

# Inside Story

## Common Grounds



### End of Year Message

Dr. Lynn Fusco, district superintendent and CEO of Erie 1 BOCES, recorded a video message for all staff to view. This end of year video provides an update on district-wide efforts and a personal message for the summer months. [View her video message...](#)



### Correct Phone Number

There was a typo in the NY44 Health Trust Spring 2019 *HEALTH MATTERS* newsletter. The correct phone number for 247 OnlineCare is 1.844.247.6652. We are sorry for the inconvenience.



### Wellness Form Deadline

The deadline to submit the 2018-2019 [wellness forms](#) is July 15, 2019. Please note, submissions must be faxed or postmarked by the deadline date, there are no exceptions. (Hand-delivered submissions will *NOT* be accepted.) Please read the guidelines to ensure that the proper documentation is submitted. The physical exam reward and wellness activity reimbursement guidelines are on the wellness pages of the website. As a reminder, this will be the [last year the wellness activity reimbursement](#) option will be available from the NY44Health Trust.



### Erie 1 BOCES Journal

The spring/summer edition of Erie 1 BOCES' publication titled "E-Journal" is now being printed. Once available, the publication will be shared with school district leaders, current students and their parents, local legislators and NYSED. [Preview E-Journal here.](#)



### Day of Caring

This year's Day of Caring will be on Wednesday, August 21. If you are interested in participating, please register on MyErie1 by July 26. As a reminder, all staff members are welcome to participate, but 12-month employees must seek approval from their supervisor. We do not have our location assignments yet so please be certain to fill out your work area preference, home city and interest in car-pooling. We will do our best to accommodate preferences, but they cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change based on the United Way's location assignments. The first 40 volunteers will have a guaranteed slot. [Day of Caring registration...](#)





### Retirements

At the June 12 Board of Education meeting the following retirements were approved: Doreen Kausner, Finance Services; Ann Adams, Technology Services; Mary Ann White, School Support Services; Gina Baker, Technology Services; Robert Spencer, Technology Services; and Deborah Wendt, Special Education. Congratulations to all, thank you for your service!



### Board Briefs

Following each Board of Education meeting, Communication Services posts a brief description of HR's personnel actions. While not the official minutes, which are approved at the following month's meeting, this brief provides employees advance notice of the approved changes. All [Board Briefs](#) are accessible on the home page of MyErie1. Read [June's Board Brief](#).



### Karen DePalma, Director of Management Services

In April, Karen DePalma was named as the director of the Management Services division. In her role, Karen will oversee central business office, payroll, finance and legislation, school and municipal energy cooperatives, actuarial services and other related school services. She will be responsible for planning, general program management, personnel, community cooperation, and the fiscal management of those services.

Karen has been with Erie 1 BOCES since 2008, most recently serving as senior manager of Management Services. Previous positions include manager and senior coordinator within the same division. A licensed attorney, prior to joining Erie 1 BOCES, Karen worked for Alessi & Neill in Alden and she also was a project manager for the Regional Institute at UB.

Karen received her Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Arts degrees from UB.



### Elizabeth Freas, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Supports and WNYRIC Services

Last night, the Board of Education appointed Elizabeth (Liz) Freas as the assistant superintendent of Educational Supports and WNYRIC Services. Following the retirement of Barbara Morcarski, Liz will oversee the divisions of Technology Services at Erie 1 BOCES and the operations of the Western New York Regional Information Center (WNYRIC).

Liz has been with Erie 1 BOCES since 2013, most recently serving as a director of instructional technology and professional development. Previous positions include supervisor of climate, culture, school support and budget functions for the WNYRIC. She also brings with her eight years of teaching experience.

Liz received her Bachelor of Arts, Master of English and Master of Educational Leadership degrees from Niagara University. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Education from Capella University.



## Lucas Vogel Named Principal

Last night, the Board of Education appointed Lucas (Luke) Vogel as principal of the Potter Career & Technical Center. Following the retirement of Donna Mann, Luke will be responsible for curricular and instructional improvement, staff personnel, pupil personnel, financial and business management, buildings and grounds and overall accountability for the effectiveness of the center.

Luke has served in a leadership role with Erie 1 BOCES for the last nine years. Luke started with E1B as an assistant principal in Alternative Education at Northtowns Academy. This was followed by a transition to the assistant principal position at Potter, where Luke has continued his outstanding support and leadership in service of CTE students, faculty, and staff over the last seven years.

Prior to joining the Erie 1 BOCES, Luke worked at Gateway-Longview as a high school social studies teacher and assistant principal over the course of eight years.

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## News Zone – Exceptional Education



## Yearbook to Braille

Karen Galluch, teacher for the visually impaired at Erie 1 BOCES, worked with Lancaster High School to ensure two high school seniors could graduate with a yearbook full of memories. Four volumes (75 pages each) of the yearbook were converted to braille, including a surprise section where teacher and students' comments were also converted to braille for the graduates. The books took planning and months to create. Karen Galluch

was the lead contact, converting much of the text during any free time she could find. Karen Weickart, an aide for visually impaired with Erie 1 BOCES, helped convert the cover. The assistance of various aides, teachers and students at Lancaster also made this project possible.



## Living Wax Museum

Students in Tracy Szafranek's class at Northtowns Academy participated in a Living Wax Museum. The students worked on a project for social studies and invited classes to come and see what they had done. The students had to research a historic person, write a paragraph, and create a poster. Then, they dressed up and stood as statues in the "wax museum." When visitors pressed a pretend button, the students came to life by reading what they prepared. From left to right are Marsean Whitfield (Youtuber, Mr. Beast), Daimon Clelan (William Shakespeare), Tyler Smith (Ulysses S. Grant), Shawn Vernon (Babe Ruth) and Victor Gill (Michael Jordan).

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## News Zone – Education Campus



## Building A Construction

Technology staff members who are based on the second floor of the Education Campus in building A, will be relocated from July 15 to mid-January for construction. The second floor of building A is getting a facelift. Since no windows are present in the space, several skylights will be added. In addition, ceiling tiles, carpeting and partitions will be replaced. For those that are interested in the seeing the vision, design boards will be available on the second floor of building A next week. Thank you to the employee

committees for their input on the plan. We appreciate everyone's understanding and patience during this process.



### Picnic with Fellow 12-Month Employees

On Tues., July 23, spend an afternoon building stronger relationships with your co-workers by attending an event for 12-month employees. In addition to a variety of activities (such as miniature golf, horseshoes, volleyball, basketball and baseball), a picnic lunch will be provided for those that attend. Also, a 50/50 raffle will be provided. The event will occur at Joseph's Country Manor, 275 Columbia Ave. in Depew. Please [register before Wed., July 10](#), via the online event management registration system on MyErie1.

This is a catered event at an established venue with additional amenities. Because of that, takeout will not be available. However, food will be served from 12:30 to 2:30 for those who are rotating customer care coverage. The event is being offered at no charge thanks

to committee fundraising activities and a donation by R&P Oakhill.

## News Zone – Career & Technical Education



### Ch. 4 Reports Live from Student-Built House at Harkness

WIVB-TV's Katie Alexander reported live from the modular home built by the Harkness Building Trades classes on Thursday, June 6. Alexander spent the morning newscast touring the home and interviewing a handful of students, instructor Chris Burgio and a representative from Cash Realty & Auctions, which will be [auctioning off the house](#) on Friday, June 14 at 9 a.m. A news story about the class project can be found on [Channel 4's website](#).



### Zoo Wildlife & Conservation Students Present Final Projects

The New Visions Zoo Wildlife & Conservation Careers class presented its final projects to family members, guidance counselors and Buffalo Zoo representatives at the zoo on Thursday, June 6. To complete the project, each student had to select an animal, research it and create a scale model of a viable zoo exhibit for the animal.

## Kudos



### Kudos Electrical Instructors & Communication Services

Darlene Borchert, parent of an alumnus and E1B employee, thanked the electrical instructors for their work and for partnering with Communication Services to share student achievement. Together, their work helped her son and another classmate be sought after for employment. She wrote:

"Two years ago, my son Brandon Meek from Mr. Merlino's class and Matt Scheffler, a student from Mr. Snyder's class, won first place in the SkillsUSA NYS competition. You and your team did a great job covering their accomplishments that can still be seen (on the website). In January of 2019, a Tonawanda company, Simmers Crane and Design, came across your media coverage through a Google search...Brandon was interviewed in late January by Simmers Crane Design and offered a contract to participate in a summer paid internship doing industrial motor control working with cranes used in the manufacturing process of large machinery...Upon college graduation, Brandon will have a full time employment opportunity with Simmers Crane Design. Matt graduated from

Alfred a few short weeks ago and at his age of 20 has a full time job with this company making (a salary) with full benefits and was offered a company car. Because of your excellent coverage of our outstanding student achievements, these young men are experiencing great opportunities in the WNY..."

## Article Published

An [article](#) highlighting a new physics lesson at Amherst Middle School, written by Communication Analyst Lori Sosenko, was published in The Office of Educational Design and Technology's *NYS Ed Tech Innovators* e-newsletter.

### Special Features

## Tips for working with writers and designers

You see something that looks great and it inspires you to achieve your goal differently. Now you want to work with some professionals to implement your idea. Communication Services provides support to E1B staff and school partners. As a result, we have four simple tips to help you partner with writers, editors and designers.

- **Text first.** Set a clear goal and write down everything you need to communicate. Start with bullets of who, what, where, when, why and how. If the topic is very detailed or complex, then connect a writer with the knowledgeable parties so they can conduct interviews and write it for you.
- **Time for questions.** Build in time for questions, suggestions and text review. You wanted help in achieving your goal, so give the experts adequate time to help you. Remember, like you, they are likely working on other projects. Also, if they have suggestions, you'll need time to review it.
- **Provide examples.** Take a photo, share a link or provide a copy of what inspired you and note why. Detail what you liked or didn't like. "I loved the full-page of photos, it felt inviting." Or, "This is one color ink, but the shading added interest." Or, "This font was interesting, so it felt separate from our normal operations." Or, "This included staff bios, which would help us with X, Y Z." Expect a conversation, as your writer or designer will rank your goal above your example and may offer an alternative solution if they don't perfectly align.
- **Be a brand realist.** If your company's brand feels like Ethan Allen, then a McDonald's concept is likely a mismatch. Remember, brands exist for at-a-glance recognition and for the comfort of the customer. If Target changed their look, feel and culture every year, you'd likely trust them less or enjoy your experience there less.



## Summer Vacation Jokes

Q. Where do sharks go on summer vacation?  
A. Brendan: Finland!

Q. Where did the sheep go on vacation?  
A. Stephan: The Baa-hamas!

More kid jokes at <https://boyslife.org/features/142568/21-funny-summer-vacation-jokes/>



## 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.

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