



**New School Year, New Look, New Faces—by Melissa Palmer**

As the new school year approaches, we would like to share some new aspects of our Greenville School Community. At Scott M. Ellis Elementary School, a community garden opened recently. This is a lovely way to connect community members with our school district. At the Middle School/ High School, the circle and entrance to the Middle and High Schools are getting a much needed makeover. New curbs and sidewalks are the most recent addition as the project continues to make progress. The bus circle has also been widened to allow for easier passage. All improvements are scheduled to be completed and ready for the start of the school year.



Todd Hilgendorff is thrilled to join the Greenville School community as the new High School Principal. Todd is a native of Round Top and a graduate of the Cairo-Durham School District. Todd attended Cornell University where he studied Biology with a concentration in Ecology. Putting that degree to good use, Todd spent time in Alaska working in environmental education. Upon his return home, he completed his Master's Degree in Adolescent Education at the College of Saint Rose. For the past eight years, Todd dedicated his time and energy teaching Science at Farnsworth Middle School in the Guilderland School District. Todd's educational focus was on instructional practices that served students of various learning styles and which created a safe learning environment. Please keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities to meet and get to know Todd as he begins building relationships with members of our community.

Another new administrative face is Brian Mazza, our Assistant District Principal K-12/Athletic Director. Brian has previous Athletic Director experience and spent the bulk of his teaching career teaching high school Biology. Additionally, Brook Van Fleet has been appointed as the Director of Special Education. Brook's services will be shared between Greenville Central Schools and Windham-Ashland-Jewitt School Districts. Brook's previous experience was at the Hunter-Tannersville School District and has been a special education administrator as well as a teacher.



We welcomed two new teachers on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Nathan Forrest is the new High School Physics teacher and Michael Morelli is the new High School English teacher. Both are very excited to be at Greenville Central Schools. Nathan expressed how friendly and welcoming everyone has been at Greenville so far and that he is looking forward to becoming an active member to both our school and local community. Michael thought that coming to Greenville would be a great opportunity to work at an ambitious school which is doing great things for students. He taught for the past twelve years in Oneonta and is looking forward to meeting his Greenville students.

## Community Garden—submitted by Karen Overbaugh

If they grow it, they will eat it! This is the principle behind the new Lunch Thyme Garden at GCS. The primary goal of this project is to create a hands-on garden classroom for use by students K-12. We hope the garden helps to integrate nutritional awareness and healthy lifestyle choices in the daily lives of our students. We also hope that by growing some unusual produce and herbs that can be used in our own cafeteria, we can create increase interest and participation in the school lunch program.

Finally, by rolling up our sleeves and getting dirty together, we hope to unite families, educators, classrooms and community partners.



The garden construction is underway and plants are growing! Thanks to many community donations, four raised garden beds have been built, filled with soil and seedlings have been planted. The center point of the Lunch Thyme Garden is a Pizza Garden, which contains tomatoes and herbs used to make pizza sauce. Yellow beans, kale, broccoli, purple cauliflower and a variety of lettuces are thriving too.

Anyone who wishes to help with construction, planting, weeding and watering should email [lunchthymegarden@greenville.k12.ny.us](mailto:lunchthymegarden@greenville.k12.ny.us)

We are seeking donations of lumber, soil, garden benches, a sign and trellises. Monetary donations would also be gratefully received. The Garden Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with soliciting donations, grant writing, curriculum organization and planning. There is also a need for a treasurer.

By September, we anticipate having a flourishing garden for students to use. Imagine a class learning about the growth cycle first hand, or having an inspiring place to observe and journal. A classroom set of buckets and garden hand tools is on our list of items to purchase for the opening of school. Who knows where this agricultural journey could take us. Someday students could be planting fruit trees, composting food scraps from the cafeteria or even learning about pollination by starting a bee hive!

Many thanks to our donors: GNH, Cooksburg Lumber, Bear Farm, Eric Lounsbury ,the Volmars, Read and Read Again, Story's Nursery and Townline Auto. Appreciation goes out to the GCS Building and Grounds Department and those who have donated time and energy in planning, construction and planting. Stop by, visit, and pull a few weeds!



### **Back to School Information for Scott M. Ellis Elementary—submitted by Peter Mahan**

The teachers and staff at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School are eager to welcome students on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>!

Kindergarten students and their parents will attend an Open House on September 4 between 12:15 pm and 1:45 pm. During this visit our newest students and their parents will have the opportunity to spend time in their child's classroom, meet with their teachers and ease the transition to school. Kindergarten students will attend school for a half day (7:55 am-11:30 am) on September 5, and then attend for a full day of school (7:55 am-2:25 pm) on Friday, September 6.

Students in grades 1-5 will begin with a full day schedule (7:55 am-2:25 pm) on Wednesday, September 4. We look forward to parents visiting classrooms and meeting their child's teachers during our Fall Open House events. Our first and second grade Open House will be on Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 pm. The third, fourth and fifth grade Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10 at 6:00 pm. These Open House events will begin in the Elementary Auditorium. Information about the grade 4 band program and fifth grade choral/instrumental programs will also be presented during the evening.

We look forward to a great year of learning together!

### **Back to School Information for the Middle School—submitted by Brian Reeve**

School officially begins on September 4, 2013 for students in grades 6-8. Student schedules will be mailed home during the last week of August. Please call 966-5070 x451 with any scheduling questions or concerns.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, all sixth grades students are invited to Locker Day from 10 am to 12 noon. Students will have an opportunity to practice opening their lockers and time to organize it. Students will also have an opportunity to practice/walk through their academic schedule.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 3 pm to 5 pm, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may organize school supplies in their lockers. Additionally, any 6<sup>th</sup> grade student unable to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Locker Day is invited on September 3<sup>rd</sup> as well.

Middle School Open House (grades 6-8) has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a staggered schedule to allow families to visit multiple grades. Sixth grade Open House begins at 6:00 pm, seventh grade will begin at 6:40 pm and eighth grade will start at 7:20 pm. Special area teachers and foreign language teachers (Technology, Computers, Health, Art, Music, PE, Home and Careers, Band and Chorus) will be available from 6:00 – 7:20 pm in the middle school multi-purpose room. Content area teachers (Math, ELA, Social Studies, and Science) will be presenting an overview of their classes in large-group settings with course descriptions available starting at the designated grade level time. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

### **Information from GCS High School—submitted by Todd Hilgendorff**

The 2013-2014 school year begins for students on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Finalized schedules for high school students will be mailed home during the last week of August. Our student handbook details the procedures for students who wish to change their schedules. Please contact the Guidance office at 966-5190 x.411 to schedule appointments if you wish to make amendments to your class schedule.

Our Open House for grades 9-12 is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate the continued support and involvement of our parents in our school community. We look forward to sharing in the celebrations of students' excellence during the 2013-2014 school year.

### Summer FFA Happenings—submitted by Rachel Anderson

Members of the Greenville FFA have been very busy this summer! Our summer started with a trip to Camp Oswegatchie for FFA summer camp during the second week of July. While at camp, students took part in a variety of activities including leadership workshops, team building workshops on the low ropes course, the high ropes challenge course, horseback riding and water sports.



On July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup> the Greenville FFA hosted our summer horse shows. We had many riders compete in our English, Western and Gymkhana classes. Our final show of the year will be on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Horse shows are open to the public. Interested community members may join our mailing list by sending an email to [andersonr@greenville.k12.ny.us](mailto:andersonr@greenville.k12.ny.us).

Greenville FFA members have also participated in several fairs this summer. In late July FFA members held a fundraiser selling milkshakes and slushies at the Greene County Youth Fair. The Greenville FFA also had a booth at the Altamont Fair in August. Members assisted in the Ag Tent at the Altamont Fair by hosting Veggie Races and other agricultural literacy activities for youth. Many FFA members also attended both the Greene County Youth Fair and the Altamont Fair to show animals including rabbits, chickens, dairy cattle, dairy goats and pigs. In late August FFA members will travel to the New York State Fair in Syracuse to participate in state-wide Career Development Events including Livestock Judging and Horse Judging.

The Greenville FFA is looking forward to a productive fall as well. We are planning fall activities that include participating in the FFA National Officer Tour, Cobleskill High School Days and the FFA National Convention. We always welcome new members! Meetings will begin in September, and interested students should listen to the high school morning announcements for meeting times, or talk to Ms. Anderson or Mr. Cunnan about membership.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

August 12-August 23:  
Summer Institute for New  
and Veteran Faculty

August 28: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Locker Day 10 am to 12  
noon @MS

September 3: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>  
grade Locker Day from 3  
pm to 5 pm @MS

September 14: FFA  
Horse Show 9 am-3 pm @  
Horse Show Ring

September 17: High  
School Open House 6:30-  
8 pm

September 18: Middle  
School Open House see  
page 3 for staggered start  
times

**Continuing Education Information—submitted by Marybeth Favicchio**

The Greenville School Fall 2013 Continuing Education Classes are posted online. The brochure can be found at [www.greenville.k12.ny.us](http://www.greenville.k12.ny.us). By clicking under the District heading on the top left corner you can browse down to Continuing Education to view the 2013 brochure. Classes begin mid-September. Please contact Marybeth Favicchio at [favicchio@greenville.k12.ny.us](mailto:favicchio@greenville.k12.ny.us) for further information.

**Summer Institute 2013—submitted by Melissa Palmer**

August 12<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of a two-week stint of professional development for both new and veteran faculty. Workshops topics included Student Learning Objectives, Common Core Standards, Right to Intervention, National Board Certification, computer training and such required trainings such as Right-to-Know and Wellness. Carrie Caputi, Curriculum Specialist, coordinated the workshops and the Summer Institute schedule.

