



# Focus on Education

## GREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*Second To None*

Volume 5

February 2020



### Superintendent's Corner

Welcome to the winter 2020 edition of *Focus on Education*. In each issue, we share updates, information and great news from the classroom and District offices at the Green Township School District.

There are many wonderful initiatives being implemented in support of our District and School goals. One of these is our participation in activities related to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and our pursuit of Bronze Certification through that organization. You will find additional information in this issue about what we doing to support this initiative.

Green Hills School is also supporting participation in U.S. Census 2020. Not only will we provide our school community with information about how to become involved with the Census, but we will be working on activities here at school to help our students understand the importance of the Census. As a reminder, those not counted through Census 2020 cannot be included in this statistical initiative for another ten years.

In this issue of *Focus on Education* you will find articles about the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, Gifted & Talented programs, adventures of Flat Stanley and Social Emotional Learning initiatives. 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*

### In this issue:

Superintendent's Corner.....	1
Curriculum Talk.....	1
100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School.....	2
GHS Pink Out.....	2
Flat Stanley in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade.....	3
U.S. Census 2020.....	3
Cat in the Hat.....	3
Positive Empowerment in PE.....	4
Published Authors.....	4
Model UN.....	5
Brain Bowl.....	5
Sustainable Jersey for Schools.....	6
Project Self Sufficiency.....	6
Congratulations.....	7
Communication is Key.....	8
Business Office.....	8
BOE Update.....	9
In Our Next Issue.....	9

### Curriculum Talk

Green Hills School teachers are reading, discussing and reflecting, through our shared Book Study of High Expectations Teaching by Jon Saphier. We are asking ourselves; 1. How do we enact a "growth mindset" in our classrooms? 2. What strategies can we implement that will help our students to truly believe in themselves? 3. How can we make these strategies an intrinsic part of our policy, practice and culture?

Click on the link to learn more about "growth mindset" in schools: [Edutopia: Growth Mindset](#)

Kindergarteners celebrated the 100th day of school on Tuesday, February 18. To help boys and girls visualize what 100 objects look like, each child decorated a plain t-shirt with 100 items on it. We had a special fashion show to model our 100 collections.

Some creative ideas included stickers, googly eyes, fabric paint, cotton balls, buttons, pom-poms, safety pins, stamps, etc. Children were announced and a description of their shirt and why they chose to decorate it was given. Boys and girls walked down the runway to music and posed for pictures.

### KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATES THE 100<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL MRS. MAFFEI & MS. PITTENGER



# 100 DAYS!

### GREEN HILLS SCHOOL PINK OUT – MRS. MAFFEI

Thank you very much for your donations and help with our annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This year we were able to raise \$1,409 to benefit The Newton Medical Center Foundation's Mammograms Save Lives Program. Our Staff collection amounted to \$710 and our Green Hills students and families donated \$699 for an amazing grand total of \$1,409.



## **Second Grade and The Adventures of Flat Stanley!** *Ms. Holley*

The 2nd grade has just finished their Flat Stanley project. This cross curricular unit involves geography, research, and letter writing. We first read Flat Stanley, the story of a boy that becomes flat when a bulletin board falls on him. He is so flat that his family puts him in an envelope and mails him off on an adventure. The students learned about the 50 states and then chose a state to research. They searched for a tourist attraction to which they mailed their own Flat Stanley. They wrote letters to convince the attraction to take Stanley on an adventure and take pictures with him. The 2nd graders are so excited to get their pictures back and hear about his adventures!

**Shape  
your future  
START HERE >**

United States®  
**Census  
2020**

The Green Township School District is excited to announce that we are partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to support its Statistics In Schools (SIS) program. SIS shows students in every grade why a complete 2020 Census count is important. Learn more about how you can shape the future for our children at [census.gov/schools](https://census.gov/schools).

## **VISIT FROM THE CAT IN THE HAT – MS. ROMANO**

**GREEN HILLS SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 4TH GRADE WERE SURPRISED BY A VISIT FROM THE NJEA'S CAT. MRS. SIMMONS ENTERED THE SCHOOL IN A DRAWING TO WIN A VISIT FROM DR. SEUSS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT WHILE ATTENDING THE NJEA TEACHER CONVENTION IN ATLANTIC CITY THIS PAST NOVEMBER. THE CAT TOOK PICTURES WITH THE STUDENTS AND DONATED A BOOK TO THE LIBRARY. IT WAS AN EXCITING AFTERNOON!**



## GHS PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH SELF-MONITORING STRATEGIES – MS. RONSINI & MR. SCOTT

The health and physical education department, here at Green Hills School, finds it beneficial and empowering to guide and enable the students to take charge of their behaviors and emotions. We have established a few areas in the gymnasium that allow the students to do just that.

**The Conflict Corner:** When two students have a disagreement, they are able and encouraged to head over to the Conflict Corner to resolve the issue at hand. There are steps to follow that allow open communication in a calm and respectful way. Once both sides have stated their concerns, they brainstorm a solution together. The trip ends with a compliment and a good old-fashioned handshake.

**The Self-Assessment Wall:** This area of the gymnasium is set up to increase self-awareness on a daily basis. On the way in, they can tap the emoji that corresponds to how they are feeling or how their day is going. This gives them a chance to get in touch with their emotions and allows Mr. Scott and Ms. Ronsini to get a feel for how their students are doing. The hope is that, on the way out of class, their emotions may be changed for the better after their brains released some of those “good feeling” endorphins after physical exercise.

**The Caught Ya Corner:** If you get “caught” doing something good, kind, or helpful, you will be sent to the Caught Ya Corner to bang the bucket! The class will pause their activity and cheer for you! We love recognizing good deeds and kind hearts!

It is our goal to make the student’s health and physical education classes as positive, empowering, and inclusive as possible. We have noticed the climate of the PE classes has significantly improved since the addition of these areas!

## PUBLISHED AUTHORS – MS. FRANCIOSI

At the end of last school year, Mrs. Franciosi’s fifth-graders entered a creative writing contest sponsored by Young Writers. The contest, “Crazy Creatures,” challenged them to create a crazy creature and write a mini-saga inspired by their creation. The students went wild with this task and came up with some of the most unique critters that you could imagine.

First, students had to dream up a new species and draw it on their original entry form in full color. Next, they had to create a whole story from beginning to end with only 100 words or less. This was not easy, but they put their brains to work, chose very succinct language, and created wonderful adventures for all to read! Finally, they checked to make sure that they met all of the criteria and then sent them out before the deadline.

Some of these talented writers are now published authors! Their stories can be found in an anthology called *Crazy Creatures; New Jersey Stories*. It is a fantastic collection of wonderful tales of amazing animals and creepy monsters, but the best part of the book can be found on pages 36-54. Those pages are filled with the sagas written by Green Hills School’s young writers. We are very proud of this accomplishment. Keep on writing!

### Congratulations to the following published authors:

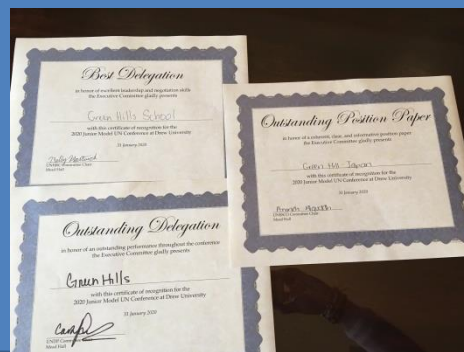
Zoe Caraballo	Jordyn Young	Evan Rose
Coulson Conn	Faith Cooper	Jourdan Franco
Addyson Ortiz	Bella Hannan	Zachary Smith
Sophia Gomes	Reilly Poff	Tyler Morodan
Anna Agnoli	Ethan Fancher	Tyler-Ramos Womack
Ciara Van Brunt	Mary-Kate Greenhalgh	
Justin Evanski	Demetrios Gergatsoulis	





## GHS STUDENTS AT MODEL UN! – Ms. Voris

Green Hills School seventh and eighth grade SOAR students participated in Model UN at Drew University. Our students once again earned best delegation, best position paper, and outstanding position paper certifications this year.



## SOAR Brain Bowl – Ms. Voris

Green Hills School third and fourth grade SOAR classes participated in the NJCGTP Brain Bowl on January 23, 2020. The cross content academic knowledge competition took place in Morristown. Our students enjoyed the opportunity to challenge themselves.



## Green Township School District Applies for Bronze Certification – Dr. Furnari

GTSD has begun the process of applying for Bronze Certification through the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program.

*“Sustainable Jersey for Schools advances and supports sustainable practices in schools and prepares the next generation to address sustainability issues. Through participation in this initiative, the organization identifies actions that schools can implement to become certified, provides guidance and tools to enable schools to make progress on each action, provides access to grants and identifies funding opportunities for schools to make progress toward the actions and encompasses the three equal, interrelated Components of sustainability: People, Prosperity and Planet.”*

The District is partnering with the Green Township Environmental Committee. Our District Green Team includes a member of the township committee and, we look forward to working closely with the township on green initiatives. Along with participation in Census 2020 and adopting Idle-Free NJ practices, The Board of Education is considering several Green Policies at its next meeting. We are committed to green purchasing, green cleaning, sustainable practices and educating our students in stewardship of our resources.

In support of our Sustainable Jersey for Schools initiative, please visit Machio's website where you will find their [Cafeteria Connections](https://maschiofood.com/newsletters/?openInNewWindow=true) newsletter. Helpful hints, healthy recipes and special events are highlighted each month. Check it out!

<https://maschiofood.com/newsletters/?openInNewWindow=true>

## Project Self Sufficiency @ GHS – Ms. Voris

Green Hills School won third place in the Project Self Sufficiency Toy Drive. We collected 616 toys which were donated to this very worthy cause. Thank you to our Green Hills School Family for their kindness and generosity.



### Photo Gallery:



Pink Out



STEM 2020

### Lego ATV Challenge



### Volleyball Tournament



**Teacher of the Year**

**Mrs. Eileen Maffei  
Kindergarten**

**Educational Services Professional of the Year**

**Ms. Marybeth Stiles – Guidance Councilor**

**Superintendents' Roundtable Student Award Recipient 2019-2020**

**Jocelyn Reynolds – Grade 8**





### *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.

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
- Superintendent's Coffee Chat
- Focus on Education Newsletter

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

### *Business Office News:*

*It's that time of year again! The District is in the process of preparing the tentative budget for the 2020-2021 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.*

### *Important Points*

- *The tentative budget will be presented on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the regularly scheduled Board meeting, so it can be submitted for approval to the Sussex County Executive Superintendent no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>.*
- *After the budget is approved at the County level, it will be presented at our annual Budget Hearing, April 29<sup>th</sup>, when the Board will formally approve the budget.*

*Parents and community members are encouraged to attend these meetings.*



*Board of Education*

*Marie Bilik, President*  
*Ann Marie Cooke Vice President*  
*Matthew Fox*  
*Noah Haiduc-Dale*  
*Scott Guzzo*  
*Denise Kelly-Jones*  
*Kristin Post*  
*Michael Rose*  
*Robert Strasser*

*In Our Next Issue*

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

- *Sustainable Jersey for Schools Update*
- *School Performance Report update*
- *Concerts and Events*

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

**Dr. Lydia E. Furnari**  
**Interim Superintendent**

Email: [lfurnari@greenhills.org](mailto:lfurnari@greenhills.org)

**Ms. Jennifer Thompson**  
**Principal, Green Hills School**  
Email: [jthompson@greenhills.org](mailto:jthompson@greenhills.org)

**Dr. Vincent Occhino**  
**Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary**  
Email: [vocchino@greenhills.org](mailto:vocchino@greenhills.org)

## Board of Education Update

[The Green Township

Board of Education voted during its February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to suspend the search for a new Superintendent, and to petition the Commissioner of Education to allow Interim Superintendent, Dr. Furnari, to remain in Green through December 2021 if needed. The Board intends to resume its search in the future and anticipates a new Superintendent to be in place by July 2021. This decision was made in order to maintain leadership stability during a time when the District is transitioning in other areas, such as those in the Business Office.

The Board also approved a motion in support of Idle Free NJ, a state-wide initiative that encourages drivers to turn off their engines rather than idle in place. Green hills school has endorsed these practices for some time, and the board chose to reiterate its support for the record at their February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is the expectation for all visitors to district property to join us in anti-idling practices. In addition, First Student, the district's transportation vendor, adheres to these requirements and even has special equipment built into their buses to monitor idling practices and to lessen emissions. Please help us make GHS an Idle Free Zone!