Common Grounds

5th Annual E-Scrap 4 Camp

We are again collecting old electronics for recycling during the week of March 30 - April 6. For every pound of electronics collected at the Education Campus, Sunnking Electronics Recycling will make a monetary donation to Camp Good Days to improve the quality of life for children, adults and families whose lives have been touched by cancer. Donations will be accepted at the warehouse loading dock in the back of the Building A at the Education Campus. An acceptable materials list is posted on MyErie1.

HP Deals via MyErie1

Erie 1 BOCES has joined the HP Members Deals Program. All E1B employees are now members of the HP EPP promotion and are eligible for special pricing and exclusive deals on Hewlett-Packard consumer products. This program provides an easy, convenient, and secure shopping environment. Our HP EPP company code is posted on MyErie1 along with additional directions.

Wellness Fair

Please save the date of Thursday, April 30 from 12 - 4 p.m. for E1B's annual Wellness Day. On that day vendors will be at the Education Campus to interact with employees and give them information about health and wellness. More details will be provided on MyErie1 as they become available.

Changes to Note

It's Official, New DS Appointed

Lynn M. Fusco, Ph. D., was officially named as Erie 1 BOCES district superintendent and chief executive officer on March 11. Erie 1 BOCES' seven-member board of education unanimously approved Fusco's appointment, which will begin July 1, 2015. Fusco's 30 year career has been dedicated to education, with approximately 20 of those years spent in a leadership role. Read her full bio here.

Carol McGowan to Retire

Carol McGowan, senior coordinator in Technology Services, will retire on Friday, March 27. Carol has worked for Erie 1 BOCES since June 1980. Carol prefers to leave without a lot of fanfare. If you miss your chance to say goodbye she will be attending Steve Morris' party on April 29.

Steve Morris to Retire

Steven Morris, supervisor of data processing operations in Technology Services, will retire on April 29. Steve has worked for Erie 1 BOCES since December 1979. After hanging up his cardigan, a party will commence at 4:30 p.m. at The 33 Speakeasy Grill, 3455 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga. More details are on the employee bulletin board. Registration is not required, however please see Anne Schuh if you would like to sign a card.
Call for Volunteers
Looking to network with other divisions? Look no further, the Education Campus Employee Special Events Committee is looking for new members to help with jeans days and planning various activities including but not limited to raffles, mixers and the annual 12-month summer gathering. The committee meets about seven times a year. If you are interested in joining, please contact creimer@e1b.org.

Pictured here: committee member James Fregelette on March 17’s “jeans and green” dress down.

Lunch Reminder
Lunches at the Edu. Campus are 30 minutes long. To assist with this reminder, here are some tips on how to pre-order lunches from the cafe. The cafe is busiest between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To eliminate time in the line it is best to completely pre-order and pre-pay before 11:00 a.m. Calling in an order is fine any time, however there could be a line when you arrive. Eliminate the line by paying for your order in advance. State your desired pick up time and your lunch order will be waiting for you on a table in front of the cafe. Remember to complete your order by including the extras (beverage, chips, cookie). Otherwise you will stand in the line to pay for the extras.

Jeans Day
Donate $2 to participate in jeans days at the Education Campus. The upcoming events are:
- April 2: denim day
- May 8: denim day
- June 19: denim day

GURUBoards
WNYRIC launched the eSchoolData (eSD) GURUBoard, a brand new analytics tool that provides administrators, counselors and teachers with a personalized interface to organize and review a variety of data. GURUBoards are designed to allow district staff to easily identify and compare assessment, discipline, enrollment, attendance and student achievement trends using interactive graphs. WNYRIC plans to strategically roll out the GURUBoards this spring, a few districts at a time.

Digital Wave
The 11th Annual Riding the Digital Wave Conference was held by NYSCATE for the four BOCES regions in Western New York. The conference featured guest speakers who introduced new teaching and learning ideas using technology software and equipment. The keynote speaker was Scott Merrick, a virtual learning expert.

Festival of Arts
Lisa Garvey, art teacher, along with student artists from McKinley School will be participating in the 11th Annual Festival of the Arts. This event is Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the HUB Youth Center, 4999 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg. It is open to the public and will feature student artwork and performances, as well as hands on workshops.
What's up at Maple West

Candice Emslie, personal nurse, and Patty Hulls, teacher, at Maple West are pleased to share these creative community outreach class projects. “In December, the class made and donated cards to the USO, Fort Drum and the local Veterans Hospital to show support to our armed forces and their families. They were packaged and mailed by Mrs. Cintron. In February, the class also made Valentines for Veterans. Many thanks to Mrs. Mahoney, job coach, for the time and supplies donated.”

News Zone – Career & Technical Education

American Girl Fashion Show

For the 10th straight year, Janice Gangloff and her Cosmetology students from the Kenton Career & Technical Center participated in the American Girl Fashion Show benefitting Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo. The students ran the “Doll Salon,” which is modeled after the salons at the American Girl stores across the country. The doll owners selected a style for their doll and then the cosmetology student executed it. This year the salon raised over $1,000 for TWIGS of Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo.

Annual CTE Fashion Show

Erie 1 BOCES’ Fashion Design and Merchandising program, under the direction of Darlene Meek, brought their designs to life on the runway during a high energy fashion show. Fifteen local high school seniors, representing eight school districts, worked hard over the last two years toward this one defining moment. From concept drawings to stitching the hems, the students poured countless hours into the outfits that were worn on the runway March 18, at Walden Galleria Mall’s Lord & Taylor court. More details, photos and video at this link.

Centers Celebrate NTHS

Nearly 145 high school seniors representing 21 school districts from across the region were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). The ceremony celebrated the academic accomplishments of students from Erie 1 BOCES’ three career and technical centers: Harkness, Kenton and Potter. On Thursday, March 12, students, faculty, family members and friends gathered in the auditorium at Maryvale High School for the induction ceremony. Cheryl Winstel, Associate in Trade and Technical Education for the NYS Education Department, was the evening's keynote speaker. Following a presentation of certificates, the student took the NTHS pledge of excellence. The full list of inductees can be found here.

SkillsUSA Regional Competition

Erie 1 BOCES CTE students impressed at the NYS SkillsUSA regional competition at Alfred State College on March 3. In all, Erie 1 BOCES had five students take home first, second or third place. Brian McCadden of Clarence High School placed first in the Collision Repair category. Mikaela Parwulski of JFK High School placed second in the Nail Technician event while Roxanna Tubbs of Frontier High School placed third. Frontier High School students Brendan Adamczyk and Jonathan Guzman placed second and third, respectively, during the Electrical Construction Wiring Competition. All competitors that place third or higher in their competition go on to compete at the NYS SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championships where they will try to qualify for the national championships. The state competition will be held April 22-24 in Syracuse, NY.
Pennies for Pasta

Harkness held Pennies for Pasta, a fundraiser for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society LLS. The building raised a grand total of $2,844 in one week. Mrs. Ziemczonek's pet grooming (a.m.) class won the Olive Garden pasta party for the most money raised. Mr. Isula's electronics (a.m.) class came in second and Mr. Hunt's TV and sound (p.m.) class took third place.

Kudos

Kudos Carol Barber

Carol Barber, chief operating officer and deputy superintendent for Erie 1 BOCES, was named in Business First's Who's Who in Education issue on March 13. Congratulations!

Kudos Gary Willis and Kenton CTE

Fahim Mojawalla, father of Talha Mojawalla, personally thanked Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education for the educational opportunities afforded to his son at E1B's Kenton Career & Technical Center. Talha is a senior enrolled in the automotive technician program under the instruction of Gary Willis. He shared with the board that his eyes were opened to the impact of CTE thanks to the success of his child.

Kudos Denise Gomez Santos from the acting commissioner & other top level SED staff

"We would like to take a moment to thank you for your on-going efforts to support the critical work of providing English Language Learners across the state with an education that will enable them to be college and career ready upon graduation. Your efforts and time commitment to strengthen the work occurring around the NYSESLAT are greatly appreciated." Respectfully, Beth Berlin, Ken Wagner, Cosimo Tangorra and Angelica Infante

Kudos Barbara Fedchak

In a note to Barbara Fedchak, Technology Services, from Don Skotnicki, CTE, he said, “Thank you for providing our teachers with the training for webzone… I spoke with both teachers today and they said your training was wonderful and they both appreciated it very much.”

Kudos Jennifer Dominguez & eSchoolData

Jennifer Dominguez & eSchoolData Team of Tech Services, were thanked by Christa McHale, associate director of CTE, with these words, “...thank you all for being so responsive to the needs of our customers. Anytime I've ever forwarded a call or email from a struggling customer, I know I can depend on you to respond quickly and find a solution.”

Kudos Special Education

Scott Payne, director of special education, Alden Central Schools wrote the following, “...I have long held that BOCES programs should be leading the way in the region. It is evident that this vision is becoming reality.”
Kudos WNYRIC
In a message to the WNYRIC from Jay Morris of Cuba Rushford Schools, “Thank you for your help today with the PARCC field trial. It is amazing how many moving parts there were. If it wasn't for all the great people at and supporting CR helping out it would not have been nearly as successful. I feel extremely fortunate to work with so many wonderful people that care so much about what is good for our kids and are willing to give up so much for them.”

Kudos Michael Capuana
Michael Capuana, director of Career & Technical Education, was asked to present in Albany about CTE opportunities to middle school students. He was filmed and his presentation is now posted on the International Center for Educational Leadership's website. To learn more, you too may also view it at this link.

Special Features

Articles of Interest

Made A Work Mistake? How to Bounce Back - We all make mistakes. It’s part of being human. But when we mess up at work, we have much more at stake. Read more here...

Spring Cleaning Your Career: 8 Bad Work Habits to Drop - When you're considering goals for yourself, don't forget to examine your work life. What changes could you make to become a more productive and grow? Read more here...

Spring Clean Your Cell Phone - With all the functions of our cell phones now (is 'cell phone' even a technically accurate term anymore?), it's as if we are carrying computers around with us in our pockets. Read more here...

Free ways to file your taxes – While this is from the NYC area, it offers some good ideas and resources such as the Free File Alliance, a nonprofit coalition of industry-leading tax software companies to help people making less than $60,000 a year. Read more here.

Like Us, Share Us and Re-Tweet Us

One of the easiest ways you can help promote Erie 1 BOCES is by following us and interacting with us on social media. If you like, share or re-tweet E1B’s postings you can quickly spread the word about the great work accomplished by E1B