



Greene Central School

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIV, Number 2

January/February 2014

Superintendent's Message

The start of the New Year offers a valuable chance to both reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that await. The challenges facing schools across New York State have only strengthened our resolve to improve the programming we offer our children. Faculty and staff are working together to adapt to the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards, we continue to reflect on current programs and practices, strengthen our use of instructional technology and challenge our professional practice.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility with the recent changes to the school calendar. On January 17, Greene CSD had an opportunity to participate in a BOCES wide presentation featuring Dr. Bill Daggett, CEO of the International Center for Leadership in Education. Dr. Daggett, an internationally known speaker on the subject of school change, presented to an audience of close to 700 educators from the Northern side of the DCMO BOCES on the topic *Preparing Students to be College and Career Ready*. Dr. Daggett recognized the strengths of the U.S. public education system then clearly articulated why schools need to change and initiated a discussion on what schools can do to ensure we graduate students who are both college and career ready. We now have a wonderful opportunity to work with Dr. Daggett and his leadership team to continue this discussion and begin to formulate a plan to ensure our graduates are prepared for the 21st Century. Dr. Daggett's message was overwhelmingly well received by our Greene faculty which is a testament to their professionalism and dedication.

The budget development process is in full swing. Based on the governor's initial budget proposal, Greene is slated to receive an aid increase of just a little more than \$160,000. While his proposed budget included additional monies for

Universal Pre-Kindergarten, technology and bonuses for highly effective teachers, it failed to adequately address the immediate and fundamental funding deficiencies plaguing schools in the form of the Gap Elimination Adjustment.

The challenges and implications of the reduction in education aid are significant and over the past four years, amount to a loss of \$5.9 million in education aid. This funding deficiency has necessitated a reduction in staff of close to 20%, more than \$2.8 million in spending reductions and the use of close to \$2.7 million from reserves over the past four years. Last year's budget alone required the use of \$660,000 from district reserves. This means that as we start the 2014-2015 budget development process, if all spending stayed the same, we begin with a deficit of \$660,000. As you know, cost of living and other cost increases are inevitable so this position is clearly exacerbated.

This minimal aid increase, when coupled with the tax levy cap, does not provide Greene CSD with the revenue needed to meet basic costs. The budget committee of our Board of Education and I are working carefully with the administrative team to craft a responsible budget that balances these funding challenges with our obligation to provide our children with an educational program.

In these trying and very difficult times, I am reminded daily of why I do what I do . . . it is about our kids. Our children come to us with tremendous potential—potential demonstrated every day and in countless ways. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to our children and to their profession that, to put it simply, is about making a positive difference in the lives of others. We will weather the fiscal challenges and adjust to all the other changes being thrust on us and we will continue to provide a quality educational program that truly does produce college and career ready students.

—Jonathan R. Retz, Superintendent of Schools

WWW.GREENECSD.ORG

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

UPK Registration

Applications for Greene Central School District's Universal Pre-kindergarten program will be mailed on March 7, 2014. If your child will be four years old, before December 1, 2014, and you **do not** receive an application, please call the Primary School Office at 656-5174. Applications must be received by March 24, 2014.

Kindergarten Registration

Greene CSD Kindergarten registration was held February 3-7, 2014 in the Primary School. If your child will be five years old before December 1, 2014, 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 19.

Kindergarten Screening Information

Greene Primary School welcomes you to our Parent Information Night on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Parents of our incoming Kindergartners 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 kindergartner 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.

A Little Bit Made a Big Difference

Selena Emery, Molly Flanagan, Sophia Hanselman, Victoria Milk and Riley Stanton combined fun with a worthy cause on Halloween night. Together they collected enough money to provide immunizations for 50 children in need. A small amount of money made a big difference.

While participating in a Common Core ELA class in October, the Greene fifth graders learned about UNICEF, a group that works in more than 190 countries and territories around the world.

After realizing that many children are in need of food, clean water, and medicine, the girls decided to do something about it. They constructed their own collection containers, attaching UNICEF labels from the organization's website. While masquerading on Halloween night, they were able to collect enough money to vaccinate 50 children from killer diseases.

Riley, Victoria, Sophia, Molly and Selena are excited and proud to know that their efforts will make a difference.

Anyone may donate to the United States Fund for UNICEF. You don't have to wait until next Halloween. Go to www.unicefusa.org for more information. It is easy to make a difference!



Bus Vote— New Bus Purchases

**Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014;
11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. in the
auditorium lobby**

Greene CSD looks to replace a few buses every year, usually after a minimum of 10 years of service and with over 100,000 miles of driving. This replacement plan keeps our vehicles safe for our students and minimizes our annual maintenance costs. This year we would like to purchase two (2) 65 passenger propane buses and one (1) micro propane bus, at a cost not to exceed \$298,383.



Students Apply Physics at Raymond Testing Lab



TC3 College Physics students with Raymond Engineers

The Raymond Corporation hosted the TC3 College Physics students from the Greene Central High School to provide students with a chance to apply their physics knowledge to real world engineering challenges connected with Raymond® lift trucks. The main focus of the event is to give students a chance to interact with real world applications of physics. The students see firsthand how engineers use physics to design, build, and manufacture lift trucks. Raymond® engineers setup a lab that tested the efficiency of the lift mechanism on a fork truck. Students took the measurements and performed the calculations. Raymond® prides themselves on the safety of their products. Raymond® showed the students many of their safety tests that are performed in their testing lab. Given one of the tests the students had to calculate the predicted result, and see if it matched the actual data measured in the testing lab. Thank you to the Raymond® team for helping to make students ready for college and future careers in the STEM field.

—*Ethan Leet*, Physics Teacher

Student Art Work Featured in UHS Holiday Exhibit

Art work 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 15-January 3, highlighted the talents of hundreds of children from many local school districts. A festive reception was held December 15, to which the children and their families were invited. Our students who had work displayed included: **Gabriella Cascun, Elizabeth Criddle, Audra Doll, Trenton Drew, Claire Flanagan, Jaron Hogancamp, Camren Ives, Audrey Johnson, Xavier Koster, Ashton Pezzino, Kloden Rapp, Keeli Roe, Sidra Root, Sadie Sexton, Gabe Smith, Alex Stewart, Audrey Sullivan, Camric Williams, Abby Yahner and Lincoln Youngs.** They were recognized during Morning Program.

Congratulations are extended to these student artists!

—*Ms. Dajnowski*

Greene Dollars for Scholars Re-branding as Greene Community Scholarship Fund



In December, 2000, a few dedicated members of our community began the Greene Chapter of Dollars for Scholars. This program was established through Scholarship America. At the time, there were multiple benefits of aligning ourselves with Scholarship America, including the opportunity for graduating seniors to double their scholarship opportunities through partnering colleges and universities. Over the years, the benefits of being part of this larger organization have diminished for the students and the responsibilities of our membership to the board have increased exponentially.

As such, we have made the decision as an organization to realign and re-brand. We will now be partnering with the Community Foundation for South Central New York and from here forward will be known as the Greene Community Scholarship Fund, a component fund of the Foundation. The mission of the Community Foundation is to “offer caring individuals an effective way to endow their community in a manner that is responsible, responsive and lasting.” Their mission statement and position in our community to be steward of leadership and resources to the Greene Community Scholarship Fund board is complementary to our goals.

Over the next couple of months we will be providing more information to community members as we develop into our new name. Our goal will remain the same—to provide as many scholarships as possible to graduating seniors of Greene Central High School, to help assist in their pursuit of college or trade school education, and to offer non-traditional scholarship opportunities to adults seeking continuing education. Our Annual Phone-A-Than will be hosted on schedule in the beginning of March and our golf tournament the third weekend in May. We will also continue to host the Annual Golf-Ball Drop Homecoming Weekend each year, as one of our primary fundraisers. We look forward to continuing our commitment to our graduating seniors and our new partnership with The Community Foundation.

Thank you from all of our Senior Board Members: **Sherry Guiles** (President), **Kerstin Driscoll** (Vice-President), **Nonie Saroka** (Treasurer), **Cindy Phillips** (Secretary), **Cindy Ferguson, Jim Saroka, Debbie Turner, Debbie Unkel, Bobbi Jones, Mindy Sherwood** and Student Board Members.

Intermediate School Special Area Students of the Month

OCTOBER



Art *Olivia Byam, Joseph Gibbs, Anjouliena Rose*

Music *Clayton Leonard, Scout McCumiskey, Alicia Garcia*

Computer *Payton Yahner, Pipher Reid, Kathleen Becker*

Reading and Math *Sean O'Donnell, Leah Decker*

Chorus *Dallas Roe*

Library *Alexandria Brown*

Band *Riley Stanton*

Girls' PE *Alyssa Carlin, Sarah Sexton, Angel DeVaul*

Boys' PE *Robert German, Scout McCumiskey, Gabriel Blasko*

NOVEMBER



Art *Sam Cowan, Riley Howerter, Ashton Craver*

Music *Benjamin Taft, Faith Tierno, Sophia Hanselman*

Computer *Peydon Fowler, Michael Bergholtz, Jacob Lilley*

Reading and Math *Shaylee VanVorce, Anjouliena Rose*

Chorus *Olivia Kennedy*

Library *Emma Retz*

Band *David Morlando*

Girls' PE *Payton Yahner, Kasey DaCosta, Victoria Milk*

Boys' PE *Garrett Whitney, Stephen Davis, Patrick Heflin*

DECEMBER



Art *Lydia Duman, Mya Leach, Abigail Frost*

Music *Madison Pavlovich, Matthew Wells, Jacob Lilley*

Computer *Madison Pavlovich, David Hughes, Dominic Lipari*

Reading and Math *Anthony Thatcher, Damien Colvin*

Chorus *Josh Fowler*

Library *Emma Rice*

Band *Ayden Doolittle*

Girls' PE *Kadance Waltz, Olivia Kennedy, Victoria Fleury*

Boys' PE *Corey Swift, Damien Colvin, Ashton Craver*

Congratulations
to all of our amazing students!



October Student Citizens of the Month

3RD GRADE



Lydia Duman—Mrs. Browning
Isabella Tierno—Mrs. Erickson
Paul Starliper—Mrs. Russ
Kadance Waltz—Mrs. Whittaker
Sam Cowan—Mr. Evans

4TH GRADE



Pipher Reid—Ms. Hunter
Absent: Kasey DaCosta—Mr. Komperda
Sarah Sexton—Ms. Sanderson

5TH GRADE



Josh Titus—Mrs. Giannetto
McKenzie Drew—Mrs. McDermott
Clinton Orzell—Mrs. Novitsky
Leah Decker—Mr. Tallman

November Student Citizens of the Month

3RD GRADE



Aden Mika—Mrs. Browning
Clayton Leonard—Mrs. Erickson
Willow Rose—Mrs. Russ
Danielle Leach—Mrs. Whittaker
Amy Hillier—Mr. Evans

4TH GRADE



Carsyn Puglisi—Ms. Hunter
Paige Estabrook—Mr. Komperda
Scout McCumisky—Ms. Sanderson

5TH GRADE



Ashton Craver—Mrs. Giannetto
Shelby Holt—Mrs. McDermott
Victoria Fleury—Mrs. Novitsky
Ayden Doolittle—Mr. Tallman

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.

HS Students of the First Semester

FEBRUARY

Greene Central HS proudly announces the students who were chosen by the HS faculty and staff as Students of the Semester for the second semester of the 2013-2014 school year.

9th Grade: **Katherine Anderson**, daughter of Christine and Mitchell Anderson of Greene, NY

Luke Erickson, son of Kelly and Daniel Erickson of Greene, NY

10th Grade: **Maria Brown**, daughter of Angela Fiato of Greene, NY and Kevin Brown of McDonough, NY

Joseph Miranda, son of Kim and Joseph Miranda of Greene, NY

11th Grade: **Adrienne Trass**, daughter of Kristie and William Trass of Greene, NY

Liam Allport, son of Andrew Allport of Chenango Forks, NY and Bryne Lewis of Kingston, PA

12th Grade: **Abigail Porada**, daughter of Shelly Porada of Greene, NY and Keith Porada of Oxford, NY

Joseph Cronin, son of Heidi Cronin of Whitney Point, NY and Joseph Cronin, Sr. of Greene, NY

