Cosmetology Students Show Off Skills In Runway Hair Show

The students in the Cosmetology classes at the Orleans and Niagara Career and Technical Education Centers, recently showed off the skills they have learned in their classes taught by Jill Beatty, Cathy Bonaccorso, Anne Carnahan, Pauline Carney and Sue Lindke.

Each center held their own show and the juniors were given the task of creating glamorous evening looks with hair and makeup and the seniors created fantastical looks for their part of the competition. Local beauty experts judged the looks before they hit the catwalk at the centers and the following students took home prizes:

**OCTEC Winners:**

**Fantasy:**
1st Place: Lexus Waite (Royalton-Hartland) and Tzyviah Ward (Lockport)
2nd Place: Megan Greenwalt (Lockport) and Alexis Morton (Lockport)
3rd Place: McKayla Moule (Lyndonville) and Carley Russo (Lyndonville).

**Evening:**
1st Place: Shayna Bulmer (Royalton-Hartland) and Ryleigh Blum (Lockport)
2nd Place: Tyneka Benton (Lockport) and Lanae McCaughey (Newfane)
3rd Place: Stefanie Nicholas (Newfane) and Allison Davis (Royalton-Hartland)

**NCTEC Winners:**

**Fantasy:**
1st Place: Savannah Bigelow (North Tonawanda) and Arianna Moss (Niagara Wheatfield)
2nd Place: Faith Stiverson (Niagara Falls) and Kanarah Jenkins (Niagara Falls)
3rd Place: Emma Gast (Wilson) and Sydney Barry (Wilson)

**Evening:**
1st Place: Emeila Seiferth (Starpoint) and Natalie Wagner (Newfane)
2nd Place: Karissa Wilson (Niagara Wheatfield) and Hayleigh Lackas (Niagara Falls)
3rd Place: Heidi Baxter (Niagara Wheatfield) and Kaitlyn Kulesza (Lewiston-Porter)
4th Place: Rojanea Brown (Niagara Falls) and Kylie Clark (North Tonawanda).

**Braiding/Extensions:**
1st Place: LaTia Ferguson (Niagara Falls) and Daelynn Smith (Niagara Falls).
Work-Based Learning Program Helps Students with Job Skills

The Work-Based Learning Program has nine students graduating this June. Students from both Orleans Learning Center and O/N BOCES North Tonawanda High School locations have been working with various employer sites since September. Our students were able to work alongside of their internship site co-workers to learn new job duties in different departments.

These opportunities help students to gain employable work skills, learn how to maneuver in a workplace, and build self-confidence. Work Based Learning opportunities can help students build a connection with their internship supervisors and within our community.

Students in this program work with job coach support to provide mentoring as students learn their job duties and provide on-going assistance during the internship as necessary.

Krista Macomber (Transition Supervisor), Debbie Branch (Transition Specialist), and job coaches Heidi Dorpfeld, Sue Nemec, and Kathy Bencic are proud of what our students have accomplished this year while working in their internships.

Lifeskills Prom Goers Show Off Their Inner Superheroes

They didn’t wear their capes or magic bracelets or fight off villains, but the Orleans/Niagara BOCES Lifeskills students had a great time at Bond Lake at their Superhero themed prom.

The students and staff danced the day away in their finery and enjoyed some great food and dessert made by the talented Culinary Arts students from the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center.

It was a great way to celebrate a fantastic school year and send best wishes to the graduates who will be moving on to the next chapter of their lives.

Pictured above: Carlito Sunday (Albion), Noel Mireles (Albion), Makayla Muth (Wilson), Heather Parsell (teacher aide) and Byron Gow (Newfane).

Pictured on left: Dr. Godshall with Prom King and Queen Adam Rougeux (Niagara Falls) and Christine Cogar (Barker).
NT Learning Center Gets Help for Mother’s Day Gift

The North Tonawanda Learning Center classes of Jessica Guarnieri, Denise Fleming and Wende Nicosia worked with Gary Benker’s Building and Grounds class at the NCTEC to make Mother’s Day planters.

It was part of a maker space project. Mr. Benker’s class measured, cut, sanded, and predrilled the wood pieces. “They labelled the pieces for us and packaged it for our students. Our students finished sanding the wood and used hammers to assemble the boxes,” explains Mrs. Nicosia. The students then painted the boxes and planted flowers inside the boxes for a special gift for the special women in their lives.

Mrs. Nicosia would like to acknowledge Ryan Suitor, school counselor, and Melissa Musall, their speech teacher. “We all team teach PBL (Project Based Learning) together once a week. We have taught the kids how to use saws, hammers, pliers, etc. This project allowed the students to use their new tool skills for a good cause. It was a collaborative effort and the kids were proud of their project.”

How Does Your Garden Grow

Stephanie O’Mahony’s students have been working in the North Tonawanda High School Greenhouse learning some valuable gardening skills. “We have been working with Mr. Meinhold’s classes,” explains Ms. O’Mahony. “Some of the plants we have started from seeds are marigolds and zinnia flowers. We also were given 50 white spruce trees from the NYSDEC. We have placed them in the greenhouse for now and plan to plant them outside of the High School once the Beautification Team decides where they would like them.”

Birdhouse Project

Students at the North Tonawanda High School in Stephanie O’Mahony’s class have been making some cool projects for spring. One of them was a birdhouse to bring home to their families.

The students worked with Mr. Clapsaddle and made the birdhouses out of black walnut wood. The students planned out the design and what tools they would need to build them.
Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Class Receives $10,000

Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME) teacher, Bill Rakonczay, recently received a nice surprise. His class, at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center, received a donation of $10,000 scholarship from the Gene Haas Foundation. Haas is the owner of Haas Automation, Inc., America’s leading builder of CNC machine tools. Over the next decade, nearly three and a half million manufacturing jobs will likely need to be filled, and the skills gap is expected to result in two million of those jobs going unfilled. They give out several scholarships a year that can be utilized for tuition, books, NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills) Accredited Program dues and small personal tools for students.

Jeff Brauer, an engineer at NYMAT Machine Tool Corporation in Fairport, New York, personally delivered the check to the class. NYMAT is a distributor of Haas equipment. “I am so grateful for this donation,” says Mr. Rakonczay. “It will help my students as they move forward with their careers by providing them with additional resources.”

O/N BOCES ESL Teaching Associate Earns Fulbright Award

Kelsey Kwandrans, a part-time teaching associate in the Adult Literacy Program, has been awarded a Fulbright Award to teach English in Spain next year.

Ms. Kwandrans is a full-time student at SUNY Geneseo, but works summers and holiday breaks teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) for BOCES. She is majoring in English and minoring in Spanish at the college.

The U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program offers nearly 470 teaching, research or combination teaching/research awards in 125 countries. Kwandrans is a member of the Edgar Fellows Program and president of the English Immersion Group, a student organization that provides a casual and supportive environment for non-native English speakers to practice English and learn about American culture. She works on campus as a Speech Buddy and tutors international students from Malaysia and Japan in grammar, pronunciation, idioms, slang and cultural concepts.

After her Fulbright year in Galicia, Spain, Kwandrans plans on attending graduate school in preparation for a career as an English Language Arts (ELA) or English as a New Language (ENL) teacher in adolescent education.

Fashion Design Students Help Make NT Goodwill Store Displays Stand Out

Fashion Design and Interior Decorating students had a very interesting and creative shadowing opportunity for the past several months.

The second year students in Debbie Wilczak’s class have gone once a month to the North Tonawanda Goodwill Store, on Payne Avenue, to help create eye-catching window and store displays, revamp the accessory wall and put together some copycat looks of celebrity styles.

“It was a great volunteer experience for my students,” says Ms. Wilczak. “Not only did it help to revamp the store’s atmosphere, it enabled students to see firsthand the responsibilities needed to run a retail business. They really enjoyed volunteering their design skills and helping to have a positive effect on the community.”

(RtoL) Megan Price (North Tonawanda), Tamara Besse (Niagara Falls) and Kayla Colucci (Niagara Falls).
Cosmetology Students Partake in Beauty and Fashion Expo

The Cosmetology students at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center spent their day talking to professionals in the fields of beauty, wellness and fashion. Their teachers Jill Beatty, Cathy Bonaccorso and Pauline Carney arranged for local vendors and colleges to come set up tables at the center and talk to the students.

“It is really important for the students to be exposed to all aspects of cosmetology and fashion,” says Ms. Carney. It gives them an opportunity to talk to colleges and prepare for their future and their career. It allows them to see new products and new services and gets them familiar with the vendors in the community. This is a great opportunity for the students to see what the industry is all about.”

Mrs. Bonaccorso added, “They have so many questions so the opportunity for them to have a face to face meeting without having to make an appointment is great. The colleges will arrange a tour with the students today if they want. They go home with enthusiasm and the parents will see that and agree to go with them. It works. My one student is already signed up to go to massage school.”

Fashion Design Students Help Bling Out Prom Shopping

The students in Debbie Wilczak’s Fashion Design/Interior Decorating program recently had a chance to help out a local business and get their schoolmates ready for prom. Melissa Niver, owner of Bling! in Lockport, brought in an assortment of prom dresses, shoes and accessories for students at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center to purchase for prom. Everything was priced $24.99 and below to help the students get ready for their big day.

The Fashion Design/Interior Decorating students lent a hand working with the customers choosing a dress, assisting them in the dressing room, suggesting alterations and helping to measure for tuxedos. “It was a great opportunity for the students to practice their selling techniques and customer service,” says Ms. Wilczak. “It was very generous for Ms. Niver to help the students purchase prom dresses and accessories for a very reasonable price.”
Food Service Student Also Has Skills on the Ice

Bethany Vaccaro is not only a star in her Food Service Program, she is a star on the ice as well. Bethany is a senior at Lockport High School and a student in Jessica Kronenberg’s class at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center. Ms. Kronenberg says that Bethany is very brave about talking about her learning disabilities and her challenges with ADHD and recalling information. “She doesn’t let anything stop her from learning. She is such a courageous, amazing and sweet young lady.” Bethany says she loves coming to her Food Service class every school day. “I learn a lot here and I really like cooking and baking.”

Ms. Kronenberg said it was a pleasant surprise when she found out that Bethany is a skater and has been performing with the Gliding Stars of Western New York for seven years. Gliding Stars provides weekly adaptive ice skating lessons for children and adults with challenges. “My mom got me into skating,” says Bethany. “I love it. I have been practicing my routine to “Over the Rainbow” for the yearly ice show we put on.” It is great to see that Bethany is always trying to push herself to be the best she can be in everything!

Phlebotomy Class Starts at NF Center

Eva Iacovitti’s Phlebotomy Class is one of the new classes being offered at the Niagara Falls Workforce Training Center. We are looking forward to the big grand opening of our our Lockport Workforce Training Center in June!

Allied Health Students Learn to Save a Life

Students in the Allied Health program at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center recently spent a day learning CPR. The students are hoping to enter the medical field and teacher, Lisa Trapasso, worked with them to get their certification. Orleans/Niagara BOCES District Superintendent, Dr. Clark Godshall, stopped by to offer his assistance as well.

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Mentoring Day Huge Success

Thirty-five students from local school districts in Niagara and Genesee Counties participated in a Mentoring Day event at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center on March 28th.

Ken Jones, former Buffalo Bills player, presented to students about the importance of learning work skills and utilizing them within all job and career opportunities.

Students had an opportunity to explore various career fields within the hospital and participate in hands-on activities with the staff from 13 different departments. In the surgery department, students dressed in official hospital scrubs and used a laparoscopic robot to pick up candy and cauterize a hot dog which gave them an inside look into the world of minimally invasive surgery. In the Maintenance Department, the students learned how to rebuild a doorknob and talked about the importance of that department in the day-to-day operations in the hospital.

This event was made possible by the collaborations of several agencies, including the Erie 1 BOCES Community Employment Specialists, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, Community Services for Every 1, Closing the Gaps, People Inc., ACCES-VR, Orleans/Niagara BOCES Transition Specialist, and the Western NY Employment Consortium.
Congratulations to our SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year – Scott Brauer!

A huge and much deserved congratulations to Project Based Engineering teacher, Scott Brauer. Scott, who teaches at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, has been named the SkillsUSA New York Area 1 Advisor of the Year!

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.

His journey began when he was a junior in high school and attended BOCES. He says being a member of SkillsUSA gave him direction, purpose and focus. It is one of the reasons he decided to become a career and technical education teacher at the same center he attended and become a SkillsUSA advisor himself. “I just want others to experience what I was able to experience as a student. SkillsUSA is life changing!”

Scott has been a SkillsUSA advisor for 28 years. He has been the lead advisor at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center for the past 12 years and believes in order to be a great advisor you have to become involved through ardent practice, gathering of information and networking. He trains others not to do things for the young people, but to assist them on their journey. He coordinates all the competitions that the center participates in at the regional, state and national levels. He is also the contest chair for Advanced Manufacturing Technology, CNC and Machining contests at the regional level. His class has been recognized by the NYS Education Department as a Top Career and Technical Education Program in New York State.

He was nominated by his peers across the Area 1 division. One nominator says, “Young people are always the center of Scott’s decisions and plans. He is forever mindful of any action’s impact on the individual or the group. He is always moving forward, taking others with him into the future and the world beyond his classroom.” His nomination also says, “Scott is known for many things: his generosity, his selflessness, his devotion to his wife and family, his belief in God, his role as a teacher and mentor, his love for his students and young people, his work ethic, his love of everything outdoors and his involvement with SkillsUSA.”

SkillsUSA Students’ Cleanup Day Huge Success at NCTEC

The SkillsUSA students at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center recently hosted a cleanup day.

The students decided to clean up the greenhouse in Mr. Dewey’s Conservation class in anticipation of the new one that will be going in over the summer. The students also planted flowers at the entrance of the school building.

School Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Jake DuMond and Colton Whitlock in the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center’s Auto Technology Program. Both seniors received a $500 scholarship from Ohio Technical College for their participation in the NFADA (Niagara Frontier Auto Dealers Association) competition.
Orleans/Niagara BOCES New York State SkillsUSA Winners

Congratulations to the Orleans (OCTEC) and Niagara (NCTEC) Career and Technical Education Center (CTE) students who brought home medals at the New York State SkillsUSA competition held in Syracuse, New York.

We are so proud of everyone who competed!

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Competition</th>
<th>CTE Program/Center</th>
<th>School District</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Huntington</td>
<td>Carpentry</td>
<td>Building Trades / OCTEC</td>
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<td>Graphic Communications / NCTEC</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Chapman</td>
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**Allied Health Students Take Part in SUNY’s Got Your Back Day**

The Allied Health students, in Lisa Trapasso’s class at the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, recently took part in SUNY’s Got Your Back Day at Niagara County Community College (NCCC).

SUNY’s Got Your Back Day provides the opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and community members from across the state to create comfort kits for victims and survivors of violence, and to learn methods of better preventing and responding to violence.

The bags are filled with personal care items one might need when a victim arrives at a shelter or a hospital. Volunteers gathered at the NCCC campus to put together the bags. Mrs. Trapasso said her students really enjoyed helping out this worthy endeavor.

The event also involved volunteers from the Niagara County Sheriff’s Department, the Lewiston-Porter Key Club and the YWCA of Niagara.
Orleans Learning Center Bell Choir Brings Joy to Hospital
The Orleans Learning Center students recently spread some cheer to the residents of the North Wing Residential Care Facility at the Medina Memorial Hospital. Under the direction of Music teacher, Mary Kuhn, the bell choir loved putting a smile on the residents’ faces as they showed off their brand-new matching polo shirts.

Culinary Arts Field Trip Helps Show Students Career Options
Students in Caitlin Kucharski’s Culinary Arts Program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center recently had an informative class trip.

Mrs. Kucharski’s class toured the Sheraton Hotel, Rainforest Café and the Casino. The students spent the day with a variety of professionals in their field of study. “They got to ask questions and gain an understanding of the ins and outs of various jobs at the restaurants,” explained Mrs. Kucharski. “They also got to see a variety of other job opportunities in our field that they didn’t realize were there for them. They really had a great time.”

NCTEC Students Place at NAPA Mechanics Competition at WNY Farm Show
NCTEC Diesel Technology teacher Wes Blidy and a few of his students risked the winter weather to compete at the NAPA Mechanics Competition on February 1st. The High School Mechanics Competition was held at the Hamburg Fairgrounds where the Western New York Farm Show was occurring. There were various stations set up where the competitors had to show their knowledge of the assembly, tools and skills required to maintain and repair equipment.

“Because the weather was a concern, the students had to find their own way to competition since the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center was not comfortable with sending a bus,” explains Mr. Blidy. “We had to reach out to parents to see if they would be willing to take their children there.”

The extra effort from their parents paid off because Cameron Wollaber from Wilson took home first place. He won a $5,000 scholarship from Ohio Technical College, a $1,500 toolbox and an internship at a Milton Caterpillar dealership. Classmate Austin Zwelling from Niagara Wheatfield took 7th place and receive tools, worth over $100 as his prize. Students Jared Barry from Wilson, Nick Tarnowski from Starpoint and Eric Wieland from Lewiston-Porter also competed. “I am so proud of how the students did,” says Mr. Blidy. “I know that they are going to do whatever it takes to be successful in life.”

Cameron Wollaber (Wilson) with Laura Pronti from Ohio Technical College.
First Niagara Falls CNA Class Graduates from Orleans/Niagara BOCES

The first Adult Education Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class graduated from the new Orleans/Niagara BOCES building in Niagara Falls.

The building is located at 606 6th Street and it was the first evening class made available to the Niagara County Community through BOCES. Tyann Ives was the instructor of the program with Marlene Micals and Rhonda Bivens-Tally as the CNA managers.
Fire Department Visits Early Childhood Education Students

The Early Childhood Education students at the NCTEC invited local firefighters into the Niagara Preschool Learning Center recently. Aaron Binner and Adam Binner, from the Adams Fire Company, and Josh Domin, from the Shawnee Fire Company, spent some time with the preschoolers teaching a unit on fire safety. The preschoolers were able to see what a firefighter looks like with all their gear on. “We wanted them to be aware of what they look like, so that in case of a fire, they would not be afraid of the firefighter,” explains teacher Laura Koeppel.

The Preschool is a great way for high school students in the program to learn skills working with children and is also a great way for children to get an introduction to the school setting. If you have a child, age three and up who would like to attend the Niagara Preschool, you can contact Laura Koeppel at lkoeppl@onboces.org. The center is located at 3181 Saunders Settlement Road in Sanborn and runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the school year from 8:25am to 10:40am. It will not run when Orleans/Niagara BOCES is closed. Tuition is free and there is a nominal registration fee. Children must be three years of age by December 1, 2019.

EMS Class Spends Day at Mercy Flight

The EMS program, taught by Sara McCartin at the NCTEC, had a very informative day at the Mercy Flight facility division headquarters in Batavia. The students spent time with the ground ambulances and the helicopter and flight crew. “They were able to spend the day looking at the tools of the trade, asking questions and seeing what some of the opportunities that are available to them should they want to pursue a career in EMS,” says Mrs. McCartin.

Mercy Flight in Batavia serves all of Genesee County, the Village of Springfield, Town of Concord, Niagara County and surrounding areas. Mercy Flight responds to over 6,000 requests of service each year.

Graphic Communication Students’ Talent Impresses O/N BOCES Board of Education

Every year, the Orleans/Niagara BOCES Business Office reaches out to the Graphic Communications program at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center to see if they want to help with designing the cover for the organization’s service guide.

The BOCES’ Board of Education choose the cover they like the best. Diane Edwards, the Senior Account Clerk in the Business Office, coordinates the contest every year. “This year there were more participants than other years. The quality of the work was exceptional. The kids are very talented this year. The Board of Education had a tough choice, but ultimately decided on Abigail Wolf’s design.” Abigail is a senior from Royalton-Hartland. Her classmate Gillian Schyve, also from Royalton-Hartland, took second place.
Graphic Communication Students Take Top Three Places at NFADA Poster Contest

NCTEC Graphic Communications teacher Karen Krull is proud of her amazing students. Three of her students took the top three spots for the Niagara Frontier Automobile (NFADA) Buffalo Auto Show Poster Contest in the BOCES Division.

“We have a very talented group of students and I was so happy to hear that they received recognition for their outstanding skills,” says Ms. Krull. Congratulations go to: First Place Winner – Savannah Porter (Wilson), Second Place Winner – Emily Baumgartner (Wilson) and Third Place – Zoe Feltz (WNY Christian Academy).

Savannah Porter, Emily Baumgartner and Zoe Feltz.

Egg Sandwich Sale Helps Philanthropy Efforts of Niagara Academy

The students and staff at the Niagara Academy had a very successful fundraiser recently. The school had an egg sandwich sale in March and will use their proceeds to donate to charitable causes, pay for guest speakers and offset student costs for yearbooks and t-shirts. Egg-cellent job everyone!

OCTEC Culinary Arts Students Shine at 15th Annual Taste of Education

The Culinary Arts students from the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center took home three big awards at the 15th Annual Taste of Buffalo.

The Taste of Education introduces Western New York young chefs to the public with a friendly cooking competition where the students present a three course meal with appetizer, main course and dessert. This year’s theme was “Get Stuffed”. There is also an Iron Chef Competition with three professional chefs paired with student sous chefs. The event was held at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens and the Western New York’s Chapter of the New York State Restaurant Association benefits from the fundraiser which they use for scholarships.

Under the direction of their teacher, Chef James Atzrott, the students: David Baier (Royalton-Hartland), Lillee Gollhardt (Lockport), Brandon Heschke (Medina), Courtney Lang (Medina), Jacob McKernan (Royalton-Hartland), Carolina Overton (Lockport), Marie Reynolds (Albion) and Zach Richbart (Barker), took home first place for the People’s Choice and first place for the Judges Choice for their menu of Banh Mi Sausage/Asian Pickled Spring Roll/Gochujang Aioli, Loukaniko Sausage/Stuffed Grape Leaves/Ladolemono Sauce, Stuffed Dates/Chocolate/Peanut Butter/ Sea Salt and Sweet Tofu Rangoon/Mexican Cinnamon/Chipotle Sugar.

Jacob McKernan won the Iron Chef competition with his partner Darian Bryan, Executive Chef for the Plating Society and head chef at Fisher Price.
Welding Students Create Forcible Entry Door to Help Medina Fire Department

Eric Farrell’s and Ron Jackson’s Welding Program at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center, recently completed a project that will benefit the Medina Fire Department.

The class was asked if they could produce a Forcible Entry Training Door. The door allows firefighters to practice different entry methods on opening metal jams, like on apartment doors, commercial buildings or bulkhead doors. It simulates breaching and entering operations using a battery ram and forcible entry tools.

Medina Fire Department Public Information Officer, Steve Cooley, says the department loved working with Orleans/Niagara BOCES on the project. “We have a lot of guys in the department who are in the trades and even went to BOCES. My daughter was in the Allied Health program there as well. One of our firefighters, Sergio DiCenso, saw the door and thought it would be a great tool for our department. Don Marchner of the Jr. Wilson Sportsmen Club and a former police officer donated the money for materials and we approached the welding teachers to see if they could help us out with it and were glad they agreed.”

Mr. Farrell and Mr. Jackson assigned the task to Medina junior Jordan Moden. “I watched some videos and followed their blueprint. It took me about 40 hours to make. It was a great way for me work on my skills and help out the Medina Fire Department.” Mr. Jackson said, “It feels good being able to help out in the community and we were glad that they were able to do so. This was a great project for the class, it had several lessons and rewards that support our goals. Watching Jordan take ownership was awesome. He was involved right from the concept to the end product. Jordan learned many lessons along the way, the most important lesson is how hard work, dedication and pride can make a difference in the outcome. Also from our Welding class, Blake Halstead put his CAD skills to work and assisted with some of the welding. “Student JoJo McCanna, from the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering class, also put her skills to work by machining the pins for the door hinges. “This was a team project and as the project grew several other students were there to help support Jordan as needed,” explains Mr. Jackson. “Just to think about the lives that this door may save because our hero firefighters can now practice breaking through doors to enter a building, well it’s very rewarding to say the least. It was our honor and pleasure to give back to a community that has offered our BOCES center so much support. Great job to all!”

Orleans Career and Technical Education Center Donates to Wildlife Sanctuary

Robert Humbert, Of Wolcottsville Wildlife, recently received donations collected by the staff and students at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center.

Mr. Humbert had recently worked with the school’s Envirothon team coached by Science teacher Peter Jablonski. Mr. Jablonski learned that Wolcottsville Wildlife depends on donations to care for the sick and injured animals it takes in and he approached the SkillsUSA officers to ask if they would like to support a collection drive for the organization. Both senior and junior officers readily agreed, and senior officer Morgan Hahn created a flyer asking for donations of paper towels, gently used towels and blankets, cat and dog food, cleaning supplies, etc.

The school was able to donate two boxes of items and a check for $200 to help Wolcottsville Wildlife in their mission to care for injured wildlife. Mr. Humbert was thrilled with the donations and said it will all be put to good use!
Conservation Class Sweeps at the Regional Envirothon Competition

Conservation teacher Paul Dewey certainly has something to be proud of. Three of the teams from the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center took first, second and third at the Regional Envirothon Competition.

The competition is run by the Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District and is held at Bond Lake Park Nature Center in Lewiston. Teams of five students in grades 9 through 12 are tested on topics including wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soil/land use and a current environmental issue. The goal is learning how to work with community groups and government agencies to solve potential real-life environmental problems that our local communities may face in the future.

Congratulations to First Place champions: Jacob Phillips (Niagara Wheatfield), Alexander Ralph (Royalton-Hartland), Marcus Schwarzmuller (Wilson), Jacob Taylor (Niagara Wheatfield) and Elliot Wilczak (Niagara Wheatfield). Second Place champions: Noah Becker (North Tonawanda), Austin Gorton (Lewiston-Porter), Merissa Hescox (Niagara Wheatfield), Nakia Newell (Niagara Wheatfield) and Amanda Schurr (Starpoint). Third Place winners: Justin Halstrom (Niagara Falls), Trinity Rafter (Niagara Wheatfield), Cheyenne Reuillard (Starpoint) and Megan Weiser (Starpoint).

Learning Center Students Make Cards for Honor Flight

Family and Consumer Science classes at several of the Orleans/Niagara BOCES’ Learning Centers learned about the Honor Flight for World War II veterans. Honor Flight is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America’s veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans such as World War II survivors, along with other veterans who may be terminally ill.

Throughout the lesson students learned how the servicemen and women would receive “mail call” during meals. To honor those who have served our country, the BOCES students at Newfane Learning Center, Orleans Learning Center, Niagara Wheatfield High School and North Tonawanda High School made cards that were donated to an Honor Flight that will be leaving Western New York and going to Washington, D.C. this month.

(Niagara Wheatfield, Royalton-Hartland, Wilson, Starpoint, North Tonawanda)

Nursing Home Gives Thanks to Health Occupations Technician Students

The OCTEC Health Occupation Technician (HOT) students were surprised by a going away party at Absolut Care in Gasport. The students, with their teachers Becky Mahar and Courtney Slack, have been doing a clinical rotation there since the beginning of the school year. “This was our first time working here and this facility was so welcoming. The staff and residents were great to work with,” said Ms. Mahar.

On the students’ last day, they were ushered into a room and given a surprise party thanking them for all their hard work and care. “It was so nice and meant a lot to all of us,” says Ms. Mahar.

(Back row) Renee Holly-Eberhard (Director of Nursing), Tyler Sansone (Lockport), Kaylee Irwin (Newfane), Courtney Slack (teacher), Jordan Sansone (Lockport); Madison Slattery (Newfane), Jac Dorris (Medina). Middle Row- Arrissa Kubas (Lockport), Elizabeth Langendorfer (Barker). Front Row- Rebecca Mahar (teacher), Joan Thomas (resident) and Stephen Wagner (HR).
Nathan Lee Earns Eagle Scout

Nathan Lee, a Newfane student, recently achieved the honor of Eagle Scout. He is the son of Cheryl and Jeffrey Lee. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts of America) program. Only 4% of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process.

Nathan asked his Computer Technology teacher at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center, Paul Herrmann, to be his sponsor. “I was shocked when he asked me,” says Mr. Herrmann. “It made me realize what an influential figure teachers are on their students. I was extremely honored to be asked.” Nathan says he chose Mr. Herrmann because he wants to pursue a career in computer information systems and Mr. Herrmann has helped to guide him in that direction.

Nathan received congratulation letters from government officials, state senators, local officials and Newfane Principal Mr. Daniel Bedette.

Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Program Celebrates HUNCH Partnership

The students in Bill Rakonczay’s Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Program had a celebration on May 11th at the OCTEC. They were celebrating their sixth year of being part of the NASA High School Students United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH) program. Eighty-two people were at the ceremony to celebrate the classes’ achievement.

HUNCH is a partnership with schools that allows NASA to receive cost-effective hardware while students receive real-world hands-on experiences and inspiration to become the next generation of researchers and space explorers. The students in Mr. Rakonczay’s class have been making locker latches that will be sent to the International Space Station.

To commemorate their work on the project, earlier this year students signed locker doors that will be traveling to space. “I am very proud of my students,” says Mr. Rakonczay and I want to thank the parents and other guests that came out Saturday to show their support. I also want to thank my teacher assistant Debbie Jackson and our Principal Dr. Michael Weyrauch for making all of this possible.”

HVAC Students Get Up Close Look at Key Bank Center

The HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) students had an up-close look at the rink at the Key Bank Center in downtown Buffalo. Teacher Vincent Piaskowski and his junior and senior classes, from the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, were the guests of Head Engineer Bruce Johnson.

“It was a fantastic tour,” says Mr. Piaskowski. “Mr. Johnson also oversees the Harbor Center ice skating rink and talked to the students about the different water systems that are used for both facilities. They also saw the heating and cooling systems and toured the press box.”

The students loved the tour and were fascinated by the larger scale systems. They were pleasantly surprised when Mr. Johnson gave them all a Buffalo Sabres yearbook and a scarf at the end of their tour. “We are so grateful and appreciative of the time that Mr. Johnson took to show the students around and answer all their questions,” says Mr. Piaskowski. “It was a great experience for us.”

Bruce Johnson and the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center HVAC students at the Key Bank Center.


Niagara Academy Celebrates Spring with Snow Cones

The students and staff at the Niagara Academy recently had a great time getting into the spring spirit with a cool treat. Students in the Middle School decided to promote a positive school culture by serving up snow cones to their schoolmates. “Our students learn a lot planning fun school events like this,” says Tyler Lorence. “I got a lot of enjoyment from serving people and seeing them smile. I was nervous at first, but the more I did it, I got more confident.”

School Principal, Amanda Bennett said, “Our Middle School students are learning fundamental occupational and social skills and that will serve them well as they move on to be contributing members of their communities. We are very proud of them!”


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