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Dear EDU Division Teachers & Staff,

This month, the New York State Department of Health issued updated guidance for P-12 schools. We are working on updating our school reopening plan over the next few weeks. I will share this updated plan when it is finalized. We are currently providing 5 full days of in-person instruction at St. Johns Early Childhood Program, Monarch Little Learners Academy and the Residential School (ITP/RTF). At Baker Hall & Baker Academy, we are providing a hybrid instructional schedule through June 2021 and will pivot to 5 full days of in-person instruction beginning in the summer. Please continue mask wearing, handwashing, social distancing and sanitizing in your school.

I can not believe there are less than two months of school left in the 2020-2021 school year! I know it has been a hectic year and I want to thank each and every one of you for working so hard! Your compassion and dedication for our students are incredible! Thank you for everything you do to help our students make progress and reach their goals!

Sincerely,

Lyndsey Todaro,

Director of School Age Education



Congratulations to the Guadagna family

Santino Anthony Guadagna
April 11th, 2021
8 pounds, 9 ounces
20.5 inches





Congratulations to Kelly Szratter, Preschool Coordinator, Monarch Little Learners Academy



Kelly has been recognized as the Employee of the Month for April. She has worked at Monarch since 2005 and has been part of BVS/ OLV since 2008 when our agency purchased the daycare/preschool. Outside of work, Kelly loves to spend her time watching her kids play soccer and football. She also enjoys reading and watch old movies.



Kelly was nominated because she always goes above and beyond, working in classrooms, the kitchen, front office and anywhere needed! Her co-workers say that she can do work of 5 people without complaining! Kelly's staff sat that she is a great boss who helps anyone who needs it and isn't afraid to be honest when things are getting difficult. She consistently goes above and beyond to help in multiple roles. Kelly is an amazing team player. She makes people feel so welcomed! She is a great problem solver and always supports her staff. Kelly really cares for her employees and tries everyday to keep the program running smooth despite being short staffed.





LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Eldermayer, School Age IEP & Admissions Coordinator



My name is Melissa Eldermayer and I am the School Age IEP/Admissions Coordinator. I have been with OLV Human Services for 10 years. I began working with ChildPro as the Curriculum Coordinator and then transitioned into other roles within BVS. I have been in the School Age program for the last 3 years. In my current position I assist and guide school districts and parents with placement at either Baker Hall School (6th-12th grade) or Baker Academy (K-6th grade). Also, I am involved in the CSE process which includes the development of the IEP, Annual Review process and any other needs the CSE and OLV HS team may have for each student. We service students from a large number of districts and counties. I am very thankful to be working with an amazing group of colleagues that continue to provide support and services to school age students and families at OLV Human Services.

We want to welcome Erica Pelechaty, our NEW Education Coordinator, to the EDU Leadership team!

Hi, I'm Erica Pelechaty and I honored to be given this new opportunity! I have been teaching since 2013 but my journey with OLV Human Services began back in November of 2016. I started as the agency substitute teacher. From there, I became the special education science teacher. I worked with the 9th and 10th grade team for two years before starting as a special education self-contained residential teacher. While working as a self-contained teacher I began to realize I had a passion for creating IEPs and coaching others. I finished my Master's Degree in Students With Disabilities from Buffalo State College and began working as a co-teacher. Once I earned my Master's Degree I enrolled in Canisius to learn more about leadership and administration. I have been working closely with the teachers and leadership to help create an IEP coaching guide. I am very excited to begin as Education Coordinator and I look forward to working with the Education Division!





Our Cereal Donation Project was a HUGE success!

View our project video story: <https://youtu.be/Tar8hmvhbEk>

Thank you to our Cereal Project team leaders
for doing such a great job!

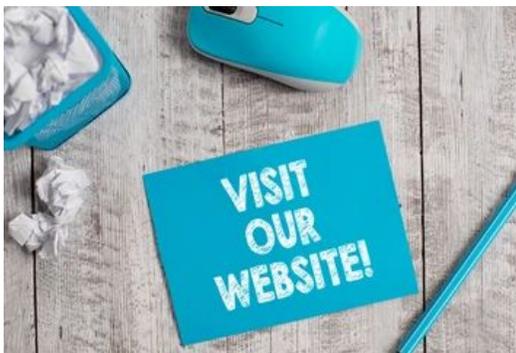
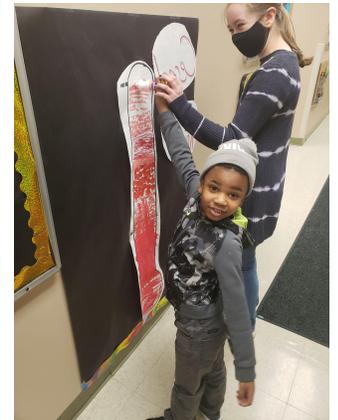
St. John's Early Childhood Program-Katy Haug & Lori Urbanczyk

Monarch Little Learners Academy- Kelly Sztatler

Baker Academy- JoAnn Ramsey & Lisa Oun

Baker Hall School- Elizabeth Sellari & Jeremy Lynch

Residential School (RTF & ITP)- Liz Becker



www.olvedu.org



Follow us on instagram at:
olvshsedudivision



The #BEKIND initiative will kick off next week! We are spreading kindness throughout our schools and the agency as well. Please complete the form using the link below to share an act of kindness.

[Act of Kindness Form](#)

BEKIND

BE KIND.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Bryan is a 10 year old remote student at Baker Academy. He is a friendly and kind student who enjoys engaging with his peers. Bryan is always welcoming students within our remote classroom with asking his peers, "How are you feeling?" And "What have they been up too?" Bryan learns best through individualized, repertoire, multisensory instruction which is provided to him by his education team at Baker Academy. This is evident by his interest in engaging with his teachers and peers within our live remote session. Bryan demonstrates knowledge of the virtual classroom expectations. This is evident through his ability to state all of the expectations and with some prompting is able to provide reasoning behind them. Bryan is always willing to volunteer and assist his teachers.

During our live Google Meets sessions, Bryan requires very little teacher prompts to stay on task. It has been observed that Bryan is motivated by external rewards and will often comply with teacher directives when reminded of previously discussed external rewards that he is working toward. Bryan's family is a huge support system for Bryan and assists him in any way possible. Bryan has created a safety plan for his home remote setting this year. His safety plan consists of taking a walk, staff/parent reading a book to him, coloring a picture and talking to a staff member/parent. Bryan enjoys using remote games with his peers during social skills time. Bryan has made the honor roll this year. Bryan is a sociable student as seen with his positive relationships with staff and peers. Bryan is a role model to his peers. He exhibits a positive outlook on school and has a positive attitude. He is an enthusiast learner who enjoys school!



The WAY Program is **BREWING UP** some new Work-Based learning concepts



In the month of March, The WAY Program opened the brand new WAY Program Coffee Café, which is a part of the new entrance at 790 Ridge Road. Students have been learning work-based and hands-on learning techniques that are similar to a coffee café barista. The WAY Program students have been taking shifts in the café to learn how to prepare coffee beverages, such as lattes and cappuccinos along with the operational process of working in a coffee shop. They are also learning valuable customer service skills by servicing and cashing out customers. The WAY Program Coffee Café serves hot coffee, lattes, cappuccinos, assorted homemade danish and pastries, and grab & go frozen meals & soups not only to the staff in the 790 Ridge Road building, but to the clients and patients that come through the building daily.

Come visit our students and check out the amazing skills they are learning when the coffee shop is open! The hours of operation are 8:00am-11:00am and 2:00pm-4:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Thursday's, The WAY Program Coffee Café is open 8:00am-11:00am and then reopens at 2:00pm and is open until 6:00pm. If you forgot to grab your morning coffee or need that "pick me up" in the mid-afternoon, come visit The WAY Program Coffee Café!



What's happening in EDU?



Making Earth Day Posters



Monster week at Preschool



Snuggling with Sherman, therapy dog



Preschool Earth Day creations



Making sight words out of playdoh



Learning about rain and celebrating Spirit Week in Bills Gear



Celebrating Autism at Monarch



Drawing with chalk on a beautiful Spring day



Volunteering at the South Buffalo Food Pantry



Sending a Warm Welcome to our newest OLV Team Members!

Alexis Zee, Teacher Aide, St. Johns Parkside

Jillian Stojek, Teacher Aide, St. Johns Parkside

Katti Theriault, Special Education Teacher, St. Johns Parkside

Patrick Koster, Substitute Teacher, School Age Education

Laura Cooper, Behavior Technician-3, Intensive Treatment Program





Agency News

“Strives to create a positive and engaging work community where every employee is empowered and inspired to make a difference.”

To join the monthly zoom meetings, please contact [Johnna Matusik](#).



Changes to Leave of Absence

Administration

It is our pleasure to inform you that Human Resources has partnered with a local company named, **Alcott HR**, to manage the Leave of Absence (LOA) process for us. We know that any leave of absence can be overwhelming and there is a lot of paperwork to complete. That’s why we’ve made the decision to outsource this process so that you receive *dedicated assistance* when going out on a leave.

Alcott HR’s responsibilities will include handling all Family Medical Leave (FMLA), Disability, Paid Family Leave (PFL) leave requests; providing you with the appropriate paperwork and forms for your leave; answering your common leave of absence questions; working with insurance carriers for any paid leaves; and coordinating your leave of absence information with your Supervisor and the OLVHS HR Department.

[Starting Monday, 4/5/21 all new Leave of Absence \(LOA\) requests need to directed to Alcott HR. Please see contact information attached/below.](#)

Who to contact for Leave of Absences (LOA)?

Current LOA

- Any current/open leave of absence cases will still be handled by the OLV HR Team
- Contact Kayla Fehr (x7622) or Timea Marchiori (x7618) in case you have questions about the status of your leave

Future LOA

- Effective 4/5/2021, Alcott HR will be the contact for any new LOA requests
- Contact Alcott LOA Management Team to make request
 - Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 6pm
 - (888) 425-2688
 - LOArequest@alcottHR.com
- Employees will communicate directly with Alcott HR

Injured/Accident at Work

- Complete Employee Injury/Accident Report before end of shift and submit to Supervisor
- Supervisor must review and sign off on report and submit to Timea Marchiori, Kayla Fehr or John Crocker within 3 days of incident
- This process will be kept internally within HR dept at OLVHS



Join us for our Weekend Online Auction to benefit our Rev UP Center!

Take part in “Everybody Outdoors!,” OLV’s online auction featuring fabulous items including weekend getaways, fishing & camping gear, sailing, golf packages, backyard BBQ and all things outdoors!

Proceeds will benefit OLV Human Services’ REV UP center, where our youth, often impacted by great trauma in their young lives, learn new skills and participate in restorative recreational activities.

Bidding will begin on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at noon and will close on Sunday, May 9, 2021 at 7 pm

For additional information please visit:

<https://one.bidpal.net/victorynite/welcome>