



Greene Central School

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXV, Number 3

January/February 2015

Superintendent's Message

Happy New Year! I am excited to welcome in 2015 which I trust will be a wonderful year for Greene CSD. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and holiday break and is rested and excited about the start of the new year.

The development of the 2015-2016 budget has begun. We remain hopeful that recent signs of economic growth here in NY State will translate to improvements in state funding for our school. We are hard at work with early budget discussions and planning while eagerly awaiting the Governor's proposal and subsequent response by our legislature.

Reduced funding over the past five years has necessitated significant spending reductions that have affected almost all aspects of our programming. We are hopeful that this year we will see funding replenished which will allow us to revisit reductions in staffing and programming and begin to make adjustments that will further our charge as expressed in our mission statement.

Planning is well under way for our 6.4 million dollar capital project. Phase One plans are under review at the State Education Department. Approval is expected within the month and work will be scheduled to begin over the summer. The scope of Phase One work will be focused on general construction and will include roof repairs, concrete and brick work. This work will take place over the summer and should not impact students or staff.

We are currently working through the details of our Main Project which will go to State Education in early Spring. The scope of this work will be more involved, encompassing systems upgrades, renovations and the associated mechanical components. We anticipate most of this work being done over the summer of 2016 and once again it should not impact students or staff. Thank you again, for your support of this capital project and our efforts to maintain our facilities and in turn provide our children with the best possible environment and instructional program possible.

As we approach the midpoint of the 2014-2015 school year it is an opportune time to reflect on our progress to date. The first half of this school year has been very smooth. Instructionally we are still adjusting to changes associated with the Common Core Learning Standards and other initiatives pushed by both Albany and the Federal Government. Change and innovation, though, are common in our profession as we constantly wrestle with changes in curricula, technology,

pedagogy and our understanding of best instructional practices. Clearly our faculty, staff and administration are committed to their practice as is evidenced by recent recognition by Business First for the 2013-2014 school year.

Over the past two years, Greene was ranked 4th of 40 Binghamton area schools. This year Greene was ranked as the 3rd highest performing school in our region. Additionally, for the second year in a row Greene was ranked as one of the top (#3) overachieving schools of 429 schools in upstate NY! This recognition is a reflection on the program we provide our children and more importantly the quality of instruction they receive.

We have much to be proud of here in Greene. The faculty, staff, administration and Board of Education are committed to our mission to "inspire students to learn the skills and behaviors necessary to become productive citizens." We are deeply committed to providing quality programming as well as safe and quality facilities which will enhance programming for our students and community. We continue to strive to provide effective communication with all members of our community that will maximize our ability to meet our responsibilities. Last but not least we are dedicated to our responsibility to ensuring the District's long-term fiscal stability and health which allows us to meet our responsibilities to our children. We are very proud of our successes and accomplishments but we continue to strive to improve and do better each and every day.

Respectfully,
Jonathan R. Retz,
Superintendent of Schools

Kindergarten Registration

Greene Central School Kindergarten Registration will be held February 9-12, 2015 in the Primary School. If your child will be five years old on or before December 1, 2015, and you do not receive a registration packet in the mail, please call Dedra Ingraham at the Primary School office at 656-5174, ext.1. Packets should be received around January 28th.

GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL
Greene, New York 13778

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Student Artwork Featured in UHS Holiday Exhibit



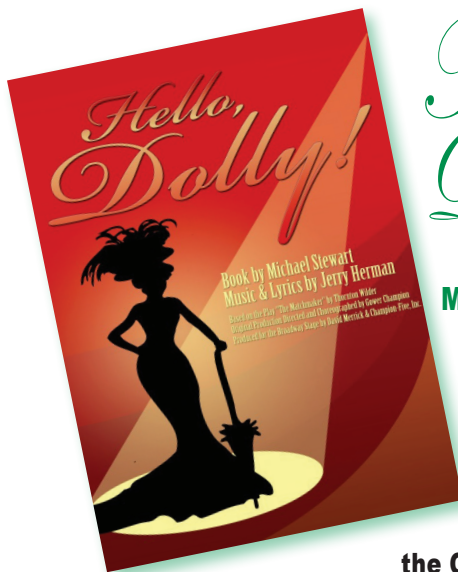
Artwork by our talented Primary School students was included in the United Health Services Hospitals Children's Holiday Art Exhibit at Wilson Hospital, Johnson City. The exhibit, which ran from December 11-January 3, highlighted the talents of hundreds of children from many local school districts. A festive reception was held December 14, to which the children and their families were invited.

Our students who had work displayed included: Riley Barker, Macie Browning, Audra Doll, Kegan Evans, Nick Figueroa, Melana Gregware, Kenley Jenks, Arie King, Logan Roth, Calvin Wheelock, Caedyne Wood, and Lincoln Youngs. They were recognized at the Primary Building's Morning Program.

Congratulations are extended to these student artists!

—Ms. Dajnowski

GCS Footlights Presents



*Hello,
Dolly!*

**MARCH 13 & 14,
7:00 PM**

**MARCH 15,
3:00 PM**

**Mark your
calendars and
stay tuned to**

**the GCS website for
ticket information in February!**

<http://www.greenecsd.org/footlightsdramaproduction.aspx>

Music News

Congratulations to 13 high school students who were selected to participate in the Zone 8 NYSSMA Area All-State Festival November 21st and 22nd at SUNY Oneonta. The following students took part in an extensive two day rehearsal schedule that culminated in a two hour concert featuring Concert Band, Mixed Chorus, Women's Chorus and a String Orchestra.

**MEMBERS OF THE MIXED CHORUS
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE**

Liam Allport, Trevor DeJager, Nate Halsteter, Kileen McLeary, Allison Parker, Leanna Whitman (Women's Chorus) Matthew Bonney, Taylor Savage, Megan Brown (Women's Chorus) Zachariah Westover Julia Arboit, Lily Hermanovitch, Shannon Clark (Concert Band)



*NYSSMA Zone 8 Area All-State Participants 2015
missing from photo: Shannon Clark, Julia Arboit & Lily Hermanovitch

October Student Citizens

3RD GRADE



*Gavin Tefft—Mrs. Browning
Trevor Ketcham—Mrs. Russ
Jonah Browning—Mrs. Whittaker
Emylie Wilson—Mrs. McCall*

4TH GRADE



*Isabella Tierno—Ms. Hunter
Savanna Straniero—Mr. Komperda
Ashlyn Button—Mrs. McDermott
Emma Rice—Ms. Sanderson
Liam Flanagan—Mrs. McCall*

5TH GRADE



*Madelynn Cummings—Mrs. Giannetto
Carsyn Puglisi—Mrs. Novitsky
Pipher Reid—Mr. Tallman*

Intermediate School Special Area Students of the Month for October



*Art—Camric Williams, Aiden Pickard, Mya Leach
Music—Marcus Coulter-Shafer, Robert German,
Mackenzie Bailey*

*Computer—Tatianna Wells, Maeric Barrows,
Sean O'Donnell*

*Reading & Math—Adam Merwin, Jade Gilmore
Chorus—Davin Miller*

Library—Emma Braman

Band—Israel Sepulveda-Kiefer

Girls' PE—Rachel Repp, Peydon Fowler, Samantha Darling

Boys' PE—Ryan Milk, Corey Swift, Michael Bergholtz

Intermediate School Special Area Students of the Month for November



*Art—Isabella Pezzino, Benjamin Taft, Abbigail Vasconi
Music—Paris Stiglich, Chanze Christopher, Dallas Roe*

Computer—Molly Cornell, Paige Roe, Skyler Wrench

Reading & Math—Logan Cloyd and Chyanne Ives

Chorus—TJ Wiggins

Library—Harry Grannis

Band—Sarah Sexton

Girls' PE—Dayani Lora, Sarah Markham, Abbigail Vasconi

Boys' PE—Jonah Browning, Damien Zukowski, Tyler Brown

From the Primary School

SUCESSICAL VISITS MORNING PROGRAM



Pictured from left to right—Kylie Peck, Scotia Craver, Jessica Unkle, Shannon Clark (Mayzie), Gabby Nowalk, McKenzie Drew, Lindsay Branigan (Bird Girls) Mallory Fowler (Gertrude), Derick Heisler (Horton), Trent DeHaan (Jojo), and Renee Clark (The Cat in the Hat)

The students in the Greene Primary School were very excited to have a special performance introducing the Footlights production of Suessical. The students in Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd Grade were able to watch a special song performed by the Middle School Students, led by Amanda Boel. It was an amazing performance, introducing the musical, and showing the Primary students what they can, someday, be a part of!

Keep up the great work Mrs. Boel and Footlights!



Pictured from left to right: Makenzie Soto, Ryan Beismer, Naomi Burghardt, Madison Wise, Caitlyn Dunlap, Lily Pecka, Kendra Ekstrom

HONORING OUR VETERANS



Mrs. Brown and Mr. Bob Mertz

Monday November 10th, we honored our Veterans at Morning Program. The Veterans were seated at the front of the gym and joined in the Pledge of Allegiance with us. They each spoke, sharing where and when they had served in the Military. Mr. Bob Mertz, Mrs. Victoria Wiseman and Mrs. Jenn Fowler gave more in-depth accounts of their service. Afterwards, the entire student body sang God Bless the USA. Following the song, a handful of first graders read about Veterans and handed out the Veterans cards made by students.

On behalf of the Primary School, I want to thank all the Veterans, community members, and family members that came that day to join in our celebration. Most importantly, Thank You Veterans for your service!

Greene Primary School welcomes you to our Parent Information Night

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M.

Parents of our incoming Kindergarteners will have the opportunity to learn about our program and to meet the Kindergarten staff that will be working with their children.

Screening appointments will also be scheduled at this time. If you have not registered your kindergartener please contact the Primary School Office at 656-5174.

In order to complete the registration process, we must have a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization records. The office will be open on this night should you need to submit any additional records.

Children Survey

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.

If you are not sure if we have your child's information, please call the Primary School at 656-5174, ext. 1 between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

OLWEUS



November 24, 2014 marked the day when Primary and Intermediate students kicked off their Anti-Bullying campaign. As part of this campaign, the students were entertained by singer/songwriter Jared Campbell. During his performance Jared spoke of students taking responsibility

for their actions, both physical and verbal. He sang anti-bullying songs as well as interacted with the students about making good choices. One of Jared Campbell's well known songs, "I want to be a Super Hero" was the basis around his discussion. He expressed how each student was able to be their own super hero, and that there are many super heroes around our school and community.

All students left his performance feeling good about themselves and with the feeling that they could make a difference in their school and community by making good choices and standing up to bullying.

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.

Binghamton High School Visits Greene Primary



As we continue on our Arts In Education journey, we have been learning about the African American traditions of Kwanzaa. The traditions include many varieties of foods, colorful decorations, songs and dances. To celebrate and help the students understand we invited the Step Dance Team, Dasama, from Binghamton High School to come and show us their step routine. It included step dancing (which is a lot like stomping) with a mixture of hip-hop movements. The students then were invited to join in and they learned the basics of their first routine.

SYLVIA FLETCHER RETURNS

Ventriloquist Sylvia Fletcher returned to Greene Primary School for another visit. This year she took us on an imaginary trip using books in her performance named "Get Lost in a Book." The students had a great time getting lost in the characters and learning that reading can be fun and exciting! Teachers Shannon Livingston and Sue Carlin participated in a skit with Sylvia, further demonstrating the art of ventriloquism.



Pictured left to right: Shannon Livingston, Sylvia Fletcher, Sue Carlin

Greene Central School Communications

To help parents and community members know the best way to communicate with the school, we have created a chain of command guideline that should be a helpful resource for you. By contacting the following people in the order listed, your questions and concerns can be dealt with more efficiently

For Questions About	1 st Contact	2 nd Contact	3 rd Contact	4 th Contact
Academics	Teacher	Guidance Counselor (MS/HS only)	Building Administrator	Superintendent
Athletics	Coach	Athletic Coordinator	Athletic Director	Superintendent
Behavior	Teacher	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
BOE Policies	District Clerk	Superintendent		
Budget	District Treasurer	Superintendent		
Building & Grounds Use	Main Office	Supt. Building & Grounds	Superintendent	
Cafeteria	Cafeteria Manager	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Co-Curricular	Advisor	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Curriculum	Teacher	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Facilities	Buildings & Grounds	Superintendent		
Health Office	Nurse	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Scheduling	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Building Administrator	Superintendent
Special Education	Teacher	Building Administrator	Director of Special Ed.	Superintendent
Transportation				
a. Behavior	Bus Driver	Supervisor	Building Administrator	Superintendent
b. Stops, runs, etc.	Supervisor	Superintendent		

Telephone Numbers

Please dial the phone number of the building you are trying to reach and then follow the automated prompts to get to a specific individual.

District Office - 656-4161
 MS/HS Campus – 656-4161
 Primary School – 656-5174
 Intermediate School – 656-9891
 Transportation – 656-8931