



Greene Central School

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIII, Number 3

January/February 2013

Superintendent's Message

Happy 2013! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and holiday break and is rested and excited about the start of the new year. Winter sports seasons are in full swing, Footlights is gearing up for this year's HS drama production and the end of our first semester is quickly approaching.

Instructionally, we continue to respond and adapt to the numerous changes facing us. Our students are seeing different levels of implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards depending on N.Y. State's phase in schedule. By the 2013-2014 school year, all grade levels and content areas should be aligned to these new standards adopted by 45 other states across our nation. Again, this change and the myriad of others facing us are part of the Regents Reform Agenda aimed at improving N.Y. State's educational programming and ensuring that our graduates are college and career ready.

The development of the 2013-2014 budget has begun. As I indicated in our last newsletter, we are once again facing considerable fiscal challenges. Reductions in state aid, significant cost increases in many areas, as well as increased expectations from the state coupled with a property tax cap combine to pose tremendous challenges this budget year. The Board of Education and our administrative team are deeply committed to maintaining the quality educational programming, extracurricular activities and community outreach that our school is known for. While doing this, we are equally committed to balancing the interests of all stakeholders; students, staff, residents/taxpayers and doing so in a fiscally responsible manner. With all the fiscal challenges facing N.Y. State and subsequently Greene CSD, our ability to maintain current levels of programming is being severely compromised. This is a difficult message to have to share but it is the reality in which we now find ourselves. I will continue to use the school newsletter, Superintendent's Blog and very likely a Town Hall Meeting later this winter or early spring to provide further information regarding the budget development process.

I will conclude with a positive note. I had the privilege of participating in the Junior National Honor Society Induction this past Monday. As I sat on stage observing and listening

to these talented and extremely capable young Middle School students I was reminded why I do what I do. Despite all that is wrong in our world and our society today, we are, in reality, surrounded by even more that is good. As I wrestle with the fiscal and instructional challenges and demands imposed on schools today, I need to pause, sit back and observe our dedicated faculty and staff and our children and remind myself what is really important. We truly do have much to be thankful for. Thank you all for the part you play in making Greene such a wonderful place to live and work. I wish everyone a positive and successful 2013.

— *Mr. Retz*, Superintendent

Dear Families, Community Members and
Local Businesses

During this time of Thanksgiving, I would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank the entire community of Greene, N.Y. for the recent support and assistance with our 13th Annual Treasures and Treats Arts and Crafts Fair. We have held this fair for the past 13 years to raise funds to help support our Arts In Education Programs for students in Kindergarten through grade 12.

We do receive some funding through our local school district and various grants. However, this fund-raising effort is extremely important for us to maintain our strong program, especially in these times of budget issues. These funds provide our students with the opportunity to experience rich and varied art forms.

This craft fair is truly a community effort! This year we raised over \$4,100.00.

Our Arts and Crafts Fair would not be so successful without the dedication and support of our staff (K-12), parents, Board of Education, administrators, students, community members and businesses. Hats off to all of you who donated goods or time, and to those of you who attended this magnificent event.

Very truly yours,

Mary Lake

(On behalf of the Greene Arts in Education Program)

New Phone System

Many of you may have noticed that the district has a new phone system. While most of the changes are not noticeable, one change may have an impact on parents. Parents calling teachers will not be able to reach the classroom during instructional hours.

In an effort to minimize disruptions to students, classroom phones are not able to receive outside calls during the school day. Therefore, teachers are not able to take outside phone calls during normal working hours. Outside calls during normal working hours may be directed to the teachers' voice mail box or to the main office allowing the caller to leave a message. This process is defined by the company that installed the phone system.

What an outside caller may expect when calling a Greene Central School teacher:

1. When calling the main Greene Central School phone number 656-4161, caller will be connected to the Auto-Attendant message. Please listen to the prompts. During this message the caller can be directed to dial the teacher's extension.
2. If it is during normal working hours, dialing the teacher's extension will result in an *extension not valid* message. We hoped to change this message to something that makes more sense to the caller, but our provider, All-Mod, has indicated that this is not changeable.
3. The caller is then directed to type in the teacher's last name. This is done by using the numeric keypad on the phone.
4. The automated system will ask if the caller would like to leave a message for the specified teacher.
5. If there are multiple teachers with the same name, the caller has the choice to choose the correct teacher by entering additional information when prompted to do so.

High School Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 1 Eligibility Begins
- 18-20 Presidents' Recess
- 22 End of 25 Weeks
- 28 Progress Reports Mailed

MARCH

- 1 Eligibility Begins
- 4 Spring Sports Start
- 8-10 Footlights Production
- 15 Staff Development Day—No Classes
- 22 Sock Hop 7:00-10:00 p.m.
- 26 Music In Our Schools Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 28 End 30 Weeks
- 29 Good Friday—No School

Good News for DCMO BOCES Adult Education

The DCMO BOCES Adult and Continuing Education Department has been awarded new grant funding to assist local food stamp applicants and recipients. They will also assist Safety Net recipients designated through local Chenango, Delaware and Otsego DSS, in their efforts to gain skills and education needed to enter and retain employment in today's job market place. This grant was awarded by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

The funding for this project covers four years with a total budget of \$1,200,000. This performance measurement grant reimburses DCMO BOCES based on student success in meeting milestones of achievement. The areas of evaluation include training hours and development of a Career Plan; Educational Gains determined by NYS Education's use of TABE testing materials and guidelines for each of the reading and math levels; obtaining a credential, such as a GED®, Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), OSHA Certification and more. Finally, the students who achieve a job entry or job retention are all counted in the grant reimbursement schedule.

Students may attend our highly praised Leading EDGE program as well as a variety of our other adult training programs, GED® classes, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

"This grant is an exciting opportunity for us to fund students in many of our critical programs," said the, Coordinator of Adult Education at BOCES. "Linda Thomas put a lot of work into writing this grant and deserves a lot of credit."

We want to thank our local DSS Commissioners, Bette Osborne—Chenango DSS; William Moon—Delaware DSS and Joyce Boyd—Otsego DSS. Thanks also to Joe Maiurano—Norwich Mayor, Betty Clark—Cornell Cooperative Extension's Eat Smart NY Coordinator, Robin Beckwith—Catholic Charities Executive Director, Tim Wennrich—Norwich City Schools Education Director, Chenango County Correctional Facility, Drake Lamien MD—President/CEO UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital and Anne English—Director of HR at UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital for their support of our project. That support helped to make our proposal a successful one.

Please, contact Linda Thomas, our grant writer who will be operating this grant, at 335-1303 or via email thomasl@dcmoboces.com.



Facility Use Requests

Making the process easier, faster, and work for you!

We are in the planning stages of moving our facility use request process from an entirely manual process to a self-directed automated one called FSDirect. FSDirect is an online facility usage scheduling tool for managing educational facility usage requests, tracking event schedules, and accounting for usage expenses. The new system will allow for the following

- enable event requesters to check facility availability and submit usage requests online
- display scheduled events on an interactive calendar
- track facility usage costs & automatically generate invoices
- automatically route usage requests through the approval process
- provide timely feedback to the requester

The work has begun and we are hopeful that by late Spring we can introduce the new process, provide some instructional guidelines and move to this *new* user-friendly system.

Students Share the Meaning of Christmas

Students in Mrs. Griffin's middle school class enjoyed sharing their time and talents while helping those in need in the Greene area. Each student took a turn to stand outside our local Great American grocery store and ring the Salvation Army bell. By welcoming shoppers and wishing them a *Merry Christmas*, students drew shoppers to donate change to the worthy cause. Mr. Butler also accompanied high school students to share their time in helping the Salvation Army. National Honor Society and Interact Club students rang the bells throughout the month of December. We learned that giving at Christmas is best done with time and sharing.



Students pictured: Sylvia Gee and Adam Westergaard

Knot Just a Blanket

The Middle School Student Council made 5 blankets to donate to children who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Each blanket had a note placed inside that students signed before they wrapped the blankets up to be sent to Jen Lasher, Head of the Group *Knot Just a Blanket* in Endwell. Cheryl Sergi, retired teacher of Greene and grandmother of one of the student council members, McKenna Sergi, came to the meeting and showed the students how to make the blankets.

— Mrs. Beardsley



MS Food Drive

The Greene MS Student Council collected just over 1,300 items to donate to the Greene Rotary Baskets. The students collected non-perishable items in their home-rooms from November 26, 2012 to December 18th. They had set their goal at 1,200 items. Mr. Retz, Superintendent, dressed up as Santa, and served lunch as a reward to the Middle School Students for their hard work and dedication to the Rotary. The students loved seeing him and it was a fun way to end school before Winter Break.



— Mrs. Beardsley

Hurricane Sandy Relief Pizza

Greene MS Student Council Members raised money for Hurricane Sandy by raffling 25 cent tickets to win a Large

Cheese Pizza that was donated by Mimi's Italian Restaurant. The Spot Restaurant also donated two \$10 gift cards which were raffled off to the teachers. Mrs. Shelbe Furman and Mr. Bob Halstrom won the Spot Gift cards. The winner of the large cheese pizza was 8th grader, **Nicole Flohr** (left).

— Mrs. Beardsley



*Student Council member selling raffle tickets are:
Bottom Row (l to r) Mary Borhardt, Scotia Craver,
Alyssa Acunto, and Neah Delany. Top Row (l to r)
Alex Pezzino, Kevin Gao, Nicole Flohr, Mary Klecha,
McKenna Sergi, Isaac Trass, and Kyle Button
Sitting down; Race Bentley*

PIZZA!



December Student Citizen of the Month

3RD GRADE



Skyler Nowalk — Mrs. Erickson
Kasey DaCosta — Mrs. Russ
Mya Leach — Mrs. Whittaker

4TH GRADE



Kolby Finch — Ms. Hunter
Brandon Hilsbos — Mr. Komperda
Joshua Titus — Mrs. Novitsky
Jessica Unkel — Ms. Sanderson

5TH GRADE



Dustin Markham — Mrs. Beach
Madison Rice — Mrs. Giannetto
Jon Trepa — Mrs. McDermott
Nik Ondrusek — Mr. Evans

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
SPECIAL AREA STUDENTS OF
THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER**



ART

Olivia Kennedy
Quintin Pezzino
Lilac Shaffer
Mya Leach
Nate Parker

MUSIC

Skyler Nowalk
Aidan Kiefer
Valerie Stracquadanio

COMPUTER

Trenton Rapp
Kylee Peck
Andrew Sloat

READING & MATH

Jenna LaPorte
Dallas Roe
Josh Trepa



CHORUS

Jonathon Lee

LIBRARY

Jakob Cook

BAND

Renee Clark

GIRL'S PE

Faith Tierno
Riley Stanton
Madeleine Doll

BOY'S PE

David Hughes
Brandon Hilsbos
Conner Grant

**STUDENT ART WORK IN
UHS HOLIDAY EXHIBIT**

Art work by our talented Primary, Intermediate & Middle 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 16 through January 9, highlights the talents of hundreds of children from many local school districts. A festive reception was held December 16, to which the children & their families were invited. Our students who had work displayed include.

Primary: **Elizabeth Criddle, Parker Flanagan, Ella Gaylord, Jocelyn Lilley, Isabella Tierno, Camric Williams**

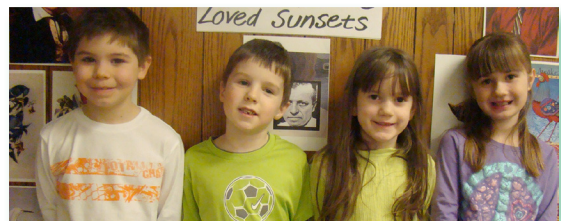
Intermediate: **Molly Flanagan, Megan Mills, Jeb Trepa, Hunter Wells**

Middle School: **Nicole Cowan, Mllory Fowler, Isaac Hadac, Spencer Klumpp, Brandon Scott, Ashlie Shaffer, Rachel Smith**

Intermediate students were recognized during their building's Student Assembly in December & Primary students were recognized during Morning Program.

Congratulations are extended to all of our student artists!
— Ms. Dajnowski and Mr. Turturro

PRIMARY STUDENTS



Camric Williams, Parker Flanagan, Elizabeth Criddle, Ella Gaylord



Isabella Tierno, Jocelyn Lilley

INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS



Jeb Trepa, Megan Mills, Molly Flanagan, Hunter Wells

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.*

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING INFORMATION

Greene Primary School welcomes you to our Parent Information Night on Thursday, March 21, 2013 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.

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS

Tuesday	April 16, 2013
Wednesday	April 17, 2013
Thursday	April 18, 2013
Tuesday	April 23, 2013
Wednesday	April 24, 2013

If you have not registered your kindergartener please contact the Primary School Office at 656-5174 ext. 1.

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.



GREENE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS OF THE FIRST SEMESTER—JANUARY 2013

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 2012-2013 school year.

9TH GRADE

- Kileen McCleary, daughter of Kathy McLeary and Robin Price—Harpursville, NY.
- Tyler VanOrden, son of Amber Swavola—Harpursville, NY.

10TH GRADE

- Kimberly Beckwith, daughter of Donna Bickford and Thomas Beckwith—Greene, NY
- Garrett Mowatt, son of Stacey and Jeffrey Mowatt—Greene, NY.

11TH GRADE

- Jennifer Urda, daughter of Anita and Frederick Urda—Greene, NY.
- Joseph Beckwith, son of Jody and Douglas Beckwith—Greene, NY.

12TH GRADE:

- Paige Taylor, daughter of Joan and Jeffrey Taylor—Greene, NY.
- Christopher Bay, son Madeline and William Bay—Chenango Forks, NY.



**Back Row: Christopher Bay, Joseph Beckwith,
Garrett Mowatt, Tyler VanOrden
Front Row: Paige Taylor, Jennifer Urda,
Kimberly Beckwith, Kileen McLeary**

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Greene Central School Kindergarten Registration will be held February 4-8, 2013 in the Primary School. If your child will be five years old on or before December 1, 2013 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 19th.

UPK REGISTRATION

Applications for Greene Central School District's Universal Prekindergarten Program will be mailed on March 8, 2013. If your child will be four years old, on or before December 1, 2013 and you do not receive an application, please call the Primary School Office at 656-5174, ext. 1. Applications must be received by March 25, 2013.