

For Learning

Greenwich Central School
Spring Newsletter
April, 2011

A Message From Mr. Donnelly

Our Appreciation

As we prepare another school budget, I would like to take an opportunity to thank all of the parents, staff members and students that have participated in the process. The Board of Education, Mr. Clark and myself had the opportunity to meet with over 100 people and hear their ideas and recommendations.

This input is invaluable in helping our board to understand what is important to our community and what priorities exist as they make difficult decisions about programs and staffing.

Currently, the State has adopted a budget which will restore some aid to our schools, but it will not affect our bottom line substantially. We still need to cut approximately \$650,000 from our budget as the result of a reduction in State Aid. In the past, the State provided almost 60% of our operating budget. That number is now approximately 50%.



Kathleen Isgro and Mel Steinberg at the 2011 Pops Concert

I particularly would like to thank all of the people that attended our last Board meeting on March 21st. Each presentation from the public was made with dignity, sincerity and civility. Their messages were heard clearly by the board. This kind of exchange about our program help us to move in the right direction for our students.

What makes Greenwich such an exceptional place is the connection between the community and the school. With your support, we will continue to offer the rich, diverse and challenging program for our students that they deserve and require.

For Learning,

Matthias E. Donnelly

Matthias E. Donnelly
Superintendent of Schools



Greenwich High School Student Art Exhibit

Thursday May 26, 2011

4:00pm - 7:00pm

668 Cambridge-Battenville Road
Greenwich, New York



Junior-Senior High School

Greenwich High School Student's Excel!

Once again this fall GCS students demonstrated their incredible talents and commitment to excellence in a number of extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Some of this year's accomplishments include:

- Thirty-six Greenwich Junior-Senior High School band students were selected to perform at the All-County Band Festival in Whitehall on March 11th and 12th.
- Five members of the Greenwich chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) earned top-five finishes at a recent District 5 FBLA competition, with one student, Andrew Watters, placing first in the Personal Finance category.
- The Girls Cross Country and Girls Field Hockey teams earned Section II Championships in the fall while the Boys Soccer Team won our school's first ever Wasaren League Soccer Championship. This winter the Girls Indoor Track team recently won a Section II championship.
- Recently Collin Graves, one of our University in the High School Authentic Science Research students, was notified that the research he has been conducting with Dr. Troy Wood of the State University of New York at Buffalo, has been submitted at a conference and may be selected for publication.



GCS Senior High Drama Club Presents *OLIVER!*

The Greenwich Senior High Drama Club performed the musical *Oliver!* on March 4th, 5th and 6th to large crowds. The students also held a mini-performance for the entire Elementary school on Thursday, March 3rd.

The musical, directed by Richard Cherry and choreographed by Darcy May, included a cast of over thirty students. Standout performances were given by Devlin Kennedy as Oliver, Kaitlyn Dyke as Nancy, Paul Crowder as Fagin, Ian Kelly as Bill Sykes, Phillip Blake as Mr. Bumble, and Zak Barnett as the Artful Dodger.

Other actors included Kayleigh Bain, Kinsey Bobel, James Brown-Kinsella, Laura Collins, Tanner Copeland, Sarah Crowder, Betsy Edinger, Ginny Edinger, Clara Edwards, Jeremy Eldred, Helene Esau, Anne Grimmke, Peter Hayes, Stephen Hayes, Jessica Horey, MacKenzie Mitchell, Madeline Montague, Tim Norton, Keith Pratt, Mel Steinberg, Christian Stilwell, Janelle Whitman and Joanna Wilbur.





Elementary

Elementary Physical Education Update

The elementary physical education department has continued to implement a tremendous outdoor winter exercise program that was started in 2001. We offer grades four, five and six cross country skiing, grades two and three snowshoe and kindergarten and first grade go on a winter hike. Not only do the students get great exercise, but they are able to appreciate the outdoors and the nature that our campus provides. Due to the cold temperatures, we have not been able to finish our unit so we are hoping to get out with the rest of our students after February break. The students that have yet to get outside have been cooperatively working on teamwork and communication while climbing our indoor rock wall. A few of our fifth grade students have been given a leadership opportunity to help our primary students during this unit. Here are a few pictures of our experiences this winter.



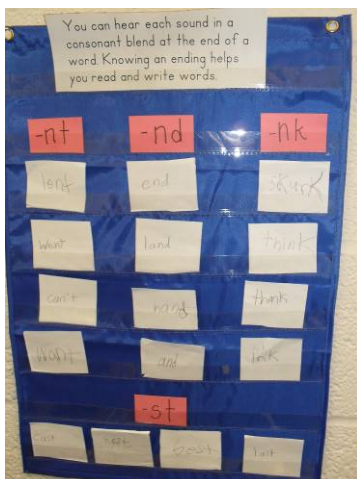
Math Academic Intervention Service: (AIS Math)



Our new AIS Math teacher for Kindergarten through sixth grade is Jeremiah Andrew. AIS Math is a program that provides students with a “hands on” approach to learning concepts and skills that are being taught by their classroom teacher. He supplements what is being taught in the classroom, so that the students are constantly receiving additional practice with difficult topics or concepts. Facts, computation, and problem solving are some of the specific skills that are targeted on a regular basis. He works in small groups, both in the classroom and out of the classroom. Typically he meets with each student at least two to three times a week. The main goal of AIS Math is to help students stay on track and to have a greater understanding what is being taught in the classroom.

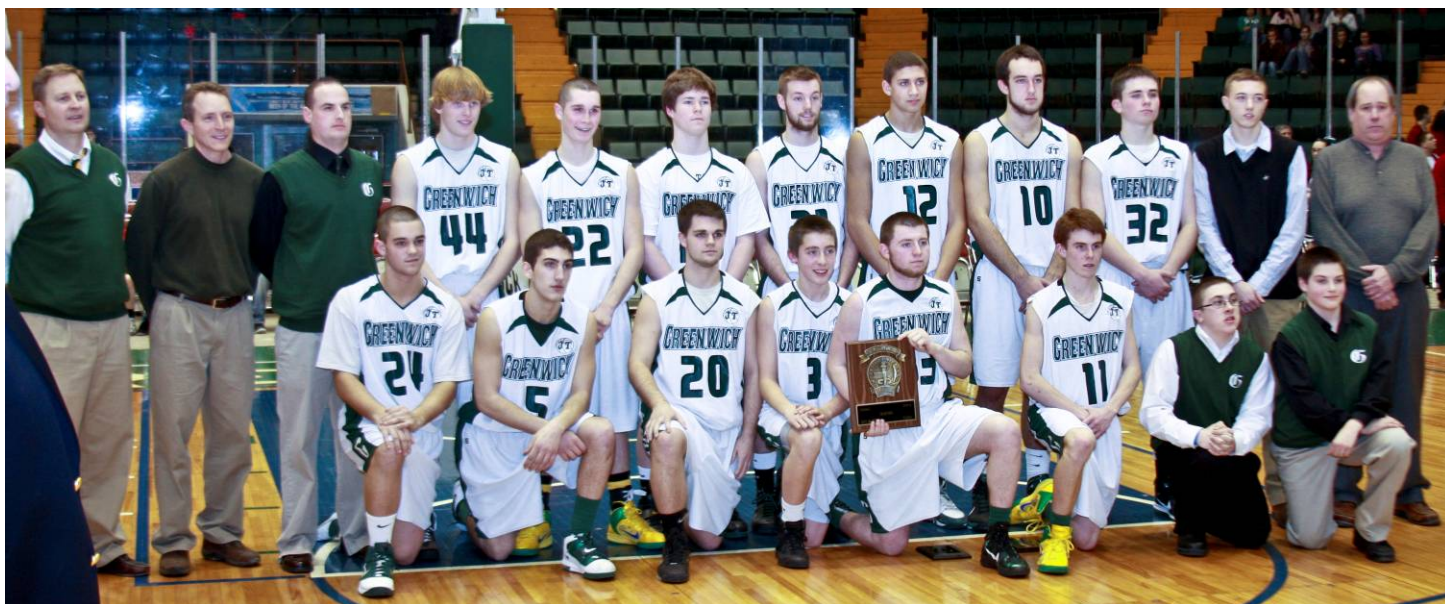
Literacy Intervention Program

This year we began using the Leveled Literacy Intervention Program with students receiving reading intervention services in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade. The lessons are designed to be used with small groups over an 18 week period, with the hope that by the end of the 18 weeks students will be reading at grade level. Each lesson consists of re-reading books to build confidence, word work games, writing to build skills, and reading new interesting books with great illustrations!



One of the best components of the program is the take-home bag. Students get to take home new books each night, along with activities and games to practice at home. One parent explained, “Today, for the first time ever, (my child) told me that he likes to read! Amazing! He loves the new reading program. I hope that he continues on this path!” It is so exciting to see how much the kids are enjoying this program while also developing their foundational literacy skills.





Congratulations to the 2010-2011 Greenwich Varsity Boys' Basketball team for winning a Section II Class C Championship at the Glens Falls Civic Center. The victory was the Witches' first sectional title in boys' basketball since the 1994 season.

Pictured (Back, left to right) Head Coach Duke Beck, Coach Dean Estramonte, Coach Ryan Turnbull, John Barnes, Josh May, Jake Jennings, Christopher Herbst, Alex Kalbfliesh, Ryan McFee, Greg Scott, Sam Fitzgerald, Coach Dan Flynn. (Front, left to right): Cori Winch, Tony Giroux, Dan Lewis, Colin Oswald, Jason Flynn, Joe Estramonte, Helpers Josh Culbertson and Kyle Bodderly.



Girls' Indoor Track Team Wins Sectional Title

Betsy Edinger won two events in leading the [Greenwich](#) girls' indoor track and field team to the Section 2, Division IV title at SUNY Albany. Greenwich amassed 145 points in outdistancing runner-up Schuylerville, which finished with 97 points. As expected, Greenwich dominated the middle distance running events, winning the 1000M, 1500M and 3000M races. GCS gold medalists included: Betsy Edinger, 1000M, 1500M ; Madeline Montague- 3000M, Annie Grimmke – 55M Hurdles; and Kayla Thompson- Triple Jump. Other top GCS athletes scoring in individual events included Sarah Lapham, Victoria Houser, Tori Spiezio, Cady Kuzmich, Valentine Collett, Sara Donahue, Helene Esau and Isabella Bitzan.



A New Way to Evaluate Student Preparedness for College in New York State

Recently the New York State Education Department made public a new way to measure how well our graduates are prepared for college-level work. NYSED announced that they are now defining a “college ready” graduate as having scored at least an 80 on the state's Integrated Algebra Regents exam and at least a 75 on the Comprehensive English Regents exam. Using data collected by SUNY (State University of New York) and CUNY (City University of New York), testing experts on a state committee determined last year that a 75 on the English Regents and an 80 on the math Regents roughly predicted that students would get at least a C in a college-level course in the same subject. Scores below that, according to NYSED, meant students had to often take remediation classes before they could do college-level work.

To add a local perspective to this new gauge, ninety-nine percent of the GCS class of 2010 graduated last June with at least a Regents diploma. However, only forty-seven percent of those seniors met the higher “college ready” standard (forty-three percent earned an Advanced Regents Diploma). Statewide, only 41 percent of New York State graduates in 2009 were deemed “college ready”.

The new “college ready” metric parallels a decision by the Regents last year to make New York’s 3-8 testing more difficult to pass. As was the case with the raising of the passing standard for 3-8 tests in math and English, NYSED is saying that the old passing rate of 65% on the Integrated Algebra Regents and the Comprehensive English Regents does not correlate to college success.

We welcome the state education department’s decision to raise the expectations we have for our graduates and have begun discussing how to inspire our very capable students to perform better on their Regents exams. We firmly believe that the vast majority of GCS students should, with the proper preparation and shared commitment to academic achievement, be graduated with the skills, knowledge and personal attributes that will allow them to be successful in college, the military and/or the work force.

The Facts about “Energy Drinks”

The Greenwich Junior-Senior High School Health Office has recently treated a number of students for energy drink related symptoms. In one case, a student was transported to a local hospital after reporting to the school nurse that he was disoriented, confused, excessively warm, and experiencing chest discomfort. The same student also reported that he had ingested an “energy drink” that morning. This and other energy drink related health issues are prompting us to share the following information with our families.

- 1/3 of teens consume an energy drink (not including coffee) at least once a week
- Energy and sports drinks are a \$4.9 billion market, with 500 new energy drink products introduced worldwide in 2006
- Caffeine and other stimulate ingredients produce a range of physiological effects that are more pronounced in smaller, younger bodies.
- According to physicians, caffeine overdose can lead to the following symptoms
 - muscle twitching
 - confusion/loss of consciousness/hallucinations/dizziness
 - fever
 - trouble breathing
 - vomiting/diarrhea/convulsions
 - chest pains/irregular heart beats
 - increased thirst
 - severe anxiety



Ingesting the stimulant ingredients found in many “energy drinks” can result in dependency. Users expect the stimulants effects. Over a period of time, as the body builds a tolerance to a certain level of stimulant, users increase consumption to achieve the desired effects.

In the long term, chronic consumption of stimulant drinks can result in chronic insomnia, disturbed sleep patterns, anxiety and hypertension.

**These statistics/facts were reproduced from “Join Together Online (www.jointogether.org).” Join Together is a project of the Boston University School of Public Health.*



Greenwich Central School Board of Education Calendar

April 19—Regular Meeting

May 9—Budget Hearing

May 16—Regular Meeting

June 13—Regular Meeting

**Budget Vote - May 17
Primary Cafeteria
8:00AM to 8:00PM**

**10 Gray Avenue
Greenwich, New York 12834**

Superintendent of Schools
Matthias E. Donnelly

Secondary Principal
George Niesz

Assistant Principal, Secondary
Ben Cronin

Elementary Principal
Lisa Palmer

Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Alison Neary

Business Administrator
Wesley Clark

Board of Education
Daniel Pemrick, President
Thomas Graves, Vice President
Jill Autiello
Michael Conlin
Laura Hall

POSTAL CUSTOMER
GREENWICH CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CAR-RT
Non-Profit Organization
PAID
Greenwich, NY
Permit No. 23

For Learning
Phone:
518-692-9542
Write:
10 Gray Avenue
Greenwich, New York 12834
Or visit us on the web at:
www.greenwichcsd.org