

CONNECTION

GREECE
CENTRAL
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

*Student Learning
Is The Goal*

INSIDE

**Tips to
Take Home**

page 2

**Meet A
Volunteer**

page 2

**The Power of
Partnership**

page 3

**Greece
Central on TV**

page 3

Points of Pride

page 4

**Vol. 11, No. 3
December 2000**

Faculty and Students Ready for the Challenge of Increased Learning Standards

If student learning is the goal, then Greece Central School District faculty and students are proving that they can meet the mark.

Regents and SAT scores are on the rise throughout the District, even with more rigorous standards. Results from the June 2000 Regents examinations show that students' scores climbed in the areas of math, science, social studies, English language arts, and languages other than English. SAT scores increased 13 points from 1998 to 2000.

Dr. Margaret Keller-Cogan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, said the District has worked hard in recent years to provide support for teachers to ensure student success on new assessments.

"Our focus is on providing support for our staff to ensure each student's instructional needs are met," she said.

More than 900 teachers attended professional development offerings during the summer of 2000. Connie Peets, a third grade teacher at Buckman Heights Elementary School, said professional development, like Math Solutions, helped her change the way she delivers classroom lessons.

"I teach differently now than I did five years ago," Mrs. Peets said, adding that she now considers herself more of a facilitator. While she still structures the lessons, the students do most of the talking – often

in small groups – and jointly come up with answers to questions she poses.

The more hands-on approach is working, Mrs. Peets said, noting that doing their own problem-solving increases student understanding. The concepts students learn and

retain are reflected in test results, which indicate that more Greece students are earning top marks on state exams.

For example, 46 percent of Greece students scored at the

Please turn to page 2

Students Show Seniors the Way Around a Computer



Demonstrating the District's belief in the value of lifelong learning, Odyssey Middle/High School recently hosted a series of computer training sessions for seniors in the community. The three, one-hour classes taught by Junior National Honor Society students at the school, focused on web surfing and emailing. Started last spring at Odyssey by Ralph DeStephano, manager of business and community partnerships, the training was so successful that it is catching on at other schools.

Progress Report... Building for the Future

Recently, a presentation was made to the Greece Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Council on the Capital Improvement Project timeline. The timeline, a preliminary schedule subject to change, was mailed to all residents last month as a special insert to the CONNECTION.

The design phase of the project has begun at several schools, including Barnard, Longridge, Parkland-Brookside, Autumn Lane, English Village, Buckman Heights, and

Lakeshore. Planning for infrastructure work—including roof and window replacement and masonry reconstruction—has also begun at Odyssey.

Current project work includes a plan for a new District telephone system. The new system would have numerous advantages over the current system, including but not limited to the following:

- Providing increased access to telephone services for school staff;
- Providing an increased num-

ber of telephone lines, thereby decreasing busy signals across the District; and,

- Providing a security feature that would tell a dialed emergency service, such as 911, the exact location within a building from which the outgoing emergency call was placed.

Work is also being done to identify the location of two new soccer fields to be added somewhere in the District.

✓ Tips to Take Home

Teach Your Child to Be Responsible

We all want our children to grow up to be responsible adults. We want them to feel, think, and act with respect for themselves and for others. To do this, children need lots of help from parents.

Here are some tips for building responsibility in our children:

For Young Children

- Tell the story of the boy who cried "Wolf!" He did it so many times to get attention that when the wolf did come, no one believed him.
- Ask your children if anyone has ever lied to them. How did that make them feel?
- When you make a promise to your children, try to keep it. It may seem small to you, but it means a lot to them.

For Older Children

- As children grow older, think of added ways they can help at home.
- Discuss the new duties with them. Avoid making the duties seem like punishment. Instead you might say they require more ability which your child now has.

- New tasks should stretch a child's abilities and make him feel satisfied with doing good work. Praise a job well done, especially a new challenge.

For Children of All Ages

- Set a good example. Act with respect toward others. Always make it clear that prejudice is wrong and that all of us are equal, no matter what our color, gender, or background is.
- Show an interest in learning about and from others — neighbors and relatives — and from books about our own and other civilizations.
- Encourage your child to learn about many different lands and people, to learn another language, and to read stories about children from all over the world. Show your child how you try to see things from others' points of view.
- Listen carefully when your child wants to tell you things he or she has discovered about history, geography, religion, art, and ways of life.

Students Vote in Mock Election



Arcadia High School Assistant Principal Paul Casseri and senior Philip Palermo check out the voting booth, in a mock election exercise at the school.

MEET A VOLUNTEER



Based on her easy smile and willingness to take on just about anything, you might not guess how busy Peggy Zimmer is. Mrs. Zimmer shares her volunteer time with the schools her three children attend: Buckman Heights and Holmes Road Elementary Schools, and Apollo Middle School. She's extremely involved with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at the schools, serving as membership chairperson at both Buckman Heights and Holmes Road. According to Tom Scheil, administrative intern at Buckman Heights, Mrs. Zimmer's name is attached to almost every event at the school, from the vendor night she coordinated to the yearbook she produces. Between the schools she is also a room mother, offers a weekly "book talk" with library students, and heads up staff appreciation efforts on behalf of the PTA. All this in two days a week—she works part-time. Her remaining free time is divided so that she can be involved at school with son Morgan and daughters Vicki and Meghan. Paying her a high compliment, Mr. Scheil calls Mrs. Zimmer a volunteer in the truest sense. "She's usually at our door offering help before we can even ask for it," he said.

Faculty, Students are Ready for the Challenge

Continued from front page

highest level – between 85 and 100 percent – on the June 2000 Course I Math exam, up 13 percent from the previous year. District statistics also show that the number of students graduating with Regents diplomas rose from 59 percent in 1999 to 63 percent in 2000.

In addition to training faculty and adapting classroom lessons, Dr. Keller-Cogan said student success also hinges on making sure sufficient supports are in place to assist students who show signs that they may be struggling.

Such supports will be tested in the coming years as standards continue to rise. This year's ninth-graders must pass state assessments in math, global history, English language arts, science, and US history. New York State schools will no longer offer local diplomas. All students, including those receiving special education services, will be expected to earn Regents diplomas. However, some students with special needs will choose to earn an IEP (Individual Education Plan) diploma.

Even with all the new demands facing students, Mrs. Peets is confident that they will rise to the challenge.

"The progress comes slowly," she said. "What I've seen grow is the students' confidence and the belief that they can do it. Once they believe it, they can do it."

Parents can find out more about what will be expected of their children by reading the Department of Curriculum and Instruction's newly-revised *Instructional Handbook* at the elementary and middle school levels or the *Course Offering Book* at the high school level. For a copy, please call your child's school.

Kid Stuff ★

Melody Banach, a senior at Olympia High School, created this masterpiece using tempera paint. Melody is in Sarabeth Ruggieri's art class at the school.



What's on TV?

The following is a listing of Greece Central-related programs to air on Cable 12 West during the months of December and January. Please note: Christmas school concert dates are to be announced. Check the Cable 12 cablecast schedule in the Greece Post, or watch Community Calendar on cable channel 15, daily 4-6 p.m., for times and dates.

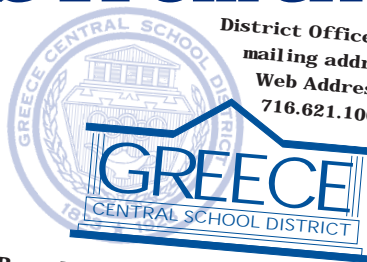
December

- Friday, December 15:
High School Basketball (Athena) — 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 19:
Greece Central School Board Meeting — 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 20:
Inside Brookside — 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 20:
Greece Parenting Seminar — 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 27:
Inside Athena — 7:30 p.m.

January

- Tuesday, January 2:
English Village School — 7 p.m.
- Thursday, January 4
High School Sports — Basketball, 8 p.m.
- Friday, January 5
High School Sports — Basketball, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, January 11
High School Sports — Basketball, 7 p.m.
- Friday, January 12
High School Sports — Basketball, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 16
Greece School Board — 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 17
Inside Brookside — 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 17
Greece Central Parenting Seminar — 8 p.m.
- Thursday, January 18
High School Sports — Basketball — 7 p.m.
- Friday, January 19
High School Sports — Basketball, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 24
Inside Athena — 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 25
High School Sports — Basketball, 7 p.m.
- Friday, January 26
High School Sports — Basketball, 7 p.m.

News from the Board of Education



District Offices: 750 Maiden Lane, Rochester, NY 14615
 mailing address: P.O. Box 300, N. Greece, NY 14515-0300
 Web Address: www.greece.k12.ny.us
 716.621.1000

Board of Education

- Karen A. Hoffman
President
- Paul M. Wawrzyniak
Vice President
- William Grason, Jr.
Dr. Fred R. Koeng
Robert L. Mueller
Gerald D. Phelan
John E. Sodeman
Lisa M. Swartz
Larry C. Sweet
- Ruth H. Ranzenbach
Clerk
- William J. DiCicco
Treasurer

Board Report From November 14 Meeting

The Board of Education approved a sub-lease between the District and the Town of Greece for the District's occupancy of the former Paddy Hill Library. The building, owned by Mother of Sorrows Church, is located on the corner of Latta Road and Mount Read Boulevard. Greece Central will sublet the building for three years (November 1, 2000 through October 31, 2003). It will mainly be used for professional development seminars.

Most of the meeting time was devoted to the Pre-budget Hearing. Open to the public, the hearing was held in the Olympia High School auditorium and drew 26 speakers. The third-annual event was designed to give residents a chance to provide input on the 2001-2002 budget process before it starts. Participants were allowed up to three minutes to share their thoughts with the Board and Superintendent Steve Walts. Topics ranged from the continued reduction of class sizes to the purchase of additional computer technology. A full report on that evening's discussion with the Board will be issued after the stenographer completes the transcripts.

The Board made the following administrative appointments: Stephen Mahoney, Director of Staff Relations in the Department of Human Resources and Staff Relations; Cheryl Riley, Special Education Coordinator in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction; and, Gary Wiener, Assistant Principal at Olympia High School.

**STUDENT
LEARNING IS
THE GOAL**

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

NEXT REGULAR MEETINGS

- Tuesday, December 12
- Tuesday, January 9
- Tuesday, February 13
7:30 p.m.

Apollo Middle School
 750 Maiden Lane
 3rd Floor, Room E46

- Meeting times and locations are subject to change.
- Regular meetings are broadcast live on radio station WGMC 90.1 FM.
- Meetings are videotaped for cable Channel 12 West, and air at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

To contact Board members, call the District Clerk at 621-1000, ext. 2311.

The POWER of Partnership

Greece Education Foundation Receives First Individual Donation

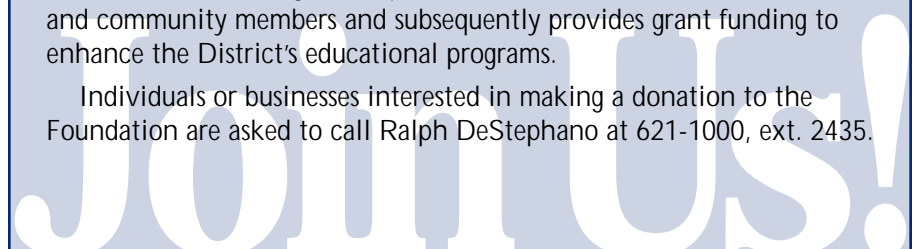
The Greece Education Foundation (GEF) has received its first individual donation.

Paul Schiffman, retired Greece Central School District administrator, now headmaster at the Harley School, made the first individual donation in the amount of \$1,000.

In September, Citibank became the first business to make a donation to the foundation. The company gave \$3,000 to the GEF to be used for transportation services for District elementary community service activities.

The foundation, a fund of the Rochester Area Community Foundation, receives gifts, bequests, and donations from local businesses and community members and subsequently provides grant funding to enhance the District's educational programs.

Individuals or businesses interested in making a donation to the Foundation are asked to call Ralph DeStephano at 621-1000, ext. 2435.



CONNECTION

The *CONNECTION* is published monthly during the school year, by the Department of Educational Technology and Public Information, 621-1000, ext. 2411.

Executive Director of Educational Technology and Public Information:

Keith Imon

Editor:

Kim Finzer Bellavia

Contributing Writer:

Laurel Robideau

Design and Layout:

Helen Barry

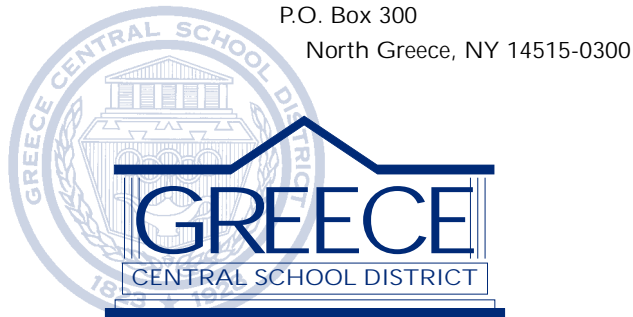
Printing:

Greece Central Imaging Center

The CONNECTION on the Internet:

www.greece.k12.ny.us/pubinfo/connection.htm

The award-winning *CONNECTION* has been recognized across New York State and nationally for excellence in educational journalism.



P.O. Box 300
North Greece, NY 14515-0300

Student Learning Is The Goal

Superintendent of Schools:

Steven L. Walts

Greece Central on the Internet:

www.greece.k12.ny.us

Greece Central's Information Hotline: 621-4180
Responses: 48 hrs., Mon.-Fri.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
North Greece, NY
Permit #1

Points of Pride

Athena High School senior **Jeffery Locke** was one of 600 students nationwide to receive a 2000 National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Award in Writing. Winners were selected based on writing that demonstrated effective and imaginative use of the English language to inform and move an audience.

Three Athena High School sophomores were applauded for their honesty and responsibility, at a breakfast held recently in their honor. **Jillian Biggs**, **Janine McDermott**, and **Ashley Melinis** found a man's wallet containing \$300 at a soccer match in September. The trio returned the wallet and its contents to the relieved owner.

The Arcadia Middle and High School campus was the site of a ribbon-cutting recently, to celebrate a Town of Greece/Greece Central School District partnership which provided a new entrance road for the middle school. The construction project improved road access to the entire campus and alleviated traffic within the main parking lot of the schools.

Another ribbon-cutting celebrated the grand re-opening of a newly-renovated Kirk Road School. The school's interior was redesigned, complete with new partitions, carpeting, and furniture. According to Dr. Tom Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools, the school's heating and ventilation system was being renovated this past summer as part of the District's energy performance contracting. While that work was taking place and the school was vacated, it seemed a natural time to per-

form other renovations and refurbishments. The older facility, opened in 1968, was updated to match with the school's new instructional philosophy and design which features multiage grouping.

Seventy-eight Greece students participated in benefit dance performances for Greece resident **Sam Alimentato** who is fighting non-hodgkin's lymphoma cancer. Performance Plus Dance Productions

and Monroe Community College's Civil Service Employee Association sponsored the Christmas Spectacular performances in early December. For information on how to contribute to the cause, call 621-3680.

Olympia High School unveiled its new Alumni Wall of Fame this fall, to honor Olympia graduates for their achievements and contributions to the community. This year's inductees are: **Gary Beikirch**, Class

of 1965, a Vietnam war hero who was given the Congressional Medal of Honor and currently works as a counselor at Arcadia Middle School; **Thomas Klingenberg**, Class of 1973, who works in the Rochester area as a community and civic role model; and **Jamie Foechner**, Class of 1980, Director of Disney Production Services in Orlando, Florida. A special part of the wall was dedicated to those students killed in action during the Vietnam War. They are: **James Hockridge ('62)**; **Donald Graves ('64)**; **Donald Jacques ('65)**; **Jeffery Bruce ('66)**; **David Crane ('66)**; **Thomas Eckwell ('66)**; and **William Gearing, Jr. ('67)**. A new Academic Wall of Fame also made its debut. It features the names of Olympia's valedictorians and salutatorians from each graduating class since the school opened in 1961.

Students enrolled in the band, chorus, or orchestra at Parkland-Brookside Elementary School's Brookside Campus can earn free tickets to Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) concerts thanks to a new program offered by the school's music department. Two tickets to RPO Saturday night performances are given out weekly to the student who demonstrated outstanding preparation of their lesson material or ensemble music.

Athena High School junior **Michelle Lizardi** has been named a recipient of the Rochester Police Department's "Do the Right Thing Award" for her exemplary behavior and for serving as a positive role model for her peers.

As part of its assets building program, Pine Brook Elementary School children collected \$1,512 for UNICEF.



In Remembrance of Our Veterans

West Ridge School students visited the Veteran's Memorial at the Greece Town Hall in November. Teacher Patsy Jones snapped this photo of (left to right) **Edward Rogers**, **Michael McGuire**, and **Desmond Mobley** as they observed the Living Memorial to those who died in combat.