



February Board of Education

The February 14th Board of Education meeting provided several presentations and student accolades. Emily Vetere, Allie Cullen, Jared Spring, Nadia Boyea, Olivia Gorneau, Paul Mitchell, Elise DuBoise, Peyton Russell, Taylor Lovelace, Nick Miller, Ethan Spring, Isabelle Caffero, Caitlin Lane, Jackson Dushane and Hannah Smith were acknowledged for their selection to participate in the Spring All County Festival at Coxsackie-Athens on March 23 and 25, 2011. Brittany Johnson was also recognized for her participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Brittany represented GCSD at the Capital Region Spelling Bee on February 9th at Proctors Theater in Schenectady. Out of 100 students from 55 districts, Brittany finished among the top 35 students.

During open forum three Tech Valley High School Students, Ashley Ankenman, Ryan Gage and Thomas Gamsjager shared their experiences attending Tech Valley High. The students discussed the hands-on approach and relevance they experience through the project based learning activities they experience on a regular basis.

K-12 faculty members and administrators shared various activities and programs focusing on building student relationships. Peter Mahan, Erin Dubois, William Kiefer, Brian Reeve, Michelle Fisher, Sandra Washburn, Michael Laster, Nicole Susser and Linda Esposito discussed their efforts to create a culture throughout the district where students experience positive connections with adults and their peers.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- February Board of Education
- FFA Members Support Local Horse Rescue
- Teresa Carlton Recognized as Teacher of the Month
- Sixth Grade Geometry
- Edward Welsch Signs with Columbia Greene Community College
- First and Second Grade Students Visit Palace Theater
- Solution Circles at Scott M Ellis
- Visiting Artist
- Superintendent~ Parent and Community Forum
- Hearts For Homeless Teens
- Scott M. Ellis Celebrates 100 Days
- IB History of the Americas
- GCS Students Prepare for Spring All-County Festival

FFA Members Support Local Horse Rescue

On Thursday, February 10th local FFA members presented a check to Carol Peters of High Hill Haven Horse Rescue, a not for profit farm that rescues horses from abusive situations. The Junior and Senior FFA chapter members hosted a Soup Sale with the help of Paul Ventura, Food Service Supervisor, which raised \$318.00. The money will be used to feed the horses for the winter.

Carol Peters stated that “The cost of one bale of hay is \$3.00 and with the horses consuming 1 bale each per day, it gets expensive. Every little bit helps.” Carol explained that the mission of High Hill Horse Haven is to rescue and rehabilitate horses that are neglected, owner surrendered or shipped to slaughter houses outside the US. She shared that currently they have eight horses and are looking to expand their rescue operation in the future. She welcomes anyone from the community to visit the horses as they need to be socialized and they love the attention. More information about the rescue is available at: <http://highhillhaven.webs.com/>.

One of the goals Jr. FFA chapter officers set for this year was to participate in more community service activities. Many of the chapter members are very interested in the Equine Industry, and after the chapter advisor visited High Hill Horse Haven in the fall she suggested that this would be a great project for the students to support. The Jr. FFA chapter approached the Sr. FFA chapter, as well as Mr. Ventura, to enlist their help. Many thanks to Mr. Ventura and all of the community members for their support.

The FFA is a national youth leadership organization for students enrolled in agriculture classes in their middle and high schools. School districts with agricultural education programs are preparing their students for some of the most progressive careers available to graduates today as one in every five Americans is employed in the agriculture industry.



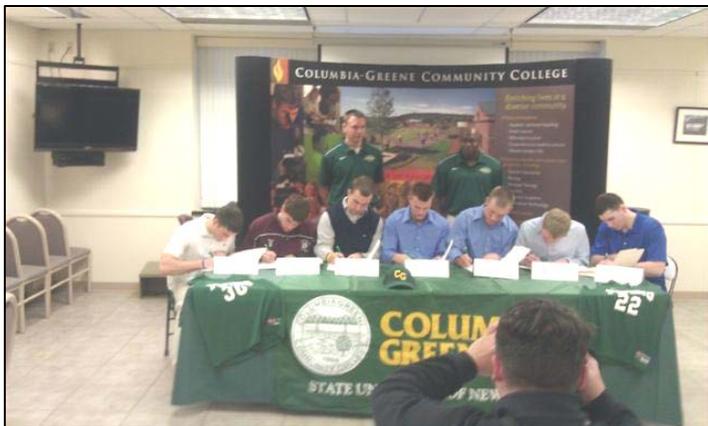
Teresa Carlton Recognized as Teacher of the Month

Teresa Carlton, Seventh Grade ELA teacher at GCS Middle School, was recognized on February 28th as Teacher of the Month by CAT 98.5 and First Financial Federal Credit Union. Ms. Carlton was nominated by one of her students, Taylor Huemmer-Harnett who wrote, “Ms. Carlton is the best. This is my second year having her as my ELA teacher. When you don’t understand something in class she’ll take the time to try and explain it to you the best she can. Also, you can get her talking about anything. She makes ELA class interesting and fun. I’m always looking forward to going to her class. Ms. Carlton is the best teacher ever.” Congratulations to Ms. Carlton!



Sixth Grade Geometry

Sixth grade math students in Ms. Caputi's class have been exploring circles as part of their Geometry Unit of Study. Students have learned vocabulary specific to circles and have discovered the irrational number π (the ratio of circumference to diameter of a circle) and the formulas for the circumference and area of a circle. Using their acquired algebra skills, students have evaluated the formulas, finding exact circumference and area answers in terms of π . Most recently, estimates of circumference and area were found using pencil and paper by rounding π to 3, 3.1, and 3.14. The closest estimates were found by using the π button on the TI-30XIIS scientific calculator where $\pi \approx 3.141592654$. These calculators will frequently be used next year in seventh grade mathematics as their use is a required component of the NYS Curriculum.



Edward Welsch Signs With Columbia Greene Community College

Greenville Varsity Baseball player Edward Welsch has signed a letter of commitment with Columbia Greene Community College. Edward averaged 385 at the plate while playing second base and pitching for the Spartans during the 2009/2010 season and is interested in the automotive program at C-GCC. Coach Jim Silk stated "Eddie's potential is very high for this upcoming season, he has come a long way with his hitting and I anticipate a 400 hitting average. Eddie is also coming along with his pitching." C-GCC is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region III. Co-Athletic Director Justin Bruce stated "We are proud of Eddie and all of our student athlete alumni who work hard and earn the opportunity to compete at the Intercollegiate Athletic level".

First and Second Grade Students Visit Palace Theater

On February 8th students in first and second grade attended a live performance of "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie and other Story Books". The performance highlighted eight favorite children's books: Amazing Grace, Borreguita and the Coyote, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Imogene's Antlers, Martha Speaks, Master Man, Math Curse and Owen. The performance was a musical review with vignettes performed by six actors with children experiencing familiar stories told through music and dance. Students prepared for the performance by reading and discussing the themes in each story.



IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE & OTHER STORY BOOKS
(L to R): Carla Woods, Aurelia Williams, Stephanie D'Abruzzo, David A. Austin, Nick Blaemire in "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"
photo by Joan Marcus

Solution Circles at Scott M. Ellis

Throughout February and March students at Scott M. Ellis have participated in three assemblies, titled the “Solution Circle” aimed at explicitly teaching students nine strategies for dealing with conflicts. An assembly format provided the opportunity to disseminate the same information to all students and staff allowing everyone to share a common experience and language. Students learned the difference between a small problem, one that causes them to feel annoyed, bothered, and a big problem, one that causes them to feel scared, frightened or threatened. Children can often handle small problems on their own, but adults should always be utilized for big problems. Three strategies were taught at each assembly with an introduction to the strategy followed by a skit performed by students in a realistic scenario. By the end of the third assembly students will have been taught how to:

- Go to another game/activity
- Share and take turns
- Tell the person to stop
- Talk it out
- Walk away
- Ignore it
- Apologize
- Make a deal
- Wait and cool off.

At the end of each assembly, students were encouraged to use at least one of the strategies in the upcoming weeks, either at school or at home. Once they have tried a strategy, students were invited to sign their name on chart paper displayed in the cafeteria. Ms. Dubois commented, “It is hoped that these skills will effect positive change in student behavior by nurturing independence and increasing confidence in their ability to deal with everyday challenges. By teaching students these important social skills, they are better prepared to deal with social challenges.” The final assembly will be held on March 16th, when James Warren will address issues of bullying, tolerance and acceptance through magic.



Visiting Artist

Richard Hochheimer, a character mask designer for movies and Broadway Theater, provided a workshop experience for GCS High School Students. The artist was sponsored by a grant from the Middle/High School PTSA. Students created several masks which will be used in the High School Musical.



2010-2011

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 11:00 am and will be held at MS/HS Library Media Center.

March 5- Curriculum and Instruction

The Quality Education Committee (QEC), co-chairs Colleen Hall and Kenneth Landervischt, provides leadership for the instructional program in Greenville Central School District. The QEC oversees the Curriculum Management System, based in Rubicon Atlas, and is responsible for district instructional recommendations to the Superintendent related to planning, design, implementation, assessment, budget planning for curricular reviews, and the identification of strategic instructional issues. Academic success for every child and the development of good character in all students are important goals. While challenging students with high academic standards and expectations for achievement through innovative programming and instruction we also work to support and encourage a school- home-community partnership based in respect, responsibility, caring, honesty, and healthful lifestyles.

Hearts for Homeless Teens

On February 14, 2011, six boxes of hats, scarves, gloves and personal hygiene kits were delivered to the Equinox House for Youth. After reading the verse novel Keesha's House by Helen Frost and researching the causes and problems of homeless teens, students and faculty in English 12, period 6 wanted to do something to help those less fortunate than themselves. Students gathered hats, gloves, hygiene items, and made fleece scarves, then assembled hygiene kits to be used by the homeless teens at the youth shelter, each containing a Valentine's Day heart. Equinox greatly appreciated the students' donation and were pleased at the concern and efforts to help other teens in need. The Equinox youth shelter serves homeless teens in the Greater Capital District Region.



Scott M. Ellis Celebrates 100 Days

On February 28th, students at Scott M. Ellis experienced the 100th day of school with classroom celebrations and special projects. This milestone is of special importance to Kindergarten students as they have been preparing for the day by learning how to count to 100 using increments of ones, fives and tens.

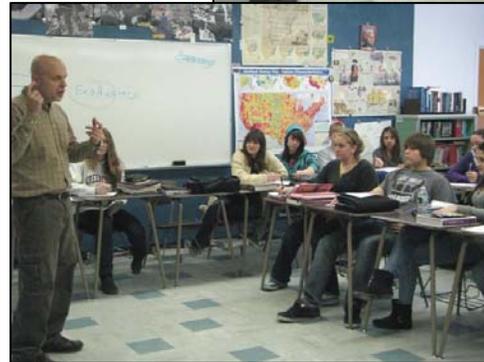
Prior to this day, Kindergarten students were asked to work at home with their parents and create a "100 Day" project using only 100 pieces or pictures. This year's projects included a variety of posters using coins, buttons, pictures and stickers.

Throughout the day students wore hats, masks and necklaces displaying the number 100. Each classroom participated in special projects that all reinforced the learning of the number 100. All classrooms practiced writing and counting to 100 as part of the day's celebrations.

IB History of the Americas

IB History of the Americas HL is made up of two one-year courses. The first course focuses on American History and is co-seated with our AP US History course. The second course is called Twentieth Century World Issues.

Twentieth Century World Issues is a combination of college level United States History and selected topics in both Latin American and Canadian History. The objective of this course is to examine the similarities and differences between these regions which will lead to an understanding of what historical events have occurred as well as why and how they took place. The course requires intensive reading and writing analysis as well as a variety of projects, simulations and extensive research work. A study of historiography and history is a vital part of this class and communication of individual ideas through writing and speaking will be emphasized. Awareness across different cultures with an appreciation and comprehension of history as a discipline, including the nature and diversity of its sources, methods and interpretations is critical. International consciousness and understanding promoted by the achievement of empathy with an understanding of people living in diverse places and at different times will be emphasized. Students will develop an understanding of the present through a comprehension of the past and appreciation of the historical dimension of the human condition.



GCS Students Prepare for Spring All-County Festival

The Greene County Music Educators Association Spring All-County Festival will be held at Coxsackie-Athens High School on Friday, March 25, 2011. Over two hundred talented music students were selected from the seven Greene County schools. Featured at this concert will be an Elementary Band, a Junior High Chorus and a Senior High Band. The Greenville music department is pleased to announce that 49 students were selected to participate.

The Elementary Band will be conducted by Karen MacWatters who teaches at Lisha Kill Middle School in the South Colonie School District. Fifth and Sixth grade students performing in the Elementary Band are: Emily Vetere, Allie Cullen(Flute), Jared Spring, Nadia Boyea (Clarinet), Olivia Gorneau (Alto Sax), Paul Mitchell (Tenor Sax), Elise DuBois, Peyton Russell (Trumpet), Taylor Lovelace (French Horn), Nick Miller, Ethan Spring (Trombone), Isabelle Caffero, Caitlin Lane (Euphonium), Jackson Dushane (Tuba), Hannah Smith (Percussion), Elizabeth Duker, Olivia Baumann, Kerriane Mahoney (Flute), Kennedy Foster (Clarinet), Katherine Koehler (Alto Sax), Amanda Bowman (Tenor Sax), Austin Case (Trumpet), Silas Yelich (Trombone), Ross Dupuis (Euphonium), and Scott Davis(Tuba)

Vocalists selected to perform with the Junior High Chorus under the direction of Mrs. Mary Abba-Gleason from the Voorheesville School District are: Anna Kelly, Abigail Duker, Rebecca Cappelli, Caitlin Hopkins, Bailey Licata, Megan Terrell, Tristan Cichocki, Bethany Overbaugh, William Koeppel, Jose McKay, Joseph Oliveri, and Mario Desarno.

Mr. Robert Shaut, who is retired from Kingston High School, will conduct the Senior High Band. Greenville students selected to this ensemble are: Malaina Buscher (Flute), Morgan Haskin, Alissa Johannesen (Clarinet), Mackenzie Kiefer, Gerald Manning, Steven Nevins (Saxophone), Emily Bobrick, David Herbstritt (Trumpet), Marcel Dupuis (Trombone), Michael Schonning (Euphonium), and Kate Kulas (Percussion).

Congratulations to these fine young musicians and their teachers: Michael Benedict, Jonathan Meredith, Erin Upson, and Christine Wegrzyn. The concert on Friday, March 25th begins at 7:30 PM. Ticket prices are \$3.00 – adults, \$2.00 – students and senior citizens with a \$6.00 maximum per family.