



Focus on Education

GREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Second To None

Volume 2

March 2019



Superintendent's Corner

We have so much to share in this edition of *Focus on Education*! Students and teachers have been engaged in some wonderful learning experiences and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments.

In this issue of *Focus on Education* you will find articles about our STEM program, the National Jr. Honor Society, Read Across America, Peer to Peer activities and much more. Additionally, we have included reminders for upcoming events and points of interest.

As you know from our last issue, the Green Township Board of Education approved the submission of our tentative Budget on March 19, 2019, which is now under review for approval by the Sussex County Executive Superintendent. There will be a full presentation at our annual Budget Hearing, scheduled for April 30, 2019. I encourage you to attend.

Our first Superintendent's Coffee Chats were held on March 28th here in the Green Hills School Library. Small groups of parents came to talk about items of interest such as 20-Time, instructional programs, transition to high school and a host of other topics. Ms. Thompson joined me at both sessions and I believe we had meaningful dialogue with the parents who attended. We will be holding another Coffee Chat on May 2nd. We look forward to seeing you there.

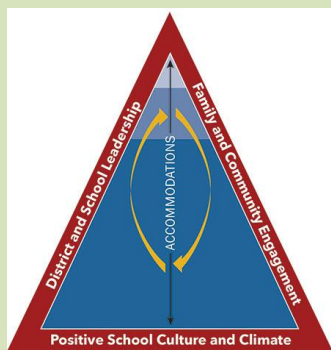
I hope you enjoy this issue of *Focus on Education*.

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

-Joel A. Barker

In this issue:

Superintendent's Corner.....	1
Curriculum Talk.....	1
Virtual Reality.....	2
Friends of Rachel.....	2
Green Hills NJHS.....	3
GHS Kindness.....	3
Read Across America.....	4
Dodge Ball Fundraiser.....	4
Historical Games.....	5
Peer to Peer.....	5
French & Indian War.....	5
Community of Giving.....	6
BOE Update.....	6
Teen Arts Festival.....	6
Keys to Communication.....	7
School Performance Report.....	7
In Our Next Issue... ..	7



Curriculum Talk

"Response to Intervention; the New Jersey Tiered System of Support is a framework of supports and interventions to improve student achievement, based on the core components of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and the three tier prevention logic of Response to Intervention (RTI). With a foundation of strong district and school leadership, a positive school culture and climate, and family and community engagement, NJTSS builds on Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and gives schools structure to meet the academic, behavioral, health, enrichment and social/emotional needs of all students." (NJDOE, 2019)

You will be hearing more about RTI as we make progress toward incorporating improved services here at Green Hills School.

VIRTUAL REALITY ISN'T THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE: VR IS MAKING WAVES NOW!

MR. MIRENA

While Virtual Reality (VR) is being used more and more in different facets of the entertainment industry, it is also starting to be utilized in many other fields: business, sports, and higher education. All have been experimenting with this new technology in order to expand the horizons of their respective fields.

Many professionals are starting to use VR in their training. Surgeons, astronauts, and law enforcement are practicing in virtual space. Colleges, real estate companies, and museums are using VR to give far away clients virtual tours of their offerings and exhibits. Multiple professional sports teams are using VR footage of their games to train their players by reliving, and reassessing, their decisions during the game.

Today's students are tomorrow's pioneers. The children at Green Hills are taking their first steps to capitalize on this new opportunity with classes throughout the building experiencing and creating their own VR.

7th grade History students researched the different aspects of medieval castles then had the opportunity to construct their castles in VR, bringing them to life and letting other students tour their creation.

Students in 6th grade ILA analyzed different characters from the books they have been reading. Next, they included these characters in scenes they recreated in VR. They then coded their characters to be interactive and describe their importance and actions in the story.

Our after school STEM program dug into VR as well. The Lego Robotics Team was able to experience virtual weightlessness aboard the International Space Station. The team went on to create their own prototype games to help keep astronauts engaged and healthy during long missions. Their prototype VR game helped them capture both the *Best Project Award* and *Champion's Award* earlier this year at the FIRST Qualifying event hosted at Sparta Middle School.

GHS students are bringing the future to life today. They are not just consumers of this expanding technology, but also creators, crafting their own VR experiences while leaping into the future.



Friends of Rachel Visit Barn Hill Ms. Lutz

Friends of Rachel visited Barn Hill for some Saint Patrick's Day cheer. Students brought treats and had a great time playing Bingo with residents. Our students are always eager to engage with our community in positive ways!



Green Hills School National Jr. Honor Society Induction

Ms. VanSickle



On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, the Green Hills Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted 15 new members. This organization has been recognizing outstanding middle level students and is a part of the larger organization, the National Honor Society.

In order to be eligible, students must first demonstrate academic excellence by maintaining a cumulative average of 93 in the major subjects, beginning in sixth grade. Following the initial identification of candidates, students must then

demonstrate excellence in the areas of service, character, leadership and citizenship.

The members of the 2019 class have already proven to be strong leaders and citizens. They are involved in many activities and organizations both in and out of school, including student council, Girl Scouts, sports, Peer to Peer and many other charitable events and activities. We are very proud of all of their accomplishments!

Kindness and Support at GHS

Mrs. Stiles

Mrs. Stiles is having an exhilarating first year as Green Hills School's new counselor. She has learned so much about the amazing students here at Green and has been investing her time into building meaningful relationships.

Mrs. Stiles began the school year by reaching out to teachers and administrators to determine how she could be most helpful to the students and school community. Since then, she has worked diligently to create a counseling program that offers both academic and social-emotional support for students. So far, Mrs. Stiles has held approximately 400 individual student meetings focused on topics such as study skills, anxiety, peer-relationships, family concerns, self-esteem, and conflict resolution; conducted over 50 classroom lessons concentrating on issues such as empathy, kindness, conflict resolution, coping skills, and responsibility; collaborated with a number of teachers and parents to create plans for academic success tailored to individual student needs; and facilitated multiple small-groups to help students learn more about self-control and social skills.

One highlight of the year has been the "Mustang of the Marking Period" initiative that Mrs. Stiles and Mrs. Thompson launched in December. This program helps to shine a light on some of the remarkable young men and women we have here in Green. The recognition is awarded to one male and one female student in each grade who demonstrate qualities such as kindness, integrity, and determination. It has been an absolute joy to acknowledge our extraordinary students each marking period.

Mrs. Stiles is thrilled to be part of the Green Hills family and is looking forward to fostering relationships with students, faculty, and the entire school community.



Green Hills School Celebrates Read Across America

Ms. Romano

Green

Hills School was busy celebrating Dr. Seuss and Read Across America during the week of February 25 through March 1, 2019. Each day an event was planned in connection with a Dr. Seuss book. Prior to the celebration, students in grades K-4 read biographies on the life of Dr. Seuss. The highlight event occurred on the last day of the week-long celebration, when the students were provided mustaches to impersonate the Lorax, and were visited by The Cat in the Hat!

Pictured top left- Ms. Seminara's 4th grade class, Mr. Martin's 4th grade class, Mrs. McKeown's 2nd grade class, 8th Grader Christine Ahmad (Cat in the Hat) and Library Media Specialist Mrs. Romano



PEER TO PEER AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN NEED

MS. RONSINI & MR. SCOTT

We held our third annual Dodgeball Tournament on March 13, 2019! It was a great success raising a total of \$1,482!! \$715 will go into an account used by our Physical Education Department and our very own Peer to Peer group here at Green. These funds go right back to the students through new equipment purchases and materials needed for numerous outreaches presented to many different grade levels by our Peer To Peer group. \$767 will be donated to the local Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House provides stability and resources for families everywhere. "Helping a sick child fight their illness takes a big enough emotional toll on a family. Adding a financial strain can make it all almost too much to bear. RMHC can help address those problems, whether they involve housing that's near a hospitalized child, the expense of staying together in another city, or even getting basic medical and dental care in a vulnerable community. Over the last 3 years our dodgeball tournament has raised over \$4,000 for several different causes. Year one, 100% of the proceeds went to the new playground here at Green! In our second year, we raised money for the PE department and St. Jude's Children's Hospital in honor of one of our very own kindergarteners who is a survivor of childhood cancer. The students, faculty and community of Green Hills are a very generous and giving group of people. We could not run this tournament without everyone's generosity and support! We look forward to another successful event next year!!! Green Hills Proud!!!!



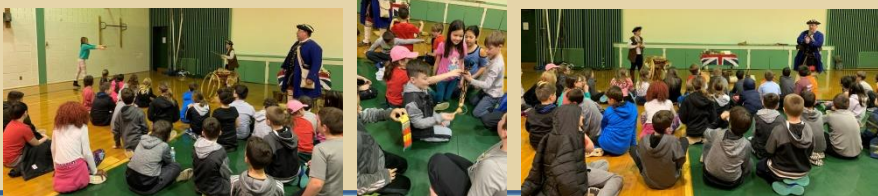
SIXTH GRADE HISTORICAL GAMES MS. EDWARDS

To culminate their study of ancient India, the 6th-graders recently designed games that combined their knowledge about ancient India with some fun competition. Topics included "Emperor Egos" (Aoska v. Chandragupta II), "Religious Rivals" (Hinduism v. Buddhism), and "Contest of Contributions" (Art v. Science). Since gaming is popular with today's youth, the students were really enthused about this project. Some students created traditional board games and card games, while others created digital games, such as *Scratch* and *Kahoot*. Great work, 6th Grade!



4th Grade Learns About French & Indian War History Ms. Wohl

Mr. Conn, Green Hills parent, presented a reenactment of the the French and Indian War to the fourth grade class. Students were able to experience what life was like for the men, women, and children that lived during this time period. He provided a hands-on demonstration of the clothing and accessories worn during this era. Weapons used in combat and protection gear were also displayed. In addition, his son Coulson helped demonstrate popular toys and games that were played by the younger generation. This invaluable presentation truly helped to support our curriculum and further our knowledge. The fourth grade teachers greatly appreciate Mr. Conn's willingness to deliver this enriching learning experience to our students.



More Peer to Peer Activities! Ms. Franciosi & Ms. Ronsini

This past month, Peer to Peer created five interactive stations in the large gym for their outreach with our second-grade students. Each station had a special activity which the leaders designed to pass on a special message to their younger schoolmates. The second graders enjoyed an obstacle course, a few physical challenges, a Youtube video, and created a beautiful mural as they learned lessons about spreading kindness to one another and being a good friend. The event was such a success that they will be planning a similar outreach with our third-graders for next month. For the past three years, our Peer to Peer group has been working with the Kindergarten teachers on a very special St. Patrick's Day surprise. The teachers have the students write letters to leprechauns and ask them anything thing that they would like to know about life as a small, green trickster, and we answer them! The peer leaders make up colorful stories and decorate the responses with glitter, gold coins, and lots of stickers! They have had so much fun with this project that I thought it was worth sharing! Our two amazing kindergarten teachers stage their rooms to look as though the leprechauns stopped by for a visit the night before St. Patrick's Day, and when the students come in, it is priceless! The leprechauns leave a mess with all their shenanigans, but the letters are there waiting for each child!



COMMUNITY OF GIVING: HEALTH AND WELLNESS STARTS AT HOME!

MS. BURNEYKO

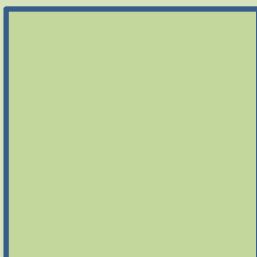
One of our very own Green Hills alumnae continues to have a positive impact among our Green Hills families via The Weekend Bag program. Thus far this school year, the program has distributed bags full of non-perishables and hygiene products each week to our families in need. Through hard work, ingenuity and extreme-couponing The Weekend Bag program has made great strides. Weekend Bags not only serves Green Hills, but also 6 other schools in Sussex County! The Sojihuggles Children Foundation has recognized the good the program is doing, and is now a major partner to support and grow the initiative.

At Green Hills, the program is run confidentially through Mrs. Burneyko's office. If you or someone within our school family may benefit from this resource, please reach out to Mrs. Burneyko at x215 to sign up. If you are interested in helping the cause via donation of goods or volunteer efforts, please reach out to the program directly: theweekendbagprogram@yahoo.com. Thanks to the Weekend Bag Program for enabling us to support those within our own community.

TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL

MS. MINERVINI, MS. RICHARDSON & MR. WYNNE

On Tuesday, March 19th, select 7th & 8th grade students participated in the Teen Arts festival located on the campus of Sussex County Community College. The students got to experience an entire day filled with various art forms such as visual arts, instrumental performances, vocal performances, theater performances, and dances. The festival offered stop and go art stations along with different types of workshops that the students were able to participate in. The selected 7th & 8th grade students also got to perform an excerpt from Willy Wonky and perform the song Skyfall in a small instrumental group. It was a fun day had by all!



NJ School Performance Report:

The NJ Department of Education released the 2017-2018 School Performance Reports earlier this month. Dr. Furnari will be giving a presentation to the Board of Education at the April 10, 2019 Board of Education meeting in order to provide information concerning data collected by NJDOE and the progress we made toward achieving State Targets for success. Some of the key areas contained in the newly released report include student achievement in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics, academic growth from year to year, data concerning chronic absenteeism, access to higher level courses and the arts, and college and career readiness. You are encouraged to attend the presentation. If you are unable to attend, presentation slides will be posted to the District website after the evening presentation is complete.

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 8, 2019
- Superintendent's Coffee Chat
 - May 2, 2019 – 10:00am & 6:30pm

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

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

Dr. Lydia E. Furnari
Interim Assistant Superintendent/Acting
Superintendent
Email: lfurnari@greenhills.org

Ms. Jennifer Thompson
Principal, Green Hills School
Email: jthompson@greenhills.org

Ms. Sallyann McCarty
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Email: smccarty@greenhills.org

*In Our Next Issue
Here are a few topics
coming up in next month's
issue of Focus on Education:*

- *School Musical*
- *Budget Presentation*
- *School Performance Report Presentation*
- *Student Recognition*

Board of Education

Update

[THE GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF

EDUCATION APPROVED THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR. THIS CALENDAR IS CLOSELY ALIGNED TO THOSE OF OUR NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS, NEWTON AND ANDOVER, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE NEEDS OF OUR FAMILIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHEDULING SHARED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CALENDAR INCLUDE:

- FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS – 9/5/19
- TENTATIVE LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS – 6/23/20
- SPRING RECESS – 4/10/20 - 4/17/20

YOU CAN VIEW THE ENTIRE 2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR BY VISITING OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE.
[2019-2020 District Calendar](#)