



Greene Central School

NEWSLETTER

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November/December 2015

Superintendent's Message

The 2015-2016 school year is off to a wonderful start. Thank you to our Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff for your efforts to make the start of this year so successful. Thank you also to our students and their families for your enthusiasm and your efforts to ensure a smooth start. Greene continues to be recognized, both locally and at the State level through the Business First Rankings as an exemplary school. Our students are provided with a top notch educational experience by a very qualified and dedicated staff. It is because of this that our children continue to perform at such a high level. Thank you to everyone who helps make Greene such a wonderful school.

As you receive this newsletter, Fall sports are wrapping up and we are quickly approaching the end of the first marking period. Once again, time flies by and I hope you are all able to take a moment to pause and enjoy the beautiful Fall foliage and all that accompanies autumn in Central New York. I hope you too, are able to savor all the opportunities, challenges and moments you experience whether in the classroom, on stage, on our athletic fields or watching your children as they participate. Time is fleeting so I encourage you to take a moment to appreciate and treasure these experiences.

On the academic front, our students have continued to respond very well to adjustments to curricula including the Common Core Learning Standards. Student performance on state assessments including Common Core Regents exams has been very good. Thank you to our administration, faculty and staff in responding to these challenges and for your

efforts to manage these changes for our students. Please be confident that we will continue to work hard and maintain the level of excellence that has come to define Greene CSD.

The 2016/2017 budget development process has begun. Once again we anticipate that state funding will remain at the reduced levels we have seen in recent years. Compounding this fact are a host of other factors that will make this a very difficult budget process. The early indication is that the Tax Cap Legislation will limit our allowable levy to close to 0%. Additionally, the costs to do business; utilities, services, health insurance and others, continue to increase. The possibility of an increase in the minimum wage to \$15/hour would also have a considerable impact on Greene and other schools' budgets. Because of these influences and others, the fiscal climate in Greene and schools across New York State remains very tight and will continue to challenge us as it has over the past six years. We will keep you informed as we progress through the budget development process and please be assured that we will work diligently to maintain the programming and excellence that has characterized Greene CSD.

On a positive front, Greene's Government Efficiency Plan, coordinated through the DCMO BOCES, was approved. Property owners will therefore receive a rebate check this Fall that reflects the allowable rebates for the past two years.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends and wish you the best as we move into the winter holiday season.

—Jonathan R. Retz, Superintendent of Schools

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 9 JV/Varsity Winter Sports Start
- 10 Photo Retakes
- 11 No School—Veterans' Day**
- 13 End of 10 Week Marking Period
- 14 Father/Daughter Dance 6:00 p.m.
- 17 ASVAB Testing (10th grade)
- 20 Report Cards Mailed
- 21 Area All State (Band/Chorus)
- 23 Eligibility Begins
- 27-29 No School—Thanksgiving Recess**

DECEMBER

- 1 Canned Food Drive Begins
- 2 High School Band/Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 14 End Canned Food Drive
- 18 End of 15 Week Marking Period
- 23 Progress Reports Issued
- 24 Eligibility Begins
- 23-Jan.1 No School—Holiday Recess**

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL



The high school Student Council would like to introduce our 2015-2016 officers: **Matt Carlin**, President; **Jessica Kehoe**, Vice President; **Maria Brown**, Secretary; and **Kileen McCleary**, Treasurer. Each of these students have been involved with Student Council throughout high school in addition to other school activity

commitments, such as Footlights, Interact, Honor Society, Odyssey of the Mind and various sports.

Student Council's goal this year is to promote unity and positivity. In doing so, they hosted our first Greene Day that consisted of gym activities and team Trivia, along with classmen preparing for this year's pep assembly by making class banners and preparing skits. Every student will be wearing a class t-shirt designed by Student Council members to the pep assembly.

The Homecoming Game was Friday, October 16 and featured the crowning of King and Queen during half-time, following a parade on the field. Thank you for coming out to recognize and support GCS teams and students. At this time, we would also like to recognize Sue Carlin in being voted as Grand Marshall for her boundless commitment to our school and community. Look for follow-ups and pictures in the next newsletter!

Upcoming events Student Council will be assisting with are the non-perishable food drive and holiday gift giving. Student Council members will also work with their classmates in promoting open communication and demonstrating their positivity inside and outside of school.

All of our members are looking forward to a great and productive 2015-2016 school year.

CARDBOARD BOAT RACES



On October 20th, Mrs. Dutcher's 8th grade STEM class raced cardboard boats in the pool. The goal was to stay afloat and get the boat from one side of the pool to the other. The majority of boats made it across. The race was the culmination of a project done following the engineering design model. Students researched the history of boats, science behind boating and looked for information on previous cardboard boat designs. They then collaborated and drew plans for the boats. Next models were created and ultimately through a lot of hard work the boats were built.

Students were only allowed to use cardboard and duct tape to build their boats.



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 Web Page (www.greenebsd.org) and our automated call system, announcements of delays, school closings or early dismissals are given to all area radio and television stations. 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 Occupation 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) UPK —If there is a morning delay there will NOT be UPK that morning. If there is an early dismissal – there 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 babysitter information, so that the students are loaded properly on their bus.

—Transportation Department

ARTS IN EDUCATION

The Greene Arts in Education Program would like to thank the community of Greene and surrounding communities for the support they have given to our students and program over the past 16 years.

It is at this time we would like to especially thank you for your support of the “Treasures and Treats” craft fair over the years. Without your support the event would not have been as successful as it was over years. It has brought many people into the schools from our community and surrounding communities, as a kickoff to the holiday season. “Treasures and Treats” has helped to make it possible for educators to bring artists and programs into the schools to strengthen the education of our students.

It is however difficult to announce, with very heavy hearts, that the “Treasures and Treats” craft fair will no longer be taking place at Greene Elementary Schools. Due to less volunteer help and more demands placed on the teachers, committee members have decided that our time needs to be used in other ways to help our students and continue to help them thrive.

Once again thank you for supporting our schools and arts in education program over the past 16 years. How lucky we are to be a part of such a wonderful community!

Sincerely,
Greene Arts in Education
“Treasures and Treats” committee

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORTS

This year we are happy to announce that the High School will be providing Interim Progress Reports to parents via our online Home Access System, starting with the fifteen week Interim Progress Report. Interim Progress Reports are historically mailed home midway through each marking period in order to provide you with a snapshot of your child’s progress. Making the Interim Progress Reports available online will ensure that you receive the most up to date information on your child’s progress midway through each marking period. Quarterly Report Cards will still be mailed home every 10 weeks as in the past.

Academic Status notifications will continue to be generated every 5 weeks, when the Interim Progress Report is available online and when the Report Cards are mailed home. Please remember that you also can view your child’s up to date grades at any point throughout the marking period by accessing the Parent Home Access Center. You will receive a letter home explaining this change. If you would still like to receive a paper copy, you must return the letter to Guidance by November 6.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

There will be a Financial Aid Informational Meeting on December 7, 2015 in the auditorium at 6:00 p.m. Sally Tripp, Financial Aid Assistant Director at SUNY Broome will be coming to speak to parents and students about the types of financial aid available and how to apply. She will also explain TAP and PELL Grants, Work Study Programs, types of loans available to parents and students, and more.

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

SEPTEMBER STUDENT CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

3RD GRADE



*Parker Flanagan—Mrs. Browning
Keeli Roe—Mrs. Erickson
Savannah Nowalk—Mrs. Russ
Grazielle Lora—Mrs. Whittaker*

4TH GRADE



*Russell Moore—Mr. Eggleston
Rilee Soper—Ms. Hunter
Molly Cornell—Mrs. McDermott
Camric Williams—Ms. Sanderson*

5TH GRADE



*Paul Starliper—Mrs. Giannetto
Anthony Thatcher—Mr. Komperda
Natalie Specht—Mrs. Novitsky
Absent: Payton Yahner—Mr. Tallman
Thomas Francavilla—Mrs. McCall*

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL SPECIAL AREA STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER



Art—*Graziell Lora, Cole LaPorte, Peydon Fowler*
 Music—*Grazielle Lora, Landon Nelson, Noah Hanselman*
 Computer—*Jayden Townsend, Alexis Horner, Aiden Pickard*
 Math—*Hunter Osman*
 Reading—*Gabriella Cascun*
 Library—*Kloden Rapp, Cora-Mae Bolster*
 Band—*Andrea Trifunovic*
 Girls' PE—*Taylor Badger, Dayani Lora, Peydon Fowler*
 Boys' PE—*Ashton Pezzino, Dawson McGraw,
 Chanze Christopher*

LIFE CYCLES AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL



From Kindergarten through Second Grade, the students have been learning about life cycles by watching caterpillars turn into a chrysalis and then a butterfly. Local resident, Tammy Nowalk had an overabundance of caterpillars she shared with the Primary School. This kicked off a unit on life cycles. Students read books, did research and observed the cycle in their classrooms. Some classes went on to learn about the life cycle of other animals and insects, while others created crafts and hats and learned about symmetry.

Pictured is Ms. Lawrence's classroom releasing their butterfly friend.

GIRLS' VARSITY SWIM SENIOR NIGHT



The Girls Varsity Swim Team recognized their seniors on Friday, October 9, 2015.

After successful high school swim careers, four seniors were recognized for their participation, comradery, and most of all, dedication to the swim team. Swim coach, Mike Platta reminisced as he introduced **Ashley Beebe, Kaitlyn Dunlap, Audrey Platta** and **Taylor Wahlers**. Each of these girls swam for the school since Modified and for many, if not all, had spent most of their days in the water since toddlers.



As impressive young swimmers, Audrey Platta shares in the record for the Modified 200 Freestyle Relay and Taylor Wahlers holds a Modified Diving record. We congratulate all of these swimmers for their achievements and contributions to the GCS Swim Team.

Go Greene!

