

Common Grounds



Happy Holidays!

Click this image above to view Erie 1 BOCES 2016 e-greeting.



Bills Ticket Special

The Bills are offering a special ticket discount offer for the Buffalo vs. Miami Dolphins game on Sat., Dec. 24 at 1:00 p.m. Tickets will be made available at the cost of only \$35-\$50; \$5 of the proceeds to benefit the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. Please feel free to send this to coworkers, friends and family. To take advantage of this offer, enter promo code: GPUW. [Click here to buy tickets.](#)



Health Insurance

All employees deemed full-time, in accordance with the Affordable Care Act, will be receiving 1095 forms indicating their participation in the Erie 1 BOCES healthcare plan, a requirement of the Affordable Care Act. The deadline for sending this form to employees has been extended to March 2017, though employees will receive the 1095 form prior to that date. As per IRS guidelines, this will not prevent you from filing your 2016 tax return. You can complete your tax form indicating your participation with either the Erie 1 BOCES health plan or another carrier. When you receive your 1095 form in the mail, retain the form with your tax information. To learn more, [click here.](#)



Casino Trip Recap

Erie 1 BOCES' casino trip raised \$1,561.58 in proceeds for the United Way. Thank you to event organizers Doreen Kausner, Maureen Taylor and Laurie Taber, as well as the "bus helpers" and all who attended to help make the event a great success.

News Zone – Exceptional Education



NT Student Creates Art for Edu. Campus

Bryanna Karn, from Hamburg who is enrolled at Northtowns Academy, has been hard at work creating paintings that will be displayed within the main lobby of the Education Campus. Under the instruction of art teacher Nancy Amico, Bryanna has been tackling three unique designs on canvases that are over three feet in width and height. An unveiling will be announced soon.



Elks Embody Spirit of Giving Year Round

The Ken-Ton Elks Lodge #1942 has gifted Erie 1 BOCES special education classes in Kenmore with annual field trips for the past four years. For the students in Cynthia Kramer's class, every outing provides valuable life lessons as well as fun memories. Recently, two Elk members spoke to students about their efforts. [Read more here...](#)



Thanksgiving Feast

Two Erie 1 BOCES sites hosted a Thanksgiving feast, the E1B Learning Center and West Seneca West participated. From hosting a meal for all of the students and their families to making tablecloths, all enjoyed sharing what they were thankful for.



NT Food Drive

Northtowns Academy held an Annual Food Drive that was sponsored by Nancy Prichard's Health and Society class. The students made the posters and boxes for the drive. Students who brought in items were entered to win prizes at the end of the drive on 12/22.

News Zone – Career & Technical Education



Art at Twilight

Art teacher Tom Rojek visited the Albright Knox Art Gallery with four students enrolled in the Twilight Program at Kenton Career & Technical. From contemporary to historic works of art, the class increased their understanding of art in our culture and community. [Read more here...](#)



Instant College Admission Decision Day

More than 30 Harkness students took advantage of "Instant Decision Day" arranged by Pam Santillo, work-based learning teacher for Erie 1 BOCES. Students interested in receiving an instant decision for admission into Alfred State College for their desired program of study, had an appointment with Alfred State College Associate Director of Admissions Nancy Driscoll. Driscoll met with students in November and December while reviewing their essential documentation. If students met the admission requirements, they were instantly given a letter of admission to Alfred State College.



Snow Removal When Parking

Please use caution when pulling into a parking space so as not to block a sidewalk. In order to appropriately clear snow from the walkways, the building and grounds crew needs space for their snow removal equipment. If your vehicle is found to be blocking a sidewalk you will be contacted to move your car. Thank you.



AIDS Awareness

Youth engaged in Leaving Our Legacy, a grant-funded sexual health program in School Support Services, hosted a community event to help raise awareness about AIDS. The event included musical performances, food and representatives from health care agencies. [Read more here...](#)

Special Features



Jokes of the Month

Q: What breakfast cereal does Frosty the Snowman eat?

A: Snowflakes.

Q: Where does the snowman hide his money?

A: In the snow bank.

Q: What type of cars do elves drive?

A: Toy-otas.



12 Expert Financial Planning Tips For 2017

Forbes.com recently released financial tips for 2017. Included in the list: estate planning, retirement planning and more. See the [article here](#). Please note there are a number of ads on this page – Erie 1 BOCES does not promote or support the advertisements found on informational websites.



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