



Kindergarten Students Celebrate Thanksgiving

Kindergarten students at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School celebrated Thanksgiving with a Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday, November 22nd. As part of the Kindergarten curriculum students learn about holidays and customs. For the month of November students learned about the first Thanksgiving and each class made a food item to share with the entire group. Family members volunteered to serve students popcorn, carrots, juice, muffins and cookies as a snack before lunch. As part of the community celebration students were encouraged to sit with classmates they did not know to make new friends. Students also made Pilgrim hats and bonnets and Native American headdresses to celebrate the occasion.



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High School Student Council Gives Back to the Community

During the month of November High School Student Council members under the leadership of Ms. Chris Lochner, collected donations for the Holiday Food Drive. Students and faculty throughout the middle and high schools donated food and money to help support the Greenville Food Pantry. On the morning of November 21st high school students in Ms. Kehrer's Challenge Program volunteered at the Greenville Food Pantry sorting food donations, making Thanksgiving baskets, organizing shelves and cleaning. This year the Student Council collected twenty-five turkeys with fifty-four boxes and bags of foodstuffs.



The Underground Railroad Lives Through Minds On

Ten eighth grade Social Studies students were selected to spend a day at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville, at a Mind's On workshop entitled The Underground Railroad. This workshop provided an opportunity for students to experience history as runaway slaves and abolitionists. They plotted escape routes, faced the perils of life on the road, wrote journal entries and newspaper reports, and created song lyrics in code. The day's events culminated in an abolitionist meeting. Workshop leader, Reggie Harris tied the entire event together with renditions of folk songs that personalized the trials faced by those yearning for freedom. Students came away from this excellent workshop with a more vivid perception of the dangers and challenges faced by all who were participants in the Underground Railroad.



Iroquois Immersion at Scott M. Ellis

Third and fourth grade students at Scott M. Ellis hosted an Iroquois Immersion on November 15th and 16th with a variety of workshops provided by Interpretative Specialist, Ms. Collette Lemmon and Turtle Clan Onondaga craftsman Mr. Al Jacques. The two-day experience enabled the students to discover the Iroquois culture through hands-on experiences studying the artifacts, legends, songs and dance of the Iroquois by Ms. Lemmon. Mr. Jacques taught the students about the history of Iroquois games and how he crafts lacrosse sticks out of hickory. Students were also made corn-husk dolls and Mohawk-style clay pots in classrooms. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience that brought history to life.



Project Based Learning at GCS Middle School

Eighth grade students in Ms. Moylan’s English Language Arts classes and Ms. Lewis’ Technology course are experiencing the world of toy manufacturing through project-based learning. Students have been given the task of researching wooden toys, writing about the process of constructing the toys, creating and packaging the toys, exhibiting and demonstrating the toys to an elementary audience. Through collaborative groups, students are applying many 21st century skills including collaboration, problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills to complete this activity. The intent of project-based learning activities is to provide students with real-life, meaningful experiences that are engaging while providing opportunities for students to be academically challenged. Many areas of the ELA Common Core Standards are incorporated within this one project while also supporting several technology standards. Students are given the opportunity to see the interconnectedness of both content areas and how they both have real-world applications.



High School Students Experience Interactive Art Exhibit

Students in Mr. Sean Stewart’s photography class and high school art club visited the Norman Rockwell Museum’s interactive exhibit on digital animation to learn about the complex process of turning artists’ drawings into animated characters. Computers with animation software were provided to students allowing them the opportunity to explore simple animation techniques such as adding various lighting effects to a drawing. Students also experienced the work of Norman Rockwell while on the trip.

During the month of January, a collaborative student exhibit with Cossackie-Athens high school will be held at the Greenville Community Art Gallery. Please stop in to view the wonderful artwork.



Mix It Up Day at Scott M. Ellis

Students in grades Kindergarten through fifth participated in National Mix It Up Day on October 18th. Students were encouraged to sit with at least one new person that they didn’t know in the cafeteria. Conversation starter placemats were on the tables as students entered the cafeteria to generate discussion topics at their tables. Adults were also available to visit tables and facilitate discussions. Students enjoyed sharing their favorite movies, books, television shows, toys and vacation spots. Mix It Up is a national campaign to improve intergroup relations, reduce prejudice and build inclusive learning communities. The day is a simple call to action, asking students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch.

Scott M. Ellis CARES

Throughout November students at Scott M. Ellis have participated in two assemblies aimed at explicitly teaching students nine strategies for dealing with conflicts using the Solution Circle and the CARES acronym from Responsive Classroom. An assembly format provided the opportunity to disseminate the same information to all students and staff allowing everyone to share a common experience and language. Students learned the difference between a small problem, one that causes them to feel annoyed or bothered, and a big problem, one that causes them to feel scared or frightened. Children can often handle small problems on their own, but adults should always be utilized for big problems. By the end of the two assemblies, students were taught how to:

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| Go to another game/activity | Share and take turns | Tell the person to stop |
| Talk it out | Walk away | Ignore it |
| Apologize | Make a deal | Wait and cool off |

At the end of the assemblies, students were encouraged to use at least one of the strategies, either at school or at home.

Students were also introduced to five character education words that are part of the implementation of Responsive Classroom teaching at Scott M. Ellis. The acronym CARES stands for a specific set of social skills that children need in order to be successful academically and socially. The C in CARES stands for Cooperation, A stands for Assertion, R stands for Responsibility, E stands for Empathy and S stands for Self Control. Students were encouraged to look for the overlapping ideas between character education words in CARES and the strategies used in the solution circle. Ms. DuBois commented, “It is hoped that these skills will effect positive change in student behavior, by nurturing independence and increasing confidence in their ability to deal with every day challenges. By teaching students these important social skills, they are better prepared to deal with social challenges.”

Fall All-County Music Festival

On November 2nd and 4th, forty-nine students from the Greenville CSD Music Department participated in an All-County Music Festival sponsored by the Greene County Music Educators Association. This bi-annual event was held at the Cairo-Durham School District. These students are considered among the best music students in Greene County and were nominated by their teachers last spring.

GCS Music Department Chairman Michael Benedict stated that “These students were extremely well-prepared, spending many hours practicing before traveling to Cairo-Durham and the results showed. The concert was fantastic! Special thanks to Ms. Upson, Ms. Rochler, Ms. Lewis and Mr. Meredith for preparing them so well.”

The Elementary Chorus students under the direction of Ms. Leslie Lopez were Hannah Smith, Caitlin Lane, Alyssa Latta, Caila Benning, Holly Feit, Brooke O’Keefe, Isabelle Caffero, Steven Howard, Kaitlyn Stanfield, Fiona Haggerty, Valerie Lewis and Natalie Wysokowski.

The Junior Band students under the direction of Mr. Dan Chouiniere included Tyler Biernacki, Caroline Bobrick, Rachel Coe-Scharff, Erin Crawley, Meagan Czynewski, Scott Davis, Ross Dupuis, Jacob Gorneau, James Herbstritt, Alyssa Hopkins, Julian Jacobs, Brandon Johnson, Brittany Johnson, Carly Johnson, Jaymey Kuykendall, Sean McAneny, Taylor Olmstead, Bethany Overbaugh, Julianna Rauf, Zoe Rudloff, Kristen Silk and Khrystina Warnstadt.

The Senior Chorus students under the direction of Mr. Michael Lister were Jessica Bame, Jocelyn Elwyn, Cody Evans, Zoe Hutchins, William Koepp, Caroline Lewis, Jose McKay, Abigail McQuillen, Megan Terrell and Cathe Tisch.

The Senior Jazz students under the direction of Mr. Robert Freeberg included Marcel Dupuis, David Herbstritt, Kate Kulas, Gerald Manning and Michael Schonning. Congratulations to all! The next All-County festival will take place at Greenville on March 21st and 23rd, 2012.



Athletics at GCS

Congratulations to our fall athletic teams on their wonderful seasons that finished up at the beginning of the month. I am proud to say that we had one conference championship team, two league MVPs, three home sectional wins, and many first and second team all-conference players and many senior all-star selections. These achievements are a byproduct of the hard work of the coaches, players, and the families that support our Spartan athletic community.

Our teams faced many challenges this season, most notably a ten day lay off due to Hurricane Irene. Missing these valuable practices at a critical point in the season was a significant hurdle for many of our teams. All of our teams rebounded and had successful seasons. Seniors Alexandria VanAuken and Jennifer Hicks were voted as league MVPs for their performances in girls' soccer and volleyball. Our girls' volleyball team completed a perfect 16-0 conference schedule to win the Patroon conference title. The boys' and girls' soccer teams also competed well during the season and earned home matches in the first round of the sectional tournament which both teams won.

The beginning of November also brought the start of our winter sports' season. Boys' and girls' basketball teams prepare for a tough conference season the last week of November after some challenging scrimmage contests against Middleburgh, Schoharie, and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk. Both teams are set to begin against Catskill High School with the girls at home on November 29th and the boys on the road on November 30th. Boys' volleyball will begin at Cairo-Durham on December 5th, and the wrestling team will begin its season at Taconic Hills on December 1st.

We are proud to welcome some new faces to our coaching staff this winter. Christopher Drumma will be leading our boys' modified basketball team, and alumni Katilyn Benninger will take over as our modified girls' basketball coach. Eugene Rodriguez has joined the coaching staff at Greenville again as our varsity wrestling coach.

New Greenville National Honor Society Members Inducted

The 2011-2012 Greenville High School National Honor Society Induction ceremony took place on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. The ceremony recognized the nineteen new National Honor Society members for their commitment to scholarship, community service, leadership and character. To be eligible for membership, new members had to 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 are:

Heather Carl
Joseph DeTillio
Lily Glucksman
Pat Kelly
Dylan Latham
Holly Meyer
Shawn Wickham

Cynthia Chesbro
Conor Drossel
Sierra Goodfellow
Kevin Kiefer
Luke Marshall
Ashley Rothe

Subhrajit Debnath
Ronald Duncan
David Herbstritt
Mackenzie Kiefer
Brandon Maxwell
Michael Schonning

The new members joined last year's inductees 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 and Nicole Wickham. Congratulations to all our National Honor Society members. We are all very proud of your accomplishments.



The House on Mango Street Project at GCS High School

The *House on Mango Street* project for Ninth Grade English Language Arts was based on the book by Sandra Cisneros. The project began with students reading the collection of vignettes that tell the story of Esperanza, a teenager growing up in inner-city Chicago in the 1960's in a traditional Hispanic family. Esperanza has to figure out how to create her own life when the expectations of her culture clash with her dreams and goals. The ninth grade students used *The House on Mango Street* as a model text to create their own book of vignettes during the first semester.

2011-2012

**Saturday Morning Coffee with the 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 12:00 pm with the location on campus to be announced.

**December 3, 2011
9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Update on District Master Plan

Stieglitz Snyder Architecture and the District have been outlining 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.



Theatre Program at GCS High School

On November 10th two students from Greenville High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Theatre class traveled with instructor Kris Raskopf to Tarrytown, NY. Malaina Busher and Conor Drossel presented to the IB Theatre program at the Education First International School. Malaina, a second year student, presented her scale model of a typical Noh Stage found in Japan and Conor, a first year student, discussed stage lighting for the theatre. Both students answered questions and interacted with students from all corners of the globe, including Germany, Italy, China, Japan, Vietnam and Malaysia. We would like to thank Education First International Schools and Ms. Ginny Borton, IB Theatre program teacher, for this wonderful opportunity.

