



Fifth Grade Nature's Classroom

Fifth grade students at Scott M. Ellis Elementary school attended a week-long trip to Nature's Classroom during the week of November 29th. Nature's Classroom is an experiential camp for students which emphasizes hands-on experiments and team-building activities. Students selected classes of interest based on a variety of topics including creating a geodome, predator verses prey, water rocket, rope bridges, and hot air balloon.

Another activity was the Underground Railroad simulation where students were given the roles of being slaves trying to escape from the South. When students were asked what they liked about Nature's Classroom, they consistently spoke of the four hour hike. Students became explorers of nature during this hike and everyone had a different story to tell.

Another experience students shared was the IALAC bead. IALAC stands for "I am loving and caring." Students who were helpful or nice received an IALAC bead and their name was placed on the wall. Once you received an IALAC bead you had the ability to give it to someone else who was being kind. The lessons students learned at Nature's Classroom go far beyond what can be taught in the classroom and will obviously stay with them for many years to come.



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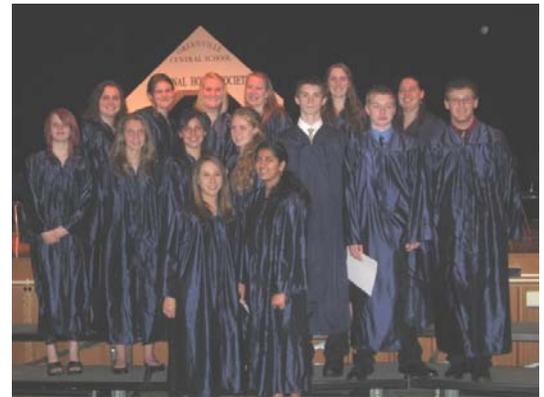
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New Greenville National Honor Society Members Inducted

The 2010-2011 Greenville High School National Honor Society Induction ceremony on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 recognized the sixteen new National Honor Society members for their commitment to scholarship, community service, leadership and character. To be eligible for membership, new members must maintain a 90 or above average for the entirety of their high school career, submit a membership application and essay, and complete an interview with current National Honor Society members. The new National Honor Society members include:

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| Camryn Benjamin | Ruchi Bhatia | Anna Brooks |
| Malaina Buscher | Amber Case | Andrea Esposito |
| George Geldner | Henry Gifford | Erica Hamilton |
| Jennifer Hicks | MacKenzie Licata | Gerald Manning |
| Tess McAneny | Matthew McIlhenny | Alexandria VanAuken |
| Nicole Wickham | | |

The new members joined last year's inductees Emily Bobrick, Kerry Brown, Sydney Carella, Melissa Domermuth, Bonnie Harvey, Morgan Haskin, John Hicks, Michelle Jackson, Marta Kelly, Stephanie Kraker, Matthew Marshall, Sarah McNally, Steven Nevins, Patrick Ostoyich, Dixie Ouellette, Christopher Rodriguez, Jessica Schonning, William VonAtzingen and Diana Waldron. Congratulations to all our National Honor Society members. We are all very proud of your accomplishments.



Luke McDermott Visits Scott M. Ellis

A 2005 Greenville graduate, Luke McDermott recently returned to his home town of Westerlo after serving as a Marine in Afghanistan. On June 9, Mr. McDermott was riding in an armored vehicle that struck a roadside bomb, which resulted in injuries forcing doctors to amputate portions of both his legs. Ms. Bear's third and fourth grade students became pen pals with Mr. McDermott while he as stationed in Afghanistan and during his recovery at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Mr. McDermott was awarded the Purple Heart by USMC General James F. Amos, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. An assembly for students in grades three through five was held on December 21st where students heard Mr. McDermott speak of the importance of staying focused on their education, setting goals and preserving through adversity.



Recycling at Scott M. Ellis

Students in Ms. Rosenberg’s first and second grade class are collaborating with Terra Cycle Company to recycle juice pouches, empty glue bottles, and glue sticks. Students have designed posters and set up a station in the cafeteria to collect juice pouches and the plastic trays. Students receive \$.02 per piece sent for recycling through the Terra Cycle Company.



GCS Athletics

Congratulations to the Fall 2010 New York State Scholar Athlete Teams: Girls’ Varsity Soccer, Boys’ Varsity Soccer, Girls’ Varsity Volleyball, Girls’ and Boys’ Varsity Cross Country. This award is given to teams who have a composite grade point average of 90% or above. For each sport, New York State Public High Schools Association (NYSPHSAA) has predetermined a number of qualifying athletes on a team that must be submitted along with their unweighted first term GPA. The students that are submitted have the highest report card averages on their teams. The teams that are submitted are then compared with other schools’ teams of the same sport for state honors.



GCS Boys’ Varsity Basketball team pushed Catskill to their toughest league game to date and even with a loss of 82-68, the GCS team played inspired basketball. Scott Goodfellow scored 27 points, John Hicks scored 20 points and Joseph Cartelli added 13 points. The GCS team received their first league victory with a 70-62 win over Cossackie-Athens. John Hicks and Joe Cartelli led the way with 17 points each and Scott Goodfellow added 16 points. This game was a team win; everyone had a role and contributed key minutes.



The Girls’ Varsity Basketball team season has a strong and promising start under the senior leadership of TaylorAnne Young and Bonnie Harvey. The Lady Spartans have wins over Cossackie-Athens, Rensselaer and Hudson.

Tastings at Ellis Elementary

On Friday December 10th Elementary students experienced many new foods as part of a monthly event titled “The Wacky World of Strange and Unusual Fruits and Vegetables”. The tastings were organized by Mr. Ventura, Food Service Supervisor, in an effort to expose our students to new, healthy foods. This project, made possible through a grant from the Healthy Weight Initiative of Greene County Rural Health, is designed for elementary age children to try new and different varieties of fruits and vegetables in the hopes of widening their palates and opening their young minds to a different culinary world.



Hands-on Projects Engage Sixth Grade Students

Students in Ms. Conroy's sixth grade science and Ms. Simmon's social studies classes worked diligently on a variety of topics in November during an "open-wall activity". Projects were designed to spark creativity, discovery, time management, research skills and acquisition of content knowledge. All students were expected to complete nine activities from a "choice board" which integrated science and social studies skills.

Students read an article on the many reasons that cultures use masks and created an individual mask with tissue paper and a paper mache form. Students also learned about cave art in the unit titled "Stone Age" and created paintings using historically accurate colors, making images similar to those studied. Students selected and researched a particular continent and created an informative postcard from that continent which included relevant factual information. In preparation for an activity later in the year, students labeled a skeleton using reference material. Wheat and barley were processed using mortar and pestle and students discovered that the pre-historic method of using rocks was actually more efficient.

Students have been given direct instruction in the scientific method using hands-on laboratory experiments in which they used a "Slinky" and Jello to discover more about seismic waves. Students recorded their findings incorporating ELA skills. Math and social studies again were integrated as students plotted volcanoes and earthquakes and labeled continents and oceans on world maps.

The goal of these activities is to provide engaging learning opportunities for students. Ms. Conroy and Ms. Simmons commented that, "Providing students with integrated projects gives us, as teachers, the opportunity to connect with our students and guide their learning in a variety of ways."



Kindergarten Reading Partners

Ms. Mulholland's third and fourth grade students met with Ms. Herwick's kindergarten class on Friday, December 10th to create holiday crafts for the kindergarten's upcoming "Caring and Sharing Day". Students in both classes have met each Friday to read and share together. Friday's activities were to read *Twas the Mouse Before Christmas* followed by creating a mouse with a candy cane tail for the kindergarten event with families the following week.



2010-2011

Superintendent ~ Parent & Community Forums

Superintendent Dudley meets with GCS parents and community members to hear views about and suggestions for our schools. In addition for this year several special presentations have been scheduled for parents and community members on topics relevant to the District and our students. These are scheduled for Saturday mornings on the dates listed below from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and will be held at MS/HS Library Media Center.

January 8 Update on District Master Plan

Stieglitz Snyder Architecture and the District have been working for the past three years to outline a master plan for the school district campus and facilities to support an educational program for now and into the future over a thirty year time period. As a result of input from faculty, staff and various community stakeholders, discussion at this meeting will provide participants with the design and status of the plan to date.

Cards for Recovering American Soldiers

Students in Ms. Brandon's third and fourth grade class created holiday cards and wrote letters to recovering American Soldiers currently located at Walter Reed Medical Center. The students were very excited to make the cards and write letters for soldiers who may not be home for the holidays.



Caring and Sharing Days at Ellis Elementary

Each month students at Scott M. Ellis learn and practice a new character trait which for the month of December was compassion. To celebrate and learn more about compassion, students in Kindergarten held a series of "Caring and Sharing" days during which students invite their parent and/or grandparent to visit their classroom to share stories of holiday traditions. Students then present their family member with a gift to show their appreciation. This is a wonderful event that brings families together during the holidays to learn, celebrate and pass down their holiday traditions.

High School Challenge Field Trip

On December 14th, a group of high school students took a field trip to the Elliot House Thrift Store in Norton Hill. The group packed leftover items, cleaned the store, and readied the store for its winter closing, and items were brought to other non-profit organizations or storage. Other items were moved to storage. The thrift store will reopen in the spring with help again from our high school students. Students who participated in the field trip were Erin Kane, Anna Brooks, Alexa Brandon, Jennifer Hicks, Abigail McQuillen, Shawn Wickham, Nicole Wickham, Sharon McKay, Diana Waldron and Ruchi Bhatia. This field trip was coordinated through the HS Challenge program by Ms. Palmer.



Greenville Students Participate in NYSBDA Honor Band

This year four students from the Greenville Central School District have been selected to participate in the NYSBDA Honor Bands.

James Herbstritt, son of Ann Holstein and Eric Herbstritt of Greenville, NY and Khrystina Warnstadt, daughter of Tina and Kurt Warnstadt of Earlton, NY have been selected to participate in the 2011 NYSBDA Middle School Honor Concert Band. James will play trombone and Khrystina will play flute under the direction of Mr. Brett Wery who is director of the Wind Ensemble at Schenectady County Community College. Mr. Wery also conducts the Capital Region Wind Ensemble.

Michael Schonning, son of Ann Marie Schonning of Greenville, NY and Stephen Schonning of Westerly, RI has been selected to perform with the 2011 NYSBDA High School Honor Concert Band. Michael will play euphonium under the direction of Dr. Bobby Adams who is Director of Bands and Professor of Music Education and Coordinator of Instrumental Music at Stetson University School of Music in DeLand, Florida.

Emily Bobrick, daughter of Cathleen and Richard Bobrick of Medusa, NY has been selected as a member of the 2011 NYSBDA High School Jazz Ensemble. It should be noted that Emily is one of only 18 students state-wide who have been selected for this ensemble. Emily will play trumpet under the direction of Paul Evoskevich, professor of saxophone and jazz studies at The College of Saint Rose.

Each year, from hundreds of applicants, Honor Band members are selected by a committee of NYSBDA board members who carefully review each applicant's NYSSMA score sheets. The Honor Bands will rehearse and perform during the NYS Band Directors' Annual Symposium to be held March 4 -6 at the Double Tree Hotel in East Syracuse, NY.

Selection to these prestigious ensembles demonstrates exceptional musicianship and is an outstanding accomplishment. Congratulations to James, Khrystina, Michael and Emily, their parents and teachers Mr. Michael Benedict and Ms. Erin Upson.



High School Interact Club Collection

The High School Interact Club participated in a "Coats for Kids" drive and sorted coats for the Columbia Greene Community Action office, and the Greenville Food Pantry. Blankets were given to the Columbia Greene Humane Society.



Pajama and Toy Drive at GCS High School

Greenville High School Student Council members collected and delivered approximately 110 pairs of pajamas and 62 toys during the month of December. Donations were given to the Greenville Food Pantry for distribution within our community. A special thanks to our generous students and staff who participated in the drive.

Read 2011

On Wednesday, December 22nd, Scott M. Ellis students ended the calendar year by reading together. Students read silently as individuals, with a buddy, or as a class for 2011 seconds to welcome in the New Year.





The Polar Express Visits Kindergarten

Kindergarten students were visited by the Polar Express during the last few weeks of December. Students dressed in PJ's and sat on the "Polar Express" as guests read the book by the same title. Their magical journey ended with hot chocolate and cookies.



Greenville Students Participate in Area All-State

This year five Greenville High School students were selected to perform in the music ensembles of the Area All-State Music Festival on November 19th and 20th at Saratoga Springs High School. These outstanding ensembles consisted of students chosen from a ten county area including Albany, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington counties. Competitive selection to these groups is based upon the score received by the students during the previous spring at the NYSSMA solo evaluation festivals.

Michael Schonning performed, on euphonium, in the Concert Band under the direction of Ms. Louise Schwarz. Marta Kelly, Kacee Womack and Sydney Carella sang in the Chorus under the direction of Dr. David Griggs-Janower. Representing Greenville, on trumpet, in the Jazz Ensemble was Emily Bobrick.

All ensembles gave stellar performances to a standing room only audience of family, friends and teachers. Congratulations to all our talented young musicians, their families and their music teachers, Mr. Benedict and Mr. Meredith.

