



# Greene Central School

# NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXV, Number 4

March/April 2015

## Superintendent's Message

March is upon us, Spring is hopefully right around the corner and I look forward to all that accompanies this time of year. I want to publicly congratulate Mrs. Boel and those who's hard work and dedication to our Footlights Program resulted in another exceptional production. We have amazingly talented students supported by equally talented and dedicated staff that ensures great things in the classroom and across our extra-curricular and sports arenas.

Work on our Capital Project is moving forward with Phase I already approved by Albany and Phase II work now under review. We are now approaching the bidding phase for this summer's work with bid opening scheduled for April 10. Thank you for your support which will allow us to maintain the quality of our facilities and infrastructure and best serve our children.

The 2015/2016 budget development process is in full swing. While we anticipated an improvement in school funding in light of a multi-billion dollar surplus at the state level, we were greatly disappointed when the Governor outlined his budget proposal during his January State of the State address. An offer of 1.1 Billion in additional aid to schools was presented, then tied to an aggressive reform agenda. All avenues to seeing this additional funding is out of our hands and in those of our state legislators.

Another critical issue that schools face is that the Governor has refused to provide schools with state aid runs which are critical for the development of reasonable and responsible budgets. For Greene, who relies on state funding for approximately 70% of our revenue, developing a budget without solid numbers is difficult at best. Groups associated with public education across our state have rallied together to implore the Governor to live up to his pledge to be our children's chief advocate and ensure that the children of New York State receive their constitutional right to a quality education.

The posturing and gamesmanship coming out of our Governor's office is disheartening and poses yet another hurdle to schools committed to raising the bar and improving our students' readiness for college and career. I would like to encourage you to reach out to our Governor and Legislative leaders and express your concern and frustration and demand that they cease using our children as bargaining chips to further their political agendas.

Our Business Manager and I have been working with the Board of Education and specifically the members of our budget committee on the development of our 2015-2016 budget. We have been advised to develop our initial budgets off last year's state aid numbers. Here in Greene we have developed alternative plans in the event we see some resolution or decision out of Albany. The past 5 years has seen significant reductions in our budget resulting in the loss of over 50 positions. We have looked carefully at our needs and remain hopeful that we may begin to reinstate some of these positions. How this will play out is very difficult to determine given the current difficulty in anticipating revenue.

More than ever, I want to encourage you to join us for our budget presentation on May 12. Also on our ballot this year will be the election of two (2) Board of Education seats. For those interested in running, petitions may be picked up at the High School Office from our Board Clerk. These petitions need to be submitted by April 21.

Thank you again for your on-going support of our programs and most importantly our students. While these continue to be challenging times, our goal has always been to provide our children with the best educational program possible. Greene Central School, its faculty and staff have a tremendous responsibility to the children whom we serve. We take this responsibility seriously but at the same time we view this as a wonderful opportunity to profoundly impact the lives of not only these children but their families and many others for years to come.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts regarding our school district. I wish you the best as we move forward.

In Education,  
*Jonathan R. Retz*  
Superintendent of Schools

**BOARD OF EDUCATION PETITIONS  
DUE APRIL 20, 2015**

**BUDGET HEARING FOR PUBLIC  
MONDAY, MAY 11—6:30 PM—AUDITORIUM**

**BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION  
TUESDAY, MAY 19—11:00 AM—8:00 PM  
AUDITORIUM LOBBY**

## Public Comment Decorum

March 23, 2015

A letter from the Greene Board of Education:

The Greene Board of Education is committed to and takes very seriously, our responsibility to the children of this community. To meet our responsibilities, the Board of Education meets formally, twice a month. Members also serve on committees that meet at times in addition to our regular meetings.

The Board of Education is made up of seven unsalaried citizens elected to serve a three-year term. The board's powers and duties are derived from the New York State Constitution, the laws of New York State, and the rulings of the New York State Commissioner of Education.

Law and statutory regulation require that Board of Education Meetings be open to the public. While there is no statutory or regulatory requirement that school boards allow members of the public to speak, we have chosen to provide a set period of time for public comment. Schools have the discretion to establish rules governing this Public Comment component. In an effort to ensure productive Board of Education meetings, we feel it is necessary to review meeting protocols, procedures and etiquette.

### Public Comment Protocol:

- Speakers should state their name and identify the topic they are addressing to the Board.
- Speakers will be limited to no more than 5 minutes for a total of 30 minutes for Public Comment.
- This component is not intended to be an interactive exchange nor a question and answer session.
- The Board of Education will take comments received and will discuss with or forward this feedback to the Superintendent.

The Board of Education wishes to state publicly, in the interest of establishing a productive and responsive culture, it is our expectation that questions, concerns and issues in need of attention be brought to the appropriate District Official and the Superintendent before being brought to the Board of Education.

As stated in Board of Education Policy #1560; **“Whenever individuals or groups wish to bring a matter to the attention of the Board, such request shall be addressed to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall present such matter to the Board.”** Once this process has been attempted, if you do not feel you have been provided with due consideration, bringing your issue or consideration to the attention of the Board of Education is appropriate and will be followed through by the Board.

We are deeply committed to Greene CSD and the children whom we serve. We want Greene CSD to be the premier school district in the Southern Tier and have high expectations of ourselves, our faculty, staff and administrative team. We are confident that working together and following these protocols and etiquette we can and will be a leader that is highly regarded by members of our community and those around our region.

Respectfully,  
The Greene CSD Board of Education

## 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	1st Contact	2nd Contact	3rd Contact	4th 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 Mgr.	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Co-Curricular	Advisor	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Facilities	Buildings & Grounds	Superintendent		
Health Office	Nurse	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Scheduling	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Building Administrator	Superintendent
Special Educ.	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



Do you know  
who I am?

Look on last page of  
newsletter for answer.

## Students of the First Semester – February 2015

Greene Central High School proudly announces the students who were chosen by the High School faculty and staff as Students of the Semester for the first semester of the 2014-2015 school year.



### 9TH GRADE

**Grace Retz**, daughter of Sally and Jonathan Retz,  
Smithville Flats

**Cody Muckey**, son of Danita and William Muckey,  
Greene

### 10TH GRADE

**Nicole Flohr**, daughter of Lori and Kevin Flohr,  
Chenango Forks

**Zachary Orzell**, son of Jeannie and Michael Orzell,  
Chenango Forks

### 11TH GRADE

**Jessica Kehoe**, daughter of Elizabeth Hull, Binghamton  
and Michael Kehoe, Chenango Forks

**Nathan Halsteter**, son of Donna Schalk, Greene and  
Ted Halsteter, Oxford

### 12TH GRADE

**Abbey Chimileski**, daughter of Traci and Jeffrey  
Chimileski, Greene

**Michael Anderson**, son of Christine and Mitchell  
Anderson, Greene

## Learning STEM at Raymond® Testing Lab

The TC3 College Physics students from the Greene Central High School worked in Raymond® Test Lab right after Christmas break. The focus of the STEM event was to give students a chance to interact with real world applications of physics. The students saw firsthand how engineers use physics to design, build, and manufacture lift trucks. Raymond® engineers setup testing scenarios that are performed on the lift trucks during the engineering process. The students got to see a peak and interact with part of the engineering process. Students got a chance to take measurements and perform calculations similar to those actually performed by engineers at Raymond®. Thank you to the Raymond® team for helping to make GCS students ready for STEM related careers.

—Ethan Leet, Physics Teacher



*TC3 College Physics students taking  
measurements in Raymond® Test Lab*



*TC3 College Physics working with  
Raymond® engineers in the test lab*

## Students Attend Future Physicians Event



**Kileen Marie-Price McLeary** and **Kyra Yanusas** attended the Future Physicians and Medical Leaders Conference in Washington DC on November 14-16, 2014. Kileen, a Junior, and Kyra, a Senior, were nominated by their teacher Jessica Schindler and Dr. Connie Mariano, the Medical Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to

represent New York based on their academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

The Future Physicians and Medical Leaders Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into the medical research fields. The purpose of this event was to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

During the three-day Congress, Kileen and Kyra joined students from across the country and heard Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science winners talk about leading medical research; were given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in the medical school; witnessed stories told by patients who are living medical miracles; were inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learned about cutting-edge advances and the future in medical technology.

Kileen plans to go into Naturopathic Medicine and will visit colleges this summer. Kyra plans on going into Pediatrics and will attend St. Bonaventure in the Fall.

—Robin Price



## Irish Dancers at Morning Program



*Billie Leet*



*Georgia Novitsky*

Greene Primary School had a special performance at Morning Program on March 16. **Billie Leet**, a 1st Grader at Greene Primary, and **Georgia Novitsky**, a 5th Grader at Chenango Forks (daughter of Mrs. Barb Novitsky) showed the students in Pre-K through Grade 2 what Irish Dancing was all about. Mrs. Novitsky gave an introduction to the students, explaining some of the Irish culture and aspects of the dance style. The girls danced separately and then as a duo.

It was a wonderful performance, connecting our Arts in Education theme, learning dance through different cultures, to the St. Patrick's Day Holiday.



*Greene Primary Staff pictured above*

## Dr. Seuss's Birthday Celebration

The celebration began at Morning Program on March 2 with a visit by Cat in the Hat (Mrs. Merwarth) and 30 Things (Greene Primary Staff). The students watched a video about the Cat in the Hat and listened to several famous quotes from Dr. Seuss books.

This staff kick-off began the 111th birthday celebration of Dr. Seuss and the 18th year of Read Across America Day, sponsored by the National Education Association. Students ate green eggs and ham for breakfast and enjoyed Dr. Seuss birthday cake with their lunch.

—Mrs. Eggleston and Mrs. Merwarth

## Student Citizens of the Month for February

### 3RD GRADE



*Anthony Sergi—Mrs. Browning  
Matthew Braman—Mrs. Russ  
Colin Colgan—Mrs. Whittaker  
Amber Simpson—Mrs. McCall*

### 4TH GRADE



*Anthony Thatcher—Ms. Hunter  
Natalie Scofield—Mr. Komperda  
Annie Funnell—Mrs. McDermott  
Joclyn Lilley—Ms. Sanderson*

### 5TH GRADE



*Hogan Ludolph—Mrs. Giannetto  
Olivia Ketzak—Mrs. Novitsky  
Absent: Paige Estabrook—Mr. Tallman*

## Intermediate School Special Area Students of the Month for February



Art—Willow Rose, Isabella Tierno, Anjouliena Rose  
Music—Harlee Montgomery, Cassie Butler, Sean O'Donnell  
Computer—Haggen Truesdail, Aiden Pickard, Isabell Figueroa  
Math—Willow Rose  
Reading—Hayden Lowe, Lillian Kemp  
Chorus—Maeric Barrows  
Library—Garrett Whitney  
Band—Matthew Wells  
Girls' PE—Billie Kinney, Molly Hubbard, Madelynn Cummings  
Boys' PE—Cole LaPorte, Jordan Carhart, David Hughes

### 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.

## 5th Annual 100 Cans for the 100th Day



On Thursday February 26 the Kindergarten classes at the Greene Primary School celebrated the 100th 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. A *Thank You* to all who helped make this successful.



### ANSWER:

This character is the face associated with Greene's Community Scholarship Fund's Golf Ball Drop which has become an annual event in this organization's fund raising campaign.

The Greene Community Scholarship Fund, formerly Dollars for Scholars, is dedicated to helping Greene students achieve their educational goals by raising scholarship funds and distributing scholarships each year.

Since its inception in 2000, our organization has distributed 413 awards for a total of \$274,900. For the 2013/2014 school year, the Greene Community Scholarship Fund provided 32 awards totaling \$28,000.

The Greene Community Scholarship Fund would like to thank the many people who have supported or pledged to support our organization this year in our annual phone-a-thon. If you would like to learn more or support us in any way please visit our website at [gcds@stny.rr.com](mailto:gcds@stny.rr.com) or like us on our Facebook page

