



# Greene Central School NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVIII, Number 2

January/February 2018

## Community Harvest Meal

The Greene Middle School's Green“e” Thumb Club sponsored a Harvest Dinner and Wellness Fair on Saturday, October 14 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. This was free to the public, but goodwill donations were accepted.

Most of the food provided was harvested from the raised gardens on the high school campus. The sauce was made in house using fresh tomatoes, basil, parsley and oregano from the garden. For the salad, homegrown carrots, cucumbers, onions and kale were used. Both Frog Pond and Enough and A Little Bit more helped supplement our meal with lettuce, spinach and more tomatoes.

The Wellness Fair had 11 vendors. They provided a lot of useful information regarding mental, emotional and physical health. There were many freebies for families to enjoy as they stopped at each booth.

There were several student volunteers that helped make the day a success. A few of them shared their experiences:

“I have a new appreciation for lunch ladies. It was cool to see everyone’s reaction when they were told the food was local or from our own gardens.”

—*Shannen Quarella*

“It was really interesting to see everyone’s reaction to the snacks the high school class made and to experience what our cafeteria staff does every day for us.”

—*Sarah Sexton*

“I really loved working the Harvest Meal. It was a lot of fun and seeing the kind of work that the cafeteria staff does every day made me a lot more thankful for what they all do. I was kind of like an assistant to Mrs. Rapp and Mrs. Worsnopp, which was a lot a fun. When it came down to cleaning time, all of us 8th graders worked hard to clean the dishes and we all still had lots of fun doing it. I would love to do it, again.”

—*Samantha Darling*

“I really loved working at the Harvest meal. It was really interesting to see the people’s reactions. The meal was great, especially when we workers got to try the food, too. I hope we can do this again. If we do I’ll be there.”

—*Anna-lisse Funnell*

There were numerous people involved to make the Community Harvest Meal and Wellness Fair successful. A big thank you goes out to the community members that came and supported this new endeavor by eating our tasty meal and visiting the participating vendors. We would also like to thank Rosemary Badger and her staff for lending their kitchen and supplies, Chris Paske for setting up the Wellness Fair, the Administration and BOE for their ongoing support, the custodial staff for their assistance, and the Jr. Honor Society members and Green“e” Thumb Club members who donated their time. This community event was possible because of the hard work, dedication, and leadership of Shelbe Furman and Angela Whitt, the Green“e” Thumb Club Advisors.



## From the Superintendent

As we head into a new year, we want to take a moment to thank you. We are deeply grateful for the commitment and hard work of our teachers, classroom support staff, our custodians, maintenance department, drivers, administrators and parents. These individuals are the cornerstone of our organization and we are proud to work with them. We continue to learn from their experience and the passion they bring to the execution of their duties.

It is wonderful to see how our students and staff come together to meet the needs of our community. The annual food drive strives to make the Christmas season a time of celebration and thankfulness for the gifts from others.

Our Student Council Red Cross Blood Drive represents the desires and wishes to help others in need. It gives people an opportunity to make a difference in another's life and to help others less-fortunate than ourselves.

I want to thank everyone involved in these initiatives and the many other services that our school community engages in throughout the year.

Soon we begin the process of developing the school budget for 2018-2019. We are beginning our budget committee meetings. It is extremely important that we are transparent and open to questions as we address then necessities and requirements integrated into budget development.

—Gordon Daniels, Interim Superintendent

## Greene Historical Society



We would like to recognize Mrs. Nancy Bromley and Mrs. Peg Ross for their constant support, unyielding expertise and passion with our G.C.S. students. Nancy and Peg, Greene town historians, worked as teachers at the

Greene Central School District and continue to devote their time and energy to educating our students about the past.

The 6th grade students took a field trip at the end of June as a culminating activity to their Arts in Education unit of study, "Finding the Beauty in the Ugly." Nancy and Peg assisted the teachers by finding relevant historical articles and photos from the past to demonstrate the environmental concerns and effects of the changing environment. The students were taught the elements of photography from a well-known photographer, Kevin Grey. Then, the students photographed specific landmarks in the community and compared them to historical photos from the past. Students aligned photos from the past and present to science concepts and environmental concerns that they studied in the classroom. Lastly, students visited the Greene Historical Society at the Moore Memorial Library to further study the history of Greene with our town historians.

## Biology Teacher Accepted into NYS Master Teacher Program



Jessica Schindler earned her B.A. in Human Ecology from College of the Atlantic, M.S. Ed. Biology and C.A.S from SUNY Cortland. Ms. Schindler also holds a certification in Wilderness Survival and Kamana III from Wilderness Awareness School along with Tracking II from Cybertracker. Ms. Schindler enjoys traveling and interacting with animals around the world.

In 2001, Ms. Schindler became a biology teacher at Greene High School located in Greene and currently teaches Living Environment courses to tenth graders. She has coached JV soccer and Varsity track, but her passion has been coaching her Envirothon teams. Ms. Schindler is the Science Department Chair, mentors colleagues and student teachers, and is co-leader of the school's Makerspace.

Outside of school, Ms. Schindler loves to track animals, to hike, and to spend time with her dog whom she is currently training to be a therapy dog. She travels with students through EF Tours reaching faraway places like the Galapagos Islands, Belize and Europe. Ms. Schindler is passionate about helping all students to reach their potential in science and to explore the outside world. As a NYS Master Teacher, Ms. Schindler is looking forward to collaborating with colleagues and to the amazing workshops that will allow her to enhance her own classroom.

If you see Ms. Schindler, please congratulate her on this significant milestone. We are all very proud of her!

# Congratulations!

## Attention Parents

The Greene Primary School is compiling a list of all 3-year olds and 4-year olds in our District. This information is required for state reports and will be used for mailings of Universal Pre-K applications and Kindergarten registration packets. Students are eligible for UPK for the 2018-2019 school year, if they will be 4 on or before December 1, 2018. Children are kindergarten eligible (and not UPK eligible) if they will be 5 on or before December 1, 2018.

If you are not sure if we have your child's information, please call the Primary School at 656-4023 between the hours of 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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# How You Can Help Your Middle School Student

## ISSUE #1: SLEEP AND TIME MANAGEMENT

*Surveyed 8th graders said:*

“When I was a sixth grader, I would sleep really late, thinking I was cool because I was staying up late gaming or texting. I think that a strategy for parents is to take technology out of the room when it’s bedtime. However, I think you should eventually give technology back as they grow older and explain to them why you shouldn’t stay up all night.”

*What parents can do to help:*

- Set healthy boundaries. (A tech curfew can help!)
- Have kids charge their devices outside of their room at night.
- Give them a little free time. Try the 45/15 rule: Kids work on things from their “have to do” list for 45 minutes and then take a 15 minute break to relax and do whatever they want.

## ISSUE #2: FRIEND DRAMA AND SOCIAL CHANGES

*Surveyed 8th graders said:*

“When entering middle school, you get a new look at everyone. It’s like you snap out of the trance and realize how ‘uncool’ you are. You start to do stupid stuff to try and become popular/liked but it only makes you look worse. Sometimes it gets you in trouble with the teachers, and other times your peers get mad or annoyed at you and leave. I wish my parents could’ve not pestered me about my social life all the time, as it made me more aware about how disappointing it was and made me feel even worse.”

*What parents can do to help:*

- Model good friend behaviors. Avoid gossip and be inclusive!
- Help your teen explore and develop new friendships, but don’t put too much pressure on them.
- Expect friendships to change and to go through some challenges. This is normal, natural, and necessary.
- When issues arise, try to listen, stay calm, help your teen process the situation, and help find solutions.

## ISSUE #3: BODY CHANGES AND HEALTHY CHOICES

*Surveyed 8th graders said:*

“I struggled with my parents comparing me to my older siblings and my friends too much. They expect me to be as intelligent/tall/thin as them, but I wish they would have known that sometimes people have different strengths, and during middle school, we all grow at different rates. How fast I grow isn’t something I can control, so it’s always super frustrating to hear about it.”

*What parents can do to help:*

- Understand that puberty doesn’t affect everyone in the same way.
- Make healthy choices at home and send nutritious snacks to school.
- Encourage play and physical activity.
- Model positive body image and a healthy relationship with food.

## ISSUE #4: STRESS AND OVERSCHEDULING

*Surveyed 8th graders said:*

“I struggled with stress and overscheduling the most as a sixth grader because of how busy I was and all the things that I had to remember to do. I was often stressing out because of homework and tutors and extra classes that I had to take. I wish I could have known to manage my time better but also have had more time to play outside.”

*What parents can do to help:*

- Help your teen manage their time and plan a realistic week. Ask questions and work together to set goals.
- Encourage them to make choices that include their passions and give them opportunities to grow and explore.
- Respect their needs and differences. Check in regularly to adjust their schedules if necessary.

Making the shift from elementary to middle school can be exciting and scary at the same time. With increased freedom and a longing for independence, young teens are still learning how to control their impulses and make good decisions on their own—but it is still crucial that they have the support of their parents along the way!

—Mrs. Paske



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## Blessings in a Backpack



The 2017-2018 school year will begin the seventh year of the District's participation in the nationally recognized Blessings in a Backpack feeding program, a unique program designed to feed our school children who are at risk of having little or no food on the weekends. The goal of the program at Greene is to serve approximately 100 students each year. The partnership between Greene Central School District and the Zion Episcopal Church has made this all possible.

Our feeding program has been provided to students in grades universal pre-kindergarten through the tenth grade. Each Friday a package of food is made available to students with ready-to-eat food items. While our school year program has been very successful, we have been concerned about the students' access to food over the summer. Thanks to the staff at the Summer JRC Program, Blessings in a Backpack has also been able to send home food on Fridays with students that attend the program. For students that may not attend the JRC program, we reached out to parents that were interested, to allow for pick up at school.

We believe an effective way to support our students is to ensure they have the proper nutrition they need during the school year so they can have every chance to learn and succeed. As a result of a food shortage on the weekend, the school may notice lower test scores, poor reading skills, poor behavior and sickness. Better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, improved health and increased attendance have all been attributed to the success of the Blessings in a Backpack Program.

Greene Central School is a high needs district. Over 50% of Greene Central School's children receive the Federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program. With our Blessings in a Backpack Program we are fortunate to be able to offer support to all students, especially those in need.

If you feel this program would benefit your family, please contact your school nurse or counselor. Food is dispensed in a discreet and caring manner. There is no cost to our families.

In order to keep providing this valuable program to our children, we continue to raise funds on behalf of Blessings in a Backpack. A donation of \$90 sends one child home with a backpack full of food each weekend, for an entire school year. 100% of money raised is used to feed our local students.

If you would be interested in sponsoring a child for a year, or perhaps splitting the cost with another individual or family,

you may send a check payable to "Blessings in a Backpack" and write "Greene Central School" in the memo area. Please send your donation to:

Zion Episcopal Church, attn: Blessings in a Backpack, P.O. Box 88, Greene or Greene Central School District, Pam Gerst, Blessings in a Backpack, 127 Elementary Lane or to the headquarter location at: Blessings in a Backpack Bank Lockbox, P.O. Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40207.

When making a donation, please be sure to include your name and address if you would like a receipt for your donation.

Thank you for considering a donation to this wonderful program. We appreciate each bit of support we receive from our caring community.

—Backpack Volunteers

## Student Art Work Featured in UHS Holiday Exhibit



Art work by our talented Primary School students is included in The United Health Services Hospitals Children's Holiday Art Exhibit at General Hospital, Binghamton. The exhibit, which runs from December 18-January 21, highlights the talents of numerous children from many local school districts. A festive reception will be held Jan. 21, for the children, their families and teachers. Our students who have work displayed included: **Kaydance Callahan, Mackenzie Finnerty, Haley Monticciolo, Mason Reed, Alaire St. Germain, Caleb Tennant, Mason Thompson, Jacob Dominguez-Acevedo, and Debbie Walsh.**

The children were recognized at the Primary Building's Morning Program.

Congratulations are extended to our talented student artists!

—Ms. Dajnowski

## From the Music Department

Welcome to Winter! We've had our first official snowfall, and our musicians are gearing up for all kinds of events! Following the AMAZING performance of the Footlights presentation of *The Lion King, Jr.*, Mrs. Boel and I will be taking students to Oneonta this weekend for the Area All-State Festival; top students from counties across the southern tier and eastern New York will rehearse Friday night and all day Saturday to present a concert to the attending audience.



At the end of October, **Greg Wynter** and I traveled to Hartwick College to participate in their Honor Band. Greg did an excellent job and learned a lot from Dr. Pease (on the left) and Mr. Ebersole

(on the right). As a result of our visit, we are hoping to have Dr. Pease stop in to work with our high school band before February!

At the beginning of December, I took **Shannon Clark** to Rochester to participate in Conference All-State, where students from the entire state of New York congregated to make music for four days. Shannon scored a 100 (for the second year in a row) on her vocal NYSSMA solo, and will be participating in the Women's Choir. While she is rehearsing (and rehearsing), I will be attending workshops and classes to bring information back to our music department and students. I am looking forward to it!



We here in the GCS Music Department wish you all a very happy New Year!

—Heather Kriesel, MS/HS Band Director

### UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

Saturday, 1/27 ACAMT Winter All-County Festival at Norwich High School (Sr. and Jr. Chorus, Jazz Band, Elementary Band)

**Band Booster Meetings**  
**Second Tuesdays of the month**  
**at 6:00 p.m. in the**  
**High School Band Room.**  
**January 9 and February 13**

## GCS Concerts 2018

These concerts are required for students who are members of the listed ensembles.

### JANUARY

11 Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m. (MS Chorus/HS Band snow date 1/18)

### MARCH

22 Music In Our Schools Month Concert, 7:00 p.m. (Auditorium)

### APRIL

26 Spring Band Concert 7:00 p.m. (MS/HS Band & Select Chorus)

### MAY

17 Intermediate Spring Concert 7:00 p.m. (Int. Band & Chorus)

24 Spring Chorus Concert w/Art Show 7:00 p.m. (MS/HS Chorus, Jazz Band)

### JUNE

8 SUPER BAND! Ice Cream Social\*

\*The "SUPER BAND!" Ice Cream Social is **\*NEW\*** this year! The middle school band will be performing a concert, and we will have a sort of "instrument petting zoo" for the third grade students who are interested in starting an instrument the following year. We are VERY EXCITED to present this new part of our school year, and hope it becomes a tradition!

### BAND CORNER

The GCS Band Booster Organization is seeking new members. You don't have to be a band parent to be a member, although parents are encouraged to join and be a part of your child's band experience. Alumni and community members are also welcome!

For more information, email [hkriesel@greenecsd.org](mailto:hkriesel@greenecsd.org). Thank you and we hope to see you at the meeting.



**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**Greene, New York 13778**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**Mission Statement**

*Greene Central School, in partnership with the community, will inspire students to learn the skills and behaviors necessary to become productive citizens.*

- *Provide quality programs to prepare all students with skills and knowledge to become responsible citizens, productive workers, and lifelong learners.*
- *Provide safe, quality facilities, which enhance the programs for the District's students and community.*
- *Ensure long-term fiscal stability in order to provide the necessary programs and facilities to educate the children of the Greene Central School District.*
- *Communicate effectively with all members of the community to promote quality education in the Greene Central School District.*

# Thank You

The Footlights cast and crew of Disney's *The Lion King Jr.* would like to extend a huge thank you to the community for their overwhelming support. This production broke records in both cast size and audience size as we were forced to hold the curtain for both the Friday and Sunday shows to allow our guests to enter the auditorium. Our local businesses also went above and beyond this year, purchasing (I believe) the largest amount of advertisements for our programs. Your financial support will allow us to replace some failing equipment and add some much needed shelving to our costume storage space.

Our volunteer staff continues to grow and amaze us all. In addition to the wonderful family members of the cast, we have added several volunteers to our crews who do not have any children or family in the cast! This outpouring of time and talent from the community into our school is so important and so encouraging to us all. We cannot thank you enough! Please plan to join us on March 9, 10 and 11 for the high school production of *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Boel

