



# Focus on Education

## GREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

Fall 2019



### Superintendent's Corner

As the leaves turn orange, red, yellow and golden brown, and fall moves into full swing, there are unmistakable signs that learning happens here at Green Hills School. I have a wonderful opportunity each day to walk through classrooms, and to experience the positive energy of teachers and students discovering new things together. Whether it is a Kindergarten math lesson or an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art class, our students grow as learners and as citizens of their school community. I encourage you to check in with your child's teachers and to use the parent portal and teacher websites to learn more about what is happening in your child's classrooms. When you have the opportunity to visit GHS, you will find students' writing pieces, artwork and other projects displayed with pride.

This year, we have introduced a set of Core Values that help us to define our beliefs about the climate and culture of our school and District. They are: **Kindness, Respect, Trust, Responsibility and Citizenship.** Ask your child about what they have done in school to better understand these concepts and you should hear about class projects, discussions with their teachers, assemblies and activities such as those held during the Week of Respect. We will continue to infuse these Core Values into all we do. In addition, the District Goals and Objectives for 2019-2020 were recently adopted by the Board of Education. You will find them on the District website using the link provided: [GTSD District Goals 2019-2020](#)

As you know from previous communications, the District Satisfaction Survey is open until November 9, 2019. I ask that you take a few minutes to complete the survey so that we are better able to continuously improve our programs and services. You can use the link provided to access the survey.

[GTSD District Satisfaction Survey 2019-2020](#)

*"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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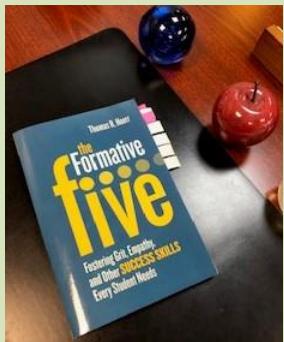
### Curriculum Talk

Curriculum Highlights include:

- Approval of revised curriculum for: Social Studies 5-8, Art K-8, Music K-5, Performing Arts K-8, Health K-2, STEM 5-8.
- Adoption of the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program to support students in Reading as part of the RTI initiative.
- Upgrades made to the Elementary Standards-based Report Card.
- State Assessment Data Report presented at the October 16<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting. Follow the link to access the presentation slides: [GTSD 2019 NJSLA Data Presentation](#)

# Green Administrators And Faculty Engage In Book Study

By Dr. Furnari



The Green Township School District teachers and administrators are involved in a school-wide book study of Thomas Hoerr's [The Formative Five: Fostering Grit, Empathy, and Other Success Skills Every Student Needs](#). This shared reading experience allows us to have conversations about what the text means to us and how we can encourage and plan for the teaching of the "success skills" including empathy, self-control, integrity, embracing diversity and grit. The practice of shared reading is part of our District Professional Development Plan for 2019-2020.

## Kindergarten Pumpkin Study by Ms. Pittenger

Kindergarten studied pumpkins in science, read about them in ILA, did some math activities pumpkin related, read 5 Little Pumpkins, and we did a very cool STEM activity. Kindergarten students created a gate to fit 5 little pumpkins on. Check out our variety of gates. Student materials included: 2 sheets of paper, 10 Popsicle sticks, 2 paper towel or toilet paper rolls, and unlimited tape. Students worked together in self-selected groups building a gate for their pumpkins. We had quite the variety of gates and enjoyed the success of each other's STEM groups!

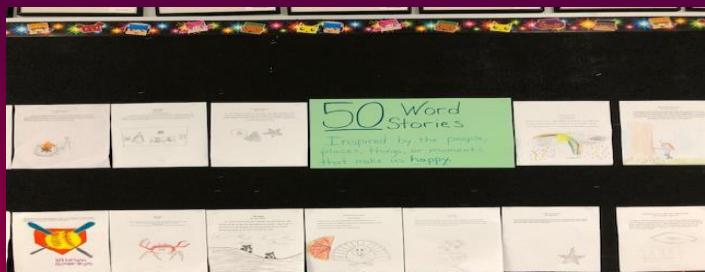


## GHS Halloween Parade:



GHS students in grades K-5 proudly paraded in their Halloween finery with family members in the audience looking on as they circled the gym waving to the crowd. Even the rainy weather couldn't put a damper on the fun!

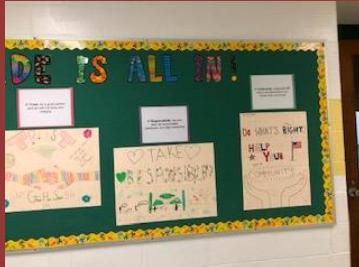
## Examples of Student Work on Display!



Communicating and creating through the written word and fine art, our students learn to express themselves in many ways!



## GHS CORE VALUES IN ACTION!



Here are some of the ways our students have chosen to demonstrate their understanding of our Core Values. Take a look!

*School Security  
Update:  
T-Pass System  
coming soon.*

Green Hills School has installed a new T-Pass school visitor identification system to add to the cadre of tools in place regarding school security. The system, which will be gradually introduced to our school community shortly, will be fully implemented by December 1, 2019. The system requires a visitor to scan their driver's license in order to be allowed entry into the school building. From this scan, a one-time use visitor's badge will be issued. More detailed information will be sent to parents and families in the near future. We appreciate your continued assistance and support with this initiative.

## ***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 coming in 2019-2020
- Superintendent's Coffee Chats coming in 2019-2020

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

### ***In Our Next Issue:***

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

- *District Satisfaction Survey Results*
- *Holiday Happenings*
- *District Goals Update*
- *School Events*
- *Much more!*

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

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## **Board of Education**

### **Update:**

### **Superintendent**

### **Search**

THE GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS APPROVED THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION TO FACILITATE THE SEARCH FOR THE GREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT'S NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. THE BOARD HAS DISCUSSED A CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT SEVERAL BOE MEETINGS INCLUDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADMINISTRATION, STAFF, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE QUALITIES DESIRED IN CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION.

**THE PARENT/COMMUNITY FORUM IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2019 AT 7:45 PM IN THE GREEN HILLS SCHOOL LIBRARY.** BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. WE ENCOURAGE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS IMPORTANT EVENT!