



Focus on Education

GREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Second To None

Volume 3

Spring 2019



Superintendent's Corner

It's hard to believe that spring is moving by so quickly! Life at Green Hills School is busy and productive as you will see from our latest issue of *Focus on Education*; where you will find articles about our Spring Musical, the 2nd Grade Wax Museum, Book Day in 1st Grade and much more. Additionally, we have included reminders for upcoming events and points of interest.

I am excited to announce that we have plans to expand our related arts offerings at Green Hills School for the 2019-2020 school year. You will be hearing about enhancements to our Music program, the integration of STEM into the array of regularly scheduled courses, and curriculum writing in Art, Music, Performing Arts, STEM and Library, as well as in the areas of Language Arts and Social Studies, all in the coming months. Another area where important work will be done is in our conversion of the Basic Skills program to meet the requirements of Response to Intervention (RTI).

In this issue you will also hear about the success of our spring musical, special student recognition, student led community service events and our new STEM summer camp! Please know that the Green Township School District continues to work each day to provide your children with a special place where they feel safe, comfortable, challenged, and valued; a place where every child is encouraged to become their personal best.

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

A new approach is coming to intervention at Green Hills School. In alignment with the Response to Intervention model, our Basic Skills program is changing. Reading and math intervention will be addressed in a three tiered approach that speaks to the needs of our learners. **Tier 1** includes high quality classroom instruction and universal screening of all students. **Tier 2** includes targeted interventions provided within the classroom setting that meet students' specific needs as they work toward grade level expectations. **Tier 3** includes individualized intensive targeted supports and ongoing formative assessment in order to address skill deficits. It is extremely important that we cultivate and maintain a strong connection between home and school and that we all work together to support the academic and behavioral needs of our learners. Students will be identified for these supports through the use of multiple measures that help us to pinpoint areas of concern. The program is designed to accelerate learning. In addition to entrance criteria, clear exit criteria will also be established. Parents of identified students will be notified in the fall before the program begins.

SOCCER GETS SUPPORT FROM 4TH GRADE STUDENT

BY MS. SCUDIERI

4th grade student Toby Curran designed a 20 Time Project in order to raise money in order to buy two soccer goals for recess. He raised the money by making chocolate chip cookies and selling them at the play. Toby raised \$70 and researched soccer goals. He ordered them and helped put them together after school. Toby worked diligently on this project. What a generous way to give back to Green Hills School! We are very grateful.



8th Grade Students Build Solar Cars for the 2019 GHS Races! by Ms. Stobie

On Tuesday, April 16th, 8th grade students raced the solar cars that they built in science class to determine who had the fastest cars! The winners then moved on to participate in the Division 1 races in Hackettstown for the New Jersey Solar Sprints competition, hosted by TransOptions. Winners from this competition will move on to the Inter-County Finals in Morristown.

Our 8th grade students worked hard as they designed, built, tested, and modified their cars over a three week period. They applied their understanding of physics and engineering to meet the required design criteria, and make decisions about their own design goals for their cars. Our students did a wonderful job on their cars, and had fun racing them in the gym. Our Green Hills teachers then voted on the car that had the best craftsmanship, and the car that had creative engineering design.

Five cars moved on to the Division 1 Finals on May 13th in Hackettstown. Those cars are as follows:

1st place for speed: "The Batmobile" by Robert Rhine

2nd place for speed: "Sheesh Bruh" by Merrick Buckley, Evan Robinson, Julia Boyer, and Michael Melillo

3rd place for speed: "The Bullet" by Avery Decker and Leah Reed

Craftsmanship: "Diggity Dog" by Allison Neill, Kira Conn, and Katie O'Gorman

Engineering: "Firecracker" by Isabella Yurcik and Bradley Dehlin

Congratulations to our winners!



Book Day in 1st Grade! by Mrs. Lavalley



Mrs. Lavalley's class celebrated a love of reading by having a Book Day! The students in this classroom came up with a goal in the beginning of the year. Our goal has been to inspire our school community to read. We want to get people excited about books by showing them why we love reading! Here are some of the ways we have been working towards accomplishing this goal throughout the year:

- We made goodie bags filled with reading and writing supplies and then randomly selected students from around the building to receive a special surprise from our class.
- We were able to give 70 students a bag with the hope that we have inspired them to read or write!
- Mrs. Lavalley created a project called Stork Stories that helps her students deliver books to future readers. This year, the class collected 710 books in the annual Book Drive making the total number of books collected in the past three years...2,940 books! The first graders also wrote letters to leave in each book about why they believe reading is so important. The books will be delivered to any students in our school that had a sibling born this year so that we can help start the future readers of GHS on their journey to becoming great readers. The remaining books will be donated to children in need.

The students all dressed up like a book character for Book Day and hosted a Kids' Book Choice Awards Show! All throughout the year, the boys and girls have been voting for their favorite books for different categories such as Best Setting, Best Character, Best Author, Best Illustrations, etc. Mrs. Lavalley counted up the votes but did not reveal any of the winners until the big event! The students wrote speeches and shared some of the things they have been learning this year. After each presenter announced their category, they were able to open the envelope and shout out the winning book! The Book with No Pictures won the title for Best Book Overall for the second year in a row! After the show, the audience members and other classes were invited to have a Meet and Greet with the famous book characters. Each student's job was to try to inspire visitors to want to read the book that his or her character was from. They made posters and brought in props to help them share their opinions about their favorite books. The students were excited to share this learning experience with friends and family members. All of our favorite books were on display in our hallway for all to see and enjoy.



MathCon Finalist

by Ms. Van Sickle

We are very proud to announce that Travis Geisinger (Gr.6) qualified as a Finalist for this year's MathCon 2019 National Math Competition. Between December and February, students from 5th to 8th grade participated in after school practice sessions to get ready for the competition. At the end of February, the students completed 40 questions in 40 minutes that tested their reasoning and logic skills in addition to math content. Travis scored high enough to qualify for the national competition, which was held on April 27th in Chicago, Ill. Travis and his family attended the competition, where he received honorable mention certificates for qualifying as a Finalist. This is a great accomplishment as only the top 900 students out of over 49,000 students nationwide qualified for the final competition. Travis was recognized for his accomplishments at a recent Green Township School District Board of Education meeting. We are so proud Travis was able to represent Green Hills School at this nationwide event! Congratulations Travis!

THERE WAS MUSIC IN THE AIR!

BY MS. MARTINKA & MS. LAVALLEY

On May 2nd, Mr. Haiduc-Dale visited Green Hills School 1st graders with banjo in hand and songs in his pocket! Students and teachers had a wonderful time listening, singing, dancing and acting out a variety of songs that made us smile out loud! We want to thank Mr. Haiduc-Dale for brightening up our day and for sharing his talents with us.

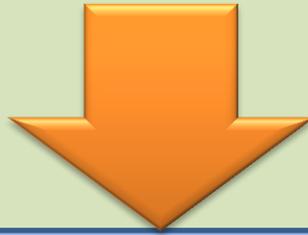


THE 2019 KIDS HEART CHALLENGE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!! BY MS. RONSINI & MR. SCOTT

This year's Kids Heart Challenge (formerly Jump Rope for Heart) was held on May 16th. Students and teachers from every grade participated in this wonderful event that raises fund for donation to the American Heart Association. We are proud to announce that this year, Green Hills School raised over \$11,000.00! Ms. Ronsini and Mr. Scott want to thank everyone for their participation and support!



There's More!



AND THE SUSSEX COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS ROUND TABLE AWARD GOES TO...

BY DR. FURNARI

Each year, the Sussex County Superintendents Roundtable, consisting of all of the superintendents in Sussex County, honors one student from each school district for their overall contributions to their school community and for their academic excellence. These outstanding young people receive their award at a luncheon held each spring. This year, the Green Township School District Sussex County Superintendents Roundtable Award was presented to 8th grade student, Jaclyn Sutphen. Here is just a bit of what Jaclyn's teachers had to say about our outstanding award recipient:



"Jaclyn is an academically gifted student who pushes herself to achieve excellence in all subject areas. She sets a high bar for herself for academic success, and pushes herself to reach these goals. Jaclyn is always willing to help others understand what is being taught, and does so with grace and kindness. Jaclyn's approach to learning is energetic, positive, and contagious. She is able to work with anyone, and is respectful of her peers and all the adults with whom she interacts."

Jaclyn was recognized at a recent Green Township Board of Education meeting for her accomplishments. Congratulations Jaclyn on this well-deserved recognition!

GREEN TOWNSHIP WINS GOLDEN TICKET WITH GREEN HILLS STUDENTS' PRODUCTION OF ROALD DAHL'S WILLY WONKA JR. by Ms. Minervini



On April 11 and 12 Green Hills School presented Willy Wonka Jr. The show included 75 students from grades 5-8. With scenes of flying actors, kids falling down shoots, being miniaturized into a TV and blowing up like a blueberry, the show was a fun, entertaining and magical event. Students auditioned for the show back in January and have been practicing ever since. Students worked hard to learn lyrics, choreography, and their lines to create a successful performance. On some nights they would stay as late as 5:30 pm to rehearse! The fabulous crew worked tirelessly for two weeks handling all of the scene changes, props, sound, curtain and lights. After the show there was a yummy ice cream social run by generous parents who volunteered their time to help out. A special thanks to Cliff's ice cream for the donation! Mr. Scullin and students from Newton High School also came to help with microphones, sound and to video tape the show. Ms. Minervini directed, taught vocals, did choreography and created set pieces. Mrs. McKeown was the dedicated assistant director and Mr. Wynne painted the amazing and colorful backdrop. We hope you had a chance to see this remarkable performance by our incredibly talented students!

**20 Time Kindergarten Carnival
& GHS Market Place**

by Ms. Zur & Ms. Pittenger

The Kindergarten held its 2nd Annual 20 Time Carnival on Friday, May 31st. The kindergarten students along with peers ran all of the carnival stations and activities. Students collected comfort item donations and money from food sales, face painting, the riddle room, and fortune teller. The Students collected \$876 from the sales as well as a huge overflowing box full of comfort items. All monetary proceeds from the event were sent directly to the Semper FI Fund and collected comfort items will be mailed to Camp Pendleton in California to be sent to the HMLA 267 Navy Stingers serving currently overseas.

We are dedicating our collections and donations in honor and loving memory of James Mazzuchelli, a Navy Lt. flight surgeon and extended GHS family loved one. Kindergarten Salutes our Troops! We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to Ms. Meyer who ran the GHS Marketplace and dedicated her time to co-run the event.



2nd Grade Brings Famous Contributors to Life Through Wax Museum Project

By Ms. McKeown & Ms. Holley



Last month, the second graders at Green Hills School presented the Wax Museum. This is a culminating Social Studies project that has the students working across all subject areas to learn more about famous people that have made an impact on the world. They started out by learning about famous Americans in history and about the aspects of a timeline. They learned how to research online and in books and magazines. The second graders got to choose a person of interest that they believe made or makes an important impact on the world. They did their research and created a playing card, timeline, and a speech. They worked so hard on this project and their final products sure did show it. On May 30th they each came to school dressed up as the person they researched and presented their speeches to their families, peers, administration, and to the other students in grades K-4. If you see a second grader around, ask them about who they researched. You'll be blown away by how much they learned!

Scooter City: A Big Business! by Ms. Franciosi & Ms. Ronsini

For Peer to Peer students, the majority of the past two months was spent planning for our annual Scooter City. Boxes, duct tape, and paint supplies lined the hallways and grassy areas behind the school as they worked together to create an entire city out of a little cardboard and a lot of creativity! Scooter City opened its doors on May 31st for our K-3 students. Each student hopped on a scooter (the only means of transportation around the city), stopped at our bank for a bag of gold coins, and followed the roads to their favorite destinations. This year, they were able to stop at the hospital for some TLC or to check their vitals on this exciting day! They could use their coins for a picture in the photo booth, face painting, fortunes, a petting zoo, and a car wash! The arcade was a popular place where they could try their luck at a few games, and the food court was a nice stop to get a snack. All in all, it was a blast for everyone! The peer leaders learned a lot about communicating, working collaboratively, making decisions, and solving problems, and the visiting students, aside from getting some physical activity, practiced fine motor skills, following directions, making choices, and managing time, to mention a few. Thanks to all who helped make this annual event a success! Our seventh-grade leaders are already thinking of ideas for next year!



KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS AND PARENTS

BY MRS. ZUR & MS. PITTENGER

On Monday we welcomed the incoming Kindergarten class. The students were eager and ready to meet their teachers and new friends. Orientation began with a power point presentation that talked about some of the fun things they will be learning next year. Then they waved goodbye as the parents left and went to the gym to listen to various speakers. The kids listened to a story, wrote/drew about what they were going to do to get ready for kindergarten, and then went on a bus ride through Green! They met up with their parents for a snack and some socializing before going home. Ms. Pittenger and Mrs. Zur are excited and eager to officially welcome the Kindergarten Class of 2020!

A NEW APPROACH TO RELATED ARTS INSTRUCTION FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

COMING SOON!

DR. FURNARI & MS. THOMPSON

We are very pleased to share that our middle school students will have some choices to make for the 2019-2020 school year. We are working together with teachers to make some major changes to the way the Related Arts courses are provided, giving students the chance to select from a menu of offerings in the areas of Art, Music, STEM and Performing Arts! The schedule is designed to include 2 periods per week during which students will participate in courses they select that will occur each marking cycle. Our plan is to offer Band and Concert Choir as full year opportunities and STEM, Music Technology, a variety of Art courses and Performing Arts on a single cycle basis. This means that students in grades 6-8 will choose 4 - 6 courses in each grade, and will participate in 2 of their choices each cycle. A letter describing the offerings will be sent home to parents of current 5th, 6th and 7th grade students soon and students will fill out their course choice sheets in school before the end of the year. We look forward to the growth of our program and are excited to provide this wonderful opportunity to our students!

Summer STEM Camp at GHS; July -12 & July 15-19

This two week camp in July will give students an opportunity to explore many different STEM concepts and projects, including physical engineering, coding, Lego Robotics, 3D design and printing, virtual reality, and much more!

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

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!

Board of Education

Update

THE GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE GREEN HILLS SCHOOL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THE 2019-2022 COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY PLAN, WHICH IS DUE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE SUPERINTENDENT ON JUNE 14, 2019. THE PLAN OUTLINES POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN PLACE IN THE GREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT GOVERN AND SUPPORT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUITY IN OUR DISTRICT. THE COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY PLAN WILL BE PLACED ON THE JUNE 13TH BOE AGENDA FOR THE BOARD’S REVIEW AND APPROVAL. MANY THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOE POLICY COMMITTEE AND THE TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO SERVE ON THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THEIR DILIGENCE AND COLLABORATION.

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

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

- *Field Day*
- *Kindergarten Promotion*
- *8th Grade Graduation*