



# Greene Central School

# NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIV, Number 3

March/April 2014

## Superintendent's Message

As I sit here drafting this article, I gaze out at blue skies, increasingly smaller patches of snow and more and more patches of brown, soon to be green lawn. While I know it is still quite brisk outside and that winter hasn't completely left, I must hold out hope. Spring sports are underway, and we are gearing up for the start of spring activities including our Sr. High Footlights production of *Annie*. This is a wonderful time of year, and one that I hope encourages and invigorates you.

A lot of great things are going on here at school. Clubs and activities are in full swing. Congratulations to our Robotics Club led by Mr. Leet, who won first place at a recent BCC competition. **Christian Dietrich** brought home the 182# Division II State title culminating an exceptional season. Congratulations to all our winter athletic programs for your success and for the character you displayed on and off the courts or mats. I had the privilege of participating in the Jr. National Honor Society induction recently and want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of this group of students as well as all our children who apply themselves diligently to their school work. It is truly a privilege to be able to be a part of such an amazing school and community.

On the instructional side, our teachers continue to evolve and adapt to changes initiated out of both Albany and Washington. Departments across the district continue to wrestle with changes associated with the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). Despite some of the critical rhetoric out there teachers and administrators are seeing many positives and our children are rising to the challenge. It is extremely encouraging to hear teachers boast over what their children are doing and how they are growing in so many new ways. As a district we are looking critically at our curricula to ensure alignment with the new CCLS but also with an renewed commitment to providing our children with a rigorous academic program that truly prepares them for college and/or their careers.

Behind the scenes, we are working through another difficult budget development process. For the fourth year in a

row, Greene and other schools across New York State have been assessed a Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) or a reduction in state aid. Under the Governor's proposal, the GEA amounts to a loss of \$548,804 in total aid for the coming school year. Over the past four years, this has amounted to a reduction of over \$5.6 million in basic school aid. These reductions in aid have had a considerable impact on how Greene CSD and schools across NY conduct our business which is serving our children. We have responded to this challenge by cutting spending, reducing staff by close to 20% and utilizing reserves to fund basic costs. As I have stated so many times however, this cannot be sustained.

I continue to maintain dialogue with our state representatives and push for their support to end the Gap Elimination Adjustment, to re-allocate funding needed to our schools and to look at easing mandates and other regulations that result in considerable costs to local schools. NYS schools have never experienced funding challenges such as we are currently facing. I am confident in saying that Greene CSD has responded to the challenges this presents in a responsible and fiscally prudent manner. The administration and our Board of Education continue to address the reductions in funding in a manner that maintains programming for our children, prudently uses reserves and positions Greene for what we believe will be years of continued fiscal strain.

Winston Churchill once said; "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." Our students, administration, faculty and staff continue to accomplish great things. Despite the fiscal challenges, the changes impacting the instructional playing field and all the other issues confronting us today, with your support and encouragement, we will continue to thrive and do great things on behalf of our children.

Respectfully,  
*Jonathan R. Retz*  
Superintendent of Schools

**[WWW.GREENECSD.ORG](http://WWW.GREENECSD.ORG)**

Please go to our webpage [www:greenecsd.org](http://www.greenecsd.org) to find great information about our schools, the latest menu, school closing information, the community pool schedule, and MUCH more!

# Intermediate School Special Area Students of the Month

## JANUARY



**Art** *Bradley Genter, Carsyn Puglisi, Alex Brown*

**Music** *Ashlyn Button, Cassandra Badger, Alex Brown*

**Computer** *Sydney Rideout, Jakob Cook, Jenna LaPorte*

**Reading & Math** *Noah Allen, Alyssa Carlin*

**Chorus** *Madelynn Cummings*

**Library** *Sammy Cowan*

**Band** *Olivia Kennedy*

**Girls' PE** *Lydia Duman, Carsyn Puglisi, Paige Collins*

**Boys' PE** *Liam Flanagan, Dallas Roe, Josh Trep*

## FEBRUARY



**Art** *Chanze Christopher, Trenton Rapp, Quintin Pezzino*

**Music** *Lydia Duman, Dalton Krupp, Kathleen Becker*

**Computer** *Clayton Leonard, Aleana Loveless, Mackenzie Ingraham*

**Reading & Math** *Ja`den Streeter, Alicia Garcia*

**Chorus** *Mya Leach*

**Library** *Bailey Smith*

**Band** *Trenton Rapp*

**Girls' PE** *Madison Pavlovich, Samantha Darling, Angel Sloat*

**Boys' PE** *Michael Swift, Abram Kluge, Calob Davenport*

100

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 100 Cans For the 100<sup>th</sup> Day

On Wednesday, February 26, the Kindergarten classes at the Greene Primary School celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school by collecting 100 non-perishable food items. The food was delivered to the local Food Pantry where it was received with many thanks. Thank you to all who helped make this successful.



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## January Student Citizens of the Month

### 3RD GRADE



Savanna Straniero—Mrs. Whittaker  
Lucas Torres—Mrs. Russ  
Ashlyn Button—Mrs. Erickson  
Catherine Figueroa—Mrs. Erickson  
Rowan Barrows—Mrs. Browning

### 4TH GRADE



Trenton Rapp—Ms. Sanderson  
Matt Wells—Mr. Komperda  
Israel Sepulveda-Kiefer—Ms. Hunter

### 5TH GRADE



Nate Sloat—Mr. Evans  
Paige Collins—Mr. Tallman  
Wyatt Ingraham—Mrs. Novitsky  
Austin Quillan—Mrs. McDermott  
Tristan Austin—Mrs. Giannetto

## February Student Citizens of the Month

### 3RD GRADE



Cora- Mae Bolster—Mrs. Browning  
Emma Rice—Mrs. Erickson  
Sarah Markham—Mrs. Russ  
Maeric Barrows—Mrs. Whittaker

### 4TH GRADE



Skyler Nowalk—Ms. Sanderson  
Absent: Skyler Wrench—Mr. Komperda  
Megan Mills—Ms. Hunter  
Garrett Whitney—Mr. Evans

### 5TH GRADE



Sophia Hanselman—Mrs. Giannetto  
Hunter Wells—Mrs. McDermott  
Quintin Pezzino—Mrs. Novitsky  
Luke DeJager—Mr. Tallman

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## Animal Adventure



*Peydon Fowler,  
Madison Pavlovich  
and Cassie Butler*

On March 11, Jordan Patch's Animal Adventure visited the Intermediate school as part of our art lesson on Oaxacan wood carving/sculpture unit for the third graders.

Mr. Patch brought a variety of reptiles for us to see as the lesson was based around lizards. He also brought a tarantula, hedgehog and a bay kangaroo.

Mr. Patch engaged the students with a variety of the animals. From creating a *human highway* with the students hands for the tarantula to walk over, to the *snake tie* and having students touch many of the different reptiles to feel the differences in textures, all the students were able to pet the baby kangaroo.

Overall it was a great experience for the students and faculty.

Thanks to all the faculty and Mr. Ayres for making this day happen.



*Clayton Leonard, Bryson  
Salisbury, Coery Shafer  
and Benjamin Kehl*

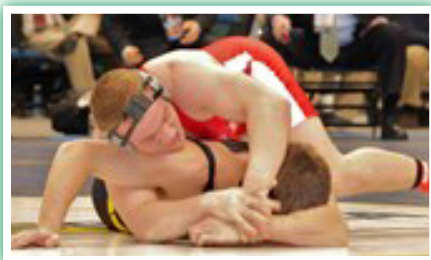


*Madison Pavlovich, Peydon Fowler and Ashlyn Button*



*Madison Pavlovich*

## Congratulations to Our NYS Champion

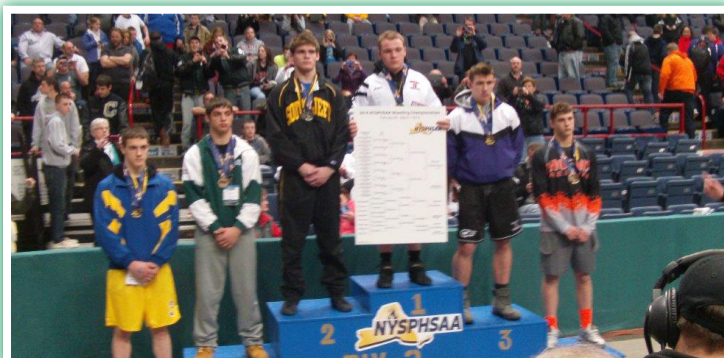


Congratulations to **Christian Dietrich** on becoming the 2014 New York State Champion at 182 lbs. Christian won the NYS Division II Wrestling title in Albany on March 1. He is also

currently ranked 14th in the nation. In the state tournament, Christian defeated Zach Holochak, of Section 8's Locust Valley by fall in 44 seconds in the preliminary round. In the Quarterfinals, he defeated Marquis Buchannon 11-0. In the semifinal match Christian defeated Chris Pinchney from Port Byron by fall in 1:27 min. Christian earned the state title by defeating Dan Smith of Section 3's South Jefferson 3-0. This was only Dan Smith's third loss on the season, and all of them were at the hands of Christian. Christian did not surrender a single point in this year's state tournament.

Christian put together an extremely impressive year. Here are some of the great statistics and honors Christian amassed this year on his way to the state title. Christian had a record of 44-0 this year. He did not surrender a single take down, and only gave up four points all season. On his way to 44 victories, Christian won 34 matches by fall, six by technical fall, one by major decision, and three by decision. He also received the *Outstanding Wrestler* award in three different tournaments this year. Below are Christian's results in this year's tournaments.

- Anderson Tournament located in Cicero North Syracuse: 1st place and voted the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler
  - Athens Tournament: 1st place, voted the Outstanding Wrestler—won all 5 matches by fall
  - Windsor Tournament: 1st place, voted Outstanding Wrestler—5-0 with 4 falls
  - Central Square Duals, 5- 0 with 5 falls
  - Eastern States Tournament: 1st place, 7- 0 with 4 falls and 3 decisions
  - Section IV Class C tournament: Champion, 4-0 with 3 falls and 1 major decision
  - Section IV tournament: Champion, 5-0 with 5 falls
- Congratulations on an outstanding season!



*Greene Trojan Robotics*

## Robotic Competition



*Garret Hebbard receiving 1st place trophy for the autonomous event at the 2014 BCC Robotic Competition.*

The Greene Trobots took 1st place in the autonomous robot challenge. There were 12 teams total in the event. **Garrett Hebbard's** hard work paid off with a win for Greene. Broome Community College (BCC) held a Robotic Challenge Tuesday, March 11 at BCC's Engineering Atrium. This year there were 65 students in attendance from 12 surrounding area schools. The challenge holds two events a remote

control head to head challenge and a task oriented autonomous event. There were 16 robots in the Head-to-Head challenge. Greene entered three robots and placed in the middle of the pack. Greene entered one robot in the autonomous event and took 1st place.

The team's coach is Ethan Leet, physics teacher. This year's team members were: **Wyatt Silvernail, Orion Bryan, Mike Sandway, Zach Westover, Christian O'Neil, Cohen Root and Garret Hebbard.** All members worked as a team to create four outstanding robots.

*—Ethan Leet, Physics Teacher*



*The 2013-2014 Greene Robotics Club, from left: Garrett Hebbard, Orion Bryan, Mike Sandway, Zach Westover, Cohen Root and Christian O'Neil.*



# 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.

## Scholarship Guide

### MASTER THE BASICS

Take advantage of the many scholarships offered through the High School Guidance Office. We offer MANY local, community, private and national scholarships! At least once a month the Guidance Office will compile a list of the current available scholarships.

### HOW TO PREPARE

Get organized and keep the scholarships you are working on separate from those you have not started. Use a calendar to keep track of dates and deadlines. Create a folder for each scholarship application and materials. **KEEP TRACK OF THE DATES POSTED BY GUIDANCE!** Make sure you allow plenty of time for the scholarships that need letters of recommendation, essays and transcripts.

### SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

**Remember to check spelling and grammar.**

Proofread your materials and have a counselor, teacher, parent, or friend read over your application and essay. They can provide feedback and catch mistakes.

#### The Scholarship Essay:

Develop a theme that fits the scholarship. Learn about the providers' mission and goals. Include elements in your essay to complement the sponsor's expectations. For example, if the provider is interested in community outreach, highlight ways you impact your community within your essay.

#### A Few Topic Ideas:

- Personal achievements. **Tip:** judges want to see how your achievements impact you personally.
- Academic plans and possible major. **Tip:** don't focus on the classes you hope to take in college. Focus on your degree and future goals and why they are important to you.
- Social issues and current events.