

LIFE

A pictorial perspective on student success



Playful time - Serious subject

Fire safety

Inside: Events, activities focus on student success

Learning not to be a statistic





A key element to all BOCES programs is teaching students what they will need to know to succeed in life as an adult, including lessons intended to ensure that they get to become adults. Fire safety is one such lesson. Thanks to a dedicated and fun-loving crew from the Vestal Fire Department, young people are better prepared for life beyond the school yard.



Building that better mousetrap





Turning a box full of every-day household items into an energy transferring machine is the challenge faced by hundreds of area students attending BOCES' ever-expanding Engineering Day(s). The annual competition pits teams of students against one another in a timed race to create a Rube Goldberg machine out of items such as paper towel tubes, rubber bands, tape, string, straws, marbles, toy cars and even mouse traps. Requiring an ample mix of ingenuity, creativity, teamwork and communication skills, the end products are a dizzying array of goofy but functional pieces of engineering marvel. The event is a collaborative effort by BOCES and the Eastern Southern Tier STEM Hub.



The 'code' to learning excitement





Teaching computer coding to preschoolers may on the surface seem premature, but spend an hour watching it take place and it's clear the time has not been wasted. Each year a class from the Chenango Valley preschool visits BOCES' "Hour of Code" to try out some basic computer games created by students in the P-TECH program. The inter-generational learning experience is filled with a plentiful mix of laughter and discovery by both age groups. It is an hour well spent.

Cold water - Warm hearts





It takes a special kind of person to willingly leap into a pool of water that's just a few degrees shy of turning solid, so it's a truly remarkable event when dozens of people line up to do so. Then again, remarkable is only one adjective that describes those who support the annual Special Olympics Polar Plunge at Chenango Valley State Park. Dedicated, compassionate and committed work as well.





'NVisioning' the future





Part of the New Visions Business Academy experience is participation in the Junior Achievement program, in which students plan, create and operate their own company. The results - liquidation of assets - benefits local charities while providing a priceless hands-on learning opportunity for motivated seniors.





Visiting the future

Do you remember what you were doing in fifth grade? Probably not. That's because it's not likely you sat at the controls of an excavator, or triggered the flash of a welding rod, or operated a 3D printer, or got to experience any number of the other hands-on activities that awaited hundreds of the fifth-graders who attended the recent visitation day at BOCES. Exploring the future begins early for those who wish to succeed.







A food fight with purpose



If your goal is opening your own restaurant or taking over as head chef at an existing establishment, there's no better way to start than by creating a unique recipe and having it placed on the menu of popular restaurants in your hometown. Such was the endgame at BOCES first-ever "Restaurant Wars," which paired teams of culinary arts students with local restaurant owners in a competition to prepare, plate and serve a culinary creation worthy of dishing out to discerning customers.

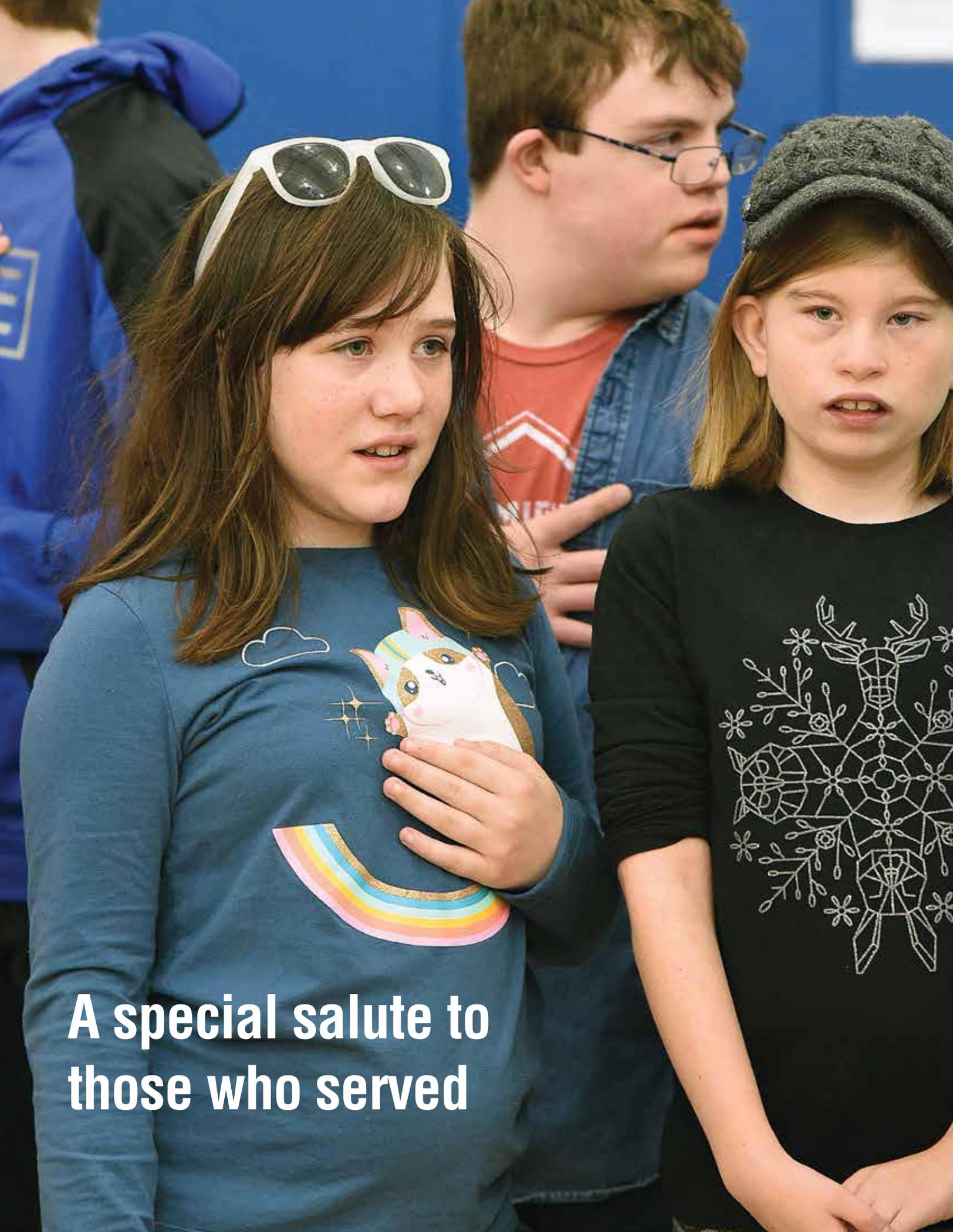


The science of smashing pumpkins



Setting aside images of flaming barrels of oil, building a contraption that can launch heavy objects into the wild yonder can be a joyful endeavor, one that offers an exciting entry into the relatively civilized field of engineering. Whether you call it a catapult or trebuchet, building an apparatus of this sort requires understanding and application of the physics involving tension, torsion and gravity...it's also just plain fun, as some students in our PALS program recently learned during a competition to see whose pumpkin would fly the farthest.

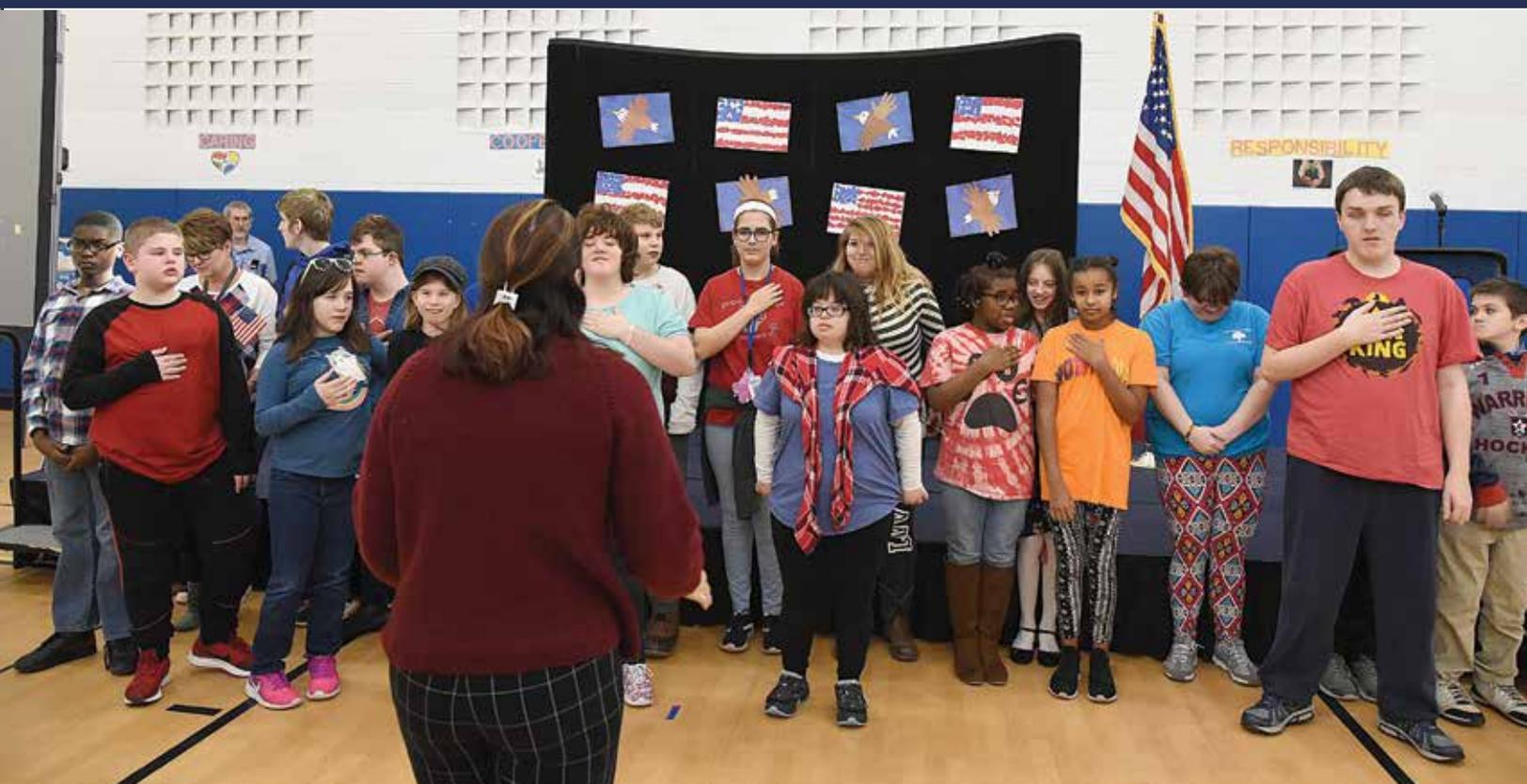




**A special salute to
those who served**



The Veterans Day assembly at BOCES provided students in our PALS and Oak Tree programs a chance to meet some real-life heroes from among their own families. While the details of their time in the military varied widely, a common theme ran through all - service to country, service to community, service to one another. A lesson from which we all can benefit.



Current Resident
or

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Congratulations



BOCES Computer-aided Design student Mellissa Locke of Afton received a surprise visit recently from State Sen. Fred Akshar, who presented her with a letter of support for her nomination to the “U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education” program. Congratulations, Mellissa!



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