



Greene Central School NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXII, Number 2

November/December 2011

Superintendent's Message

The start of the 2011/2012 school year has been one of the more challenging ones I have experienced. In addition to the myriad of changes and pressures facing schools in New York State, Greene and many other communities of the Southern Tier were also ravaged by the September flooding. Through all this I am again amazed by this community and how we have been able to come together, weather this catastrophe and in many ways grow stronger and closer together.

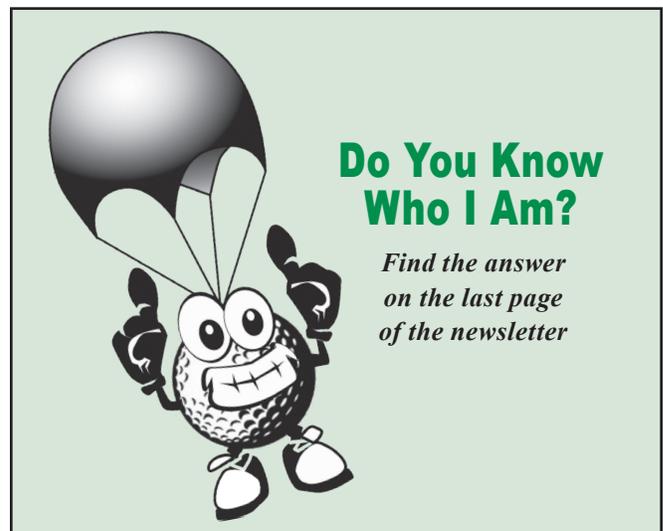
School is off to a great start. As mentioned, we are getting acclimated to a variety of changes here at school. Staffing adjustments and associated logistical issues, new regulatory requirements and greater expectations regarding student achievement present us with unique challenges. Fall clubs, activities and athletics are off and running. As of the time of this newsletter our fall sports teams are experiencing very successful seasons. We are proud of their success and even more so by the character our athletes display on and off the field. Last but not least, the majority of Capital Project work at our Primary and Intermediate school campuses is complete. Bids will be awarded shortly and work here at the MS/HS campus will begin on a limited basis with the majority to take place over the summer bringing this most recent Capital Project to completion.

As I mentioned earlier, we are confronting a number of changes imposed by NY State and as a result of Federal initiatives. Sparked by NY State's participation in the Federal Race to the Top initiative, the Regents have issued a challenge or ultimatum known as the Regents Reform Agenda. The Regents have charged us to do better in preparing our children for college and their careers. While we are confident that Greene CSD has been providing a quality educational program, we are not immune from these changing regulations and greater requirements. We have embraced this charge and will be working hard this year and in years to come to continue and improve our service to the children of Greene. Over the course of the year I will provide information on how these influences affect our children what we are doing in our classrooms.

As I had mentioned in a previous newsletter, our new school website is nearing completion. Thank you for your patience as we make this transition. It is our hope that we will be able to unveil our new website later this fall. Regarding the budget development process, every indication points toward another very difficult fiscal year. As New York State continues to work through its budget woes, we anticipate state aid funding to remain flat. Additionally, Greene's ability to raise funds for our programs will also be limited by the New York State Property Tax Cap. This fiscal reality together with our responsibility to improve our instructional practice presents considerable challenges but challenges that we will successfully navigate. Again, I will utilize this newsletter and ultimately our school website to keep you informed as we work through the budget development process.

I want to conclude by offering a special thank you to Mr. William Cline for his years of service to Greene as a Board Member and in the classroom. Mr. Cline resigned from the Board of Education at our first October meeting and has taken up a new residence outside of the District. We know Mr. Cline's heart bleeds Greene and we want to thank him for his dedicated service to our school and community.

—Jonathan R. Retz, Superintendent of Schools



Emergency Reminder

Please notify the appropriate school office if there is any change in your child's emergency contact information. In the event of student illness, injury or an early dismissal, this information may be needed.

Thank you!

Bus Stop Safety

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP IMPROVE BUS STOP SAFETY

- Please have your child ready and at the bus stop at least five minutes early.
- If your child is not riding that day, a courtesy call to the transportation department is very much appreciated! (607) 656-4161, ext. 223.
- Provide your child with a backpack to keep school items safely inside and reduce the chance of something dropping near or under the bus.
- Check your child's clothing for long drawstrings or other dangerous items that could get snagged in the bus door or in playground equipment. Long drawstrings are very dangerous and should be removed from clothing articles.
- Provide brightly colored outerwear for your children whenever possible. Brightly-colored jackets and jackets with reflective tape help drivers see your children in low-light conditions.
- Insist on safe behavior at the bus stop—children should wait in an orderly fashion, safely back from the roadway. They should NEVER move toward the bus until it has come to a full stop and the driver signals that it is safe.
- Review safe loading and unloading procedures with your child—remind your child to wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the street.
- Reinforce safe ridership—remind your child to not distract the bus driver.

We care about your child's safety!

—*Mr. Lilley*, Transportation Supervisor

Bike Race

On November 6 Cyclocross racing will return to the grounds of the Primary and Intermediate Schools. This particular Cyclocross race is the longest running race in New York State, having been run for 21 years. In a Cyclocross race, the riders race on grass and pavement with forced run-ups over barriers, much like a steeplechase race.

It is a tradition that Greene's Elementary students make the much sought-after mugs as prizes for the race. A number of third, fourth and fifth grade students are working on them as an after-school project. The race is also a fund raiser for the senior class.

We welcome spectators, so please come out and cheer the riders on. Racing starts at 10:00 a.m. on November 6 and will run rain or shine.

—*Mr. Faruzel*

In Case of Bad Weather GCS Closing Policy

Adverse weather and/or road conditions may cause school closings or delays. Often, a one or two hour delay for our buses will allow road crews enough time to sand or clear roads, and provide a much safer transportation situation.

Parents should be advised that our bus drivers are instructed to not travel any road that appears to be in a hazardous condition. Therefore, even when school is in session, isolated groups of students may not receive bus transportation. Parents are asked to please be extremely cautious when having young students exposed to the cold or wind for lengthy periods of time.

In addition to our automated call system, announcements of delays, school closings or early dismissals are given to all area radio and television stations. Radio and television stations that we report delays, closings or early dismissals are: WCHN, WMRV, WIXT, WENE, WKXZ, WINR, KGB, WICZ, WBNG-TV, WMGC-TV, WAAL, WNBF, WSKG, WMXW, WKOP, WHWK, WSID and WCDO. You may also access school delay or cancellation information by calling our automated voice system at 656-4161 and following the prompts.

IN THE EVENT OF A DELAY

- A) BOCES Occupational School Students—In the event of a one-hour delay in opening, morning BOCES occupational school students will be sent to the area center in Norwich, arriving for class one hour later than usual. In the event of a two-hour delay in opening, morning BOCES students will not be sent to the area center.
- B) Students attending any special class or parochial school will be transported to their respective schools, but with a one or two hour delay in arrival time.

Please keep in mind that if our school day begins with a one-hour delay, depending on the weather one of four things could happen:

- We may open;
- We could go to a two-hour delay, then open;
- We could go to a two-hour delay, then close; or
- We could close.

It is important to continue to watch and listen for updates!

EARLY DISMISSALS

In the event of a forecast that indicates approaching weather that may cause hazardous driving conditions, we may have an early dismissal. In this event, radio and television stations are notified. We urge parents to alert caregivers of this possibility to ensure that younger children are not left at home unsupervised. Parents of elementary children, please contact the school at your earliest convenience with baby-sitter information, so that the students are loaded properly on their bus.

—*Transportation Department*

Notification to Parents Right to Know

Dear Parents/Guardians

Per Title I legislation labeled No Child Left Behind you may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s) and paraprofessional staff.

YOU MAY REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

- A. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- B. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- C. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- D. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualification.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 656-4161, ext. 214.

Sincerely,
Jonathan R. Retz
Superintendent of Schools

Rotary Christmas Baskets

GREENE DISTRICT RESIDENTS MAY APPLY FOR ROTARY CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Through the years the Greene Rotary Club, with the help of Greene Central School, other service organizations, area churches, local businesses and hundreds of local residents, has provided Christmas Baskets of food and gifts to families who need some assistance through the holidays.

Last year Greene's Rotary Christmas Basket Program helped over 120 families in our district.

Applications for the 2011 Rotary Christmas Baskets can be picked up at the following locations: Village of Greene Office, Town of Greene Office, Sidney Federal Credit Union, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Gray & Sons Insurance, Citizens Bank, Great American, NBT Bank and Mirabito Fuel Group. Applications will also be available at the Brightman Senior Center, the lobby of the Village Greene Apartments, Smithville General Store, Greene's Clothing Bank, and The Kids Room. Applications are also available online at the Rotary website www.greenerotary.org.

A fund drive to help with the purchase of turkeys, hams and other food items will be getting underway shortly.

Donations may be mailed to: Christmas Basket Program, Greene Rotary Club, P.O. Box 384, Greene, NY 13778.

College Application Do's and Don'ts

BEFORE YOU APPLY TO COLLEGE DO

- Continue to get high grades and score well on standardized tests. *Senioritis* is tempting, but grades and test scores are some of the first things a college will use to screen applicants.
- Obtain or maintain an active role in your activities.
- Continue to take rigorous academic courses. Take challenging classes that will help you grow academically.

DON'T

- Don't overload your personal schedule to impress an admissions office. You may end up doing more harm than good if your grades and overall quality of life suffer because you're burned out or involved in too many activities.

ON THE GENERAL APPLICATION, DO

- Follow the rules. If an application asks you to choose one essay, don't answer them all. Read the application questions completely before answering any questions.
- Include everything. Verify that all forms have been signed, your essay is complete and your letters of recommendation are ready to be mailed. Double check that you haven't left out anything important. Make copies for your own records.
- Pay attention to deadlines. Note when the application deadline is and submit it early.

DON'T

- Don't let anything go until the last minute. Procrastination might mean leaving something out or making mistakes on the application.

ON YOUR APPLICATION ESSAY, DO

- Show without telling. Don't just list your attributes, be specific. For example, saying you're helpful is not as dynamic as relating your experiences with helping younger students learn how to read.
- Demonstrate your creativity. Avoid clichés or standard essay topics. Try to come up with something an admissions office hasn't seen a million times before.
- Let your personality shine. The essay section is an opportunity for you to show an admissions office what makes you unique.

DON'T

- Don't rely on spell check. While it's a good idea to use the spell check tool, don't count on it to catch every mistake. Read through your essay to catch usage mistakes and have a parent or teacher read through to catch grammatical errors.

Continued on next page

Do's and Don'ts, cont.

- Don't write about a delicate or controversial topic, if you can't get the tone right. Religion, a bout with depression, or an issue with a boy or girlfriend can all be fine subjects for an essay, but handled wrong; the essay could end up in the trash.
- Don't treat an online application like an instant message or e-mail. An admissions office has no need to see a smiley face or IM slang. Treat an online application with the same seriousness as you would a paper application.

IN YOUR INTERVIEW (IF YOU HAVE ONE), DO

- Arrive early and dress the part. Know where the interview will be held ahead of time. Dress on the conservative side.
- Reveal your identity. Admissions offices want to know you as a person. When discussing accomplishments, highlight why they were meaningful or what you got out of them.

DON'T

- Show up without any knowledge of the school. Come prepared with questions or impressions you have about the college to demonstrate your interest level. Place less emphasis on your plans after graduation and more on what you want to learn and accomplish as a college student.

FAFSA: Step-By-Step

WHAT IS IT?

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The Federal Government uses this form to determine your eligibility for financial aid, which includes: grants, work-study, scholarships, and loans.

WHY FILL IT OUT?

The FAFSA is used to determine how much aid you're eligible for. Think of it this way:

FAFSA → EFC → Financial Need → Financial Aid

EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution. Your family must contribute this amount in the coming year to your college costs, according to the government's calculation.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Your prospective college will try to meet your financial need through aid made up of funds from federal, state, school, and private sources. This may include loans, grants, scholarships, and student employment.

FAFSA PROCESS: 1-2-3

The three steps to apply for Federal aid:

Step 1: Assemble forms needed to complete FAFSA

You'll need the following to fill out the form:

- Social security number
- Current bank statements
- Driver's license (if any)

- Current mortgage and investment records (if any)
- Alien registration card (if not U.S. citizen)
- 2011 federal tax return (estimates are OK on tax questions)
- 2011 untaxed income records (if any)
- 2011 W2 forms and other record of money earned
- Parents' 2011 income tax return (if considered dependent)

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA

- Complete the FAFSA on the web: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- In order to maximize your amount of aid, fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1.
- Once finished, print the FAFSA summary (step 6 online) as well as the *Submission Confirmation* page (or write down your confirmation number and date). If completing the paper version, make a copy for your records.

Step 3: Review Your Student Aid Report (SAR)

- The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. You should receive your electronic SAR in 1-3 days if signed with your PIN (paper: 2-3 weeks).

What if I find errors on my SAR?

- Report errors immediately to your financial aid office. You can also make corrections online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- If you don't receive your SAR in 3-4 weeks, call 1-800-433-3243.

FAFSA TIPS

- Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st and each successive year once you're in college. Early submission maximizes chances of receiving aid.
- Fill out a *FAFSA on the Web* worksheet: Click "Before Beginning a FAFSA," then "Print a Pre-Application Worksheet." Use the print-out as a guide before committing answers online. *Do not* enter online questions directly from the paper FAFSA! Web vs. paper FAFSA questions are in a different order!
- Sign the application: If you are filing as a dependent, make sure your parents sign too. You can use your PIN if signing electronically.
- Save your FAFSA online if you can't finish it in one session: Click the "save" button at the bottom of each step to save information for 45 days.
- Don't leave a field blank. If a question doesn't apply, enter "0."

Remember that FAFSA is free! If you need help, ask the college's financial aid office or call the FAFSA Help Desk at 1-800-4-FED-AID.

News from the Music Department

The Music Department would also like to offer warm congratulations to the following students on their acceptance to the Area All-State Festival:

In Concert Band, **Alec Targett** (clarinet) and **Jessica Willard** (flute); in Mixed Chorus, **Rachael Cox**, **Jennifer Yeager**, **Liam Allport**, **Matthew Bonney**, **Eli Carlin**, **Christopher DaCosta** and **Nathanael Westover**; and in Women's Chorus, **Maggie Cass**, **Katie McCloud**, **Jennifer Urda**, **Sharayah Westover** and **Moriah McCauley**.

Students are recommended for these groups by their teachers after participating in the NYSSMA solo festival in May. Students must perform at least a level IV (out of VI), and compete with top students from over 20 districts for acceptance. Extra kudos to the freshman who were accepted: **Alec Targett**, **Liam Allport** and **Matthew Bonney**.

Exceptional work, ladies and gentlemen!

—Ms. Kriesel



Notes from the Music Department

Congratulations to **Nathanael Westover** on his acceptance to Conference All-State! Nathanael auditioned last May and received a perfect score on his All-State, level 6 vocal solo. (He sang in German, no less!) He will be attending the NYSSMA Winter Conference, December 1-4 in Rochester as part of the All-State Mixed Choir. Way to go Nath!

GCS Middle School Footlights Club presents *Willy Wonka, Jr.* November 11, 12 and 13. Tickets are now available online at showtix4u.com. Select NYS and our school is listed alphabetically. The auditorium diagram is there for you to select the seats you would like for each show. Footlights has partnered with showtix in an effort to streamline the ticket sales process and minimize the ticket line at the door. Tickets will still be available at the door for each show.

All County News: Auditions for the senior high level Chenango all county groups were held at Bainbridge-Guilford on Wednesday, November 2. Be looking for the ensemble lists coming in January!

—Mrs. Boel

2011 Greene Central School District Retirees

The 2010-2011 school year came to a close with 10 long-time employees retiring from the District. We wish them well as they embark on new adventures!



Front (l-r): Kris McDermott (GTA Union President), Retirees Bill Bodine, Edie Hines, Yvonne Schanck, Sandy Marshall, Linda Garbett, George Homza, Kay Borne; back: Retiree Hal Kennedy and Superintendent Jonathan Retz; missing: Retirees Judy Gorton and Wes Tallett

The GCS National Honor Society



Students pictured are: (back) Liam Deering, Dan Treadwell, Cathy Stahl, Tim Gell, Max Flanagan, Kyle Stanton, Jessica Brooks. (front) Kara Bartholomew, Rachael Cox, Moriah McCauley, Erica Bentley, Jessica Willard

The 2011-2012 school year has started and students are busy at work. Their busy schedules include school work, sports and numerous other extra-curricular activities, it is amazing the students at Greene Central School have time for anything else. But, just like in previous years, the members of GCS's National Honor Society are always willing to roll up their sleeves to help someone else.

Students are taking the time to partner with a teacher at the Intermediate level to help them around the classroom. These dedicated members go up to the Intermediate School about once a month eager to help with activities such as reorganizing closets, decorating bulletin boards, filling Friday Folders and even cleaning the fish tanks.

The National Honor Society is excited for another year to continue to learn both in and outside of the classroom.

—Mrs. Daniels

September Student Citizens of the Month

3RD GRADE



Kathleen Becker, Mrs. Browning; Jessica Unkel, Mrs. Erickson; Jarret Ludolph, Mrs. Russ; Joshua Trepa, Mrs. Whittaker; Nathaniel Sloat, Mrs. Gell

4TH GRADE



Matthew Paske, Ms. Hunter; Gabby Nowalk, Mr. Komperda; Valerie Stracquadanio, Ms. Sanderson

5TH GRADE



Kady Yanusas, Mrs. Beach; Isaac Hadac, Mrs. Giannetto; Morgan Lum, Mrs. McDermott; Sylvia Gee, Mr. Evans

Intermediate School Special Area September Students of the Month



*Art—Tristan Austin, Dylan Ketcham, Nate Barry, Jenna Mack
Music—Nathan Parker, Madison Rice, Brandon Whitaker
Computer—Spencer Howell, Amy Bentley, Jade Whitney
Reading and Math—Robert Hilsbos, Jakob Funnell
Chorus—Grace Wentlent
Band—Alexis Shenk
Girl's PE—Jessica Unkel, Julianna Ayres, Nicole Repp
Boy's PE—Quintin Pezzino, Jon Jacob Trepa, Isaac Hadac*

Fluttering Fun!

During September in first grade, students had fun learning about the life-cycle of the butterfly! In Mr. Tallman's class we participated in many fun activities helping to further our learning and spark our investigative interest!

We had a great time learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. The students were real excited to see the actual metamorphosis in the classroom! The excitement continued as we let them go and wished the butterflies good luck on their way to Mexico. We hope they have a safe migration and look forward to next season!

—Mr. Tallman

Payton Yahner, Ms. Cadden, Clayton Leonard, Molly Hubbard, Bradley Genter, and Liam Flanagan



Paul Starliper, Bradley Genter and Clayton Leonard



Pictured: Emma Rice

HOW TO DEAL WITH A BULLY

News flash

Bullies aren't all big and muscle-y. Bullies come in all shapes and sizes — and it's not like you can tell who they are by what they look like. You can only tell a bully by their actions — they make themselves feel powerful by threatening, embarrassing or hurting others. If you have ever been around a bully or been picked on by a bully you know how hurtful they can be. But, there are things you can do to stay out of a bully's way.



GUIDELINES YOU SHOULD HAVE IN MIND WHEN TALKING TO ADULT ABOUT THE PROBLEM:

- WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU & WHAT YOU DID.
- WHO BULLIED YOU AND WHO SAW IT.
- WHERE AND HOW OFTEN IT HAPPENED.
- WRITE EVERYTHING DOWN IN A JOURNAL.

- 1 *Make friends and lots of them — there's safety in numbers. A bully is less likely to approach you if you're surrounded by pals. Try to be friendly and respectful to everyone — smile at someone if you make eye contact in the hallways, and if you really like someone's cool new shoes, tell them.*
- 2 *If a bully is talking smack about you, keep in mind all the good stuff you know about yourself. Do things that you are good at. Can you spell like a dictionary? Enter a spelling bee. Run like the wind? Join the track team. Sing like an angel? Choir is calling your name. Try something new; you may discover a talent you never knew you had. Take tennis lessons or audition for the school play. Bonus: you'll meet new people!*
- 3 *Stand up for yourself! Practice what you might say if someone starts picking on you. Saying the words a couple of times will make you feel sure of yourself. One word to the wise: Never start a discussion or argue with a bully, even if you've got a zinger that's begging to be zung. You just want to get them off your back, not make them angry.*
- 4 *Check out the way you act and be aware of your body language. How you carry yourself can bring on a bully. Slouching, looking at the ground or feet, and fidgeting make people think that you are afraid or nervous. Try to walk with your head up, make eye contact, and smile. A bully is less likely to single you out if you are the picture of self-confidence.*
- 5 *Ignore insults or name-calling. It'll be hard, but stay calm and don't let them see you sweat. Take a deep breath and try not to show that you are upset or angry. Above all, don't believe for one second what they're saying. Bullies feed on attention and are just trying to get a reaction from you. It's easier to give them the brush off if you don't let them get under your skin. They'll get bored and move on.*
- 6 *Avoid getting sucked into a scuffle, even if it means losing your stuff — your safety is way more important than your shoes! The only time you should ever fight back is when you need to defend yourself. Even then, keep eyes open for an escape route. Chances are, if someone wants to fight, they know they have a good chance of winning.*
- 7 *Don't be afraid to tell an adult if you're being bullied. You are NOT a snitch if you tell an adult you know that someone is hurting you. If you have to stop someone from bothering you and it's not working, get someone you trust involved to help you. And if you see someone else in the same boat, find an adult to help. Get the problem out in the open. Once people know about it, the bully is no longer in control. Not telling anyone — especially because the bully told you not to — is just making him or her feel more powerful.*
- 8 *Have a few one-liners in your pocket to pull out if you need them. Things like "That's funny, but enough already okay?" or "I don't do this to you. You should really think about that" can help defuse a tense situation and keep you out of harm's way. While your coming up with your witty one-liners, keep in mind that you're trying to take the wind out of the bully's sails, not add fuel to the fire with a major burn. Embarrassing the bully in front of everyone won't make your life any easier.*

Source: www.bam.gov

GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL Greene, New York 13778

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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.

Do You Know Who I Am?



ANSWER:

This character is the face associated with Greene's Dollars for Scholars™ Golf Ball Drop which has become an annual event in this organization's fund raising campaign.

Greene's Dollars for Scholars™ chapter is dedicated to helping Greene students achieve their educational goals by raising scholarship funds and distributing scholarships each year.

Since its inception in 2000, Greene's Dollars for Scholars™ program has distributed 310

awards for a total of \$191,400. For the 2010/2011 school year, Greene's Dollars for Scholars™ program provided 33 awards totaling \$27,000.

High School Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 1 ASVAB Test—Juniors & Seniors
- 2 All-County Auditions
- 3 PLAN Test—Sophomores
- 10 End of 10 Week Marking Period
- 11 Veterans' Day—No School**
- 17 Report Cards Mailed
- 18 Eligibility Begins
- 18-19 Area All-State
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Recess**
- 28 Canned Food Drive Starts

DECEMBER

- 8 Financial Aid Information Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 End of Canned Food Drive
- 13 Band & Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 End of 15 Week Marking Period
- 22 Progress Reports Mailed
- 23 Eligibility Begins
- 23-Jan. 2 Christmas/New Year's Recess**