



Greenville Central School Participates in Agriculture Literacy Day

On Thursday, March 19, 2009, members of the Greenville High School FFA Chapter visited the kindergarten classrooms at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School for Agricultural Literacy Day. The FFA members read books about New York's apple industry to the kindergarten students, and led them in other apple related activities.

The seven FFA members who participated in the program were Johanna Albert, Alana Brandon, Amber Dutton, Andrea Esposito, Greg Ferrara, Brittani Kane and Corey Mergendahl. The FFA members worked with the classes of Ms. Dupuis, Mrs. Herwick, Mrs. Kappel, Mrs. Overbaugh and Mrs. Vincent.

Agricultural Literacy Day is an annual event held during National Agriculture Week during which volunteers from throughout the state read a book with an agricultural theme to elementary students. The day is sponsored by the New York Agriculture in the Classroom Program, a joint educational effort of the State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the State Education Department, the New York Farm Bureau and Cornell University.



Birds of Prey Visit First and Second Grade Students

The first and second grade multiage classes have been studying birds beginning in the winter with a unit introducing backyard birds. The students learned that there are many different species in the area and that all birds have adaptations to help them survive. Students studied various feet, beaks, sizes, colors, and nesting habits of birds. This unit was integrated into math, reading, writing, listening and speaking experiences. Once the students understood the basics of identifying birds, they focused on birds of prey. The boys and girls discussed the food chain, began to identify adaptations and habitats for these birds. In computer lab students have been visiting websites, viewing short movies, recording facts and saving to their individual files. The bird unit culminated with a birds of prey presentation organized by challenge teacher, Sue Konas.



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Students Study Communities

Students in the first and second grade designed, built, and mapped invented communities using several different software programs from our computer lab.

To begin the project, students studied a power point presentation about urban, suburban and rural communities. The class brainstormed ideas on what goods and services a community needs and they applied these ideas to designing a community of their own. Using a program called Community Construction Kit, students were able to design, print and build 3-D models of homes, stores, and community services (such as the fire department).

When the buildings were complete, the students constructed a 3-dimensional model of their community. A town planning board was created to vote on placement of stores and homes.

Finally, students mapped their community. They used Google Earth to learn about maps and a “bird’s eye” point of view. The students sketched a bird’s eye view of their own Community and used KidPix, a software program, to create their maps.



Eighth Grade Technology Students Build Bridges

Eighth grade students in Diane Lewis’ technology class have been learning the production system of construction by creating miniature models of bridges. The eighth grade technology students are working on building model truss bridges using balsa wood instead of steel and concrete. Students first studied the principles of construction, for example, the effects of compression and tension and wind and earthquakes on a structure. Students then built virtual bridges using the West Point Bridge Builder program. These bridges had to withstand the weight of a standard weight virtual truck driving across the bridge and also had to keep the cost within the limits of taxpayer funds. The final step of the project was to build a truss bridge using a standard design, or by creating their own design. The final evaluation will be to calculate the critical load that each bridge will hold by bolting a block to the roadbed of their bridges. This block is connected to an apparatus that will add weight until the bridge breaks. May the best architect win!

Youth Art Exhibit

Greene County Council on the Arts is holding a Youth Art Exhibit titled "Outside the Lines" from February 28th through April 11th. Greenville Elementary School teacher, Judy Spring sent over 50 pieces of student work to this exhibit. Students involved in the art show include Charlie Chesbro, Ian Dwyer, Christian Salvio, Trevor Sisson, Edward Packard, Madeline Makely, Clinton Egeland, Laura Morse, Garrett deLong, Jared Spring, Victoria Wilson, Luke Curless, Ethan Spring, Evelyn Twiss, Caroline Kaider, Chas Chatfield, Peter Gardiner, Killian Bates, Dakota Rose, Elizabeth Davis, Chelsea Ruggiero, Parker Chase, Christopher Stoddard, Cassandra Cutright, Carl McQuade, Taylor Mei Huemmer-Harnett, Carlee Guntert, Mark Denton, Lucas Makely, Elise DuBois, Quinn Turon, Silas Yelich, Allie Cullen, Abby Vincent, Ross Dupuis, Stella Yelich, Joseph Knight, September Brockett, Scott Davis, Evelina Welch, Colleen Corrigan, Olivia Gorneau, Emily Lewis, Erin Sprague, Thomas Ernst, Julia Evola, David Gonzalez, Liam Connors, Lily Ann McQuillen, Madison Bell, Nicole Bowden, Dale Bruckman, Theresa Donlon, Austin Field, Gabrielle Gardner, Michael Grabowski, Lauren Hallenbeck, Jude Kappel, Trent McDonald, Keenan Mulholland, Brooke O'Keefe, Kayla Romanowski, Bridget Rose, Richard Sanchez, Gabriel Shaver, Alaina Shutter, Trevor Sisson, and Emma Smith. The art show is located at 398 Main St. Catskill.



A Mock Trial at GCS High School

Ms. Esposito's Business Law class is collaborating with Ms. Sharkey's Unified Science class to conduct a mock trial. The Business Law class found a second degree murder case with witness statements and the students took on the roles of all the parties involved.

Ms. Esposito was the Judge, Corey McSweeney will play the role of the Prosecutor, Tracy Flynn will be the Defense Attorney, and Kelsey Jardine will be the Defendant. Witnesses include George Harvey, Krista Ragone, Krystal LaTart, Melissa Domermuth, Andrew Fishlinger, William Grimmond, and Brendan Crilley.

Ms. Sharkey's class studied some forensics including crime scene investigation, fingerprinting, etc. They will also be the jurors in the case, completing juror questionnaires and will learn questioning processes and techniques from the judge and the prosecuting and defense attorneys.

Corey McSweeney and Kelsey Jardine staged the crime scene and took crime scene photos that will be used during the trial. The students have worked very hard learning about the correct procedures of a trial and have formulated their own questions for witnesses under direct and cross-examination.



Sixth Grade Mouse Trap Cars

Sixth grade students in Diane Lewis' technology class discovered that mousetraps can be used as a power source to make a vehicle get from one location to another. Using the power stored in one mousetrap spring, students built vehicles that traveled from a few inches to over sixty-five feet. The students had the added incentive that the winner of each individual class would race Ms. Lewis. Those student cars that travel further than her car receive a special prize. This year James Herbstritt tied the distance and received the award. Close contenders were Joseph Milone, Rocco Cavaluzzi, Bethany Mitchell and Brenden Lee.

March Board of Education Presentations

On Monday, March 9, 2009 the Greenville Board of Education recognized John Whitbeck for his years of service as a bus driver for the district. Mr. Whitbeck passed away in January of 2009 and his brother Peter accepted the plaque in his memory. John Whitbeck is remembered for truly caring about and making connections with the students at Greenville.

Sharing information about the Middle School Enrichment Program, Zoe Rudloff, Caroline Bobrick, Kate Kulas and David Herbstritt discussed the various courses they have experienced at Greenville Middle School. Book Making, the Stock Market, Lego Robotics and Computer Enrichment were offered during the 2008-2009 school year. Teacher, Jackie Moylan, described several additional Enrichment Activities including the Middle School Musical and Quiz Night.

The Accelerate University program was described by Dylan Dombroski and Emily Evans. Both students have successfully completed an AccelerateU. course this year.



High School Challenge Trip

On Tuesday, February 24th, ten students participated in a High School Challenge service trip to the Elliot House Thrift Shop in Norton Hill. Students volunteered to prepare the store for its spring opening. Donations were unpacked, sorted and set up for display. Participants included: Alana Brandon, Brittani Kane, Makayla Warren, Zach Zibura, Chris Tompkins, Colton Spahmer, Nicole Ostoyich, Cayla Womack, Phil Hill and Diana Welch. This service trip was coordinated by Melissa Palmer, High School Challenge Teachers. This was the final Challenge service trip for this academic year.

Scott M. Ellis Celebrates 100 Days

Students at Scott M. Ellis celebrated the 100th day of school on February 24th. This milestone is of special importance to our Kindergarten students as students practiced counting to 100 by ones, fives, and tens.

Parents have also supported their children to create a visual understanding of one hundred. Children worked with parents to create their “100 Day” project, which allowed students to creatively prepare a poster or item that contains one hundred objects or pictures. As students completed these important projects, classroom learning about numbers, patterns, and creating sets was reinforced. The projects were placed on display for the entire school to appreciate.



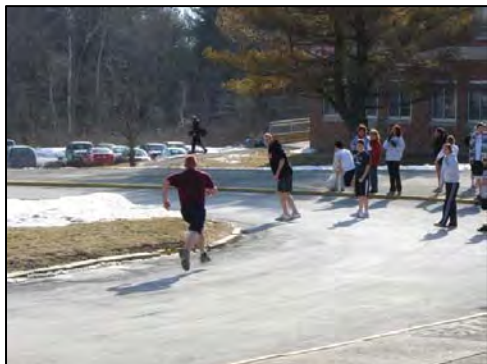
Farrier Visits Greenville High School

On Thursday, February 26th Greg Davis visited the Animal Science and Equine Science classes at Greenville High School to discuss being a Farrier. Farrier work, or horse shoeing is an important profession and Mr. Davis discussed working in the industry, the importance of maintaining healthy hooves on a horse, and different types of horse shoes.



Scott M. Ellis Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

Students at Scott M. Ellis celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 17th with an assembly of step dancing. Erin Dubois, Guidance Counselor, arranged for GCS Elementary students to perform a variety of dances for the student body. Mrs. Dubois explained the history of step dancing and the costumes and equipment used in step dancing prior to the performances. Student performers are from the Michael Farrell School of Irish Dance and include Tess Fitzmaurice, Emily Connolly, Nicole Bowden, Ellen Hagan, Theresa Donlon, Claire Tolan, Dan Mahoney, Elise DuBois, Allie Cullen, Keri Mahoney, Cormac Tolan, and Colin Mahoney.



Spring Sports

Spring sports are off and running at Greenville. Our baseball, softball, track and tennis teams are looking forward to an exciting spring season. As the weather breaks and the days get longer, students are excited to get outside and break in the new baseball field. For our students who are not participating in a spring sport, come out and get involved in our Intramural programs and have some fun! Good luck to all of our teams competing in the Patroon Conference.