



Scott M. Ellis Elementary

www.greenville.K12.ny.us

Cafeteria Prices: Breakfast—\$1.50 Lunch—\$2.50 Milk—\$.50

Elementary Arrival times: 7:55-8:10 am

Dismissal time: 2:25 pm

Emergency Closings

January brought us a mild mix of wintry weather. Sometimes severe weather will require us to dismiss students before the end of the day. WRGB provides a free service for families to receive notification via text message if our school is closing. Parents may sign up for this service at: www.cbs6albany.com, mobile school watch link. WNYT also provides the service- go to www.wnyt.com, closings and alerts tab, then schools and businesses tab, and follow the directions given to receive updated school closing information.

Please be sure that the office has updated information as to where you would like your child to go in the event of an emergency dismissal. The school staff will use this information to dismiss children to the correct buses. Please remember that parents will not be called in the event of an emergency dismissal.

After School Enrichment

The PTA sponsored After School Enrichment (ASE) program will begin on Wednesday, February 8, and will continue on the following Wednesday afternoons: February 15, 29 and March 7. Students in grades K-5 are welcome to participate. If you have questions, ideas, or would like to volunteer, please call Jacquie Fitzmaurice at 966-4184.

Parent Sign-in Procedures

In our efforts to maximize all students' learning time, teachers will inform the office of parents who are expected as classroom volunteers. Upon arrival, volunteers may sign in and go to their child's classroom. If parents would like to go to a different classroom, even if only to ask a "quick question", we require that they return to the office first so that staff can check the teacher's availability.

If parents are coming in for an unscheduled visit, our greeter at the front desk will call the classroom to see if the teacher is available. If the teacher is not available, office staff will assist parents in setting up an appointment. We thank everyone for their cooperation in maximizing students' learning time.

Grades 3-8 Testing Calendar Announced

ELA and Math exams to be given over three days

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) made significant revisions to the New York State Assessments for grades 3-8. This year our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will have longer tests and more test questions. These revisions were announced by NYSED in late December.

NYSED has increased the number of test questions to obtain the most accurate information possible about student achievement and to include field test questions upon which future tests will be built. To accommodate the increased number of questions, the ELA and mathematics assessments will be administered over the course of three days, respectively.

NYSED has designed the testing times to allow students sufficient time to demonstrate what they have learned. Although the actual time that it will take the typical student to complete each session is estimated to be 45, 50, 60, or 70 minutes depending on their grade and subject, school districts must schedule 90 minutes per day for each session at each grade.

Grade	ELA Book	Estimated time for completion	Date to be given	Math Book	Estimated time for completion	Date to be given
3	1	70	April 17	1	60	April 25
	2	60	April 18	2	60	April 26
	3	45	April 19	3	50	April 27
Total estimated time		175			170	
4	1	70	April 17	1	60	April 25
	2	60	April 18	2	60	April 26
	3	45	April 19	3	60	April 27
Total estimated time		175			180	
5	1	70	April 17	1	60	April 25
	2	60	April 18	2	60	April 26
	3	45	April 19	3	60	April 27
Total estimated time		175			180	

Student Safety

Many of our families drive students to school in the morning. In order to keep our parking lot safe, please remember to follow the flow of traffic. Traffic is to move one way, and there are no U-turns allowed in our parking lot.

If parents need to walk students into the building, please enter the lot and park in a marked parking space. Parents who are dropping-off students should follow the flow of traffic and let students out of the vehicle next to our school building (in the area between the sidewalk entrance and the north doors). **No one should drive around and pass another vehicle that is standing in this area.** As a reminder, children should not be dropped off in front of the building from Route 32, as this is a no parking area.

Any student who is tardy (entering the building after 8:10) should be walked to the front entrance and signed in by his/her parent or guardian. We thank everyone for their cooperation in following these important safety routines!

Just a reminder, parents picking up students at the end of the day can do so in the Multi-Purpose Room between 2:25-2:40. At 2:40 students will be brought to the Main Office for pick up.

As a reminder to parents picking up students from the Middle School/High School: Please do not park next to the building or in front of the vans during dismissal. Please park in an open parking space. We need to keep this area clear for the orderly dismissal of our buses.

Bus Notes

We realize that there are times when your child may need to ride a different bus to a location other than home for childcare purposes. If you need to make a change in your child's transportation, please send a note in with your child and include his/her full name, teacher's name, regular bus route, and the residential address where you would like your child to be dropped off, phone number at that residence, and the name of the adult who will be meeting your child. This information will assure that your child will be transported to the correct location for care.



Family Dance

We are pleased to have Homespun Family Dance coming in to work with our students during the week of January 30th. This residency is sponsored with a generous grant from the Elementary PTA. Students will learn a variety of dances, and will be eager to show what they've learned!

Parents, please come and join us for our Family Dance on Friday, February 3rd, at 6:30pm in the Ellis Auditorium.

Congratulations to our Students!

Elementary Art Program

Congratulations to the following students who have been recognized for their outstanding efforts in creativity during art class for the month of January-

Kindergarten- Kieran Cullen, Dakota Marcy, Kayla Ahrberg, Cameryn Childs, Thomas Agan, Olivia Webb, Colby Beers, Olivia Hagan, Mikaela Crawley, Jeslyne Lomio

First grade- Abigail Zakens, Owen Valentino, Justin Case, Kaelin Kocsis, Sky Lin, Christopher Hubicki, Olivia Dishaw, Michael Carey, Finn Kosich

Second grade- Christopher Henderson, Jack Motta, Mackenzie Danaher, Gavin Newman, Isaiah Edmonds, Melody Sprague, Brian Tanner, Benjamin Keeny, Mackenzie Heath

Third grade - Anthony Greco, Benjamin Lewis, Lauren Rauf, Jared Growney, Emily Pickett, Danielle LePage, Marie Essex, Richard Smith-Bray, Jasmine Fitch, Kaylee Burke, James Mitchell, Debra Garry-Valentine

Fourth grade - Lauren Hallenbeck, Zachariah Storrs, Emmit Stannard, Brandon Blackman, Austin Field, Peter Sequinot, Trevor Sisson, Kayla Stetkewicz, Riley Uht, Jolene Breault, Jeremiah Corbett, Nicole Bowden

Fifth grade - Madeleine Makely, Grace Statham, Mason Steele, Declan Black, Fiona Haggerty, Valerie Lewis

P.E. Students of the Month

Congratulations to Kayla Ahrberg, Courtney Taibi, Landon Rochler, Catherine Semaska, Isabella Sarles, Cassidy Augstein, Natalie Krasney, Bergen Criswell, Emma Schatzel, Justin Schoenborn, Brendon Mazza, Isabella Antonelli, Joseph Nicosia, Jenna Giardina, Matthew Mason, Sydney Ahrberg, Hailey Hayes, Sebastian Gangi, Alexis Caprio, Ambria Jackson, Gianna Mancuso, Daniel Garramone, Brent Zarccone, Jemma Turner, Robert Vincent, Annalise Goyette

Note from PE Teachers

The Physical Education department would like to remind parents and students that sneakers are required for P.E. classes. Snow boots and hiking boots are not appropriate for gym use. Sneakers are necessary for a safe environment. As always, earrings and other jewelry are not permitted in P. E., due to the safety risk for students.

All-County Elementary Band

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent Scott M. Ellis Elementary at the Greene County Spring All-County Festival here at Greenville: Sarah LePage, Ryan McAneny, Chloe Cox, Karianne Benninger, Holly Feit, Hailey Mason, Josephine Content, Isabella Antonelli, Fiona Haggerty, Madeleine Makely, Bergen Criswell, Dylan Licata and Autumn Brennan.

Classroom Assignments

Parents who would like to provide input in the placement process, should complete a "Parental Input on Placement" form, which will be available at the elementary office February 1, 2012. **Input forms must be submitted to the elementary office by April 17th.**

The creation of class lists is a complicated process. Each classroom group should reflect the character of the students at the entire grade level. Classroom groups are designed to maximize learning for all by including students with diverse academic abilities, work habits, and social skills. We also try to match students to teachers.

Please remember, specific requests for individual teachers will not be honored. Any input forms that include specific requests will be returned so parents can make revisions and re-submit their form prior to the April 17th deadline. Sometimes parents desire to request a particular teacher by name and discuss this openly with their child. These conversations can be stressful for children and can lead to anxiety for the entire family if the teacher assigned is not the teacher who they thought was the "perfect match." Completed forms will be read and reviewed by classroom teachers, other faculty, and building administrators during the classroom assignment process. Final decisions regarding placements will be made by the building principal.

Family Math Night

On Thursday, March 8, from 6:00-8:00pm, our students in grades 2-5 and their parents are invited to our annual Family Math Night. A fun filled evening is planned consisting of hands on explorations in Math using netbooks, the Promethean board and many interactive manipulatives. More information will follow soon, so please mark your family calendar!

Thank You Parents!

Thank you to all of our parents who participate in the Price Chopper "Tools for Schools" program. Last year parents raised enough points to add new shapes to our Ellison die-cut collection, allowing all teachers to make attractive academic tools and decorations in an efficient manner!

Our school benefits greatly from this program. If you would like to register for this program, you can register at www.pricechopper.com/toolsforschools/, and Scott M. Ellis will begin receiving points when you make purchases. Our school code is: 15784

Box Tops for Education

If you are interested in participating, Scott M. Ellis Elementary School does collect the Box Tops for Education labels on the top of General Mills products. Box Tops can be dropped off in the main office or left in Mrs. Lansing's mailbox in the staff break room. Box Top funds will be used to purchase recess supplies for the playground.

The Common Core Learning Standards

We thank parents for their support as we implement the New York State Common Core Learning Standards. During fall Open Houses, parents were provided an overview of the “shifts” that are being implemented in ELA, such as a strong emphasis on understanding informational/non-fiction text, and in mathematics, such as a heavy emphasis on developing a deeper sense of numbers.

Parents can learn more about the Common Core Learning Standards by going to the New York State Education website at www.engageny.org.

Common Core “Shifts”

There are twelve shifts that the Common Core requires, six shifts in Mathematics and six shifts in ELA/ Literacy.

Shifts in ELA/Literacy	
Shift 1 PreK-5th grade, Balancing Informational & Literacy Texts	Students read a true balance of informational and literary texts. Elementary school classrooms are, therefore, places where students access the world-science, social studies, the arts and literature-through text. At least 50% of what students read is informational.
Shift 2 Grades 6-12 Knowledge in the Disciplines	Content area teachers outside of the ELA classroom emphasize literacy experiences in their planning and instruction. Students learn through domain-specific texts in science and social studies classrooms-rather than referring to the text, they are expected to learn from what they read.
Shift 3 Staircase of Complexity	In order to prepare students for the complexity of college and career ready texts, each grade level requires a “step” of growth on the “staircase”. Students read the central, grade appropriate text around which instruction is centered. Teachers are patient, create more time and space in the curriculum for this close and careful reading, and provide appropriate and necessary scaffolding and supports so that it is possible for students reading below grade level.
Shift 4 Text-based Answers	Students have rich and rigorous conversations which are dependent on a common text. Teachers insist that classroom experiences stay deeply connected to the text on the page and that students develop habits for making evidentiary arguments both in conversation, as well as in writing to assess comprehension of a text.
Shift 5 Writing from Sources	Writing needs to emphasize use of evidence to inform or make an argument rather than the personal narrative and other forms of decontextualized prompts. While the narrative still has an important role, students develop skills through written arguments that respond to the ideas, events, facts, and arguments presented in the texts they read.
Shift 6 Academic Vocabulary	Students constantly build the vocabulary they need to access grade level complex texts. By focusing strategically on comprehension of pivotal and commonly found words (such as “discourse,” “generation,” “theory,” and “principled”) and less on esoteric literary terms (such as “onomatopoeia” or “homonym”), teachers constantly build students’ ability to access more complex texts across the content areas.

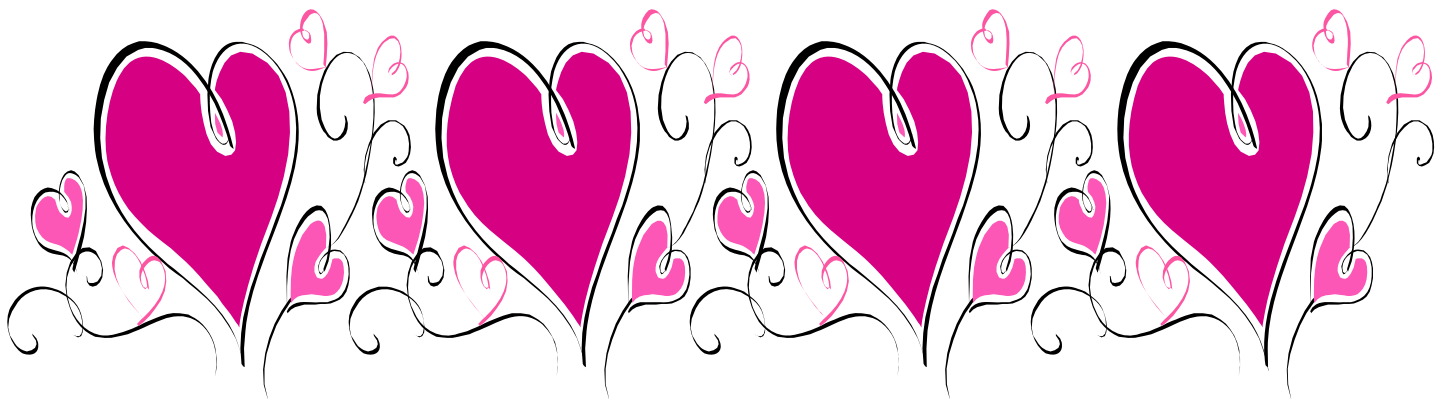
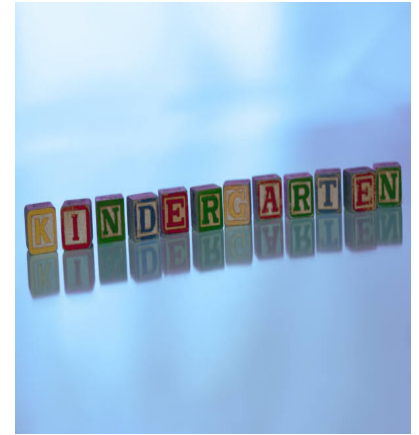
Shifts in Mathematics

Shift 1 Focus	Teachers use the power of the eraser and significantly narrow and deepen the scope of how time and energy is spent in the math classroom. They do so in order to focus deeply on only the concepts that are prioritized in the standards so that students reach strong foundational knowledge and deep conceptual understanding and are able to transfer mathematical skills and understanding across concepts and grades.
Shift 2 Coherence	Principals and teachers carefully connect the learning within and across grades so that, for example, fractions or multiplication spiral across grade levels and students can build new understanding onto foundations built in previous years. Teachers can begin to count on deep conceptual understanding of core content and build on it. Each standard is not a new event, but an extension of previous learning.
Shift 3 Fluency	Students are expected to have speed and accuracy with simple calculations; teachers structure class time and/or homework time for students to memorize, through repetition, core functions such as multiplication tables so that they are more able to understand and manipulate more complex concepts.
Shift 4 Deep Understanding	Teachers teach more than “how to get the answer” and instead support students’ ability to access concepts from a number of perspectives so that students are able to see math as more than a set of mnemonics or discrete procedures. Students demonstrate deep conceptual understanding of core math concepts by applying them to new situations, as well as writing and speaking about their understanding,
Shift 5 Application	Students are expected to use math and choose the appropriate concept for application even when they are not prompted to do so. Teachers provide opportunities at all grade levels for students to apply math concepts in “real world” situations. Teachers in content areas outside of math, particularly science, ensure that students are using math-at all grade levels-to make meaning of and access content.
Shift 6 Dual Intensity	Students are practicing and understanding. There is more than a balance between these two things in the classroom-both are occurring with intensity. Teachers create opportunities for students to participate in “drills” and make use of those skills through extended application of math concepts. The amount of time and energy spent practicing and understanding learning environments is driven by the specific mathematical concept and therefore, varies throughout the given school year.

Kindergarten Registration

We are already planning for the group of children who will enter Kindergarten in the Fall of 2012. This year Kindergarten registration is February 6th-10th, by appointment only. We rely on enrollment data to determine the number of Kindergarten classes we will need. This information is crucial in planning our budget for 2012-2013.

Children must be five years of age on or before December 1, 2012 to attend Kindergarten in September. If you or anyone you know has a child eligible to attend Kindergarten in the fall, please call the registrar's office (966-5070 ext. 305) for registration information or to schedule an appointment.



Upcoming Events

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| Feb. 2 | PTA meeting, 6:30 in the Elementary Library |
| Feb. 3 | Homespun Family Dance 6:30-8:00 |
| Feb. 6-10 | Kindergarten Registration—by appointment |
| Feb. 8 | First Session of After-School Enrichment-2:30-3:45 |
| Feb. 13 | Board of Education meeting, 7:00 in High School Library |
| Feb. 15 | Second Session of After-School Enrichment-2:30-3:45 |
| Feb. 17 | Jump Rope for Heart |
| Feb. 20-24 | <i>Winter Recess - No classes for students</i> |
| Feb. 27 | School reopens |
| Feb. 27 | Board of Education Budget Workshop - 7:00 in High School Library |
| Feb. 29 | Third Session of After-School Enrichment-2:30-3:45 |
| March 1 | PTA meeting, 6:30 in the Elementary Library |
| March 5 | Board of Education Budget Workshop - 7:00 in High School Library |
| March 7 | Fourth (and final) Session of After-School Enrichment-2:30-3:45 |
| March 7 | Music in Our Schools Vocal Concert—7:00 in High School Auditorium |