



Congressman Gibson Visits Greenville Central School District

On January 11th Congressman Chris Gibson attended a presentation at GCS High School regarding the partnership joining the business community with education previously announced in mid-March of 2010. Larry Cosenza, Ph.D., founder of a small Bio Tech company called C2 Biotechnologies, established a research lab at the Greenville High School campus with support from the Greene IDA, Questar III and State Senator James Seward. This pilot project joined business, secondary and community college education and community organizations in a Business Incubator partnership at the high school. Three students participated in a paid internship during the summer of 2010 and actually discovered a polymer which has the potential to produce a biodegradable plastic. During their senior year, the students applied for federal grants to continue their research but were unsuccessful in their request. The focus this year has been to increase student interaction and participation with C2 Biotechnologies in an effort to provide students with relevant scientific problems.

Speakers during the presentation included Assemblyman Lopez, Superintendent of Schools Cheryl A. Dudley, Larry Cosenza, Ph.D., High School Principal Michael Laster, Greenville Senior and student intern Travis Chicocki, High School Science Department Chairperson Brynda Shultes and Congressman Gibson. A common theme from each participant was the importance of engaging our students in meaningful, real-world applications of science to prepare our students for college and careers.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Congressman Gibson Visits Greenville Central School District

National Board Recognition

Circus Olympos at GCS Middle School

Patroon Conference Fall Captains' Council

Understanding Our Community Through Native American History

Scripps National Spelling Bee

Career Day at Columbia Greene Community College

Project Based Learning at GCS Middle School

February 4th Saturday Morning Coffee with the Superintendent

National Board Recognition

The following teachers have earned National Board Certification:

- Erin DuBois in School Counseling/Early Childhood through Young Adult
- Robin Parvis in Generalist/Middle Childhood
- Karen Rosenberg in Generalist/Early Childhood

The National Board of Professional Teaching Standards is recognized as the source for the highest standards and practices that lead to improved teaching, learning, and leading. National Board Certified Teachers must demonstrate advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices with five core propositions; teachers are committed to students and their learning, know the subject they teach and how to teach the subject to students, are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning, think systematically about their practice and learn from experience, and are members of a learning community. The entire National Board Certification process can require up to 400 hours outside a teacher's workday. Congratulations to Ms. DuBois, Ms. Parvis and Ms. Rosenberg for this tremendous accomplishment.



***Circus Olympus* at GCS Middle School**

On January 27th and 28th the Middle/High School stage came alive with *Circus Olympus* an original play in two acts by Lindsay Price. For the past two months thirty-seven Greenville Middle School students rehearsed for the production which is comprised of five Greek Myths and a Mythapalooza Slam Jam - a slew of super shortened myths performed at "top speed" and done as a 'competition'.

As there are many versions of these myths, this particular collection has been adapted and somewhat modernized for young performers. However, this did not stop the cast from discussing the "accurate" myths from which these adaptations originated - and how those myths might help inform the characters being created by the students.

Former Greenville graduate and Professional Theatre Director, Drama Teacher and Stage Manager, Margaret E. Hall, directed the show, utilizing her global training and expertise in her third GCS Middle School Production. Following the Kabuki Assistants from last year's *Peter Pan and Wendy*, Ms. Hall has taken the aspect of the Ancient Greek Chorus and infused it into this production.

The production team was comprised of several High School students who are studying theatre in the IB Theatre Course with Ms. Kristine Raskopf, the Assistant Director, or are members of Ms. Raskopf's Drama Club. Malaina Busher was the Stage Manager; Conor Drossel was the Lighting Designer; Rachel Coe-Scharff was the Head Props Designer with Zoe Rudloff & Caroline Bobrick Co-Designing.

Congratulations to all those involved in this wonderful production!

Patroon Conference Fall Captains' Council

This past month eighteen of our future student-athlete leaders had the opportunity to attend a conference held at Columbia-Greene Community College. The conference was led by local baseball standout Josh Horn and was organized by the athletic directors of the Patroon conference. The attendees took part in a variety of workshops from team building to internet safety. Improving student athletes' leadership skills was the primary focus of the conference. While there, the student athletes were given time to meet and work with the future leaders of other Patroon conference schools as they worked their way through the day's events. All in attendance found the day to be informative and worthwhile and many are looking forward to next years' event.

A special congratulation is in order for senior Cameron Benjamin. Cameron was selected for the Capital Region Scholar Athlete Award along with seven other student athletes from the Capital area. The purpose of this award is to honor Capital Region female high school athletes for their achievements in the classroom, community and on the basketball court. There will be a breakfast for the winners on Sunday, March 4, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Albany Marriott, 180 Wolfe Road, Colonie, New York to celebrate their achievements. Our entire scholastic athletic community is proud of Cameron's contributions on the court, in the classroom, and in our school.



Understanding Our Community Through Native American History

Students from Ms. Asam's, Ms. Latham's, and Ms. Misuraca's fourth grade classes launched their unit on Native American studies by completing an authentic at-home project. These hands-on projects included models of a Native American Village, longhouses, stockades and roundhouses. Students also handcrafted their own replicas of Native American tools and clothing. The extensive research completed by students is clearly evident from the phenomenal products that are currently housed throughout the halls of Scott M. Ellis. Students were given a rubric which included application of the facts learned in class, both major and minor details regarding the Iroquois and Algonquin way of life. Through the use of technology students also completed a research project which resulted in digital records of their work. These fabulous digital research projects were presented at the Native American Celebration on January 27th.



Scripps National Spelling Bee

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is held annually in the middle school for the purpose of helping students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them throughout their lives. On January 6th and 9th, all middle school students participated at the local level of the Scripps National Spelling Bee during their ELA classes. The following grade level winners then competed in the Grade 6-8 Spelling Bee on January 12: Grade 6 – Paul Mitchell, Kaitlyn Stanfield, Michael Leonardo, Eva Murphy, Jack Hummingbird, Caeley Bachman, Elise DuBois, Madalyn Krasney, Faith Schatzel, Hannah Smith, Cody Bryan, and Jackson Dushane; Grade 7 - Chris Pickett, Cody Price, Samantha Case, Thomas Ernst, Paul Pisarri, Scott Davis, Evelina Welch, Genevieve Palmer, Katherine Koehler, Kennedy Foster; Grade 8 Alexandra Powers, Colin Mahoney, Kolby Caldwell, Liam Connors, Alexis Surrano, Travis Dombroski, Elizabeth Davis, Ralph Masi, Emily Fagan, Brittany Johnson, Sean McAneny, and Alyssa Hopkins. All the students did a great job during the spelling bee!

Congratulations to Caeley Bachman who was the overall spelling bee winner! Caeley will represent Greenville Middle School in the Capital Region Spelling Bee at Proctors Theater on February 7 at 5:00 pm. Good luck Caeley!



Career Day at Columbia Greene Community College

On January 6, 2012 the entire sophomore class was invited to attend the 27th annual Career Conference at Columbia Greene Community College. Over 60 volunteers spent the day representing their careers to more than 1500 sophomores and juniors from all of the schools in Greene and Columbia counties. The Columbia-Greene Counselors' Association sponsors this program, in conjunction with Columbia-Greene Community College.

Each student had an opportunity to attend two career cluster presentations, during which a panel discussion oriented the students to the career cluster, followed by individual presentations from the panel members. In addition, each student attended a third presentation on two

and four year colleges, which provided students with information about each college and their admission process.



A special thanks to our high school faculty who collaborated to organize this event for our students!

Project Based Learning at GCS Middle School

On December 21st the entire 8th grade presented their culminating group projects of toys to groups of kindergarten, first and second graders. The presentations were the accumulation of a project based learning activity conducted jointly by Ms. Moylan, 8th grade ELA and Ms. Lewis, 8th grade technology. Students were charged with writing a procedure to create the toy, securing the materials, making the toy and marketing it to the K-2 grade audience. The elementary students were allowed to keep the toys following the presentations. The middle school students were able to demonstrate collaboration skills, communication skills, higher level writing skills, and oral communication. This activity was a wonderful experience for the students to work with the younger age group, and to benefit from the cooperation of the K-2 teachers who volunteered their class time for the presentations.



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.

**February 4, 2012
9:00am to 12:00pm**

Dignity for All Students Act

This will provide information and discussion regarding what and how Greenville CSD should address the New York State legislature's mandated "Dignity for All Students Act," which aims to establish an environment free of discrimination and harassment in New York State schools. The Act (effective as of July 1, 2012) applies to harassment and discrimination based on a student's disability, race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, gender, and sexual orientation. Legal counsel for the District will also be present to outline requirements and guidance for our school district community.