



New York State Theatre Institute Collaborates with GCS High School Students

The New York State Theatre Institute offers a wonderful program where a member of the theatre company will hold a pre-show discussion with students to prepare them for the elements of the production. The presenter walked students through the various elements of presenting a play. She discussed the roles of the director, costume designer, set designer, lighting and sound designers, properties master and stage master. Students were able to ask questions and understand everything that is involved in a stage production. Students in eleventh grade English Language Arts classes read Of Mice and Men prior to the pre-show visit and the actual production. After the show, students were able to participate in a question and answer session with the cast. A follow-up experience for our students involved a scenic artist and her assistant demonstrating scene painting techniques. This entire experience was part of the "Theatre to the 10th" program in which a teacher from the District participates in workshops with NYSTI prior to the show. The teacher is then able to coordinate all these activities free of charge. Students in tenth grade were able to read Twelve Angry Men and watch the play, Twelve Angry Jurors.



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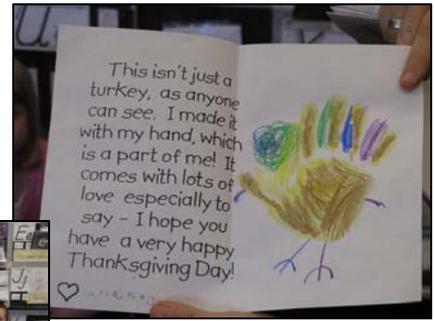
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Scott M. Ellis Recognizes Our Veterans

Students at Scott M. Ellis are becoming “participants in action”, honoring our veterans and soldiers throughout the school year by creating cards. Kindergarten students made cards celebrating Thanksgiving for our local Veterans’ Post and V.A. Medical Center. First and Second Grade students will create Christmas and Hanukkah cards, students in third and fourth grade will create Valentine’s Day cards and our fifth grade students will make Get Well cards for our hospitalized Veterans.



Veterans Share with GCS Students

Students in Barbara Brandon’s third and fourth grade class interviewed guests to celebrate Veteran’s Day. Students asked veterans Mr. Connors and Mr. Hufstetter a variety of questions about their type of service and what Veteran’s Day means to them. Mrs. Soldner, from the American Legion Auxiliary, also discussed the American Legion and what Veteran’s Day means to her. The guests brought medals, pictures and books and shared a variety of stories with our students. Students learned about the Vietnam War, the Korean War and the War in Iraq from a unique perspective. This was a wonderful experience for our students and they were able to experience history in a new way.



Police Officer in the Sky Visits GCS

State Trooper, Sergeant Bill Accuosti visited Greenville Central School District on Monday, November 10th. The purpose of the visit was to collect aerial photos of the District and surrounding area for Emergency purposes. In addition to this activity, Sergeant Accuosti held presentations for students K-12 on his job, careers in aviation, the importance of studying and being a good student. State Troopers flying helicopters respond to accidents and often function as search and rescue vehicles. Students had an opportunity to ask questions and have a closer look at the helicopter. Special thanks to Assistant Principal to Scott M. Ellis, Donna Accuosti for making the arrangements for the visit.



Fifth Grade Students Simulate a Bill Becoming a Law

Students in Bonnie Persico's fifth grade class simulated the process of a Bill Becoming a Law. Students began the activity by researching the pros and cons of school uniforms.

Speeches expressing an opinion on the topic of school uniforms were crafted based on students' research and students performed in the roles of students, teachers, principals, Senators and parents. The Senate heard the speeches and held a vote on school uniforms. After the Senate approved the Bill, President Peter Mahan, Elementary School Principal, signed the Bill into Law. A variety of themes from the speeches were discussed, including the impact school uniforms can have on decreasing bullying, that it can increase unity, and from a safety perspective knowing which students should be at the school because they would be dressed similarly. Students debating the cons of school uniforms discussed the issues of freedom of choice and freedom of expression. Mrs. Persico commented "I'm really proud of all their hard work" and also noted that students exhibited a high degree of cooperation throughout the activity.



Seventh Grade Elections at Greenville Middle School

Seventh grade students at GCS Middle School held a mock election on Monday November 3rd during Social Studies and Math classes. Prior to the election, students learned about the election process, the major positions of the Presidential Candidates, and were given roles as electors from a state, a member of the panel asking the candidates questions, as a moderator, or as Senator Obama, Senator Biden, Senator McCain, or Governor Palin. At the opening of class, the candidates were given the rules of the debate by the moderator and then gave an opening address. Each address was focused on four main issues, energy and the environment, health care, the economy, and Iraq. Panel members asked candidates pre-written questions and after the initial response, the opposing candidates could respond. Once the debate was over members of the electoral college reviewed the performance of each candidate and determined who would receive their electoral votes. Wendy Ward, math teacher, and Kathy McAneny, social studies teacher, tallied the results from each state and charted the votes on an interactive U.S. map. Students were enthusiastic about the opportunity to vote and held strong opinions on the issues. This activity has been held since 2000 and the last two mock elections resulted in Republican wins.

Ithaca Trombone Ensemble Visits GCS

Instrumental students in grades four through twelve experienced a wonderful performance by the Trombone Ensemble from Ithaca College. The twenty-four member ensemble performed a wide variety of pieces to demonstrate the versatility of the trombone. Students especially enjoyed the selection “How to Play the Trombone” which demonstrated playing the individual pieces of the trombone, a variety of musical styles and especially the function of the spit valve. Greenville students were an excellent audience and truly enjoyed the experience. Special thanks to Christine Wegrzyn for organizing the event.



Reading Partners at GCS

Students in Maryanne Overbaugh’s and Valerie Kappel’s kindergarten classes are partnered with fifth grade students in Bonnie Persico’s class as Reading Partners. Students are grouped by their teachers and meet on Wednesdays throughout the school year. Fifth graders interview the kindergarteners, read to them, and then visit the public library to select books for the next week. This program benefits both the older and younger students in a number of ways. Our fifth grade students practice reading fluency, learn about helping others and being part of a community, and are able to learn about the Greenville Public Library. Kindergarteners are encouraged to read, learn pre-reading and reading skills by hearing the modeled reading of the fifth graders. As an ongoing program of both age groups, students enjoy this experience.



Flowers Create Real-World Experiences for Students

Students in Michaela Kehrer’s Floral Design class are not only learning about the elements of floral design, but the components of running a floral business. Ms. Kehrer has created a program where people from the school community can purchase bud vase floral arrangements for \$6.00 each or ten designs, one each month, for \$50.00. Flowers and materials are purchased from a wholesale company and students care for the floral materials, design bud vases for each month, create the arrangements, deliver the arrangements and maintain records. All proceeds of the program go to purchasing materials. Students are also selling boutonnieres and corsages for formal events at the High School as well as arrangements for musical and theater performances throughout the school year.



Area All-State Music Festival

This year six Greenville High School students were selected to perform in the Area All-State Music Festival on November 21st and 22nd at Saratoga Springs High School. These outstanding ensembles consist of students chosen from a nine county area including Albany, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington counties. Competitive selection to these groups is based upon the score received by the students during the previous spring at the NYSSMA solo evaluation festival.

The Concert Band under the direction of Michael Cirmo will include: Jonah Coe-Scharff - euphonium, and Matt Esposito – tenor saxophone. Singing in the Chorus under the direction of Erica Washburn will be: Leahanne Cappelli and Thomas Monkell. Representing Greenville in the Jazz Ensemble are trombonists Sam Dudley and Cole Rudloff who were selected by audition.

Congratulations to all our talented young musicians, their families and their music teachers, Mr. Benedict and Mr. Meredith.



The Stock Market Soars at GCS



Stock Market is a new enrichment program at Greenville Middle School for students in eighth grade. The Stock Market Game is a program sponsored by the Times Union which offers free materials and professional development for participating teachers. Students first learn the vocabulary of the Stock Market, then research companies they would like to invest in by reviewing their past performance. Once purchases are made, students monitor what they bought and how much equity their portfolio has accumulated. Students continue to monitor trends in the Market and trade based on their research. Jackie Moylan, Middle School Enrichment Teacher, noted that her students are able to make real connections between what is happening with the current economic environment in creating their portfolios. Two companies recently selected were Wal-Mart and Campbell's as students recognize that as people are struggling they will most likely shop more frequently at Wal-Mart for Christmas presents than more expensive retail stores. Another student selected Campbell's based on a news story which highlighted families eating more soup for meals during difficult economic times as it costs less. Of the 13 Middle School Teams, Greenville students are currently ranked one, two and six. The Stock Market Game also identifies 149 teams including High Schools and Colleges and of those teams Greenville Middle School Students are currently ranked 5th, 14th and 73rd. The ranking is based on the teams' portfolio and equity.