



Focus on Education

GREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Second To None

Volume 1

February 2019



Superintendent's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of *Focus on Education*, the Green Township School District's monthly newsletter. Each month, we will be sharing updates, information and great news from the classroom and District offices.

For the last 6 weeks, I have had the great pleasure of getting to know the staff and students at Green Hills School through classroom visits, meetings, and other school activities. We are working on a number of projects that will help us to meet goals and fulfill our mission to provide every child with the excellent educational experiences they deserve.

One of the things we will focus on is strengthening our partnership with parents and families. As I mentioned at the Board of Education meeting held on February 14, 2019, I will be scheduling Coffee Chats with the Superintendent, where parents are invited to share their thoughts, questions and ideas with me in a relaxed informal setting. We are also planning on hosting several parent workshops, the first of which will be held near the end of March. This will be followed by another in April. Please keep an eye out for more information on these upcoming events.

In this issue of *Focus on Education* you will find articles about the 100th day of school, Gifted & Talented programs, our recent talent show and Friends of Rachel. In addition, you will find information from our Curriculum and Business Offices, as well as information concerning communication, health & wellness and an update from the BOE. I hope you enjoy this issue of

Focus on Education.

*"Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the
time. Vision with action can change the
world."*

-Joel A. Barker

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Curriculum Talk

What Is Metacognition and Why Does It Matter? Ever wonder how we think and learn the way we do?

What happens when we wonder, question, learn and understand? Have you ever taken the time to think about how we think? How can we help students think about how they learn best? Watch this brief video from Edutopia to find out a little bit about Metacognition.

Click on the link above to learn more!

Ms. Lavalley's Class

First grade celebrated the 100th day of school with special stations and by dressing up like they were 100 years old! Some of the students' parents even came to help run the different activities. A variety of stations were created so children could experience many ways to learn about 100:

- The Estimation Station where students had to look at different groups of objects and then guess which one had exactly 100. We even made a human graph to see which group of objects had the most votes.
- A Race to 100 Station where students collected ones and tens blocks to try and win the hundreds flat first.
- Students predicted where they would end up if they took 100 steps in the hallway from our classroom door. Then they got to count their steps and see where they really ended up!
- Students guessed if it would take them less than, more than, or equal to 100 licks to finish a lollipop and then recorded every lick to find out if they were right!
- Students completed 100 exercises by doing 10 reps of 10 of different activities. They also got timed to see how many times they could write their name in 100 seconds.
- Students got to build a structure with 100 cups and make a picture with 100 pattern blocks.
- Students were given different word families to rhyme with and when they finished had discovered that they can read and write 100 words.
- Students predicted how full a cup would be with 100 drops of water and then got to test their predictions by using an eye dropper.
- All throughout the day students worked on a book where they practiced making 100, writing about what life would be like in 100 years, drawing what they look like now compared to what they will look like at age 100, writing about what they would do if they had 100 dollars, etc.

Just look at the excitement and energy that was generated on our 100th day of school!

FIRST GRADE CELEBRATES THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL



Ms. Martinka's Class

Hooray-we made it to the 100th Day of First Grade!

I-Martinka was so excited to celebrate the big one, double zero. We rotated through stations that included:

- Estimating 100 objects
- "Race-to-100" addition
- Counting 100 steps around the school building
- Exercising in sets of ten to 100
- Building words with the letters in "one hundred"
- Making predictions and experimenting with eye droppers, and many more!

Our class also created a 100th Day Book with pages that included headings such as, "What Will Our Earth Look Like in 100 Years" and "If I had \$100...!"

Thank you to all of our parent volunteers-you are the best!

100 DAYS!

Green Hills Students SOAR at Model UN Conference



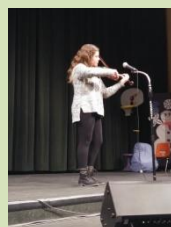
Green Hills School seventh and eighth grade SOAR students attended the New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs' Model UN Conference held at Drew University on February 8, 2019. At the conference, the student delegates presented their Position Papers on their committee's topics and collaborated in groups throughout the conference to create a resolution which was presented and voted on at the conclusion of the conference. All of the seventh grade groups from Green Hills School were awarded Best Position Paper certificates and the eighth grade group was awarded the Best Delegation certificate.

Talent Show 2019 A Huge Success!

This year Green Hills School celebrated its 15th Annual Talent Show! We had performers from each grade from Kindergarten to eighth grade show off their talents.

There were many beautiful songs sung and dances performed throughout the evening. We were even treated to instrumental performances on the piano, drums and violin. Some of our more unusual acts included a karate demonstration, basketball trick shots, hula hooping, comedy, a parody song, and an adorable group dance by the Kindergarteners!

The talent show is a fund raiser for both the Physical Education and Performing Arts Departments. In the past, the money raised at the talent show has gone towards new gym equipment and paying for props, paint and scenery for the school play. This year we earned a total of \$1320. We are very grateful to the teachers who donated their time and for parents and families who came to cheer our students on! We are so proud of our students and congratulate them on a job well done.



COMMUNITY OF KINDNESS AT GREEN HILLS SCHOOL

Friends of Rachel sponsored an event that celebrates a staff member as the group has in past years. This year they chose to honor Mrs. Stobie. The surprise event was held on Friday, Feb 22 after school. Staff and students came together to celebrate, sharing their appreciation with dessert, snacks, balloons and much good cheer!



Business Office News:

It's that time of year again! The District is in the process of preparing the tentative budget for the 2019-2020 school year.

We have been working hard to ensure that the plan is geared to help us to reach our District Goals in support of our students and their educational needs.

Communication is Key

Communication between home and school is a key element to student success. The District uses a variety of ways to share information with parents and community members, and we are committed to the enhancement of 2-way communication, in support of District Goal 2.

"Goal 2: Provide modern, efficient, respectful and consistent two-way communication and involvement (Such as utilizing Social Media, informal meet and greets, and parent visitations) between the school and Green Hills families, community, faculty, BOE and the media."

Here are some of the tools and upcoming events that help us to reach this goal:

- Green Hills Website / Parent Portal
- Google Email & Google Classroom
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Facebook & Twitter feeds
- Board of Education meetings
- RealTime Student Information System
- GHS News – weekly school bulletin
- Honeywell Alert System
- Parent Workshops
 - Child Assault Prevention (CAP) – March 28, 2019
 - Understanding HIB – April 3, 2019
- Superintendent's Coffee Chats
 - March 21, 2019 – 10:00am & 6:30pm
 - May 2, 2019 – 10:00am & 6:30pm

We invite you to participate and keep in touch with us!

Important Points

- *The Board of Education will hold a work session on March 6, 2019 at 7:30pm to discuss the tentative budget.*
- *The tentative budget will be presented for approval on March 19th at the regularly scheduled Board meeting, so it can be submitted for approval to the Sussex County Executive Superintendent no later than March 20th.*
- *After the budget is approved at the County level, it will be presented at our annual Budget Hearing, when the Board will formally approve the budget.*

Parents and community members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

New Jersey Student Learning Assessments

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) for Language Arts and Math are scheduled to be administered between May 6th and May 10th. These assessments take the place of the PARCC ELA & Math assessments, and are specific to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Ms. Thompson will be sending additional information about the NJSLA-ELA & NJSLA-Math in the coming months.

In Our Next Issue

Here are a few topics coming up in next month's issue of Focus on Education:

- *Health & Wellness*
- *School Performance Report update*
- *STEM*
- *Read Across America*

Visit our website: <https://www.greenhills.org>

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Board of Education

Update[THE GREEN

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL BE ALTERING IT'S MEETING FORMAT. DURING THE FEBRUARY 14TH PUBLIC SESSION, THE BOARD DECIDED TO ADD PUBLIC WORK SESSIONS ON A MONTHLY BASIS, DURING WHICH MEMBERS WILL LEARN ABOUT AND DISCUSS TOPICS OF IMPORTANCE WITHOUT TAKING ACTION ON THOSE TOPICS. THE FIRST PUBLIC WORK SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 6, 2019 AT 7:30PM. THE DISCUSSION WILL BE FOCUSED ON CREATION OF THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR. WORK SESSIONS ARE PUBLIC MEETINGS, BUT THE PUBLIC MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BOARD'S DISCUSSION. FUTURE WORK SESSION DATES WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED AND A REVISED MEETING CALENDAR WILL BE PUBLISHED ONCE THOSE DATES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED.]