



### New Greenville National Honor Society Members Inducted

The 2008 - 2009 Greenville High School National Honor Society Induction ceremony took place on Wednesday, December 3, 2008. The ceremony recognized twelve new National Honor Society members for their commitment to scholarship, community service, leadership and character. To be eligible for membership, new members had to maintain a 90 or above average for the entirety of their high school career, submit a membership application and essay, and complete an interview with current National Honor Society members. The new National Honor Society members are:

Jenna Albers  
 Jonah Coe-Scharff  
 Lauren Finch  
 Shelby Magee  
 Abigail Rauf  
 Lydia Smith

Robin Sweeney  
 Michelle Thomas  
 Christopher Tompkins  
 Rebekah Voisey  
 Makayla Warren  
 Joseph Zeitler

The new members joined last year's inductees Kimberly Bear, Leahanne Cappelli, Nicole DeLaCruz, Danielle Dudley, Devon Dudley, Samuel Dudley, Matthew Esposito, Kimberly Fabian, Emma Lord, Jordan Marrone, Marie Myers, Nicole Ostoyich and Tifanie Sondak. Congratulations to all our National Honor Society members. We are all very proud of your accomplishments.



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Middle School Students Participate in Honor Band

Greenville Rotarians Donate Dictionaries

November Visitations for GCS High School Students

High School Challenge Program

Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast

The International Baccalaureate Programme

Graduate Spotlight

Training for GCS Bus Drivers

Winter Athletics

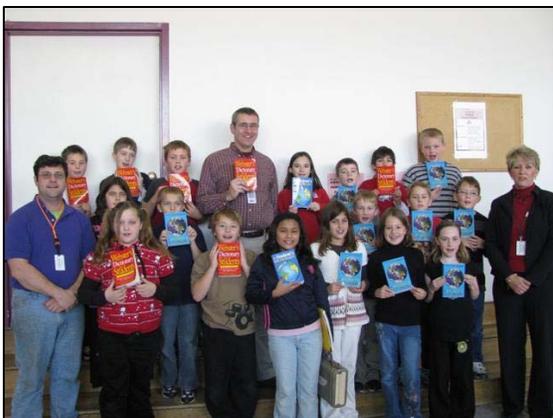
Fifth Grade Nature's Classroom

## Middle School Students Participate in Honor Band

Two Greenville students have been selected to participate in the New York State Middle School Honor Band on March 6-7, 2009. Each year from hundreds of applicants, Honor Band members are chosen based upon their NYSSMA score from the previous spring. Each ensemble rehearses and performs during the NYS Band Directors Annual Symposium held at the Syracuse Convention Center.

Performing with the Middle School Honor Band will be David Herbstritt, trumpet and Michael Schonning, euphonium. These students will rehearse and perform under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Peterson, an Associate Professor of Music at Ithaca College and conductor of the Symphonic Band.

This will be a return appearance at the NYSBDA symposium for these players. Both David and Michael were members of the exemplary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band that performed in March 2006 as part of a clinic presented by Christine Wegrzyn, Music Department Chairperson, entitled "Excellence Starts Early".



## Greenville Rotarians Donate Dictionaries

New dictionaries were given to the entire third grade class at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School by the Greenville Rotary. During the assembly Peter Mahan, Elementary School Principal, discussed the role of the Rotarian and their purpose of giving back to the community through fundraising. This donation occurs annually and last year's third graders brought their well-loved dictionaries for a game of "find the word". Students were very excited and truly appreciated the generous gifts.

## November Visitations for GCS High School Students

Students in the Wildlife and Natural Resources and the Environmental Science classes visited SUNY Cobleskill in November. The college presented students with the opportunity to spawn trout. Eggs were released and fertilized by GCS students. Additional stops on the tour of the campus included the wildlife and fishery department and the herpetology room where students handled snakes and turtles.

The Floral Design class visited Seagroatts Riccardi and Janine's Floral Creation to experience the business of floral design. Seagroatts Riccardi is a wholesale industry and students observed their computerized system of monitoring shipping and costs for purchase and sale to retail stores. Janine's Floral Creation in Ravenna is owned by Janine Snyder who offered a tour of her business and presented a day in the life of a retail florist.



## High School Challenge Program

On Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, two groups of Greenville High School students spent the morning at the Greenville Food Pantry. During that time students sorted food donations, made Thanksgiving bags, organized shelves and cleaned. Students were able to participate in these service trips through the HS Challenge Program, under the supervision of HS Challenge Teacher, Melissa Palmer. The following students made the trip to the food pantry: Abbey Rauf, Diana Waldron, Sharon McKay, Kelly Olmsted, Tom McGuinness, Sophia Mastrantuono, Charlie McKeon, Robin Sweeney, Madyson Vance, Suzanne Snyder, Nicole Ostoyich, Dylan Yeomans, Corey McSweeney, Amber Moak, Jenna Albers, Stephanie Frederick, Alex Lawrence, Luke Meyer, Laura Flynn and Austin Gray.



## Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast

Kindergarteners at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School celebrated Thanksgiving with a Thanksgiving Feast on November 25<sup>th</sup>. As part of the Kindergarten curriculum students learn about holidays and customs. For the month of November students learned about the first Thanksgiving and made a food item to share with the entire group. Family volunteers served the students popcorn, carrots, juice, muffins and cookies as a snack before lunch. Students were encouraged to sit with new friends they did not know as part of the community celebration. Students also made Pilgrim hats and bonnets and Native American headdresses to celebrate the occasion.

## The International Baccalaureate Programme

In October, Greenville High School received candidate status to become an IB Diploma Programme school. International Baccalaureate courses will be an excellent complement to the required New York State Regents, Advanced Placement, AccelerateU online, and Syracuse Project Advance courses currently offered in our high school.

The IB Diploma Programme is a two year academically challenging program that prepares students for university and life success. These courses provide an education that balances subject breadth and depth and considers the nature of knowledge across disciplines through a unique Theory of Knowledge (TOK) critical thinking course. The TOK course helps develop inquiry and thinking skills, maximizing the capability to reflect upon and evaluate actions critically. IB encourages international focus starting with a foundation in a student's home culture and language. The Diploma Programme develops a positive attitude to learning that prepares students for post-secondary education. IB has gained a reputation for its rigorous external assessment and it emphasizes the development of the whole student: physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.

Faculty must participate in training through the IB Programme. In December the first group of educators will attend a Level 1 IB training. A second group will be attending Level 1 training in February 2009. IB training offers workshops in specific content areas and an opportunity to discuss with current IB practitioners.

For more information, go to [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

## Graduate Spotlight

2008 Greenville High School Graduate, Brian Crosby participated in the Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony on October 25, 2008. During this ceremony Brian received the highest award presented to Boy Scouts. Attending the ceremony were fellow scouts, scout leaders from Troop 42, Greenville American Legion representatives, Senator James Seward, Assemblyman Peter Lopez, Mr. Ken Dudley, Greene County Legislator and Sheriff Greg Seeley, family and friends. Brian also received certificates from Senator Hillary Clinton, Kirsten Gillibrand, former astronaut and Eagle Scout John Glenn, former President George Bush and Barbara Bush, President George Bush and Laura Bush and former President Jimmy Carter. Brian is currently enrolled at SUNY Plattsburgh and plans to become a math teacher.



## Training for GCS Bus Drivers

On Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> GCS bus drivers participated in a First Aide training with Brian Wood from the Albany County Sheriff Paramedic Department. Mr. Wood reviewed emergency response procedures including surveying the scene, checking the child for the ABC's: airway, breathing, and circulation, initiating first aid and calling for help. Throughout the training, drivers were encouraged to stay calm and follow the correct procedures. Also reviewed were choking, bloody nose, cuts, bee stings, diabetic conditions and seizures. First Aid Pocket Guides were also given to all drivers. Karen Morin, Transportation Supervisor for Greenville explained the importance of this class to help drivers understand the many different conditions that students have that may arise on the bus and how the varying conditions should be treated.



## Winter Athletics

Winter sports are off to a great start here at Greenville! We are three weeks into the start of the basketball, cheerleading, and wrestling season. GCSD has modified, junior varsity and varsity boys and girls basketball teams competing in the Patroon Conference. Greenville High School also has a freshman boys basketball program. The junior varsity and varsity cheerleading squads are also doing an outstanding job. Greenville's wrestling program will have their first home event of the year on December 18<sup>th</sup> versus Cairo-Durham. Good luck to all of our student athletes!



## Fifth Grade Nature's Classroom

For the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, fifth grade students at Scott M. Ellis Elementary school attended a week-long trip to Nature's Classroom. Nature's Classroom is an experiential camp for students which emphasizes hands-on experiments and team-building activities. Students selected classes of interest based on a variety of topics including dissecting a frog, predator versus prey, water rocket, earthworks where students created sculptures from nature, hot air balloon, and seeds. Night experience was a highlight for many students. This activity involved using light and the rods and cones of the eye to experience different effects.

Another activity was the Underground Railroad simulation where students were given the roles of being slaves trying to escape from the South. Having had this experience, students brought the idea of being a conductor back to Scott M. Ellis. Students spoke of standing up for each other and helping each other in their everyday lives. When students were asked what they liked about Nature's Classroom, they consistently spoke of the 4-hour hike. Students became explorers of nature during this hike and everyone had a different story to tell.

Another experience students shared involved IALAC beads. IALAC stands for "I am loving and caring." Students who were helpful or nice received an IALAC bead and their name was placed on the wall. Once you received an IALAC bead you had the ability to give it to someone else who was being kind. One student wrote in his journal, "You feel unstoppable when you have an IALAC bead on, but you feel even better when you give one away." The lessons students learned at Nature's Classroom go far beyond what can be taught in the classroom and will obviously stay with them for many years to come.

