



### **Questar III~ Academy for Information Technology**

Everyday at Greenville High School a small group of students in Questar III's Academy for Information Technology (AIT) class work together to install, configure, maintain, and troubleshoot computer networks. These students working with instructor Mike Knichel are developing the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the rapidly evolving field of Information Technology (IT). Students enrolled in this class are acquiring the skills they need to be successful in careers such as Computer Network Technician, Programmer, Service Technician and Web or Game Designer. This two-year integrated curriculum prepares students for the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) exam.

According to Mr. Knichel, "Cisco is the leader in network equipment. Students receiving the CCNA certification demonstrate a high level of knowledge, skills and expertise in the field. These skills are highly marketable and can be used to find employment directly out of high school or to enhance a student's college application." Mr. Knichel also explains that although the CCNA certification is highly desirable, it is not necessary to enter college or find employment. The hands-on skills learned in the classroom are highly valuable and widely recognized in the field.

The advanced levels of learning in this program are recognized by several colleges. For students completing the two-year program, articulation agreements exist with the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Bryant & Stratton College and Maria College. Columbia-Greene Community College as well as Hudson Valley offer students college credit through their "College in the High School" programs. High School graduates completing the program have also attended such colleges as SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY IT, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and ITT Technical Institute.



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### **Fifth Grade Students Participate in Young Scientist Day**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> several fifth grade students from Scott M. Ellis Elementary attended Minds On: Young Scientist Day at the Rensselaerville Institute. Four interactive workshops were presented by a ‘mentor’ or professional in the field of science.

Various workshops included “Bagel Science” where students conducted experiments using a bagel pendulum to learn about the Scientific Method; “Density Matters” explored the difference between mass and weight, examined the concept of density and learned to navigate the Periodic Table of Elements.

“Microscope Basics” demonstrated the use of a microscope and then examined creatures such as a hydra and euglena. During “Lab Safety” students studied proper lab protocol, the difference between acids and bases, and explored universal science symbols. These programs also provided useful ideas and projects for teachers to use in their classrooms.

### **High School Students Visit Elliot House**

On December 15th students participating in the Challenge Program at Greenville High School spent the morning at the Elliot House Thrift Shop in Norton Hill to assist Elliot House staff with organizing and packing to prepare the shop for its closure during the winter months. Household items were packed in boxes and stored in the garage while clothes were boxed and placed on a trailer to be brought to thrift stores in Albany.

Before leaving students helped clean the floors and shelves so they will be ready when the shop reopens in the spring. This service trip was coordinated by Melissa Palmer, HS Challenge teacher. Participating students included Brittani Kane, Alexa Brandon, Makayla Warren, Jenna Albers, Lauren Finch, Madisyn Becker, Johanna Albert and Emily Evans.



### **Sharing and Caring Days at Scott M. Ellis**

Each month students at Scott M. Ellis learn and practice a new character trait which for the month of December was compassion. To celebrate and learn more about compassion, students in Kindergarten held a series of “Sharing and Caring” days during which students invite their parent and/or grandparent to visit their classroom to share stories of holiday traditions. Students then presented their family member with a gift of appreciation. This is a wonderful event that brings families together during the holidays to learn, celebrate and pass their holiday traditions to the next generation.

### Students at Scott M. Ellis take 'Healthy Steps'

This fall students in Kindergarten through fifth grade participated in a program called Healthy Steps, "Walk to Greenville". Healthy Steps is a walking program created by the New York State Education Department and directed by Scott M. Ellis physical education staff and is designed to help students develop life long fitness skills.

This year students were challenged to walk the equivalent number of miles it would take to travel from Greenville, NY to other towns and cities named Greenville along the east coast. This included the states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Students were given the opportunity to walk during recess, with their classroom teachers, and during physical education class. They reached their goal early and were then challenged to walk the equivalent number of miles it would take to return to Greenville, NY via the Appalachian Trail.

The Healthy Steps program also provided opportunities for interdisciplinary work within the classroom. Students in Ms. Bear's class created bar graphs to track their progress.

Students from Mr. Kiefer's class used a map to show their travels and classroom totals. Thirty-three classes and a total of 517 students participated in the program with a combined total of 3,704.5 miles.



### Volcanoes Erupt at GCS Middle School

Sixth grade students in Ms. Conroy's science class spent the last several weeks studying volcanoes. During this time students learned there are three different types of volcanoes, several different types of lava and that volcanoes have vents. As a final project students were asked to design, build and decorate their own volcano. Once the design was complete students were challenged to make their volcanoes erupt using household items such as baking soda, dish detergent, Mentos and bottles of soda. Students completed the project with a writing assignment describing their success and/or difficulties with the experiment. According to Ms. Conroy students greatly enjoyed this project-based learning experience.



## Athletics at GCS

We are pleased to announce that four Varsity athletic teams from Greenville High School have been named recipients of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar/Athlete Team Award. To qualify for the Scholar/Athlete Team Award teams must achieve a cumulative average of at least 90 percent during their sport season. Recipients for the fall season include Boys Soccer (93 cumulative average), Girls Soccer (95 cumulative average), Boys Cross Country (92 cumulative average) and Girls Cross Country (91 cumulative average). We would like to congratulate our teams on their academic achievements!



Congratulations to High School Junior, Patrick Ostoyich, for his outstanding success this fall season. Pat ended the season holding the titles of Greene County Champion and Patroon Conference Champion for Boys' Varsity Cross Country. Coach Siebrecht would like to thank Pat for his hard work and dedication this season.



Scott Turrin, Assistant High School Principal/Director of Athletics, is pleased to announce that we have added Boys Varsity Volleyball to our winter sports schedule. Our season began on December 8<sup>th</sup> with a win in our first scrimmage against Cossackie-Athens CSD. Our senior team captains for this year are Zachary Chewins, Justin O'Toole, Phillip Hill and Nickolas Salzer. Team members include Christopher Carney, Cody Evans, Alex Hamilton, George Harvey, Ryan McGuinness, Tyler Wickham and Steven Nevins.

## A "Chain of Kindness" Starts at GCS Middle School

Students, faculty and staff at GCS Middle School have challenged themselves to build a "Chain of Kindness". Everyone has been asked to take some time from their busy days to recognize and appreciate the good things that happen around them. Every time a student or staff member sees someone showing kindness, respect or compassion towards another person they can add a link to the "Chain of Kindness". The link displays the name of the person who acted kindly, when the act occurred and what the act of kindness was. The chain links for each month will be made of different colored paper allowing students to easily monitor their monthly progress.



The "Chain of Kindness" will be displayed in the MS Cafeteria through the rest of the school year. Students will attend a celebration in May to recognize their acts of kindness throughout the year. Middle School Principal Mr. Reeve is excited at the possibilities this project can bring to the school and is pleased with the progress already. "The "Chain of Kindness" is an interactive way to recognize and promote positive character traits in our students" states Mr. Reeve.

### **Information on Tech Valley High School from the MS Guidance Office**

As we begin the process of scheduling your child's classes for next year, we would like to tell you about an exciting opportunity available to incoming 9th graders for Fall 2010. Tech Valley High School was created in 2007 and is an innovative, regional public high school located in Rensselaer, NY. Tech Valley's curriculum places strong emphasis on math, science and technology while providing a well-rounded education that will prepare students to compete in the growing high tech and global economy. The school is a joint venture of Capital Region and Questar III BOCES that is shaped and sustained through collaboration of K-12 public schools, higher education, business, organized labor and government.

Students enrolled at Tech Valley High School attend the school for a full day and take all core academic subjects immersed in a project-based learning environment. Using modern technology and, with every student assigned their own computer, classes are taught by certified teachers in collaboration with scientists and business experts.

Graduates of Tech Valley High will meet all of New York State's graduation requirements for a Regents or Advanced Regents diploma; they will acquire college credits; and, take classes using multi-disciplinary coursework that will emphasize an integrated curriculum focusing on developing 21st Century skills.

Tech Valley is not a school designed solely for high-performing students, but it is for students who are open-minded, ready for a challenge, curious and willing to explore their creativity. This program is for students who enjoy working in collaboration with others, who thrive in an environment that is diverse with a broad range of viewpoints and experiences, are ready to learn by doing, and interested in real-world experiences.

If you are interested in learning more about Tech Valley High School and what this opportunity could mean for your child, please contact Michelle Fisher, Middle School Counselor at (518) 966-5190 extension 453.

Recruitment packets and applications are available at the Middle School Guidance Office. Information can also be found on-line at [www.techvalleyhigh.org](http://www.techvalleyhigh.org). Tech Valley High School staff will be holding mandated information sessions throughout the month of January. A list of these dates and locations can be found in the information brochure or on the web at [http://www.techvalleyhigh.org/Admissions\\_and\\_FAQ.html](http://www.techvalleyhigh.org/Admissions_and_FAQ.html). These information sessions offer the perfect opportunity for you to learn more about Tech Valley High School so you can decide if Tech Valley is the right choice for your student.

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### **2009-2010 Superintendent ~ Parent & Community Forums~**

#### **January 9th Stieglitz Snyder Architecture Update on District Master Plan**

Stieglitz Snyder Architecture and the District have been working for the past two years to outline a master plan for the school district campus and facilities to support an educational program for now and into the future over a thirty year time period. As a result of input from faculty, staff and various community stakeholders, discussion at this meeting will provide participants with the design and status of the plan to date.