

# Currents

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Genesee Community Charter School

October 2010

Volume 10 No. 2

## Guest Experts Bring History & Science Alive

First graders enthusiastically discussed how to build a bee box with carpentry expert Jake Allen. Second graders watched with rapt attention as Chris Cicero showed them how to plow a field for the planting of winter wheat and explained how a whole crop grows from the humble wheat berries in his hand. Fourth and fifth graders were awed by the amazing drumming skill of Khalid Saleem as he demonstrated rhythms and techniques he wanted them to learn. It's inspiring to learn from individuals who have a passion for a particular discipline or topic. The talent and knowledge these experts bring to students is a great complement to our classroom activities, research, and fieldwork.

It is important for students to understand that answers can be obtained from resources beyond their teachers or textbooks. Part of learning *how* to learn is developing the skills and disposition to seek out knowledge and knowing what questions to ask. Before they work with any guest expert, students develop their questions and prepare to make careful observations. The notes students come away with are used throughout the expedition as students compile their learning into their final product.

Work with guest experts also gives students the opportunity to see many different occupations at work. Students learn from historians, craftspeople, scientists, business owners, artists, and many others. This experience allows students to see how classroom learning applies to "real life."

Students also benefit from working with adults from different cultures and backgrounds. These adults share their talents, serve as positive role models, and help students learn about traditions and histories that may be different from their own.

We are grateful that so many parents and community members are willing to share their expertise and teach students new skills and information. Be sure to let your child's teachers know if you have curriculum-related skills, artifacts, or knowledge to share.

## Fieldwork & Medication

GCCS follows all state and county regulations regarding the dispensation of medications at school.



Among those regulations are the following directives that particularly affect fieldwork:

- all medication to be administered while on fieldwork must be accompanied by proper doctor's orders
- children who will receive medication from an individual who does not hold a medical license must be trained and deemed to be self-directed.

The Board of Trustees has determined that all medications and accompanying paperwork must be submitted to the school nurse **at least 72 hours in advance**. This time allows school staff to prepare instructions, records, and materials for field study personnel. In addition, an RN from BOCES must come to meet with each

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Schedule Change

# Yes!

We Have School  
on **Friday, October 29**  
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Please be sure your child  
is in attendance.  
All Transportation Offices  
have been notified.

## Family Association Directory

### *Board of Trustees Representatives*

LaShunda Echols-Smith (436-6219,  
lashunda.smith@successfulpathways.com)

Dan Bell (544-0577, dbell@rochester.rr.com)

Kimberly Schafer (271-7329, Kimberly.Schafer@cbre.com)

### *Officers*

**Co-Chairs:** Nikki Hogan (621-8731, nhogan13@hotmail.com)  
Elvis Reyes (338-9012, elvis.reyes@twcable.com)

**Secretary:** Rebecca Degro-Carbonel (266-8408,  
becky273@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Andre Spenard (820-6639,  
hammerheadconsulting@earthlink.net)

### *Family Association Committee Chairs*

#### **Family Social Activities**

Lynn Mazzeo & Vincent Graves  
(298-5125, betecd@yahoo.com)

#### **Fund-Raising**

Volunteer Needed!

#### **Legislative Issues**

Annie Briggs (738-9664, annietobiasz@hotmail.com)

#### **Outreach**

Volunteer Needed!

#### **Program**

Diana Carter (473-1187, blueloon@rochester.rr.com)

#### **Classroom Parent Volunteer Coordinators**

Mary Staropoli (461-0034, marystaropoli@yahoo.com)

### *Classroom Parent Volunteer Coordinators*

#### **Kindergarten**

Emily Lambert (278-4510, davemi75@gmail.com)

#### **First Grade**

Cynthia Popinko (244-3979, cjdanceballet@gmail.com)

#### **Second Grade**

Sarah Goff (563-6609goffs5@rochester.rr.com)

#### **Third Grade**

Becca Haak (703-2959, rhaak@rochester.rr.com)

#### **Fourth Grade**

Nancy Bernier (323-2578, nbern239@aol.com)

#### **Fifth Grade**

Denise Anderson (244-8202, tommya31323@frontiernet.net)

#### **Sixth Grade**

Liz Conheady (764-2282, econheady@msn.com)

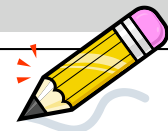


## Upcoming Dates To Remember



- Oct. 11: Columbus Day  
School is Closed
- Oct. 13: Board of Trustees Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Cunningham House
- Oct. 21: Family Association Meeting  
6:30-8 p.m. Eisenhart Ballroom
- Oct. 23: Saturday Parent Work Day  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Oct. 27-29: Site Seminar
- Nov. 10: Board of Trustees Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Cunningham House
- Nov. 11: Professional Development Day  
No School for Students
- Nov. 18: Family Association Meeting  
6:30-8 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom
- Nov. 22-23: Professional Development Days  
No School for Students
- Nov. 24-26: Thanksgiving Recess  
School is Closed
- Dec. 2: Family Association Meeting  
6:30-8 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom
- Dec. 3: Barnes & Noble Book Fair  
Fund-raiser for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Dec. 8: Board of Trustees Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Cunningham House
- Dec. 9: Parent-Teacher Conferences  
11:30 a.m. Dismissal
- Dec. 16: Family Association Potluck  
and Service Auction  
6-9 Eisenhart Auditorium
- Dec. 20-31: Winter Recess  
No School for Students

**DON'T FORGET!**



**WE DO HAVE SCHOOL ON  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**8:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.**

## Medication (continued from p 1)

child individually to assess self-directedness.

Children whose parents do not comply with this timeline **will not be permitted to attend the fieldwork.**



This firm stance was necessitated by a number of parents bringing in medication – sometimes without accompanying paperwork – on the morning of an overnight field study. This puts school staff in the very awkward position of having to scramble around to put affairs in order while buses are waiting to pull out from the curb. This practice is both unsafe and unnecessary, especially given the amount of notice and the number of reminders sent home about overnight fieldwork.

The only exceptions will be last-minute prescriptions for newly-diagnosed conditions, for example antibiotics prescribed for bronchitis. In this case, parents should notify the school immediately upon receiving the prescription, and should be sure that a copy of the doctor's orders are given to the school along with the medication as far in advance as possible.

Please remember that ALL medications – including over-the-counter pain relief, cough drops, topical ointments, and herbal remedies – must include doctor's orders and be submitted to the school in advance.

We sincerely request parents' cooperation so that we may avoid the situation in which a child must be left behind from fieldwork. Fieldwork is an important element of our instructional program, and we want every child to be able to benefit from each experience.



If you have a child in fourth, fifth, or sixth grade, it is very likely he or she will have an overnight field study as early as January. Please make arrangements now to secure the documentation needed for your child to receive medication while on the trip.

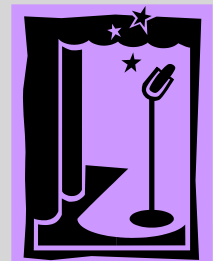
## Village to City Exhibition Schedule

Monday, November 15 (note date change)  
5:45-6:45 p.m.: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
7:00-8:00 p.m.: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Tuesday, November 16  
5:45-6:45 p.m.: Kindergarten  
7:00-8:00 p.m.: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Wednesday, November 17  
6:00-7:00 p.m.: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Wednesday, December 1  
5:45-6:45 p.m.: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
7:00-8:00 p.m.: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



## Family Association Meeting

Thursday, October 21  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Come Get Involved in the Family Association's Activities This Year

Babysitting Available  
Suggested Donation \$2.00/child

## Family Association Meeting

Thursday, November 18  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Hear about Teachers' Fabulous Summer Professional Development Travels

Babysitting Available  
Suggested Donation \$2.00/child

## Sixth Grade Fundraiser At the Pittsford Barnes & Noble Friday, December 3



Help the Sixth Graders pay for their big field study and get your holiday shopping done at the same time! Attend a book fair at Barnes & Noble in Pittsford any time on Friday, Dec. 3, and identify yourself as being with the GCCS fundraiser. A percentage of your purchase – whether it's a cup of coffee, a game, a CD, a book or a Nook – will go to the sixth grade. Can't make it or want to include out-of-town grandparents? Shop online at [www.bn.com/bookfairs](http://www.bn.com/bookfairs) December 3-8, and your purchase can still count. GCCS students will also perform at Barnes & Noble that afternoon and evening, so come join the fun! More details to come.

Questions? Call Diana Carter at 473-1187.

## Reminder:



**School doors open at 8:00 a.m. We request that parents wait until that time to bring children into the school building. Thank you!**

## Saturday Parent Work Day



**Saturday, October 23  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**COME HELP get OUR SCHOOL IN  
SHAPE FOR Site Seminar!**

**Please BRING Buckets AND Rags  
IF YOU HAVE THEM**

**(BABYSITTING PROVIDED)**

## Former Sixth Graders Continue to Make Their Mark

Sixth Grade seems to be the gift that keeps on giving! Even after they've moved on to middle and high school, our alumni continue to receive recognition and presentation opportunities for the work they did as sixth graders. The 2005-2006 sixth grade class was recently awarded the Young Canawlers' Award at the World Canals Conference and several students delivered the luncheon presentation about the class's efforts to evaluate the Grasso-Zimmer proposal to re-water the Erie Canal downtown. Our 2008-2009 sixth graders are responding to a challenge from Mayor Duffy and are working with this year's students to select and design a piece of public art for downtown Rochester. The 2009-2010 sixth graders will be returning to the RMSC in November to present their proposal for a new health exhibit to the museum Board of Trustees.

These continued opportunities are tremendous ways for our former and current students to see the value of high-quality work and to understand that passionate, articulate, and well-informed voices can make a difference.

