



# Greene Central School NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVI, Number 3

January/February 2016

## Superintendent's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and holiday break and is rested and excited about the start of the new year. I am excited to welcome in 2016 and am confident that this will be an awesome year. As we approach the mid-point of our school year, I am offered an opportunity to reflect on our progress to date.

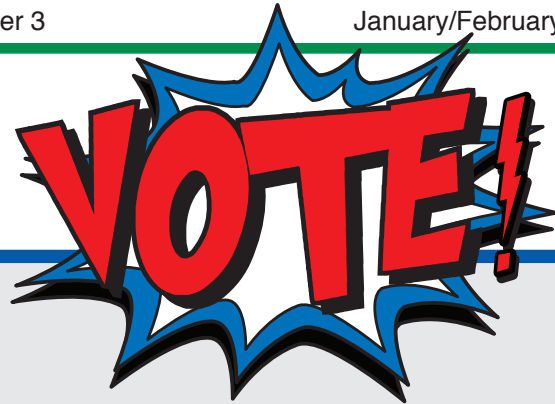
Phase I of our 6.4 million dollar Capital Project went very well and we were able to come in under budget. Phase II, which is more involved, is in its final phases of planning. The next few months will see a lot of work behind the scenes wrapping up details, bid development and then the selection of contractors. Work is slated for the summer of 2016, so we do not anticipate any impact on students or staff while school is in session. Work such as what is planned for in this Capital Project helps level out costs, meet our facility needs and does not add an additional burden to local tax payers. This work is essential to maintaining the quality of our facilities and, in turn, the programs we offer our children.

The development of the 2015-2016 budget has begun. We remain hopeful that recent signs of economic growth here in NY State will translate to improvements in state funding for our school. We do anticipate the Governor's Executive Budget Proposal by January 13. This is earlier than normal and will be helpful to us as we begin the budget development process. Despite signs of improvement in the state's fiscal situation, we do not hold out great hope that aid will return to those levels enjoyed prior to 2010. Additionally, the Tax Cap will also limit new or additional revenue.

The Budget Committee of the Board of Education and I are working closely with the Administrative Team to develop a responsible budget balancing our fiscal limitations, the needs of our students and capacity of this community to support the local levy.

Governor Cuomo recently released the Common Core Task Force Report chaired by Richard Parsons, Senior

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## Public Vote

**FEBRUARY 23, 11:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.**

At its November 30 meeting, the Greene Board of Education approved two propositions that the public will be asked to vote on.

**PROPOSITION I** will authorize the District to spend an amount not to exceed \$319,488 for the purchase of three new propane buses. The District initiated a bus purchase plan in 2012 that moves the bus fleet from diesel to propane. The advantages of this shift are several, including environmental conservation, increased student safety, and annual cost savings of approximately \$5,000 per bus. We are excited to continue this initiative and ask for your continued support.

**PROPOSITION II** will authorize the District to establish a Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed the amount of \$1,500,000 and for the duration of 10 years. This fund is created to help with covering the costs of future capital improvement projects within the district. It is very similar to creating a savings account and is funded with unspent money remaining in the budget following the fiscal close OR surplus funds from unanticipated revenues. Money accumulated in this fund is typically used for projects that require a large investment and helps offset taxpayer funding for these capital projects. The capital reserve fund does not increase resident taxes. Establishing this reserve fund will assist with long-term financial planning and will allow us to continue our mission of quality programs in safe and quality facilities.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to phone me.

— Mark Rubitski, Business Manager, 656-4161, ext. 282

## Greene Community Pool Update

This wonderful community resource was built in 1998 or 17 years ago. The pool is mainly in its original state, so of course many fixtures and equipment are nearing their useful life. The past few years we have performed needed service and maintenance tasks, leaving only the main operating systems to be addressed. The magnitude of these fixes must be done within a capital project due to the cost and nature of the work. The summer of 2016 is that opportunity for us to address these areas of the pool; mainly the heating and air handling systems.

I am sharing this information with you as we continue to deal with an on-going issue we are unable to correct at this time—the temperature of the pool. The pool has generally been running about 77 degrees this year, the optimum range is 80-84. With the pool air handling systems not working correctly and the subsequent warmer weather not requiring us to run our school boilers, we have no heat source for the pool. We certainly apologize for this situation and inconvenience it has created for our pool community. As the weather turns colder this winter, we will be able to capture some residual heat from the boilers and bump the pool temperature up a few degrees (fingers crossed). The real solution will come in the summer 2016.

Thank you for your understanding and patience!

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

Advisor, Providence Equity Partners, LLC and former Chairman of Citigroup. While we wait for final action and possibly accompanying legislation, I am pleased to see a willingness to step back, pause and re-think some critical and controversial issues. Here are some of the key recommendations of the 21 addressed in the Task Force Report:

- Overhaul the Common Core and adopt locally-driven high quality educational standards with input from local districts, educators, and parents.
- Establishing a transparent and open process to review educational standards.
- Providing educators and local school districts with the flexibility to develop and tailor curriculum to meet the needs of their individual students.
- Engaging educators, not a private corporation, to drive the review and creation of State standards-aligned tests.
- Minimizing testing anxiety by reducing the number of test days and questions and provide transparency to parents, teachers and districts on test questions and student test scores.

I am encouraged by the tone of this report and am hopeful that what has been a chaotic and tumultuous period will again return to a more reasoned and cautious educational climate that truly honors our obligation to our children.

Respectfully,  
*Jonathan R. Retz,*  
Superintendent of Schools

## High School Calendar

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day — No School**
- 15 Sweets & Sounds Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — No School**
- 23 All-County
- 26-28 Regents Exams
- 29 Half-Day of School K-12**
- 29 End of 20 Week Marking Period

### FEBRUARY

- 5 Report Cards Issued
- 8 Eligibility Begins
- 13 Odyssey of the Mind Competition
- 15-16 Presidents' Day Recess — No School**
- 27 Winter Ball, 7:00 p.m.

## Universal Pre-K Registration

The Greene Primary School is compiling a list of all 3 year olds and 4 year olds in our District. This information is required for state reports and will be used for mailings of Universal Pre-K applications and Kindergarten registration packets. If you are not sure if we have your child's information, please call the Primary School at 656-4023 between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

## Kindergarten Registration

Greene Central School Kindergarten Registration will be held February 29-March 4, 2016 in the Primary School. If your child will be five years old on or before December 1, 2016, and you do not receive a registration packet in the mail, please call Dedra Ingraham at the Primary School office at 656-4023.

Packets should be received around February 12.



## 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 Clerk	Superintendent		
Building & Grounds Use	Main Office	Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds	Superintendent	
Cafeteria	Cafeteria Manager	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Co-Curricular	Advisor	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Curriculum	Teacher	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Facilities	Buildings & Grounds	Superintendent		
Health Office	Nurse	Building Administrator	Superintendent	
Scheduling	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Building Administrator	Superintendent
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
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 ..... 656-4161  
 MS/HS Campus ..... 656-4161  
 Primary School ..... 656-5174

Intermediate School ..... 656-9891  
 Transportation ..... 656-8931





## Important Financial Aid Information

There is New York State and Federal student financial aid available to help pay for college. In order to receive any type of financial aid, you (student) must apply for it every year the student attends college. Always start with free money before taking out any student loans. Grants and scholarships do not have to be paid back.

### STEP 1: THE FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID)

Completing the FAFSA is the first step to financial aid. The information you provide determines whether your student is eligible for federal financial aid and the amount you are qualified to receive. To fill out and submit the FAFSA, it is always free. Do not pay for it!!

**Complete the FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible.** Some financial aid is determined on a first come, first served basis so start as soon as possible.

**Apply for a Federal Student Aid Identification Number (FSA ID)** online at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) to complete and electronically sign your FAFSA and other federal student aid documents. Apply before you start the FAFSA. Or, apply online while you are completing the online FAFSA and you'll receive your PIN immediately.

**Complete the FAFSA online at [FAFSA.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov).** Step-by-step assistance is available as you complete the form.

**You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR)** once your FAFSA is processed. The SAR will show how much federal aid you are entitled to receive and how much your family can expect to pay. This is your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

### STEP 2: NEW YORK STATE TAP (TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

If you are a New York State resident attending college in New York State, you may be eligible for a TAP award. Apply for it! When you finish filing your FAFSA, a link will appear for TAP or you can use the following site: <https://www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw/>

### STEP 3: SCHOLARSHIPS

Many colleges and universities offer their own scholarships to students. There are also many local and national scholarships available to students. The Greene High School Guidance Office compiles a monthly list of available scholarships, including qualifications, deadlines, and how to apply.

### STEP 4: COMPARE COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS

Once your FAFSA is processed, each college to which you are accepted will send a college award letter detailing the financial aid package you are eligible to receive. Review and compare these letters to determine what the best fit is for you and your family. Once you choose the college you will

attend, follow the instructions on how to accept or decline each part of the offer or aid and supply any documents that are requested. Call the financial aid office and make sure all documents are received and your financial aid is set before classes start.

### STEP 5: STUDENT LOANS

If necessary, apply for student loans. Check to be sure you have received all federal, state, and institutional aid available. Loans must be repaid with interest. Start with federal loans. Federal loans have low, fixed rate for students and parents. There will be instructions on your college award letter explaining how to receive the federal loans. Private loans may be an option if you still have a funding gap after applying aid and federal student loans.

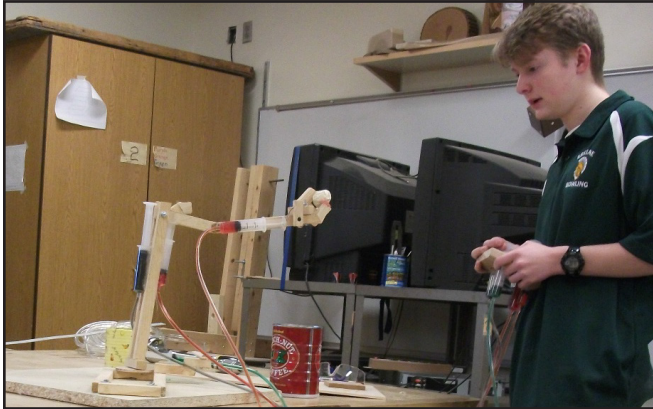
## Whooo Came to Night Owl Story Time?



Greene Primary School had Night Owl story times on October 14, 22, and 26. It was the second year of this family event. Guest readers treated students and families to a variety of fall-themed read-alouds and activities. According to UPK participant **Jackson Rice**, whose mom was also a guest reading, "My favorite part was sitting on my mom's lap reading a story." Our story time events are a great opportunity to cuddle up and listen to stories together. We look forward to seeing even more familiar families at our next story time event!

# HS Technology Class

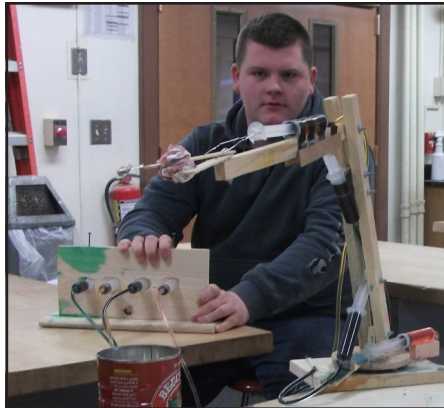
Students in the Principles of Engineering class have been using the design process to build a hydraulic arm. The arms had to be operated remotely to transfer a small object from on location to another.



*Zach Westover*

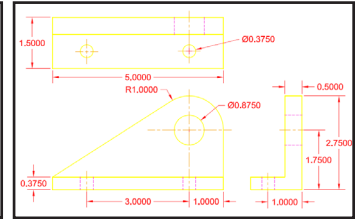
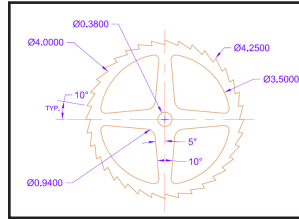
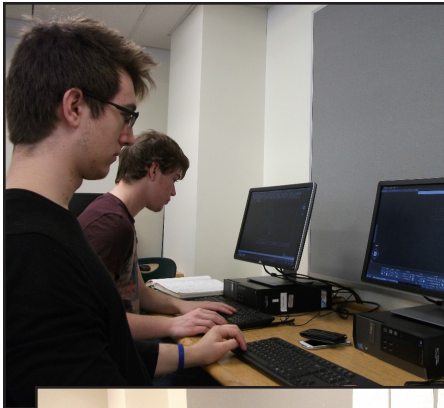
*Marcus Dickerson*

In CAD students have been learning to use AutoCAD and 3D modeling software to produce drawings of objects.

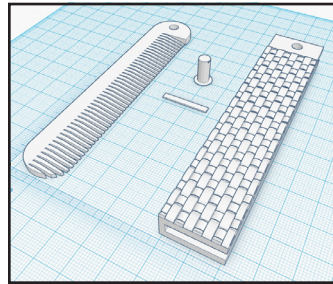


*Andrew Parkison and Zach Utter*

*Andrew Parkison, Zach Utter, Scott Lord, Marcus Diskerson*



*Drawings by Andrew Parkison and Scott Lord done using AutoCAD.*



*A 3D model of a comb and case designed and drawn by Hayden Mowatt using the program TinkerCAD.*

Students in the materials processing class have been working on turkey calls, cutting boards, fishing pole racks, deer plaques, and a variety of other projects.

*Dalton Whitman and Matt Bergholtz with turkey calls that they built.*



*Chris Klecha with two cutting boards that he made.*



*Jordan Pisani working on a project.*



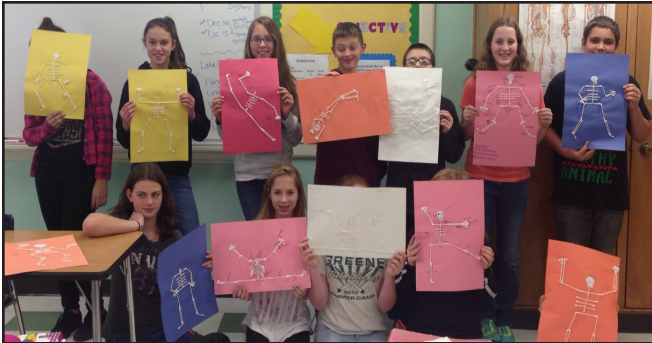
*Jordan Taft finishing a cutting board on the router and Josh Ledford cutting a project on the bandsaw.*





## MS Health News

The 7th grade MS Health students had fun with the Skeletal System in December. To review the bones each student created a skeleton using Q-tips and then labeled the bones and joints they need to remember. As you can see from the picture, many students incorporated their own personality/creativity into their skeletons structure. There are dancing skeletons, swimming skeletons, skeletons doing hand stands, etc.



On November 2, Greene held a Community Drug Awareness Panel Discussion to address the increase in opioid and heroin use in our Country and surrounding communities. The guest speakers included local law enforcement, treatment providers, medical professionals and some very moving testimonials from people that have been directly impacted by this public health crisis. About 250 people attended the drug event which speaks volumes about our community and the desire to take care of it.

I want to thank Mr. Retz, the Board of Education, and administrators for supporting this event. In addition, Rosemary Badger the food service director, her staff, and Mike Utter head night custodian and his staff for contributing to the success of the evening.



Lastly, thank you to all of the teachers who encouraged their students to attend and those of you who helped advertise the event. Everyone's efforts made for a successful evening.

As a follow-up to the community Drug Awareness Night

an assembly was held on November 19 for the 9-12 high school students. Two speakers came; Alexis Pleus, a mom whose son died of a heroin overdose and Caitlyn Garey, a local young woman who is currently in recovery. Both women shared their personal stories about how opioids and heroin affected their lives. The objective of the assembly was to further reinforce the message of awareness in hopes it will prevent some of the students from venturing down the destructive path of addiction or help them to understand how to intercede should friends or family become affected.

### DRUG AWARENESS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

1. **Throw out the idea that your children should have privacy.**
  - a. Know what your children are doing;
  - b. Who they hang out with;
  - c. What they and their friends are saying
2. **Educate yourself on the slang your kids use.**
3. **Don't blindly trust.**
  - a. Trust, but verify
  - b. Check on them at parties.
  - c. Show up unexpectedly
4. **Ensure you have access to communications and know how to use social media.**
  - a. Know their passcodes for phones and social media
  - b. "Friend" them on social media, so you can see what they post.
5. **Look for behavioral changes and investigate why they are happening.**
  - a. Changes in school performance
  - b. Apathy toward personal hygiene
  - c. Changes in the people they hang out with

—Mrs. Paske

## Congratulations, Juliana Myers!



Juliana Myers, a junior at Greene Central School District, has been awarded a Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship to Belgium for the 2016-2017 school year. She is being sponsored by Rotary District 7017 and will live with host families while studying in Belgium.

## Honoring Our Veterans



Monday November 9, we honored our Veterans at Morning Program. The Veterans were seated at the front of the gym. All in attendance stood at the presentation of the Colors, and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*. **Claus Evans** led the patriotic song, *My Country Tis of Thee*. The students stood and sang, *American Every Day* to the Veterans, and then presented each Veteran with a thank-you note. During the celebration a slide show, created by Mrs. Braman played, which honored Veterans who live locally,

or those who have local ties. On behalf of the Primary School, I want to thank all the Veterans, community members, and family members that came that day to join in our celebration. Most importantly, Thank You Veterans for your service!



## No Bullies Allowed!



*Jared Campbell performs at the Greene Primary School*

On November 20, Jared Campbell came to kick off our OLWEUS anti-bullying year! He performed many songs including his Superhero song, and a new song about responsibility. He spoke with the students about making good choices, treating others with respect, and most importantly being Superheros and working toward a school with no bullies!

## So Much to Be Thankful For



*Carter Jackson, Mr. Retz, Marlee Mowatt*



*Madeline LaFave, Mrs. Hendershot, Cooper Davis, Irelyn DeHaan*



*Kaitlyn Youngs, Dakota Wrench, Mrs. McCauley*

On Thursday, November 19, kindergarten held its annual Thanksgiving Feast. The Students and staff were joined by parent volunteers, Mrs. Richards, Mr. Retz and two members of the Board of Education, Mrs. Hendershot and Mrs. McCauley. The preparations began Tuesday, when the students created colorful noodle necklaces, turkey cups and special placemats to celebrate the occasion. The celebration culminated a module study of the Native Americans. The students all ate together at long tables and were served by staff and parent volunteers. It was a wonderful feast, and the students learned, that we do have so much to be thankful for!



# Student Citizen of the Month November

## 3RD GRADE



**Madison Giannetto** — Mrs. Browning  
**Abilene Yahner** — Mrs. Erickson  
**John Komperda** — Mrs. Russ  
**Keaton Browning** — Mrs. Whittaker

## 4TH GRADE



**Anthony Sergi** — Ms. Hunter  
**Landon Nelson** — Mrs. McDermott  
**Andrew Erickson** — Ms. Sanderson  
**Amber Simpson** — Mrs. McCall

## 5TH GRADE



**Kadance Waltz** — Mrs. Giannetto  
**Maeric Barrows** — Mr. Komperda  
**Taylor Tynon** — Mrs. Novitsky  
**Cassie Butler** — Mr. Tallman

## SPECIAL AREAS



**ART** Amanda Galla, Billie Kinney, Michael Swift  
**MUSIC** Savannah Nowalk, Jaden Eroshevich, Maeric Barrows

**COMPUTER** Aidan Roth, Jewlissa Vielandi, Joclyn Lilley

**MATH** Trenton McLain

**READING** Alex Decker

**LIBRARY** Elias Fleming

**BAND** Clayton Leonard

**CHORUS** Andrea Trifunovic

**GIRLS' PE** Abilene Yahner, Tatianna Wells, Taylor Tynon

**BOYS' PE** Jack Prindle, Jaden Eroshevich, Martin Guzman

# MS Students of the Month/ Students of the Week — October



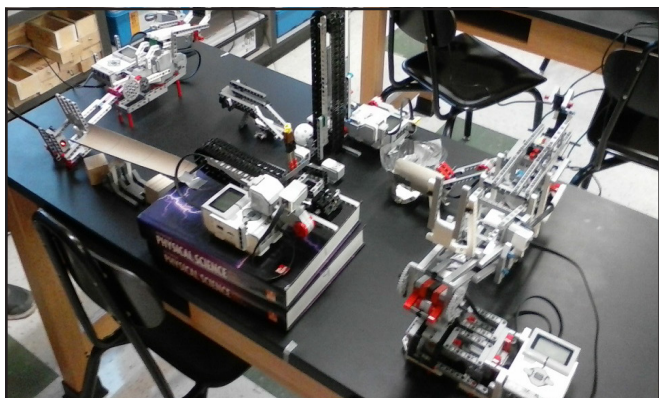
**Baileigh Estabrook, Renee Clark, Emma Smith, Giovanna Cascun, Paige Collins, Leah Decker, Ayden Doolittle, Emma Braman, Anjouliena Rose, Cheyanne McClain, Callie Page, Brianna Austin, Jon Tropa, Nate Erickson, Jonathan Lee, Faith Tierno, Carsyn Puglisi, Dallas Roe, Gage Clark, Noah Kennedy. (Missing: Austin Quillan)**



## Greene Robotics Course

Students taking the new robotics course at Greene have built some amazing machines. Here are some highlights of their current creations. **Kevin Gao, Joe Tollens, Christian O'Neil, McCain Rowland, and Brandon Horton** got to try their hand at Systems Integration. The team built an assembly line of robots. The robots task was to simply pass a whiffle ball around to each other. The programs are completely programmed and run autonomous. Each robot uses sensors to know when they have received the ball to pass on.

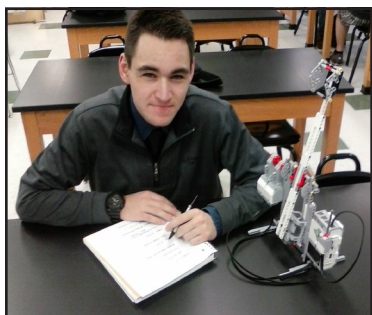
Other current projects include robots that can launch a ping pong ball. One robot developed by **Julianne Myers** uses a sensor to locate its target before tossing the ball.



*The group of robots that make up the assembly line.*



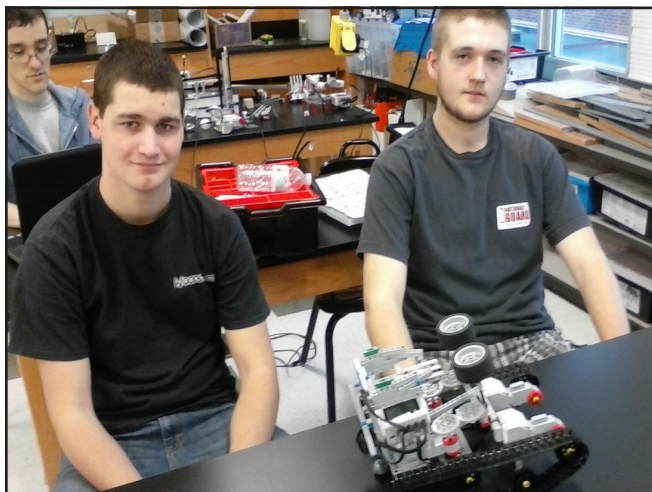
*The group of students that system integrated the robots to make an assembly line. From left: Kevin Gao, Joe Tollens, Christian O'Neil, McCain Rowland, and Brandon Horton*



*Jack Najarian with his catapult launcher.*

**Jack Najarian** built a catapult style ping pong ball launcher. **Abby Sands** built a tennis ball style launcher that uses two wheels moving at fast speeds to launch the ping pong ball. **Lucinda Lee** is currently working on a launcher that will use a fast moving arm to pitch the ping pong ball.

Another team consisting of **Gray Reid** and **Austin Savage** built a moving tank ping pong ball launcher that they can control with their cell phone.



*Gray Reid (left) and Austin Savage (right) built a mobile tank ping pong launcher that is remote controlled with their cell phone.*

*—Ethan Leet, Physics Teacher*

## Student Art Work Featured in UHS Holiday Exhibit



Art work by our talented Primary School students is included in The United Health Services Hospitals Children's Holiday Art Exhibit at Wilson Hospital, Johnson City. The exhibit, which runs from December 6-January 16, highlights the talents of hundreds of children from many local school districts. A festive reception was held December 13, to which the children & their families were invited. Our students who have work displayed included: **Abby Criddle, Josie Dutcher, Danny Gross, Kristopher Neudel, London Lamoreaux, Mila Loiselle, Hayden Mason-Reynolds, Marlee Mowatt, Caitlin Walls, and Alan Wheeler.**

They were recognized at the Primary Building's Morning Program. Congratulations are extended to our student artists!

*—Ms. Dajnowski*

# GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL

## Greene, New York 13778

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ethan Day, President  
Tim Crumb, Vice-President  
Helen Hunsinger  
Karen Hendershott  
Tammie McCauley  
Brian Milk  
Scott Youngs  
Donna M. Utter, District Clerk

Jonathan R. Retz, Superintendent  
Theresa Brant, Newsletter Editor

### 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.



## Music News

Happy New Year from the Music Staff at GCS! We bring to you glad tidings about our music students!

### THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHENANGO ALL-COUNTY WINTER FESTIVAL, WHICH WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 23:

- **Elementary Band:** Sarah Sexton (flute), and Cooper Klumpp (alto saxophone)
- **Jazz Band:** Claire Nolan (piano), Kathleen Hanrahan (alto sax), Shannon Clark (trombone and tuba), and Renee Clark (trumpet).
- **Jr. Chorus:** Claire Moxley, Gabrielle Nowalk, Mikaela Sepulveda-Kiefer, Molly Flanagan, Quintin Pezzino, Amy Bentley, Riley Stanton, Sophia Hanselman, Victoria Fleury
- **Sr. Chorus:** Kileen McLeary, Gregory Wynter, Nate Halsteter, Zach Westover, Derick Heisler

Elementary and Junior students are from grades 6-9, and are selected by their teacher for exceptional effort and progress. Jazz Band and Senior Chorus students audition in the fall for placement in County ensembles.

### COMING UP TOWARDS THE END OF MARCH IS THE CHENANGO ALL-COUNTY SPRING FESTIVAL:

- **Elementary Chorus:** We will have students participating, but final rosters have not yet been released.
- **Madrigal Choir:** Shannon Clark, Claire Nolan, Kileen McLeary, Nate Halsteter, Zach Westover
- **Jr. Band:** Victoria Fleury and Sophia Hanselman (flute), Alex Trifunovic (percussion)
- **Sr. Band:** Keirsten Frair (flute), Gabby Nowalk and Ciara Gunderson (clarinet), Kathleen Hanrahan (alto saxophone), Renee Clark (trumpet), Greg Wynter (percussion)

Elementary and Junior students for this festival are grades 5-8, and Madrigal Choir and Senior Band (grades 9-12) auditioned for placement in the fall.

### UPCOMING MUSICAL

And don't forget to save the date for a trip *Into the Woods* with the High School Footlights Drama Club!

This intertwined fairy tale follows a Baker and his wife who wish to have a child, Cinderella who wishes to attend the King's Festival, and Jack who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results. The final theme from *Into The Woods* reminds us there will be times when each of us must journey "into the woods," but that we must consider both the future and the past.

*You can't just act — you have to listen.*

*You can't just act, you have to think.*

As many of us reevaluate and set goals for the new year, we could all learn from these lyrics. How many times have we done or said something first . . . and then realized the consequences of our actions and words? Come learn with us this April 1, 2 and 3! (Synopsis adapted from [mtishows.com/into-the-woods](http://mtishows.com/into-the-woods).)

### MUSIC EVENT CALENDAR FOR 2016:

- **January 23:** Chenango All-County Winter Festival
- **March 3:** Music In Our Schools Month concert
- **March 11-12:** Chenango All-County Spring Festival
- **April 1-3:** High School Footlights Production *Into the Woods*
- **May 10:** MS/HS Band Concert
- **May 19:** Intermediate Band/Chorus Concert
- **May 24:** MS/HS Choral Concert
- **June 2-4:** Sherburne Pageant of Bands

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our program!

—Ms. Kriesel, Mrs. Boel, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Sininger