

Common Grounds



Regent Collins Visits E1B

In preparation for the ESSA meeting on June 8, Regent Catherine Collins visited Erie 1 BOCES. During her visit, she toured the Education Campus and the Potter Career & Technical Center to further her understanding of Erie 1 BOCES' services to districts.

[Read more about Regent Collins visit.](#)



Teeing Up for Three Golf Tournaments Summer 2017

Three favorite summer events are returning for another year. As a reminder: if any of these events occur on a day that you are normally scheduled to work, you must first process a personal day or a vacation day request to attend.

The 44th annual BOCES Open will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2017 at Holland Hills Country Club. Proceeds will benefit the Anti-Bullying - Be The Difference. Registration is due by June 23 and the cost is \$85 per golfer or \$340 per team. Registration includes lunch, dinner, beer and pop at the turn and 19th hole, green fee, cart and prizes. Registration forms can be

found on the employee bulletin board under "Events in WNY."

The "Friends of the NY44" will host its eighth annual charity golf tournament benefitting the Hospice Foundation of WNY on Thursday, July 20. The tournament will be held at Chestnut Hill Country Club. The shotgun scramble event begins at 10 a.m. Registration is \$100 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch at the turn, happy hour and dinner. [Click here for more information about the Friends of the NY44 golf tournament.](#)

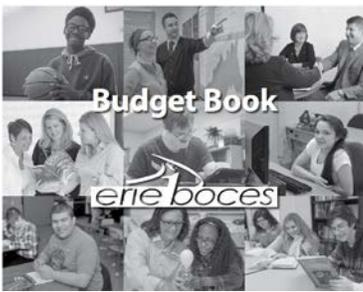
The 17th Annual WNYRIC Open will be held at Byrnclyff Resort and Conference Center on Thursday, July 27, 2017. All proceeds from the tournament are donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo. Last year's tournament raised \$2,500 for the Ronald McDonald House. Registration is \$110 per golfer or \$440 per team and includes golf, cart, lunch and dinner and one hour of open bar. Registration forms can be found on the employee bulletin board under "Events in WNY." Contact Sean Christopher, schristopher@e1b.org, or Anne Schuh, aschuh@e1b.org for details.



Mail Order Prescriptions

Effective July 1, 2017, the NY44 Trust will implement a mail order delivery system for members utilizing maintenance medications normally prescribed for long term chronic conditions. If you or a dependent utilize a maintenance medication, you should be receiving information from Pharmacy Benefit Dimensions ("PBD") about how to register for the mail order delivery system.

[For more information on maintenance medications visit MyErie1.](#)



2017-18 Admin Budget Approved

Erie 1 BOCES' 2017-2018 administrative budget was unanimously approved on April 18. Eighteen school district boards met and voted on the budget during a special session. In addition, John Sherman and Janet MacGregor Plarr were reelected to the Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education.

Here is a link to the [2017-2018 administrative budget book](#).



New Conference System

Erie 1 BOCES has begun a contract with WebEx and at the close of the school year will sunset the conference bridge. All employees with an Active Directory account will be able to utilize the WebEx account to initiate conference calls and host webinars. A training presentation is under Tech Tips on MyErie1.



Importing Holidays into Lotus Notes Calendar

The contractual and the instructional holidays for the 2017-2018 school year are completed and ready for employees to import into their Lotus Notes calendars.

[See MyErie1 for directions to import the holidays into your calendar.](#)

Changes to Note



New Treasurer

On May 15, Jennifer Heiler began her role as School District Treasurer. As Treasurer, Heiler will maintain the budget, prepare needed reports, handle investments and oversee payroll processing. She is replacing Doreen Kausner, who is now the Data Informatics Manager for NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust.



New Address for MailMeter

We have updated the address for MailMeter to use an SSL certificate. The new address is <https://mailarchive.e1b.org/jsr>. The links on the Lotus Notes Welcome Page and in Employee Access on e1b.org have already been changed. If you have the site bookmarked, please update the address to use https:// instead of http://. We have disabled the http:// address as of May 22nd.

News Zone – Education Campus



Schools Create Wellness Plans at New Era Field

Local school wellness committees from 22 school districts had the opportunity to come together at New Era Field and create an action plan to create a culture of wellness in their schools thanks to The Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Program at Erie 1 BOCES.

[Read more about the wellness workshop.](#)



Employee Events

Father's Day 50/50

The Father's Day raffle will take place outside the BOCES cafe' Wednesday, June 14 thru Friday, June 16th during the hours of 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The drawing will be held at 1:00 on Friday, June 16th.

Denim Day

The special events committee will be holding a denim day on Friday, June 16, 2017. It is \$2 to participate and proceeds benefit the Employee Events fund. For a dress down sticker please see Dawn Schmidt, Valerie Winegarden, Dawn Novak or Sharon Hourihan.



12 Month Employee Gathering

12-month employees are encouraged to mingle with co-workers on Wed., July 19th. A picnic lunch will be served until 2 p.m. at Cheektowaga Town Park's Lions Shelter. Staff members with approved shifts that end at 3 p.m., or earlier, may arrive by 12:30 p.m.; staff with approved shifts that end after 3 p.m may arrive at 1 p.m. Registration*** by July 6 is required at this link:

<https://apps.wnyric.org/web/emr-e1b/register-for-an-event?event=35843&edit=true>

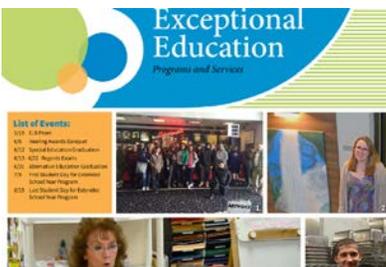
*****Remember to save your confirmation e-mail, as registration is required for attendance.

News Zone – Exceptional Education



Fun at Prom

On May 19, students from Erie 1 BOCES' Special Education division met at Maryvale High School's gym for their annual prom celebration. Students were dressed to impress and enjoyed dancing and listening to the D.J. In addition to the decorations with a luau theme, students were able to get their picture taken by a professional photographer. The event was a great success, both students and staff enjoyed the festivities.



New Issue of Exceptional Education Newsletter

The Spring 2017 issue of the Exceptional Education newsletter is now online. The issue features three graduates from the Class of 2017, award winners and a program to build self-esteem for young women. These heartwarming stories also capture the success and pride of our many talented teachers, including Marie Szabla who passed away in May.

[Read the spring issue of the Exceptional Education newsletter.](#)

News Zone – Career & Technical Education



Full Sail University

Full Sail University brought their interactive mobile experience to Western New York high school students at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center. The mobile experience allowed students to interact with concert lighting, live TV, 2D and 3D animation, and music engineering stations. The high school programs that participated in the experience included: TV & Sound Production, Digital Media, and Electronics & Computer Technology. [Read more about the Full Sail visit to Harkness.](#)



Potter Students Win NYS SkillsUSA Health Knowledge Bowl

Four Erie 1 BOCES Health Careers students won first place in the Health Knowledge Bowl competition at the 2017 New York State SkillsUSA competition. The team, made up of two juniors and two seniors, all attend the Health Careers program at Potter Career & Technical Center.

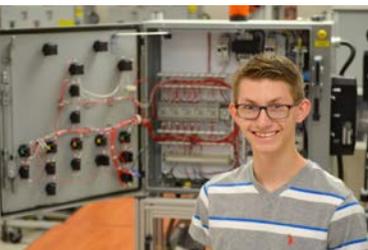
[Read more about the Health Knowledge Bowl winners.](#)



Clarence Teen Awarded with \$1,000 Technical Scholarship

Austin Oleszak of Clarence was recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). Austin has been part of the Digital Media program at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center for the past two years, producing media in the area of graphic design, illustration, video, photography, and animation.

[Read more about Austin Oleszak.](#)



Top Young Mind in Industrial Motor Controls

Matthew Scheffler is choosing not to attend his high school graduation and everyone is cheering. That is because Matthew has an impressive scheduling conflict, he has a date to take on the nation's best young minds in industrial motor controls.

[Read more about Matthew.](#)



Electrical Student Advances to Nationals as a Junior

Winning a statewide SkillsUSA competition is quite impressive. Winning the competition as a junior in high school is even more impressive and quite rare. This is exactly what Brandon Meek, an electrical student at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center, did this year.

[Read more about Brandon's win.](#)



Zoo Wildlife Students Present Zoo Exhibit Models

Students from the Erie 1 BOCES Zoo Wildlife and Conservation Careers program presented their final projects on May 18. Each student wrote a comprehensive research paper on their animal, and created a tri-fold poster board that incorporated the highlights of their paper, a marketing plan and educational signs. Finally, they created scale models of an ideal zoo enclosure for their animals, based on the Association of Zoos & Aquariums guidelines, size requirements, safety for both animals and visitors and good sightlines for visitors to the zoo.

[Learn more about their final projects.](#)



Harkness student shows nursing potential

Joelle Seiden, a junior from Gateway Longview School, was selected as Erie 1 BOCES' featured student of the month. Joelle is enrolled in the Health Careers program under the instruction of Candace Santana RN at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center.

[Read more about Joelle.](#)



Tiny House Auction

The Building Trades program at Erie 1 BOCES Kenton Career & Technical Center auctioned off the program's first tiny house on June 2. The house was purchased for \$10,800.

[Read more about the Tiny House auction.](#)



From Cup Cakes to Career Exploration

Kenmore East Middle School and Erie 1 BOCES joined forces in an effort to spark student interest in technical careers. For one week, Erie 1 BOCES' baking teacher and Kenmore East's consumer sciences teacher provided a cooperative lesson. At the close of the week, approximately 45 eighth-grade students traveled to Erie 1 BOCES professional kitchen at the Kenton Career & Technical Center for a delicious cupcake war.

[Read more about career exploration.](#)

Across Divisions



Buffalo Maker Faire

Two areas of Erie 1 BOCES joined the Buffalo Maker Faire in May for a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness. The Fashion Design program and various WNYRIC staff developers provided patrons of the Buffalo Science Museum with an exclusive show-and-tell experience. Students of Darleen Meek's design class shared their creations on paper, computer and via a live fashion show. The WNYRIC staff developers provided five different stations of hands-on learning technology experiences.

Kudos



Kudos Joann Lukasiewicz

SAANYS recently honored Joann Lukasiewicz, manager of K-12 education support services for the Western New York Regional Information Center based at Erie 1 BOCES, with an award of distinction. For more than 20 years, Joann has dedicated her career to supporting school districts across WNY. An active member with Erie 1 BOCES' Management Association, she served several terms as secretary and president of that unit.

Kudos Kim Gretka

Melody Jason, Executive Director, Instructional Services sent the following to Communication Services regarding Kim Gretka, graphic artist.

"I would like to extend my appreciation to Kim Gretka for her hard work and creativity in the development of print shop materials for E1B Instructional Services. Kim's exceptional artistic skills rarely go unnoticed when sharing these numerous program promotional materials with staff, students and parents. Thank you Kim!!"



Kudos Connie Zastrow

Connie Zastrow was awarded the NYSUT Local Leader Award at the Western New York Regional 30th Annual Awards Dinner. Connie received this award for her continued union service to the Erie 1 Professional Education Association. Connie is a teacher for Career and Technical Education at the Harkness Center.

Special Features



How to Deal with Conflict: 5 Styles of Conflict Management

From the Employee Assistance Program:

You can rely on one thing no matter where you work: conflict is inevitable, whether it is with a co-worker, your supervisor, a vendor, or a customer. While you can't avoid conflict, you can learn how to identify your personal conflict styles and make better decisions in the heat of the moment. This month we sat down with Sharon Webber, Manager of Community-Based Initiatives at the Center for Resolution and Justice (CRJ), to discuss five different conflict management styles.

1. Avoiders: You avoid the issue. You don't assert what you want, but you don't help the other person get their needs met either. When it can work: when the issue is trivial, when you need some space, or when your relationship with the other party is more important to you than the issue.

CRJ tip: "Just because someone is avoiding the issue, doesn't mean they don't care. Some people find it uncomfortable to verbally engage or physically stay in a conflict. If you can, give them some time and space for their response."

2. Accommodators: You cooperate to a high-degree, and it may be at your own expense.

When it can work: when you are confident that the other person is an expert, or you want to preserve a relationship more than your goal.

CRJ tip: "Remember that you have needs! Don't be so agreeable that you sacrifice your needs in the process."

3. Competitors: You are assertive and do not seek cooperation with others—a "win-lose" model.

When it can work: when quick, decisive action is needed, when precedent needs to be set, or when people are aware of and support your approach.

CRJ tip: "Competitors are assertive but can sometimes be perceived as aggressive. If competing is indeed the best strategy, pursue it but be mindful of how others are reacting to you."

4. Collaborators: When you partner or pair up with the other party to achieve both your goals—a "win-win" model.

When it can work: when the issue is complex and could use multiple perspectives, and when everyone has the time, energy and trust in each other to pursue a consensus. Collaboration often leads to high quality decisions and improved or preserved relationships.

CRJ tip: "It's so important that when you collaborate, you listen to each other and truly hear what each other is saying. If you do, it will be much easier to find the common ground that will be the basis for moving forward."

5. Compromisers: you come to a compromise with the other party, where neither party gets exactly what they want.

When it can work: when there are equally important goals for both sides, or when a temporary fix is adequate.

CRJ tip: "Compromise can sometime seem like the easiest way to solve conflict, but don't over-rely on it. Collaboration can be far more effective in building shared goals and outcomes."

The Takeaway: According to Thomas, K.W., and R.H. Kilmann, most of us habitually use only one or two strategies that we are most comfortable with. Remember that your go-to strategy may not be the best one to use for a particular situation. Getting familiar with each style will allow you to move between and among them as appropriate.

"It's important to recognize your natural style for dealing with conflict," Webber recommends, "but don't forget that your style may shift based on circumstances or dynamics. Accept where you are, and make sure to accept where others are, as well."

CRJ's conflict resolution services are offered at low or no cost for EAP employees and their family members.



Heavy Tick Season: Resources to Identify and Remove Ticks

From NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust:

An extremely heavy tick season is predicted across New York State that has health experts concerned about human and pets. The mild winter has allowed ticks, much like other insects to thrive and emerge earlier than usual.

Ticks are small, some as small as a poppyseed. They can be easy to miss, especially if they've latched themselves onto a hairy pet or a spot on a human that's hard to reach or see, such as the top of the head or back.

[Visit the NY44 Health Trust website for resources on identifying and removing ticks.](#)



Jokes of the Month

Q: Where do sharks go on vacation?

A: Finland

Q: Why don't oysters share their pearls?

A: Because they are shellfish

Q: What did the ocean say to the sailboat?

A: Nothing, it just waved.



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