

# e:news

#### The Holidays are Celebrated Through Music at GCS

During the month of December, the GCS Music Department held three annual Holiday Music Concerts. The high school led off the series with their presentation on December 7. The concert band under the direction of Mr. Michael Benedict played three Christmas and Hanukkah selections as well a "Heatherwood Portrait", a piece that the band is preparing for a Disney audition. The band is slated to travel to Walt Disney World in April, 2013. Mr. Jon Meredith directed the Treble Chorus and the Mixed Chorus featuring classics such as "Jingle Bells", "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas". Mr. Meredith publically thanked Ms. Gail Richmond for her assistance in rehearsing the choruses during the time that he was out due to the birth of his first child. The Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Benedict performed a blues, a Charlie Parker composition and the theme from "Law and Order". Many soloists were featured on these varied arrangements.

On December 14th the Middle School presented their concert featuring the sixth grade band and chorus, seventh/eighth grade band and choir and the jazz ensemble. The bands were directed by Ms. Erin Upson featuring a wide range of music from standard repertoire like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and "Hanukkah Highlights" to more obscure selections such as "Arabian Dances". The percussion sections in both bands were featured heavily with the highlight being "God Rest Ye Merry Mallets". The audience was delighted by percussionists performing in front of the band playing bells, xylophone, marimba and vibraphones. The sixth grade chorus did a very nice performance under the direction of Andrew Van Ness who is substituting for Ms. Janine Rochler, who, like Mr. Meredith, also had her first baby. The seventh/eighth grade Choir under Mr. Meredith's direction performed three classic Christmas pieces. The end of the evening featured the jazz ensemble directed by Mr. Benedict, starting with a powerful performance of "Born to Be Wild" and ending with several soloists featured on Duke Ellington's, "C Jam Blues". Special thanks to Mr. Michael Richmond for playing bass with the band.

The Elementary school presented their Holiday concert on December 21 featuring the fifth grade chorus directed by Ms. Alicia Lewis and the fourth and fifth grade bands directed by Ms. Christine Wegrzyn. The audience was treated to performances of "Hard Rock Blues" and "Rockin' Jingle Bells" from the bands and "Hey Ho Nobody Home" and "Jingle Bell Rock" from the chorus.





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#### **Pajamas and Toys Donated for Local Families**

The Greenville High School Student Council, through the leadership of Ms. Chris Lochner, collected pajamas and toys for local families in need through the month of December. Through the generosity of the Greenville school community the High School Student Council collected 85 pairs of PJ's, 75 new toys and a bag filled with gloves and hats. All items were delivered to the Greenville Food Pantry. Ms. Soldner from the food pantry indicated that since we were able to collect more items this year, she is now able to give our local families more than one gift this year. Thank you again to everyone who donated and to Ms. Lochner and the High School Student Council for their efforts.



#### Alexandria Van Auken

Senior Alexandria Van Auken was named to the Second Team All State for girls' soccer. This is an incredible achievement to be named to this team. Alex will continue her soccer career in college playing for Nazareth College, a division three NCAA team.

#### **Kindergarten Caring and Sharing Days**

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 "Caring and Sharing" days during which students invite their parent and/or grandparent to visit their classroom to share stories of holiday traditions. Students then present their family member with a gift to show their appreciation. This is a wonderful event that brings families together during the holidays to learn, celebrate and pass down their holiday traditions.





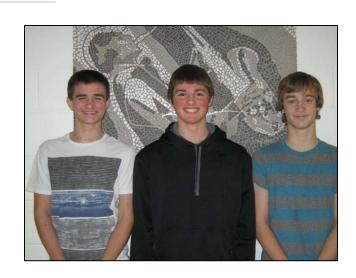


## The Twelve Days of *A Christmas Carol* at GCS Middle School

A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley, the play by Israel Horovitz is the focus of the twelve days prior to Christmas vacation for students in Teresa Carlton's 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA classes. Students are learning about drama through the play which is based on Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Every student has a role in both Act 1 and Act 2 through the use of Reader's Theater to "perform" the play. Students gained background knowledge prior to reading through a web quest where they researched the life of Charles Dickens, as well as life in Victorian England. The unit will end with tastings of food and drink that the characters from the play would have enjoyed during the holidays, for example wassail and figgy pudding.

#### **High School Students Earn Music Honors**

Congratulations to Michael Schonning, Marcel Dupuis and David Herbstritt for being chosen to participate in the New York State Band Directors Honor Bands. Michael Schonning (baritone horn) and Marcel Dupuis (trombone) are in the High School Band and David Herbstritt (trumpet) is in the Jazz Ensemble. Over 500 students auditioned statewide and approximately 110 were accepted. This festival will be held March 2-4, 2012 in Svracuse.



#### **Business Analysis at GCS**

On December 1, 2011 the Business Analysis class led by their teacher, Ms. Esposito, held their annual bake-off. As part of the class project, students created a business plan for a bakery, with one element of their assignment being to create a menu for their bakeries. Each student baked an item from their menus and judging was based on appearance, taste and creativity. The students who participated included Brenner Bachman, Hailey Gorman, Kyle Latham, Dayna Lewis, Angelina Louban and Julia Mistler. The judges enjoyed all of the baked goods and the winner was Moccachino Cupcakes made by Hailey Gorman.

#### **Yellow Ribbon Program**

On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, the high school continued its annual Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention training with the entire high school. The Yellow Ribbon Program is an international program that is dedicated to preventing youth suicide by making suicide prevention accessible to everyone by attempting to remove the barriers of students getting help and empowering individuals through awareness. The ultimate goal is to save lives. Six high school students (Brooke LaTart, Megan Ciufo, Kacee Womack, Dan Andresen, Taylor Lagace and Michael Schonning) and members of the Pupil Personnel Services team created three stations of activities that taught the students about the latest statistical information regarding suicide, warning signs, local resources and finally how the program assists the students in getting help.





#### **Character Education at Greenville Middle School**

On Wednesday December 21 and Thursday December 22, sixth grade students viewed the movie <u>Broken Toy</u> in their physical education classes. <u>Broken Toy</u>, sponsored by the National Center for Youth Issues, is a movie about a twelve year old boy who is bullied at school. Before viewing the movie students discussed with middle school Principal Mr. Reeve:

- What is bullying?
- Have you seen bullying?
- Where do you see it happen?
- How does it make someone feel?
- Why do kids bully other kids?

Students then viewed the movie and were asked to reflect upon what they saw. The focus of the discussion after the movie with Mr. Reeve was about student awareness of bullying when it happens and strategies and tips for students to help themselves or others when they are part of bullying or a witness to a bullying situation. After great discussion about preventing bullying, the goal of the students and Mr. Reeve is to keep the middle school bully free!

#### **High School Marketing**

As a follow up to the visit from Sandi Pecore from 2 Twisted Ladies to the Marketing class, the winners of the challenge to name the new topping were Brett Lampman and Corrina Zapata. Mrs. Pecore combined Brett's logo and Corrina's name and will be displayed in the ice cream shop in the spring. In addition to using this new name for the topping, Mrs. Pecore also decided to use a shake created by Zach Shaver, Twisted Bits and Pieces Shake and two sundaes created by Taylor Lee, Minty Delight and Peanut Butter Surprise.



#### The Polar Express Visits Scott M. Ellis

Kindergarten students were visited by the Polar

Express on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students dressed in PJ's, were picked up by the conductor, marched on the train and sat on the "Polar Express" as guests read the book by the same title. Their magical journey ended with chocolate milk and

cookies.







#### **Athletics at GCS**

The Greenville Spartan winter sports' season is in full swing. All of our varsity and junior varsity teams have begun their regular competition schedule, and the modified teams will begin their competition schedule after the holiday break.

The boys' and girls' basketball teams began the season with tough games. The boys opened their season with a loss at local powerhouse Catskill. The boys played well for most of the game but struggled late. They made up this loss though with a strong performance against Coxsackie-Athens who was shut out for most of the first half.

The lady Spartans opened at home against a strong Catskill team with a hard-fought win. The girls faced some tough competition recently with a home loss to Western Athletic Conference contenders, Berne-Knox-Westerlo and a road loss to Maple Hill. The girls look to rebound with a road match-up against Rensselaer High School.

The boys' volleyball team reached a historic milestone with its first varsity win ever against Cairo-Durham. Since that win, they also beat Cobleskill-Richmondville in straight sets. Currently, their record is 2-1. This is quite an accomplishment for this young team.

The varsity wrestling team has had some tough losses to Rensselaer and Green Tech. Both dual meets were decided by a single match. The team continues to work in preparation for their tournament season beginning in January where they will face some of the best competition in the area.

#### **Fun with Gingerbread Houses**







#### 2011-2012

# Saturday Morning Coffee with the Superintendent ~ Parent & Community Forums ~

Superintendent Dudley meets with GCS parents and community members to hear views about and suggestions for our schools. In addition for this year several special presentations have been scheduled for parents and community members on topics relevant to the District and our students. These are scheduled for **Saturday** mornings on the dates listed below from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm with the location on campus to be announced.

#### Shared Services ~ CASDA Study

January 14, 2012 9:00am to 12:00pm

Discussion will focus on the first results of a study completed by CASDA for five school districts in Greene County to explore and research all short-term and long-term options that will:

- Reduce operating and/or capital expenses
- Enhance educational programs
- Improve the quality, efficiency and/or score of current services

Districts participating in the study included Catskill, Cairo-Durham, Coxsackie-Athens, Greenville and Windham-Ashland-Jewett.

#### GCSD Facility Use During Holiday Break

We would like to inform all Greenville CSD families that due to a district construction project, the Middle and High School facilities will be closed from Tuesday, December 27 through Sunday, January 1, 2012 and will not have the ability to receive telephone calls or email messages.

All scheduled interscholastic practices will take place at Ellis Elementary School or at off campus venues. All off campus activities requiring bus transportation will depart from Ellis Elementary School in the south parking lot.

Ellis Elementary School Office will be open, but will not have the ability to receive telephone calls or email messages.

If you have additional questions regarding this closure, please contact your child's Principal.

