



### **Guilderland's Gain is Greenville's Loss**

After nine years at Greenville, Michael Laster, High School Principal, will be leaving June 30<sup>th</sup> to begin his new job as Principal of Farnsworth Middle School in the Guilderland Central School District. During his tenure at Greenville, Mr. Laster helped advance the rigor of high school classes, enhanced high school options for all students, significantly increased the high school graduation/completion rate, and provided exceptional instructional leadership. We wish him luck in the next chapter of his career.



### **2013-14 Budget Passes**

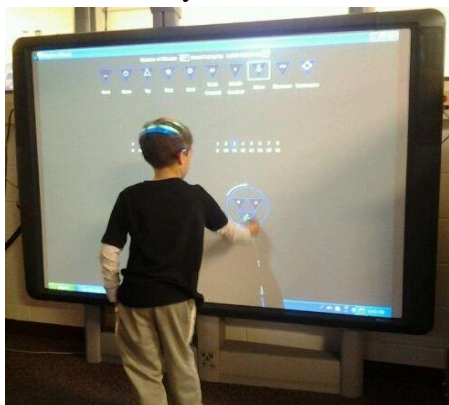
On Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, voters showed their support by passing the 2013-14 school budget with a vote of 617-397. Thank you for your show of support with your yes votes. We appreciate the continued support of our District, administration, teachers, support staff and programming opportunities by the community.

The Board of Education welcomes two newly elected Board members Jennifer Howard and Kristin Turon.

Appreciation is extended to current Board members, Anne Mitchell, President and Jason Reinhard for their past service of 18 years and 3 years respectively.

### **Family Math Night at Ellis**

On March 8, 2013, Scott M. Ellis Elementary hosted over 70 families of students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 to enjoy an evening of mathematics exploration at the annual Family Math Night. The evening's events, coordinated by Ms. Brandon and several other teachers, consisted of many exciting activities and games that extended learning in problem solving, numeration, measurement, fractions, geometry, probability and more, while meeting curriculum standards. Students and parents were actively engaged throughout the evening in explorations that included using net books and iPods with math centered websites, Promethean Board explorations that connected to math, as well interactive family-centered games such as Math Noodlers, Number Bond Bracelets, graphing cereal, Feet by the Foot, Pattern Blocks, bead sorts, Fraction bingo, Numberline Fun, Head Full of Numbers, Rush Hour, Name that Part, Blokus, Play Dough Measurement, Legos, Playing Cards, Izzi, and more. There were two opportunities to practice estimation and win a prize. An evening of fun learning was had by all!



## A Night with Stephen Sondheim

On Tuesday, May 7th, students from the IB Music class were invited to meet with Broadway composer & lyricist Stephen Sondheim at Hudson Valley Community College. “The greatest and perhaps best-known artist in the American musical theater,” according to Frank Rich of the New York Times, Mr. Sondheim spoke to invited students in a small 45-minute Q&A session. Greenville students asked him questions about his process and experiences creating *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Mr. Sondheim shared advice and anecdotes about songwriting, directing, awards, and collegiate performing arts. Later that evening, Mr. Sondheim conducted an onstage interview to a sold-out lecture hall. Special thanks to alumnus Alex Hutchins (2011) for assisting in coordinating this incredible opportunity. Pictured (left to right): Kate Kulas, Zoe Hutchins, David Herbstritt, Stephen Sondheim, Mr. Meredith, Anna Kelly, Caroline Lewis, and Rebecca Cappelli.



## Accolades

- ❖ Sierra Goodfellow, senior, was selected by the Scholars Recognition Program. She chose Ms. Erin Sharkey, High School Biology Teacher, as her most influential educator.
- ❖ Senior Kevin Kiefer, a Columbia Greene Education Center student in the carpentry program, competed in the Regional Skills USA competition and took first place. Twenty-four students from Questar III competed on March 13th at Schenectady Community College against other BOCES students in our region. Kevin will compete again in Syracuse in the State competition in April 2013.
- ❖ The Greenville Lady Spartan Basketball Team, along with Coach Eileen Kiefer, on being named a Scholar Athlete Team by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for the winter 2012-2013 sports season.
- ❖ Ms. Christine Wegryzn, Elementary Music Teacher, had 23 elementary music students achieve high levels at NYSMMA recently.
- ❖ Middle School Students, Chloe Cox, Morgan Holznagel, Ryan McAneny, William Connolly, Elise Dubois, Taylor McCulloch, Kaitlin McGuinness, Victoria Wilson, Elizabeth Duker, Kennedy Foster, Hannah Holznagel, Charlotte Hutchins, Daniel Mackey, and Liam Williams for their commitment to promoting a safe environment for all students at the Greenville Middle School. These students presented their powerful improvisation on bullying to Middle School grades 6-8 and a modified version to Elementary Grades 3 and 4.
- ❖ Erin Milsom is interviewed by WMHT news at the opening of the Questar III Student Art Exhibit. Greenville was well represented by the artwork of Erin, Abby Duker and Catherine Sielaff.
- ❖ GCS Alum Alana Brandon (Class of 2010) was recently named Greene County Dairy Princess.

## Michael Schonning, GCS Senior, Reflects on his Musical Greenville Experience

I am a senior this year and will be attending SUNY Oneonta in the fall for Pre-Med with high hopes of becoming a pediatrician. Throughout high school, the musical by far has yielded the greatest challenge for me. The musical is an important asset to our school community because it teaches students to strive towards a larger goal and it brings together a large, diverse group of students and teachers who all share a common goal.

With the aid of Mr. Meredith, I was able to persuade my older sister to do the musical my freshman year. If you ask her, she will always respond, "I am so glad I did a musical in high school." Anything Goes in 2010 was a truly remarkable year for Greenville Theatre. Not only did Jonah Coe-Scharff win an award from a regional theatre company (Schenectady Light Opera Company) for the incredible cruise ship that he designed for our stage, but he won another SLOC Award for "Best Actor." I'll also never forget getting chills every time I listened to Sarah McNally sing "I Get a Kick Out Of You." These two individuals were a huge part in teaching me how dedicating time towards a goal yields such a desired outcome.



My Junior year, I was determined to get a role in the show because I wanted to embrace this challenge. I obsessed over rehearsing the music and I was lucky enough to receive a supporting lead role as Nicely Nicely Johnson in the musical Guys & Dolls. I was even nominated for a SLOC Award for "Outstanding Performer" along with Kacee, Nate, Cody, and Maddie.

It seemed an eternity until the announcement of my senior show, Monty Python's SPAMALOT. I practiced audition materials like it was my job; however, something was different about this year.

I had no upperclassmen to lean on. I didn't think the show would be the same. However, I took on a leadership position and tried to get as many people to just try out for the show. I earned a lead role this year and I didn't know what I was getting into. It was the biggest challenge of my life. I learned 3 accents: English, Cockney, and French, learned complicated lines, blocking, and song lyrics, and spent several hours building impressive set pieces. I worked to encourage the spirit of the musical that was instilled in me my sophomore year to those who I would be leaving this year. I learned so much from learning how to work with others and teach those about the numerous hours that went into set building to insisting that costumes got hung up correctly. Our hard work as a collective group paid off. But what made this musical especially important for me were the individuals who came up to me and told me that I was their inspiration to do well. I was their "Jonah" or "Sarah." This is essentially what Mr. Meredith wants us to feel, I believe. He wants us to believe in this sense of overwhelming unity.

## CAD Designer Works with Ellis Elementary Students

Over a period of weeks, several Scott M. Ellis Elementary students met with Jason Donnelly, a CAD designer employed by GNH, to build a scale model of the Potter Hollow school house.

Using measurements of the actual building, Jason showed the students how to go about building their own model of the school house. Each student had to manage the entire math involved in such a project - not an easy proposition! A basic blueprint was created and used to construct an actual model out of a Xerox box. Each

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7:00 pm  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night @  
MS/HS Auditorium

June 5<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm  
Middle School Awards  
Night @ MS/HS  
Auditorium

June 6<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm  
PTA Meeting @ Ellis  
Library

June 6<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm  
Senior Banquet @  
MS/HS Auditorium

June 19<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 am  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Advancement  
@ Ellis Auditorium

June 20<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation  
@ MS/HS Auditorium

June 20<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm  
Sr. Class Baccalaureate  
Service @ Norton Hill  
Methodist Church

June 21<sup>st</sup> - 9:00 am  
Mandatory Graduation  
Rehearsal @ HS  
Auditorium

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 10:00 am  
High School Graduation  
@ HS Auditorium



student constructed his own model. This project was organized and supervised by Ed Volmar, a volunteer mentor at Scott M. Ellis.



**Greenville Offers Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program**

Universal Pre-K is a program that provides free pre-kindergarten classes for families who live in the Greenville School District. The UPK program is available to children who are 4 years old by December 1, 2013. All families are welcome to apply, regardless of income. UPK classes are held five half-days a week and follow the Greenville Central School District calendar. The UPK providers in our district are Little Angels Pre-school in Greenville and the Church Mouse Pre-School in Norton Hill. Transportation is not provided by the school district.

Applications are being collected, and acceptance will be via a lottery after applications are received. Acceptance is not based on family income. Families will be notified of their acceptance as soon as possible, and acceptance will be finalized after completing the registration process with the Greenville Central School District Registrar. All enrollment offers are contingent on funding for New York State Pre-K grant. For more information and to apply for UPK please contact Lynette Terrell, Greenville Central School Registrar at (518) 966-5070 ext. 305.

**Project Hay wagon complete**

The Friends of the FFA have completed the hay wagon. The Friends of the FFA would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time in working on this project: Keith Terrell, Wayne Myhre, Ed Volmar, Rob Kehrer, Jon Case, Michelle Case, Jonathan Case, Megan Terrell, and Kevin Kiefer. We would like to thank the Elementary Caring Kids Club for their generous donation to cover materials and supplies. To the left is a picture of the hay wagon with Board of Education members Gloria Bear and Anne Mitchell along with Superintendent Cheryl Dudley. The picture above is the advisor of the Caring Kids Club along with a few of the volunteers that worked on the project.



## 2013 Junior/Senior Prom

The Junior/Senior Prom was held on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Settles Hill Banquet House in Altamont. There was a coronation ceremony in the High School Auditorium preceding the prom that afternoon. This was a great opportunity to see and take pictures of everyone in their formal attire. Each attendee was formally introduced by Master of Ceremonies Tadgh Russell. The prom court coronation is as follows:



*King/Queen: Nick Dwarika and Theresa Bates*  
*Prince/Princess: Connor Statham and Maranda Seager*  
*Duke/Duchess: Mathew Snow and Megan Terrell*  
*Baron/Baroness: Eddie VanAuken and Marisa Thomas*  
*Lord/Lady: Cody Bowden and Taylor Legace*

### Articles in the next issue

Ellis Career Day  
 Graduation and Top 10  
 New faces of GCS  
 Potter Hollow Schoolhouse  
 Tops Grand Opening

