While some were away, we were cookin’

Inside: We returned in the fall...and never looked back
We went about business...
even if not as usual

When Broome-Tioga BOCES opened for school in September 2020, some studied in person while others connected through distance learning. But we were here, together, in one form or another. This edition of “BOCES LIFE” is dedicated to some special moments in a most atypical of school years, when we all re-learned the importance of pulling together, of striving toward a common goal: Enriching lives through education.
Our New Visions Business Academy led us into the year with passion, as “13 Visionaries,” their Junior Achievement Company, successfully marketed a timely product called “Stay Refreshed,” which included two mask refresher sprays and a handy mask lanyard.
When the district attorney’s office needed a new lectern, our carpentry students stepped up to the challenge. District Attorney Mike Korchak came to Broome-Tioga BOCES to express his gratitude and congratulate the students on a job well done.
We stayed on top of our game

Nothing interrupted learning for students in our cosmetology program. In person or from a distance, they did all the things they’d expect to do during a “normal” school year. A few even participated in the SkillsUSA Regional Competition this spring. Remotely, of course.
We met Miss Maizee
This spring we met Maizee the therapy dog, whose human is Broome-Tioga BOCES special education teacher Kristina Roach. Maizee, a happy Goldendoodle, began visiting the education center on Glenwood Road for a few hours each week. Mostly, she just hangs out. But in doing so, she provides a slew of smiles, plenty of hugs and a nice break from the tensions of the school day. Word to the wise: she’ll play fetch but, like all of us, Maizee has her limits. She’ll let you know when she’s reached hers.
In October, the newest Habitat for Humanity house built by trades students at Broome-Tioga BOCES was moved from BOCES' main campus to its permanent site on nearby Linda Drive. The move culminated more than two years of construction and preparation involving dozens of students in various career and technical programs. It was the second such project teaming Broome County Habitat for Humanity and Broome-Tioga BOCES.
Floral Arts students learn to create and then market their wares to staff and others. As you might guess, they are very popular around Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine’s Day.
Our nursing professionals at Broome-Tioga BOCES are busy under normal circumstances. But during a pandemic, when students are on campus each day, our health professionals’ resolve has been remarkable, making sure all are protected at the highest levels possible.
The food pantry at East Learning Center was the first of its kind when it began in 2017. This spring, it notched another milestone by offering more than 125 gallons of milk each week to area families. Much of the work at the pantry is performed by students, who receive work-time credits.
We searched for new opportunities

Gaining knowledge and practical work experience is what Project SEARCH is all about, and each year Broome-Tioga BOCES students do just that through internships offered at Lourdes Health System and local businesses. Frequently, students are able to turn these opportunities into full-time employment after school.
Before the pandemic, students in several career programs at BOCES raised the walls on a pair of structures designed to become displays at the Discovery Center of the Southern Tier. Replicas of a police station and garage, the display will house the patrol car of fallen Johnson City Officer D.W. Smith Jr. (pictured). Students and staff put the finishing touches on the structures this spring and expect to have the buildings ready for delivery to the Discovery Center before the end of this school year.
... where we’d left off
Students enjoy two different “flavors” of food-based education at Broome-Tioga BOCES, the menu including a Culinary Arts program and a Hospitality Careers option. Both programs dedicate a good deal of time to making our education center smell delicious.
Broome-Tioga BOCES received TWO “Champions of Change” awards from the New York State School Boards Association. One, at West Learning Center, for bringing the Lourdes Mission in Motion bus to the school, the other honoring faculty and students for designing a tool in our Manufacturing course to help others more easily perform laundry duties.
We raised funds for a good cause

Our annual Oak Tree Celebrity Pasta Dinner couldn’t be held in person - or with celebrities - so we improvised, held it drive-through style, and sold 258 dinners. The proceeds help provide the little extras that make our Oak Tree program truly special.
We kept going
We never stopped learning
We continued to educate, empower and inspire
And that’s something to smile about
Mike Tanzini, representing the Broome County Legislature, visited our Glenwood Road campus with a proclamation declaring April 2021 “Autism Awareness Month.” The visit coincided with BOCES' annual “Autism Awareness Day,” which Lori Martin (pictured) helps coordinate.