



# Scott M. Ellis Elementary

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www.greenville.k12.ny.us 966-5070 ext.301  
Cafeteria prices: Breakfast—\$1.50 Lunch —\$2.50 Milk—\$.50

Elementary arrival time: 7:55-8:10 am  
Dismissal time: 2:25 pm

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## GCSD Homecoming Weekend Events!

Friday, September 30th- Spirit Day! Wear maroon and white to show our school pride!

6:00-8:00 pm- Elementary Fall Activity Night

Saturday, October 1st

7:30-10:30 am—Homecoming Breakfast- All You Can Eat Buffet

Adults \$9.00, Children 10 and under \$5.00

Reservations accepted until 9/30/11: contact Karen Overbaugh at 966-5070 ext 301. All proceeds benefit the Greenville Educational Foundation.

9:00 am-2:00 pm—Farmers Market and Crafts-All Arts Matters

10:00am-3:00 pm—Book Sale- Friends of the Library

5:00 pm-7:00 pm—Greater Greenville Chili Challenge-Vanderbilt Park

7:15 pm Fireworks at Vanderbilt Park

6:00 pm Vocal Festival—"Songs of Hope"—performed by the Greenville Central School District Alumni directed by Gail Richmond & Connie Marie Rao-Triglia to benefit local victims of Hurricane Irene

## Open House-Thank You!

Open House activities are an important opportunity for parents to understand their child's school day. We thank the many parents who attended Open House events! Your involvement and support of learning is greatly appreciated.

## School Picture Day

School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 5th. An informational brochure was sent home to families on Wednesday, September 28th. Please use the envelope that was sent home if you are planning on purchasing a photo package.

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## Elementary Library

The elementary library is available for book exchange, and as a place to learn important research, listening and reading skills. Students should be reading every day. Students visit the library as often as they like for book exchange and when the classroom teacher feels that learning goals will be best met with the help of the librarian.

Since students no longer have an assigned time for book exchange, parents are encouraged to discuss the books that students borrow, and remind them to bring books back to school when they are finished enjoying them. As a reminder, students will receive a bookmark with the date the book should be returned. Books can be returned as soon as students arrive at school or at the end of the school day.

## Safety Lessons

Fire Prevention Day will be celebrated on Friday, October 7th. The local Fire Companies will visit our kindergarten classrooms and give group presentations to students in grades 1-5.

## Price Chopper Tools for Schools

Register your AdvantEdge card and designate our school at the Guest Services desk at your Price Chopper or online at [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com). Our school code is: 15785. The program began on August 1, 2011 and will continue until February 12, 2012. All purchases using your AdvantEdge card will be automatically credited to our school.

Thank you to all the parents for their continued support of this wonderful program.

## Box Tops for Education

If you are interested in participating, Scott M. Ellis Elementary School does collect the Box Tops for Education labels from the top of General Mills products. Labels can be dropped off in the main office or left in Mrs. Lansing's mailbox in the faculty room. Last year, labels were redeemed for a variety of materials for our playground and for classroom supplies.

## Lost and Found

Sometimes students misplace items within our school. Many are re-claimed, but some coats, sweatshirts, lunchboxes, etc — end up on our lost and found table.

Please remind your child to check our lost and found table in the Kindergarten hallway. Items will be kept there until the second week of October, December, February, April and June. After each of these times, items will be donated to charity.

Please label everything with your child's name. If we find it we will return it.

## Building Leadership Team

Throughout the year, we hope you'll come to us with your questions or concerns. Parents are always encouraged to speak with their child's classroom teacher. However, some questions concern school-wide issues. Questions like these can be directed to Mr. Mahan or to one of our parent representatives on the Building Leadership Team (BLT).

The BLT is our shared decision making group. Parent representation on the building level team is very important as we review progress and determine goals for our school. Our parent representatives are Carmen Bucci and Tara Miller.

Carmen Bucci is the mother of sixth grader Nicholas and second grader Victoria. She resides with her family and husband Joseph in Cocksackie, and operates the Read and Read Again book shop in Greenville.

Tara Miller is the mother of sixth grader Nicholas and kindergartener Grace. She resides with her family and husband Jeffery in Medusa, and is the business manager at the Music Mobile.

Carmen and Tara will welcome your thoughts, ideas and concerns so please don't hesitate to contact them. As parent representatives they try to listen to other parents so that they can bring a range of opinions to the planning process. You can leave a message for Carmen or Tara at the Main Office — 966-5070 ext. 301.

## Bus Safety Week

School Bus Safety Week will be the week of October 17-21. The theme this year is:

**"Be Aware-Know the Danger Zone"**

Kindergarten students will view a movie, and teachers will follow up with classroom discussion about basic school bus safety. Students in grades 1-5 will participate in a bus safety activity led by our Transportation Supervisor.

## Important Reminders from the Nurse

Parents are asked to call the school whenever their child is absent. Absences may be phoned in to the main office prior to 7:15 by calling 966-5070 extension 301.

Our health office staff would like to remind parents that if your child has a temperature of 100°F or above, or appears ill, please keep him/her home. Please do not return your child to school until he/she has not had a temperature for 24 hours without the use of medication.

## Emergency Drill

On Wednesday, October 19th, Scott M. Ellis students and staff will participate in a district-wide emergency "lockdown drill." All of our returning students will remember this drill from previous years. The drill will begin with an announcement that we are going to have a lock-down drill. No alarm will sound. Students and teachers will stay in classrooms until we are able to take a school-wide attendance count. We will then make a second announcement that the drill is completed.

Before and during the drill, teachers will talk to children about how different types of drills help us to be safe, for example, fire drills, bus safety drills, etc. Teachers will explain that we do not expect an emergency, but that we want to practice ways to be safe. When children ask questions about safety, we will listen carefully, offer reassurance and be careful not to overwhelm them with "what-ifs."

It is likely that your child will want to discuss safety at home. When a child asks questions about their safety, parents can ask questions like "What have you heard?" so they can be sure they understand the child's concerns. After listening to the child's understandings, try to offer simple explanations. Also, your child may ask the same questions again and again. This is common and helps children gain a better understanding.

## PTA Family Fun Night

Thank you to the parents, teachers & staff volunteers who made our PTA Family Fun Night a great success. Students had a wonderful time playing games, snacking on hot dogs and popcorn, and playing with their friends.

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for October 6th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, especially our newest families at Scott M. Ellis! Parent volunteers are needed.

## Math Night for Parents

Would you like ideas on how to help your child with their math schoolwork? This year Colleen Hall and Peter Mahan will provide information and materials to support parents in helping their child with math assignments. All meetings will occur during our regularly scheduled PTA meetings, and will be held in the elementary library. PTA meetings begin at 6:30 pm.

October 6—Overview of our new math series, deepening students' skill with numbers

November 3 - Parents will make materials to increase students' understanding of place value, addition, and subtraction

January 5— Parents will make materials to increase students' understanding of multiplication

We look forward to this fun opportunity to "talk math," and hope to see you there!

## Success In School

When children become good readers in the early grades, they are more likely to become better learners throughout their school years and beyond. Learning to read is hard work for children. Fortunately, research is available that suggests how to give each child a good start in reading.

Becoming a reader involves the development of important skills, including learning to:

- \***use** language in conversation
- \***listen** and respond to stories read aloud
- \***recognize** and name the letters of the alphabet
- \***listen** to the sounds of spoken language
- \***connect** sounds to letters to figure out the "code" of reading
- \***read** often so that recognizing words becomes easy and automatic
- \***learn** to use new words
- \***understand** what is read

As a parent, you can help by understanding what teachers are teaching and by asking questions about your child's progress and the classroom reading program.

You can also help your children become readers. Learning to read takes practice, more practice than children get during the school day.

At home you can help by....

**\*Practicing the sounds of language.** Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs. Play simple word games: *How many words can you make up that sound like "bat?"*

**\*Helping your child take spoken words apart and put them together.** Help your child separate the sounds in words, listen for beginning and ending sounds, and put separate sounds together.

**\*Practicing the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading alphabet books.**

For upper grades, you can help by reading with your child each night and asking questions about the story.

## Information Regarding Our Board of Education

The agenda and minutes for Board of Education Meetings are posted on the GCSD website at:

[www.greenville.k12.ny.us](http://www.greenville.k12.ny.us) — District — Board of Education

## P.E. Students of the Month

Nuala Kappel	Ben Reinhard	Peyton Gergen	Emma Smith
Tess Fitzmaurice	Timothy Biernacki	Garrett de Long	Emily Smith
Mikaela Crawley	Gage Palmeri	James Mitchell	Emmit Stannard
Ella Mulholland	Isaiah Edmonds	Robert Corrigan	Celina Miller
John Catapano	Danielle LoPresti	Noah Berntsen	Gianna Fraim
Madison Wisenburn	Kimberly Wright	Taryn Silk	Jessica Wank
Walter Sutton	Dalton Bashwinger	Valerie Lewis	Tristan Spence

## Sign up for eNews

eNews is an opt-in email notification service where students, parents and community members sign up to receive periodic email updates from the school district about school announcements, electronic newsletters and other district-related information.

By joining eNews, you will stay in touch with important news and events happening in the district. With eNews, you only receive information that you have signed up to receive.

Creating an account is easy. Go to the district website ([www.greenville.k12.ny.us](http://www.greenville.k12.ny.us)) and simply enter your name, email address and password and click on submit. Once your account is created, you will be prompted to subscribe to the types of information you would like to receive.

Your email address is not made public and will only be used if you wish to receive a new password or wish to receive certain news or notifications by email.

## CARES

A basic belief underlying the *Responsive Classroom* approach to teaching is that *how* children learn to treat one another is as important as *what* they learn in reading, writing, and arithmetic. We believe that social skills such as cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control are essential to children's academic and social success and we emphasize the teaching of these skills, along with academics, throughout the school day.

## Notice from the Physical Education Department

The P.E. department would like to remind parents and students that as the weather gets colder, please send your child into school with a sweatshirt on P.E. days. Also, it is suggested that students have an extra pair of socks and/or sneakers to change into if the grass is wet.



## Universal Pre-K

Universal Pre-K is a program that provides free pre-kindergarten classes for families who live in the Greenville Central School District. The UPK program is available to children who are 4-years old by December 1, 2011. UPK classes are held five half-days a week for the school year. However, no transportation is provided by the school district. The UPK providers in our district are Nature's Way in Rensselaerville and the United Methodist Church Day Care in Norton Hill. All families are eligible.

Applications and program information are available in the registrar's office at Scott M. Ellis Elementary. UPK opportunities sometimes become available during the school year, and families are encouraged to have an application on record in the event a vacancy becomes available. Please contact Lynette Terrell for a UPK application at 966-5070, extension 305.

## World Book Online

Thank to the generosity of Scott M. Ellis PTA our students have a new internet resource they can use at school and from a computer at home: World Book Online.

World Book can be accessed from home or from any public computer (such as your local library) by going to <http://www.worldbookonline.com>. Our user name is: *ellis1* and our password is: *ellis*.

World Book has many features which will help our students find information they need quickly and safely. There is an online tutorial that may be helpful to parents who want to see all of its features. There are three levels to choose from when you navigate to the Welcome Screen. Early World of Learning is for students from pre-K to grade two. It has stories, sing-a-longs, games and information for young students. It reads the text and highlights it as it is being read. As students learn to read, this feature can be turned off.

World Book Kids is for students in grades K through 4 and offers visuals such as photos, videos, maps and a read aloud function. Finally there is World Book Student which is for students from grade five and up which will give more in-depth articles at a higher reading level for students needing more information. This level has reading support as well.

World Book also offers students safe links to other sites on the internet for more information as well. It also helps students learn how to do research and to correctly site the places students get their information. If parents have any questions about this resource they may contact Mrs. Hollinde at [hollindep@greenville.k12.ny.us](mailto:hollindep@greenville.k12.ny.us).

# Guided Reading

Parents are their children's first teachers, and this role continues as children grow. The following series is printed with the author's permission, and offers insight on how parents can support the development of a love for reading and strong reading skills.

## Guided Reading at Home, a Two-Part Series

by Cathy Puett Miller, The Literacy Ambassador®

### Part 1: Figuring Out Words

*Reading is one of the things that every child must possess to be successful in life. Like walking, it is a skill that is learned, with lots of practice. It isn't a natural ability that we are born with. This two-part series (to be continued in next month's newsletter) by literacy expert Cathy Puett Miller is designed to give parents simple tools they can use at home to complement their child's school work, and offer additional one-on-one practice that is rewarding for everyone.*

Today's parents often say, "They just don't teach reading the way I learned it." Yet, research overwhelmingly reports that parent involvement in children's learning is critical. So, what's a parent to do? How can you help your child get off to a strong start and succeed as a reader?

Today, many classroom teachers use an instruction method called *guided reading*. The ideas used in guided reading help children make sense of what they read, at first with help, and later on their own. Teachers often pick books that are just the right reading level for your child so he can have a lot of success in these activities. Although teachers are the experts, you can use a few of the same techniques at home with great results.

### ***Guide Point #1: Don't give your child the answer.***

Guided reading is about equipping your child. Think about teaching him to tie his shoes; you want him to eventually do it on his own. When she is reading to you, it may seem positive to just tell him the word she's struggling with. Instead, try asking questions to help your child do it on her own.:

Do you know any part of this word? If a child knows the word *at*, he can read *cat*, *hat*, *sat*, *flat*, *splat*. He just adds or changes the beginning sound. Sometimes he can split the word into two words he knows like *pan* and *cake* make pancake. He knows *sock*, he can figure out stock by adding the "t" sound.

Does it follow a rule you learned from class? Here is a common sense rule in beginning phonics: When you see a word with the pattern consonant-vowel-consonant (see box for definitions), the vowel sound is usually short. This is true for words like *bit*, *sack*, *test*, *dog*, *Fred*.

What are vowels and consonants? Vowels in English are the letters a, e, i, o, u and sometimes y when it sounds like an "i." The consonants are all the rest of the letters in our alphabet.
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When you see a word with the pattern of two consonants and two vowels, the first vowel usually says its name (is long); the second vowel is quiet. Some children learn the rule this way: "the first one does the talking; the second one does the walking." Examples include cake, greet, tire, spoke, tune.

EXTRA TIP: There are a few exceptions, so if your child tries the pattern and it doesn't sound like a word she knows, switch the sound from long to short or short to long. The word *give*, for example, has a short "i" sound when the pattern says words like this usually have a long "i" sound. Try saying g-i-v-e with the long sound and you get a word that isn't a word. Switch the sound and you've got it!

*Does it look kind of like a word you already know?* This builds on the first tip. If you know *cake*, you can read *rake, snake, bake, quake, flake*, and many more. I always tell children "big words are just little words you already know put together."

*What are the beginning, middle, ending sounds?* If your child is just beginning to read, he is learning to sound out words from the letters or blends within the word. Sometimes looking at a whole unknown word scares children and they are afraid to try. If they break it down into familiar parts, they can get it right. If you have questions about how the individual letters or blends should be pronounced, ask your child's teacher. One of the most common confusions is between the short "e" and short "i" sounds.

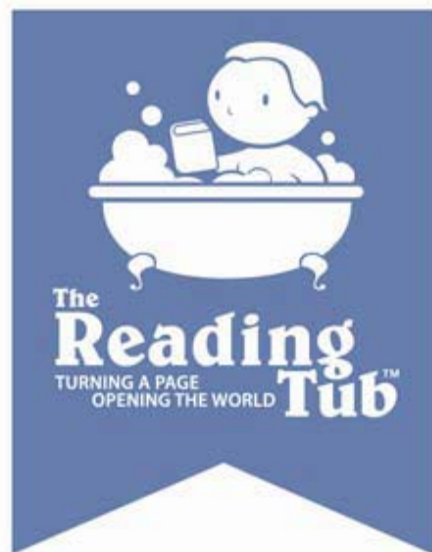
***Guide Point #2: Enjoy the reading experience by being conversational and supportive. Praise their efforts and celebrate their successes.***

Just because you are helping with homework or reading doesn't mean you have to turn your house into a classroom. Relax and make your questions conversational, a natural part of the reading process. Be positive and encouraging to your youngster and reward him whenever he tries hard.

***Guide Point #3: Be consistent; practice makes perfect.***

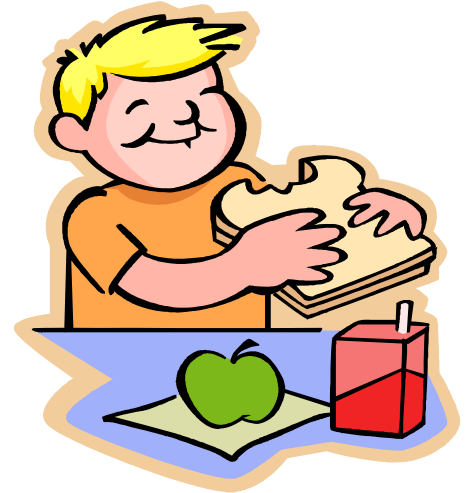
Choosing to spend time reading with your child every night (both letting them read to you and you reading to them) takes a commitment. When you weigh the benefits, however, you'll soon see that carving out this time is well worth it. Also remember that frustration for young children can kick in with 5-10 seconds so never allow your child to struggle for longer than that without using one or more of these suggested prompts. Taking a break and coming back to the task may also help children with limited attention spans.

Whatever your approach, be confident that you can make a difference in your child's reading abilities and his attitude toward reading in general. Your influence and interest will have a tremendous impact.



# School Lunch Program-Nutrikids

Every family is encouraged to purchase a minimum of one or two meals in advance. You may pre-pay for your child's lunch, either by sending cash, check, or by going to the Nutrikids web site to use a credit card. Checks should be made out to **GCS Cafeteria Account**. The web address for Nutrikids is [www.greenville.k12.ny.us](http://www.greenville.k12.ny.us). Go to the Food Service link and then to MyNutrikids. You will need your child's student ID number to add money to their account. If your child's ID number is less than 9 digits, you will need to add zeros to the left of the number for a total of 9 digits.



## Upcoming Events

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|-----------------|---|
| Sept. 30-Oct. 1 | Homecoming Weekend  |
| October 5th     | School Picture Day!   |
| October 6th     | PTA Welcome & Informational meeting 6:30-Ellis Library                        |
| October 10th    | Columbus Day- No School   |
| October 17th    | Board of Education meeting at HS/MS Library, 7:00 pm                          |
| October 19th    | District-wide Lockdown Drill  |
| October 21st    | Superintendent's Conference Day-no students                                   |
| October 21st    | PTA Halloween Bash, 6:30-8:30 pm (pending volunteers)                         |
| November 2nd    | Fall All-County Music Festival at Cairo/Durham H.S.-rehearsal                 |
| November 4th    | Fall All-County Music Festival at Cairo/Durham H.S.-rehearsal and performance |

