



2008 Homecoming at Greenville

Homecoming Week was a huge success at Greenville as students, faculty, parents and community members participated in a variety of activities throughout the week of October 6th. Spirit Week at the High School involved students demonstrating their school spirit in a variety of “themes”. Students in grades nine through twelve participated in a Pep Rally Friday, October 10th during 9th period where sports teams were introduced, the High School Jazz Band performed, and faculty members held a competition in dodge ball.

Friday afternoon involved a number of activities for students and the community including food and game booths, a free climbing wall, Girls’ JV and Varsity Soccer games, Volleyball, Football and Soccer games for students and a bonfire at dusk. One highlight of the evening was the annual “Pie in the Face” contest where administrators and teachers raised money for “Caring for Others” Ovarian Cancer by taking pies to the face from students. Evening activities involved a High School dance in the Middle School Gym, while the Community Concert of the Mike Benedict Quintet raised money for the Greenville Educational Foundation.

Breakfast at Ellis Café began the second day of Homecoming weekend with proceeds benefiting the Greenville Educational Foundation. Additional activities throughout the day included a Superintendent’s Community Forum on District Goals and the Quality Education Committee, a Chili Cook-Off at Rensselaerville Conkling Hall, and Boys’ JV and Varsity Soccer games.



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GCS Elementary School Open House

Elementary School Families were welcomed to the new school year at Scott M. Ellis on September 24th and 25th. The Open House events were scheduled over two evenings to allow families to attend a variety of classrooms. Both evenings began with a general presentation by Principal Peter Mahan. Mr. Mahan introduced a You Tube video titled "Did You Know 2.0" which discussed preparing our students for the 21st Century. This video also viewed by the Elementary Faculty, will be a focus of their work for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Mahan also discussed the "Responsive Classroom" initiative that several classrooms will be piloting as it supports an environment that focuses on high academic achievement and positive social interactions. Parents visited their child's classroom where teachers shared materials and presented general information about their programs. Parents and students were enthusiastic about their classroom visits, school tours and the shared school experience for the evening.



GCS Middle School Open House

Families were welcomed to Greenville Middle School during the annual Open House which was held on September 18th. A staggered schedule allowed families to visit teachers from all grade-levels in the circumstances where multiple children attend the Middle School. Special Area teachers (Art, Music, etc.) met with families in the Middle School Cafeteria while Content Area Teachers met with families in larger group settings to allow for a general presentation of expectations and information. Families received a variety of materials from all teachers regarding course assignments, homework expectations and contact information. This yearly Open House marks the first of many opportunities for families to connect with our school community.

GCS High School Open House

High School Families were welcomed to the 2008-2009 school year on Thursday, October 2nd. Michael Laster, High School Principal welcomed families in a general session followed by teachers sharing their programs in the High School Cafeteria. Families were able to meet several teachers, guidance counselors, the school psychologist and school nurse as well as Scott Turrin the new Athletic Director/Assistant Principal to the High School. Teachers discussed their classroom expectations, resources and curriculum with families during this well-attended event. This annual Open House allows teachers and families to begin developing relationships and opening the lines of communication for our High School Students.



First and Second Grade Students Visit Indian Ladder Farms

During the week of September 29th, GCS students in first and second grade visited Indian Ladder Farms as the culminating activity of their thematic study of apples. This unit also integrates with their yearlong study of the forest. While on the trip students learned the history of the apple orchards at Indian Ladder and the legend of Johnny Appleseed. Students also learned about the life cycle of the apple, how apples are stored and transported, and how apple cider is made. At the end of the tour, students ate an apple and tried apple cider. Each class was also given a box of apples to bring back to school. Students and staff enjoy this field trip every year.



History Comes Alive at GCS Middle School

Students in Kathy McAneny's seventh grade Social Studies class experienced hands-on history through their two-week simulation of an archeology dig. Students were given Site Notes which indicated that Southwestern Ranchers discovered evidence that Early Native Americans inhabited a particular area. Our student archeologists were given a limited amount of money to excavate the area in the hopes of finding out more about the people who once lived in this area. With the allotted money, students could purchase grids of the areas and lab reports which gave descriptions of many artifacts which were found on the grids. As students made purchases and collected information about the area, they were asked to form a hypothesis about the people occupying this area. Students were also asked to interpret information on how many people lived at the location at one time, when the area was occupied, to identify the tools, weapons, clothing, jewelry, foods and religious traditions celebrated by these people. The final question was to interpret why the people abandoned the site. In answering these questions, students have to justify how they were able to answer these questions through a letter to their "sponsor". The students were actively engaged in this activity and really enjoyed applying their knowledge and skills in this creative project.

Butterflies visit GCS Middle School

Students in Anne Marie Conroy's sixth grade Science class were visited by Rainbow's End Butterfly Farm and Nursery from Pawling, NY. Students learned about the Life Cycle of the Butterfly, their migration patterns, how to identify the gender of butterflies and how to create habitats. Students found the methods for transporting butterflies to be very interesting. First butterflies are cooled, then placed in a sleeve as they are moved. Once they are at their designated location, the butterflies are removed from the sleeves and then warmed until they "wake up" again. Each class had one butterfly tagged with contact information about GCS Middle School and students in Mexico will contact the school if one of their butterflies are found. Students also experienced a butterfly walk across their hands and in cases where they found something that tasted good, the butterflies licked the students' hands. Students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, asked wonderful questions and are excited to research the idea of creating a habitat for butterflies on campus to make us a way station along the migration path.





Greenville Teachers, Staff and Students Give Back

Teachers, Staff and Students from GCS participated in the 7th annual Caring Together Run/Walk for Ovarian Cancer which was held on Sunday September 14th at Albany’s Washington Park. Many members of the Greenville Community have been touched by the impact of Ovarian Cancer and have participated in a number of activities to support this worthy cause. Those participating include Allyson Benjamin, Camryn Benjamin, Harvey Benjamin, Kate Gruhle, Morgan Haskin, Bill Kiefer, Eileen Kiefer, Mackenzie Kiefer, Kathy McAneny, Kris Raskopf, Steve Siebrecht, Eve Tuttle, and Wendy Ward. Donations for the Run/Walk can be made to Caring Together at <http://www.caringtogetherny.org/>.

Back After 50 Years

Greenville Central School District Alumni from the classes of 1954 to 1959 celebrated the 50th reunion of the class of 1958 during the weekend of October 4th. Classmates toured the campus at GCS on Saturday and shared stories of Mr. Ellis’ squeaky shoes as he walked the halls and kept them “in-line”. Alumni members recalled favorite teachers and marveled at the changes to Scott M. Ellis Elementary, while maintaining such original features as the original wooden doors and floors in several classrooms. The group was impressed with the condition of the facilities and information on current student enrollment and performance.



Avoid Harm, Obey the Stop Arm

Students at Scott M. Ellis participated in assemblies during the week of October 20th to promote School Bus Safety. National Bus Safety Week is during this week and the theme is “Avoid Harm, Obey the Stop Arm”. During the assemblies Karen Morin, Transportation Supervisor reviewed bus expectations with students and answered questions. Doreen Duncan, Head Bus Driver, and Roseanne Seigrest, driver, performed a skit demonstrating the safe crossing distance, driver signals to follow and safe crossing procedures.

September 15th Tour of Facilities

The annual Tour of Facilities for Greenville Central School District was held on Monday, September 15th at 6:00 pm. The tour began at Scott M. Ellis with an overview of the location of the Lobby and Elevator entrance funded under the Capital EXCEL Project. (Expanding our Children's Education and Learning) This project was approved on August 27, 2008 from the New York State Department of Education. As a result of this project, individuals with mobility disabilities will be able to access all three floors without traversing stairs or traveling outside in adverse weather providing equity in access to programs and events for all students, employees, and school visitors. The fenestration, i.e. the use of glass panels, windows and door placement and materials, will allow for natural lighting and comply with high performance guidelines for planning standards and energy conservation. In an effort to ensure the safety of our students throughout the construction process, new parking lot lines and extra wide cross walks have been added to the South Parking lot at Ellis.



Additional stops at Scott M. Ellis included the Fuel Management System in the South Parking Lot, the North Parking Lot and the front Corridors. Improvements in these areas involve a Fuel Management System which utilizes individual keys for each bus or vehicle to turn the pump on or off which provides instant data to the Head Mechanic for the quantity of fuel pumped for each vehicle. The Front Corridors now contain six new bulletin boards and chair rails which match the period of the original interior architecture. The North parking lot received patch work to eliminate large pot holes.



At the Middle/High Schools the Baseball Field, Recycling Program, Cafeteria Entrance, Kitchen, Auditorium and parking lots were also discussed. Drainage has been installed under all the base lines to enhance the speed that water drains from the baseball field. Two recycling dumpsters, one at the High School and one at the Elementary School, are for the paper and cardboard recycling program which began last year. With the program sponsored by GreenFiber, the District is paid \$25 per ton for paper recycling materials. The money from GreenFiber is deposited into Student Council accounts for student groups that support the collection of the paper within the schools. Replacement of concrete at the Cafeteria entrance of the High School is necessary for safer student use and for deliveries. The new kitchen equipment includes three new convection ovens which replaced two 1969 vintage ovens. Scott Gardiner, Technology Supervisor, is preparing specifications and will be soliciting quotes to install an LCD projector/presentation system in the Middle/High School Auditorium. The extended water line and new fire hydrant were installed in cooperation with the Town of Greenville to serve the Middle and High Schools as well as the Transportation facility's new operation. The final stop of the tour was the Alternative Education classroom, a collaborative venture between Greenville CSD and Questar III which supports fifteen (15) students this year.