



**Manipulatives Help Elementary Students Understand Math**



“Math has many areas—patterns, measurement, geometry, statistics, probability, and more—and they’re often unfamiliar, abstract, and confusing to students,” states Marilyn Burns, author of Math Solutions. With this idea in mind, first and second grade students at Scott M. Ellis utilize manipulatives to better understand and learn math.

Manipulatives help make abstract ideas concrete for our students by providing firsthand experiences with math concepts and allowing for firsthand testing of ideas. Students are also able to make connections between mathematical vocabulary and symbols. Manipulatives also make learning math interesting and enjoyable.



**GCS Announces Top Ten Graduates of 2009**

Greenville Central School District is proud to announce their top ten graduates for 2008-2009. The Valedictorian for the class of 2009 is Emma Lord and the Salutatorian is Kimberly Fabian. Additional top ten graduates include Nicole Ostoyich, Tifanie Sondak, Danielle Dudley, Leahanne Cappelli, Samuel Dudley, Kimberly Bear, Rhiannon Jardim, and Jordan Marrone. Congratulations to the 2009 top ten graduates of Greenville High School.



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## Just Another Friday Night

Drinking and driving is the number one killer for teens in this country and Prom season is a particularly dangerous time of year. With that in mind, GCS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) planned “Just Another Friday Night” which was a coordinated effort between Greenville High School and various community organizations.

“Just Another Friday Night” was a simulated accident staged at Greenville High School. The purpose of the event was to increase awareness of the dangers associated with driving after using alcohol or other substances. Greenville Rescue Squad, Greenville Fire Company, Greene County Sheriffs Department, Greene County Coroner, Greene County Emergency Medical Services, and the New York State Police were all involved in this event. The simulation took place Friday, May 15, 2009 from 8:25 AM to 11:00 AM. At the conclusion of the “accident”, students convened in the auditorium for a discussion with the demonstrators. The members of SADD felt this was a great opportunity to orchestrate a combined effort between the school and community to help prevent any alcohol related accidents in Greenville.



## Endangered Species Visit GCS Middle School

Students in Anne Marie Conroy’s Sixth Grade Science classes heard a presentation by Ms. Bidwell from the Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York to celebrate Earth Day. The visitors included a snapping turtle, a black rat snake, a falcon, a red-tailed hawk and a barred owl. For each animal, the students discussed the unique adaptations each had to be successful in their environments as well as what they eat and unique characteristics of each animal. The class was very excited to see the animals and had several wonderful questions.



**Experiencing the Writing Process with Author Peter Lourie**

Scott M. Ellis Elementary students in third and fourth grade experienced the writing process firsthand from author and explorer Peter Lourie. Mr. Lourie began his presentation by describing his trip along the Hudson River in a canoe. He described a number of other explorations that he experienced and how he used the information gathered from those trips to create his books. The writing process was reviewed from having an idea, to researching the idea by using books, the internet and especially people. When creating a draft of his books, Mr. Lourie described how difficult and time-consuming writing can be and that he often writes ten drafts prior to sending his materials to his publisher with the entire process often taking him approximately three years. Mr. Lourie discussed the importance of details in writing and his use of tape recorders and pictures to help him record details for his journaling. He was very enthusiastic and entertaining as he told of the sights, sounds, music and stories of his explorations.



**Fifth Grade Students Performed at NYSSMA**

On Saturday, April 31<sup>st</sup> twenty-nine fifth grade students performed at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) solo competition. All twenty-nine students received a rating of Outstanding which is the highest possible rating. Fourteen students received a perfect score of twenty-eight. Participating students include Urja Bhatia, Tyler Biernacki, Parker Chase, Emma Connor, Chenoa Cox, Erin Crawley, Travis Dombroski, Bryan Dorssel, John DuBois, Kelsey Gardner, Ashley Gifford, Ryan Gaudons, Sean Gaudons, Alyssa Hopkins, Taylor Mei Hummer-Harnett, Brittany Johnson, Madison Kappel, David Kuschka, Taylor Lovelace, Ralph Masi, Sean McAney, Ryan Mulholland, Liam O'Connor, Bethany Overbaugh, Alexandra Powers, Jake Rath, Kristen Silk, Elaina Spahmer, Nick Staley, Brie Statham, and Sierra Vincent.



**"YOUNG AT ART"**  
 Greenville CSD K-12 student art exhibit

June 6 12:00-4:00 and June 7 10:00-2:00  
 Greenville Cultural Arts Center  
 Supported by "All Arts Matter" Inc.

## GCS High School Students Receive College Credit and Save Money

That is exactly what 25% of our juniors and 30% of our seniors have been attempting to do this month. This spring Greenville High School administered 88 Advanced Placement (AP) exams for 57 of our students which have been completed and have been shipped to the College Board for grading as our juniors and seniors anxiously await their scores. Students have completed one or more of these college level courses: Statistics; Calculus AB; English Literature and Composition; United States History; English Language and Composition and Macroeconomics taught by our high school teachers: Mr. Russell, Mr. Evans, Ms. Cusick, Mr. Albright, Mr. Roepe and Mr. Gray. Through AP college-level courses and exams, students can earn college credit and advanced placement, stand out in the admissions process and participate in college courses while in a small, high school classroom setting. Our Greenville students have, in prior years, been granted college credit resulting in early graduation from college thus saving tuition and expenses for a semester or more.

## Sixth Grade Students Explore the Medieval Times

Sixth grade students in Teresa Carlton's English Language Arts classes explored the Medieval Time Period by researching four chosen topics such as the food, music, and the Black Death. Students then wrote diaries from the point of view of a Medieval character they created. The four research topics were incorporated throughout the diary entries for historical accuracy. The diaries were created by students using tea for aging the pages and the covers were designed with Medieval patterns. Jacqueline Moylan, Middle School challenge teacher, planned and co-taught this unit with Ms. Carlton. The diaries were displayed in a "gallery" prior to the works being shared with classmates.



## Environmental Science Students Test Water Quality

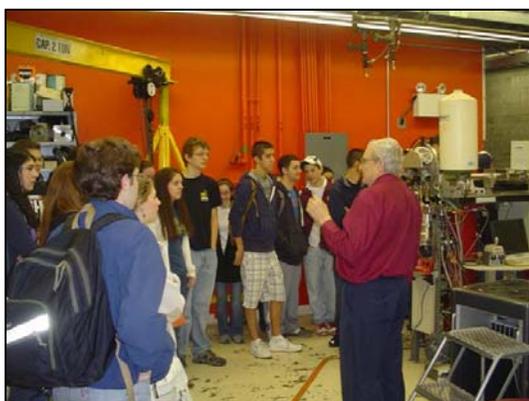
On Wednesday, May 13, 2009 students from the Greenville High School Environmental Science class traveled to the Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra, NY to perform a series of water quality tests. Greene County Cornell Cooperative Extension Agents spoke with the students about water quality in the Hudson Valley Watershed, and assisted students with the water investigations.

Students tested the streams in the Suislaw Model Forest for three main indicators of water quality: macroinvertebrate life, physical characteristics of the stream bed and chemical components of the water. The students used nets to capture living samples and identified the samples using field guides. Measuring tapes, yard sticks and stopwatches were used to measure stream depth, width and velocity. Students also used digital probes and chemical tests to determine the temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen content and nitrogen content of the water. Students analyzed the data they collected to determine the overall health of the streams in the forest.

## The Greenville Educational Foundation Supports the Arts

The Greenville Educational Foundation's mission is to "strengthen and enhance the experience of students in the Greenville Central School District by sponsoring program innovations for students and supporting superior teaching and educational leadership." The GEF receives no tax dollars and is an independent organization that works in cooperation with the school district and the Board of Education to create endowments to generate long-term financial support and enrichment for students. For the 2008-2009 school year, the GEF has provided grants for two projects that benefit Greenville students.

The first project involved third and fourth grade students. As an interdisciplinary activity, students studied people of the Revolutionary time period and selected an individual to sculpt, created a seal and studied how they were used in this time period, then painted their sculpture. The other project funded was a production for seventh graders by the "Arm of the Sea Theatre", a professional theatre group that incorporates large puppets, actors, and music to tell their stories. The theme of the production is 400 years of discovery since Henry Hudson's exploration of the Hudson River, bringing history to life for our students.



## Science Comes to Life at GCS High School

Greenville Physics and Chemistry students engaged in a science experiment using a real particle accelerator at the Ion Beam Laboratory located at The University at Albany. Students not only enjoyed a tour from world class scientists, but they also created atomic spectra to determine the types of atoms in materials. They analyzed the data using computers in the classroom. The experience brings to life important applications of the concepts learned in Physics and Chemistry.

## GCS Student Receives Licensed Practical Nurses Cap

Recently Samantha Nuite, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Nuite of Greenville, received her Licensed Practical Nurses Cap at a Capping Ceremony at Hudson High School. Samantha is completing two years of study through the Questar III Career and Technical Education Program. The LPN course of study includes both classroom instruction in theory and clinical experience with 1188 hours of information. When completed, students may challenge up to 22 college credits at Columbia-Greene Community College toward an associates degree in nursing.

