



◇ DISTRICT NEWSLETTER ◇

GREENWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Scholarship, Character, Community—Cultivating the Future"

Volume 1, Issue 5

Fall 2005

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2005 OUTSTANDING NEW BUSINESS EDUCATOR

Our very own Ms. Brenda Lee, High School Business Teacher, has been selected the Outstanding New Business Educator for 2005 by the Business Teachers Association of New York State. In a letter from the Awards Chairperson it stated that since Ms. Lee began teaching in 2002, she has developed quite a resume of accomplishments in the classroom and the professional arena. Her inspiration to the students, her dedication to Business Education and her many professional achievements placed her at the top.

Ms. Lee will be presented with the Award at the BTANYS 53rd Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on October 28th, at the Marriott Long Island Hotel.

Again, CONGRATULATIONS to Ms. Lee. ■

LIGHTING & RENOVATION

Last March, district voters endorsed by a 79% margin, a no tax impact proposal to accomplish \$560,000 in renovations to our Jr. /Sr. High School as enabled by generous community donations for the lighting of our athletic field. Following review and approval of architectural and engineering plans by the New York State Education Department, an expedited bidding process culminated with an August 25th bid opening. Bids were awarded by the Board of Education at special meetings within days of the bid opening and work has commenced on the project. Contracts call for the completion of the field lighting component by September 30th, with building renovations to be completed throughout the 2005-2006 school year. ■

AG DEPARTMENT HONORED

The Greenwich High School Agricultural Science Department, Betsy Foote and Chris Kelly, were named New York State's Outstanding Agriculture Program at the Annual Agriculture Teacher's Conference held this past June at the Holiday Resort and Conference Center in Ellicottville, New York.

The Ag Science Department strives to provide a curriculum that is challenging, motivational and covers the wide range of careers in agriculture. The mission of the Ag Science Department is to prepare and support individuals for agricultural careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber, and natural resources systems while ensuring students meet and exceed the New York State Learning Standards.

The Greenwich Agricultural Science Department will now compete for national awards and a trip to the National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Foote and Mr. Kelly. ■

DATES TO REMEMBER

HS—Picture Day	9/29
ES—Picture Day	10/3
Grade 8-12 Open House	10/6
PTSA—K Family Pizza Night	10/12
HS—Homecoming Weekend	10/14-15
K-12 Staff Development Day	10/17
PTSA—Grade 4-6 Sock Hop	10/28
PTSA—Gr.3 Bring Dad & Read	11/2
Emergency Release Day	11/10
ES—Afternoon P/T Conferences	11/15-16
ES—Evening P/T Conferences	11/17
Gr. 7-8 E/LA Parents Night	11/29
Jr. High Play	12/2-3
K-12 Staff Development Day	12/5
HS—Vocal Concert	12/8
MG—Winter Concert	12/12
HS—Instrumental Concert	12/15

GREENWICH

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the 2005-2006 school year! I am happy to report that through the enthusiastic efforts of all district staff, we are off to a great start to our new school year. It has certainly been my pleasure to welcome students, parents, faculty, staff and administrators to this, my first, September at Greenwich Central School.

As we begin what promises to be a fine year of teaching and learning, I want to share with you some reflections on our most recent graduates, the Class of 2005. I think you will be as pleased as I am to know the following:

Class of 2005

- ◆ 99% of potential graduates achieved commencement requirements;
- ◆ 91% of graduates earned NYS Regents Diplomas;
- ◆ 42% of these earned NYS Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation;
- ◆ 15% of the class earned NYS Regents Diplomas with Honors, and;
- ◆ 87% of this class will continue their formal education, including 83% at the college or university level

These are impressive statistics because they represent a substantial return on our school community's investment in education and, particularly, because these numbers represent young people whom we know and about whom we care.

As we celebrate the successes of our students, all of us at Greenwich Central School are committed to improving our efforts on behalf of the children and families we serve. As a fundamental part of our continuous improvement work, district staff have been engaged in the development of our statement of core values. This statement articulates our basic and enduring beliefs and captures the unique culture of our school district. Our core values will serve as our compass, ensuring that we stay on course and true to our beliefs in all aspects of our work. I invite you to consider how this statement of core values represents the kind of school system of which we can all be proud and in which each of us would be happy to educate our children.

*"Scholarship, Character, Community—
Cultivating the Future"*

Greenwich Central School is committed to:

Scholarship

- *Academic achievement*
- *Intellectual curiosity*
- *Application of knowledge*
- *Academic freedom*
- *Life-long learning*

Character

- *Mutual respect*
- *Individual responsibility*
- *Effort and hard work*
- *Cooperation and teamwork*
- *Integrity*

Community

- *Citizenship*
- *Service and volunteerism*
- *Partnerships*
- *Diversity*
- *Tradition and innovation*

Cultivating the Future

"Through commitment to scholarship, character and community, we prepare our students to take charge of their lives and benefit the world."

As a relative newcomer to Greenwich, I would like you to know how pleased I am to join such a caring, supportive and student-centered school and community. I am appreciative of your warm welcome and, in return, welcome you to approach me with questions or concerns about our schools, or simply to get to know each other.

Please accept my best wishes for a happy and productive school year.

John W. McGuire
Superintendent of Schools

GREENWICH

NOTABLE NEWS

GCS GOES TO COSTA RICA

This November several high school Spanish students at Greenwich Central School District will be visiting Costa Rica for a nine-day tour. Costa Rica is stated to be the most technologically advanced and politically stable nation in Central and South America. It has a stable democracy and a relatively high standard of living for Latin America. The former Costa Rican president Oscar Arias Sanchez was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating a peace settlement in Central America in 1987. Tourism is the principal source of income in Costa Rica.

The GCS trip begins in San José, the capital city founded in 1737. The first attraction is a visit to the INBioparque to learn about biological diversity in Costa Rica and around the world. This recreational center was created by the National Institute of Biodiversity and contains exhibits on plants, insects, and small animals. While on tour we will be staying in four different hotels in various areas of Costa Rica. Sarchí is one of the most interesting and culturally rich towns we will visit. It is a town known for brightly painted designs and colorful wheels that adorn local oxcarts.

Another highlight of the tour is a boat excursion on Lake Arenal and a visit to Poás Volcano. When students are at the Monteverde Reserve and Santa Elena Cloud Forest they will be able to travel several zip line courses through the tops of the trees in the jungle and go horseback riding.

Students will also adventure through Manuel Antonio National Park the day before departure. This nine-day and eight-night tour includes many other fun and interesting activities. The favorite activity will most likely be having the opportunity to swim in natural hot springs in the Arenal region, and swimming in the warm water of the Pacific Ocean. ■

ELEMENTARY BAR-B-Q

The first Elementary Back-To-School Bar-B-Q was held on September 6th to rave reviews! 135 chicken dinners were enjoyed as our school community prepared to kick off the new school year.

This event was planned in cooperation with the Elementary Shared Decision Making Committee in an effort to provide an opportunity for families to celebrate the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year.

Given the tremendous success of the first Back To School Bar-B-Q plans are already underway to kick-off the 2006-2007 school year. ■

WELCOME AFS STUDENTS

GCS would like to welcome Nicole Vogler from Zurich, Switzerland and Yuya Kojima from Toyota, Japan, to our small town of Greenwich. They will be here for the 2005-2006 school year attending Greenwich Central High School through the AFS Foreign Exchange Program.

Nicole Volger is 15 and will be staying with the Gordon / Rich family, while Yuya Kojima is 18 and will be staying with the Schreiner family. Both students are considered Juniors and Seniors getting the best of both worlds. They are allowed to attend Junior Prom as well as the Junior trip to Washington, D.C. At the same time they can enjoy Senior privileges and go on the Senior Class Trip.

In addition to participating in our studies both Nicole and Yuya have joined a school sport. Nicole is on the Girls Junior Varsity Soccer team. While Yuya is a member of the Boys Varsity Soccer team.

We hope that both Nicole and Yuya enjoy their time here in Greenwich by making the most of things and creating wonderful memories. We hope they also leave with a better understanding of American life and culture. ■

CULTURAL ARTS 2005

The Greenwich Elementary school is off and running with a very exciting line up for the 2005-2006 school year. The premier event of this year was an assembly featuring Chris Poulos, a Professional Bicycle Stunt Rider, Motivational Speaker, Author, and Event Promoter. A perfect mix of stunts and messages, best describes the presentation. The high energy music, audience participation, and jaw-dropping extreme stunts tied together with relevant messages made this an exciting and informative event!

The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and took away with them some important messages regarding: anti-bullying, anti-violence, friendship, self-esteem, positive thinking, teamwork, goal setting, education and success.

Throughout the school year students will enjoy a full schedule of Cultural Arts Residencies and Performances that connect directly to instruction in the classroom.

None of this would be possible without the generous monetary support of the Greenwich PTSA. ■

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NOTABLE NEWS

NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Congratulations to Tom Graves on his election to the Greenwich Central School District Board of Education. Mr. Graves was elected in a special election held on September 6th, 2005 to fill the vacant seat left by Albert Sykes. Mr. Graves has two children currently attending Greenwich and has been a resident for the past 13 years.

Mr. Graves says, "A person's time and commitment are valuable assets and I realize not everybody is able to make this sacrifice. Life can be busy and challenging enough without the added responsibility of working for the community as a school board member. I feel fortunate enough now to be able to make this commitment and serve the community in this capacity. I take great pride in my family, friends and community and know I will serve them well. I also understand that this is a business, and the job will require thinking with my head and not just my heart. My background as a husband, father, friend and business leader will assist me in serving this community and school district to the best of my ability."

We would also like to thank Maura Davis and Eric Becker for their participation in the special election. ■

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

In order to enhance educational opportunities for students at GCS, a listing of volunteers willing to share their time and expertise within the school setting is being compiled. The resulting resource directory will be available for use by teachers and school personnel.

Do you have knowledge, skills, interest or experiences you would be willing to share with students? If so, go to www.greenwichcsd.org, click on the Community Involvement link and complete and mail the form to the High School office. ■

GCS SAYS THANKS TO ALBERT SYKES

For the past 7 years Mr.

Albert Sykes has served on the Greenwich Central School District Board of Education. While on the Board he served as a Board Member, the President of the Board and on numerous committees.

We are sad to see Mr. Sykes leave the Board of Education, but we are grateful for his tremendous dedication and perseverance in making Greenwich the best it can be.

Mr. Sykes' full-time job as a pilot has grown and, as to not short change the Greenwich community, he decided that it would be best if he resigned from the Board. So if you are out and about in town and you see a white contrail across the sky it might just be our very own Mr. Sykes. ■

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

We would like to take this moment to welcome our newest members of the GCS Faculty and Staff.

High School

Heather (Carter) Barrett—9th Grade English Teacher
Lisa Maloney—AIS E/LA Grades 9-12

Elementary School

Janet Hammond—Physical Education Teacher
Jennifer Kratzenberg—Academic Intervention Services
Tara Sanchez—Special Education Teacher

District Office

Rebecca Wulff—Account Clerk

Transportation

Randy Justin—Transportation Supervisor
Deborah Mattison—Bus Monitor

Buildings & Grounds

Ronald Gorham—Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds
Kristina Peregrim—High School Cleaner

Visit us on the Web @ www.greenwichcsd.org

GREENWICH THANKS OUR RETIREES

GCS SAYS GOODBYE TO MRS. BUCKLEY

As most of you know GCS had to say goodbye to Mrs. Buckley last year. She retired having spent twenty-two years teaching here at Greenwich. Her first year, 1983, she taught senior English, but following that year she taught 7th Grade English until 1993. Since then Mrs. Buckley has taught senior English. She also taught the Authentic Science Research class for a number of years.

Not only has Mrs. Buckley taught, but she has been involved in extra curricular activities including National Honor Society, which she is a member of herself. Mrs. Buckley has helped to prepare hundreds, rather thousands, of students for the world beyond Greenwich High School.

She came to love each one of her students as if they were her own children and on graduation day she is always there as a proud parent of every one.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Buckley and thanks from all her students. ■

ELEMENTARY RETIREES

The end of the 2004-2005 school year brought with it the close of three Greenwich Elementary teaching careers. Effective at the close of the year, Mrs. JoAnne Booth (Kindergarten teacher), Mrs. Anne King (Pre-First teacher), and Mrs. Nancy Law (Academic Intervention Services teacher) retired. All three faculty members brought with them their own unique talents and styles that complimented the Elementary program.

Mrs. JoAnne Booth has touched the lives of children in Kindergarten and fifth grade while working at the Greenwich Elementary School. During her time, she was actively engaged in many aspects of the school and community at large; 4-H, the Washington County Fair Board, and many in-house committees. Mrs. Booth was able to provide her students with the creative blend of traditional academics intertwined with real life knowledge of farming and agriculture components that are so key to the Greenwich Central School District.

Mrs. King used her creative energies and gentle ways to help children in the primary grades. She was able to design and successfully implement for the school district a program that

helped to bridge the students from Kindergarten to first grade. We called it the Connections class. Mrs. King was a leader of curriculum development at the first grade level. She is highly respected by her colleagues and community members alike.

Nancy Law has seen changes in education. When she began her career she was considered a corrective Reading and Math teacher. Through the evolution and collaboration of the supports for our at risk students, her position evolved into that of an Academic Intervention Specialist. Still focusing on Reading, Language Arts and Math, Mrs. Law was able to design her program to be more congruent with that of the classroom teachers. She did push-in and pull-out supports for students in grades three and five. Nancy was very involved in committee work as well as her religious women's movement through her Methodist church in Saratoga Springs. Nancy has a pleasant passion for reading and helping students to treasure the printed word.

All in all, the three distinguished teachers combined have provided over a century of service to Greenwich Elementary. It would be an understatement to say that their respective talents, dedication to students and experience will be missed. We would like to wish our retirees well as they travel into a new venture of their lives. ■

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GREENWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL
10 GRAY AVENUE
GREENWICH, NEW YORK 12834

PHONE: 518-692-9542

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