



Currents

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Genesee Community Charter School
an Expeditionary Learning School

October 2012

Volume 12 No. 2

Math Pervades Our School

Walk through our school and you can easily see that this is an artsy place – beautiful artwork adorns the walls, singing pours out of every classroom, and children regularly dance through the hallways. We're striving to make our students' efforts in math every bit as ever-present and visible. As part of our work to address the mathematics Common Core State Standards, we are infusing math into every part of our school day. Here's a sampling of what you might see and hear as you walk through the school:

- ✓ math activities are woven into the morning message and morning meeting
- ✓ students are tracking and charting attendance, transition times, fractional parts and percentages of home learning completion
- ✓ the arts teachers are making explicit how fractions, geometry, and counting connect to music, visual art, and dance
- ✓ students are asked to line up according to a mathematical pattern or concept
- ✓ classroom daily schedules are configured on timelines that make it easier for students to visualize elapsed time
- ✓ classrooms have math "word walls" on which to record new math terminology
- ✓ long-term problems are posted on bulletin boards

Stay tuned! Future issues of *Currents* will feature more ways we are addressing the new math standards this year.

All Hands on Deck for our Expeditionary Learning Site Seminar

Each year, a handful of Expeditionary Learning schools are selected to open their doors to educators around the country so that they might see an exemplary implementation of the model in action. For the ninth time, GCCS will host a Site Seminar October 17-19.

This year's seminar will demonstrate how well-planned learning expeditions can address the Common Core State Standards through rigorous and engaging instructional practices, thoughtfully-aligned learning targets and assessments, ambitious student products, and arts integration. We have structured classroom observations and teacher-led seminars to help participants place learning expeditions at the heart of their instructional program in order to strengthen student engagement, character, and academic performance.

Teachers and other school staff host our guests and teach demonstration lessons and workshops. But students and parents also play a significant role. Students are active participants in each of the demonstration lessons that our guests observe. Students also serve as greeters, tour guides, gallery docents, and luncheon ambassadors. In addition, they demonstrate the power of our integrated arts program through a spectacular luncheon performance. Parents prepare the school during our Saturday cleaning day, supervise tour groups, assist with registration and final products sales, and host a lovely wine and cheese reception for guests.

Hosting a Site Seminar is always a huge undertaking, but one that is well worth the effort. We are grateful for the opportunity to sharpen and share our instructional practices, to showcase our inquisitive, talented students, and to involve our whole school community in such a worthy endeavor.



Family Association Directory

Board of Trustees Representatives

Bill Gargan (729-7039, wgargan@monroecounty.gov)

Ronald Hall (200-1364, raskillz2@aol.com)

Jenny Sutherland (355-8262, jjsuther@gmail.com)

Officers

Co-Chairs: Andre Spenard (820-5651,

hammerheadconsulting@earthlink.net);

Becky Carbonel (820-1580, becky.carbonel@gmail.com)

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

Treasurer: Laura Hammond-Connor (703-1628,

lconn68@rochester.rr.com)

Family Association Event Chairs

Saturday Cleaning Days:

TBA

December Program:

Andre Spenard (820-5651, hammerheadconsulting@earthlink.net)

Family Association Auction:

Jenny Sutherland (355-8262, jjsuther@gmail.com); Jen Reisch

(298-9346, jen.reisch@gmail.com)

December Potluck:

Helene McMurray (820-7638, hmcmurra@rochester.rr.com)

Family Game Night:

TBA

Family Skating Party:

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

Family Talent Show:

Elvis Reyes (338-9012, reidsmom@rochester.rr.com)

Applebee's Fundraiser:

TBA

Family Dance Party:

TBA

Staff Appreciation Lunch:

TBA

End of Year Picnic:

Joshua Lynd (284-5961, joshualynd@gmail.com)

Logowear Sale:

Terry Gauthier (738-3087, baileyg1@frontiernet.net), Cynthia

Popinko (764-0807, cjdanceballet@gmail.com)

Classroom Parent Volunteer Coordinators

Kindergarten: Emily Lambert (278-4510, davemi7S@gmail.com)

First Grade: Joshua Lynd (284-5961, joshualynd@gmail.com)

Second Grade: Carla Morris (794-1702, cmpasq@yahoo.com)

Third Grade: Virginia Malone (880-1821,

bonmalone@hotmail.com)

Fourth Grade: Rebecca Gargan (461-0855,

bgargan@frontiernet.net)

Fifth Grade: Nancy Bernier (330-8971, nbern239@aol.com)

Sixth Grade: Allison Bosworth (820-6639, abosworth@sjfc.edu)

Upcoming Dates To Remember



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| Oct. 4: | Curriculum Night |
| Oct. 5: | Professional Development Day
No School for Students |
| Oct. 9: | School Pictures Make-up Day
Curriculum Night |
| Oct. 8: | Columbus Day
School is Closed |
| Oct. 10: | Board of Trustees Meeting
5:30 p.m. Cunningham House |
| Oct. 13: | Saturday Parent Work Day
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. |
| Oct. 17-19: | EL Site Seminar |
| Oct. 19: | EL Site Seminar
11:30 a.m. Dismissal |
| Nov. 1: | Chaperone/Volunteer
Orientation 6:30-8:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 10: | Family Association Auction
Eisenhart Auditorium 6-10 p.m. |
| Nov. 12: | Professional Development Day
No School for Students |
| Nov. 14: | Board of Trustees Meeting
5:30 p.m. Cunningham House |
| Nov. 16: | Barnes & Noble 6 th Grade
Fundraiser 6-9 p.m. |
| Nov. 19-20: | Professional Development Days
No School for Students |
| Nov. 21-23: | Thanksgiving Recess
No School for Students |



**Yes, we have school on
Friday, October 19!
Students will be dismissed at
11:30 a.m.
Please make sure students
are in school that day so
that they are here for our
Site Seminar!**

Introducing GCCS Facebook Pages!



Facebook pages are up and running for each classroom. The purpose of the pages is to help families share in the active life of their child's classroom by posting class-wide invitations, sharing photos, and forwarding event reminders.

The Family Association has developed guidelines for membership and posting. To join, individuals must be over the age of 13 and must be parents of students in that class or other relatives who have attended chaperone/volunteer orientation. Postings are limited to information, invitations, transportation requests, and event reminders that are applicable to the whole class. GCCS Facebook pages are not to be used for questions or discussion about school staff or school practices or policies.

To join your child's class Facebook page, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gccs20XX> (substitute GCCS graduation year for XX) and click "Join Group" in the upper right corner. Your request must be approved by a group administrator. A school-wide email will be sent out with more specific instructions and posting guidelines.

Come Learn about our New Progress Report Format at Curriculum Night!

Thursday, October 4

5:30-7:00 p.m. – Grades K, 1, 5, 6

7:15-8:45 p.m. – Grades 2, 3, 4

Babysitting provided by the Family Association

VILLAGE TO CITY EXHIBITION DATES

Fri., Nov. 16 – 6th Grade (at Barnes & Noble Pittsford)

Tues., Nov. 27 – 2nd, 3rd Grades

Wed., Nov. 28 – 1st, 4th Grades

Thurs., Nov. 29 – K, 5th Grade



Donate! Bid High! Family Association Auction



Saturday, November 10th 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

This is our major fundraising event for the year

Funds raised will help support 2013 overnight field studies

Enjoy an evening of hors d'oeuvres, sweets, coffee, and dancing!

Featuring Jumpin' Americana & Blues by The Crawdiddies

Donate or bid on a service or product:

Salon Services
Cooking or Baking
Workplace Tours
Hotel Stays

Landscaping Maintenance
Cleaning Services
Cottage Rentals
Guided Nature Adventures

Photographic Services
Computer Consultation
Interior Design Services
Thematic Gift Baskets

Lessons
Home Repair
Babysitting
Crafts

An Adults Only Event, Babysitting Provided

Saturday Parent Work Day

Saturday, October 13

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)**

Upcoming Lunch with Lisa Topics:

Pack a bag lunch and join the School Leader before Community Circle for a conversation about current school initiatives. We'll gather in the Computer Lab from 11:30 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Upcoming topics for discussion include:

October 24: *The new GCCS Progress Report* – Find out more about our new standards-based grading practices and how we'll communicate students' progress with parents.

November 28: *Expeditionary Learning 101 with Steven Levy* – Meet our spectacular School Designer and learn more about the Expeditionary Learning model, the national network, and GCCS's role in the organization.



Last Chance this year for Parent Volunteer/ Chaperone Training

**Thursday,
November 1
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Eisenhart Auditorium



Chaperone and Volunteer Training are required every three years for parents wishing to volunteer in classrooms or chaperone day or overnight fieldwork.

Sixth Grade Fundraiser At the Pittsford Barnes & Noble, Friday, November 16

Help the Sixth Graders pay for their big field study and get your holiday shopping done at the same time! Attend sixth grade's



exhibition night and book fair at Barnes & Noble in Pittsford 6-9 p.m. Friday, November 16. Sixth grade has a performance, crafts and activities planned as part of their exhibition night. GCCS students will also perform at Barnes & Noble that afternoon and evening, so come join the fun!

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble 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 family members? Shop online at www.bn.com/bookfairs November 16-23, and your purchase can still count. Watch backpack mail and e-mail for more details to come.

Yes, Our Website is Broken!

In the process of migrating our website to a new host and trying to update the content, something has gone awry, and we now see things we shouldn't when we open up our homepage. We are trying to get to the root of the problem so that we can return the site to full functionality. Are you a Drupal expert? We sure could use your assistance! Please contact Amy Mednick at amednick@GCCSchool.org if you can help.

