residential Wiring: Frank Commisso (John Jay High School) - Instructor: Al Berti, Construction Electricity
- 3rd place in Photography: Zach Pardee (FDR High School) - Instructors: Jim Robishaw and Steve Lawson, Communication Technology
- 3rd place in Culinary Arts: Amberly Ouimette (Stissing Mountain High School) - Instructors: Darcy Sala and Dan Tierney, Culinary Arts
- 3rd place in Extemporaneous Speaking: April Colley (Millbrook) - Instructor: Sharon Myers, Cosmetology

Central Office

Three cheers to our dynamite clerical support staff! Since 1952, the last full week of April has been designated Administrative Professionals Week (formerly called Secretaries Week) by the International Association of Administrative Professionals. Administrative professionals master technology, effectively utilize their interpersonal and communication skills, manage projects and organize the office, apply their creativity to solving problems and, most importantly, have the willingness to learn and accept new challenges. They are vital contributors in our team-orientated organization and are key frontline public relations ambassadors for our organization. Thank you to the many hard working and very talented individuals who provide us with great support on a day-to-day basis!

Thanks to the efforts of Administration's Karen Runza and Hyde Park Bus Driver Debra D'Ambrosio, \$315 was raised for the American Cancer Society.

Communications & Grants Research

Kids Expo 2009!

Dutchess BOCES had one of the most exciting booths at Kids Expo 2009 that was held in Poughkeepsie at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center on April 4 and 5! We had three different activities for the children – Picture Your Future, Feel the Eel and Mozzarella Mania. Many thanks to CTI staff Mitchell Shron, Darcy Sala, Michael White and Mark Angevine, and CGR's Anna Marie Martino, Jackie Cardascia and Diane Volk Sommer for their part in assisting with the two-day event. In an addition, sincere thanks to the following students for their participation: Kaycee Wanzer, Devynn Stofa, Michelle Raguso, Lauryn Delbiondo, Dominique Williams, Cassidy Sedore, Ngoc Nguyen, Catlyn Grunther, Sean Hayes, Mackenzie Landers, Brittany Palmetier, Alyssa Robinson, Meggan Kalkowsky, Kayla Roger, Fletcher Cambell, Sara Kimlin, Victoria Stages, and Gregg Johnson.

Employee Recognition Nominations Due!

Nominations for the Employee Recognition Awards Program are due to the District Superintendent's office by May 1. This program recognizes exemplary performance of staff members that represents a level of service significantly over and above their specific job responsibilities. Please refer to the program guidelines and nomination form located in your Employee Handbook. You may also access this information at <http://www.dcboces.org/publications/employrecogguidelines.php>. Don't forget – you can nominate more than one person! This year's Dutchess BOCES Employee Recognition Day is on Wednesday, May 6.

Educational Resources

The final session of Response to Intervention with Jim Wright was held successfully on Friday, March 27, 2009. The many districts in attendance were provided with the opportunity for implementation planning, and discussion of next steps for successful implementation in their home school district. Thanks to Cecelia Dansereau-Rumley and the members of the RTI Planning Committee for all of their hard work in planning and supporting this yearlong initiative.

We are pleased to announce submittal of Technical Proposal for the Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center (RSE-TASC) at Dutchess BOCES. The RSE-TASC will serve 47 school districts, 4 BOCES, and 14 approved private school providers of Students with Disabilities located in Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties. Services will include research based technical assistance on instructional strategies, school-wide systems, and federal and state regulatory requirements to support the NYSED/VESID mission of improved outcomes for students with disabilities.

Several live video presentations of the 7th Annual Distinguished Educators Series in Partnership with PACE University have been successfully offered through Educational Resources. This has been a valuable experience for everyone.

The second year of the "Technology Enhancing Literacy Learning Project" (TELL) Summer Institutes is quickly approaching! Ulster BOCES, representing the Mid-Hudson JMT including Dutchess, Orange-Ulster, Sullivan and Ulster BOCES, will hold the institutes on July 27-30, 2009 and August 10-13, 2009 at Ulster BOCES. Twenty-one districts from four counties participated in last year's institutes. TELL is a multi-level approach for expanding technology literacy and literacy skills identified by the NYS Learning Standards for grade clusters, 3-6 and 7-12. TELL provides professional development to infuse technology and literacy skills addressing three major needs - student digital divide, teacher integration of technology and students' thinking skills.

Educational Resources has submitted the 2009 Teaching American History Grant Application. In partnership with Marist College, this project, Voices of Leadership: Celebrating American Character through Local Histories and Life Stories, (VOL) will build both the historical content knowledge and the content literacy skills of secondary American history teachers. The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI), one of the nation's leading regional history programs, together with Orange/Ulster BOCES and Ulster BOCES will complete a collaborative network that will nurture and sustain a dynamic learning community of historians and teachers while delivering comprehensive professional development.

Facilities and Operations

Facilities Director Walter Niemiec advised that our Fingerprinting service is moving along well, and school district participation is increasing.

Human Resources

A warm welcome to Isabel Laufer, Teacher of the Deaf, who started with Dutchess BOCES on April 13!

One of the services provided by our Human Resources (HR) department is to process New York State professional certifications for school districts and residents in Dutchess County. Our Certification office has seen an increase in individuals using this service. Our processing time is much faster than sending them directly to SED.

HR Administrator Matt Carr would like to extend thanks to school attorneys Jim Drohan and Stu Waxman for sharing their expertise on HR processing and procedures at a recent meeting attended by local school district HR staff.

Content compiled by Dutchess BOCES Communications & Grants Research

Anna Marie Martino - Director

900 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Voice: 845.486.8051 ~ Fax: 845.486.4958

www.dcboces.org