

THE FORUM

*Mount Greylock Regional School District
Lanesborough and Williamstown, Massachusetts*

MARCH 2006



PROMOTING TOLERANCE AND CIVILITY

At the morning meeting on Monday, January 30, I was given the opportunity to showcase some of the steps that our 7th grade students have been taking to understand what it means to be more tolerant of others. Six students volunteered to explain the different facets of verbal, physical and emotional harassment; what empathy means; and the difference between reporting and tattling. A very special thank you goes to: **Nicole Clement, Sam DeMatteo, Alex Levinsky, Greg Karabinos, Alyssa Tomkowicz, and Peyton Landers** who did an awesome job. In addition, Dr. Travis shared his story about an intolerant situation that he experienced when he was in middle school and how the actions of some students affected another person well into adulthood. You may read his story, "A Seat at the Table," in the last edition of the Forum.

Clearly, our middle school students are beginning to mature and develop greater knowledge about the effects

of harassment and what it means to be empathetic when someone is experiencing a painful situation. They are learning that you certainly don't have to like everyone or be friends with everyone, but that it is essential to be respectful and tolerant of one another.

On February 7 and 8 our middle school and encore teachers received training from the Mass. Department of Education staff in the Violence Prevention Curriculum, "Second Step." Our middle school teachers will conduct lessons during their advisory classes, which began after the February break. The curriculum is not only designed to promote social emotional education through formal lessons, but it will also be supported and reinforced by all middle school faculty and staff who interact with students. Its premise is based in social-emotional learning to: identify and manage emotions; teach people how to get along with others in a civil

fashion; teach life skills; and teach students how to develop successful relationships. Lessons are designed to develop problem solving techniques, empathy, impulse control, frustration tolerance and anger management. Parent support is integral to the success of the "Second Step" curriculum. With this in mind, we are planning an information session, which will be held within the next few months.

On February 10, I joined Co-Principal Ellen Kaiser at the community meeting of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. The focus was to address ways that the community-at-large can assist in the creation of a tolerant and respectful climate in their homes and schools. I was privileged to hear from our UNITY students about the need to address the issue of harassment prevention differently at the high school level.

It is essential to promote tolerance and civility for all children, being mindful that whether the messages be formal or informal, it is clear that no one deserves to be harassed or hurt. No one deserves to walk into our building and deal with inappropriate peer behavior in the hallways, the classrooms, the lunchroom, or in any place that students may gather inside or outside of school. It is the task of this school to model acceptable ways to relate, consistently limit inappropriate behavior and support students who are adversely treated by others. To this end, we will seek further strategies to foster the growth of tolerance and respect school-wide.

On Valentine's Day, I had the pleasure of being invited to an all-school Civility Assembly at Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton. According to organizer and moderator Charles Bradshaw, a long time Latin teacher at Wahconah, it began six years ago to help teachers and students at this time of the year to understand that even with various tensions and stressors, it is essential that the students and staff remember the importance of being kind, tolerant and civil to one another. I filled my van and brought many of the UNITY students: Anthony Bellmon, Elianny Camilo, Earl Edwards, Jonayah Jackson, Jennifer Kodela, and Luke Miller to witness a magnificent event. A profound Power Point presentation traced a "then and now" historic path in our society regarding discrimination, harassment and relational abuse. This was followed by the poignant performances of teachers and students, which were met with a filled-to-capacity auditorium of respectful cheers. It was an event that could not be put into words, but the Mt. Greylock students agreed that it was a tradition they would like to establish at Mt. Greylock. Whether it is by a special assembly or by every day word and deed, it is clear that our students must take responsibility to behave with civility; and our staff must further enhance the environment to reflect its mission of helping students become responsible citizens.

If parents should have questions about the programming or care to discuss issues of concern, please contact School Adjustment Counselor Deb Cole-Duffy at Ext. 159 or at dcole@mgrhs.org.

Vision Statement – Mount Greylock is a spirited educational community that celebrates human differences, recognizes individual abilities, and challenges its citizens to strive for academic excellence and to realize their full potential and aspirations. We provide a curriculum and environment that includes and supports all members of the school community. With respect for diversity, we provide a physically and emotionally safe environment. We promote the integration of school and community, based on a mutual commitment to and a passion for lifelong learning.

SPRING SPORTS PHYSICALS



Spring Sports Physicals will be offered by School Physician Dr. Kathryn Wiseman on Tuesday, March 7, 2006. Completed forms must be returned to the school nurse by Monday, March 6, in order to receive an appointment.

Please contact Dianne Dubendorf, R.N., at 458-9582, Ext. 154, with any questions.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TRAVELING ABROAD

Grants applications for international travel, study or work by young people ages 14 to 22 from Berkshire, MA; Columbia, northeast Dutchess, NY; and northwest Litchfield, CT, are being accepted through April 1, 2006.

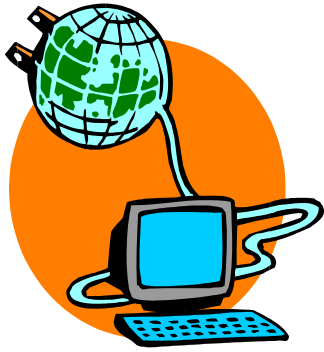
The grants are available through The Youth World Awareness Program and The Alice and Richard Henriquez Fund, both managed by Berkshire Taconic Foundation. Applications will be judged based on how the project will engage

the applicant with young people in other countries, the opportunities it offers to learn new customs and lifestyles and whether or not it involves some form of community service. Applications and list of previous grants are available at www.berkshiretaconic.org or by calling 800-969-2823.

“Few things are as important these days as achieving peace in the world. Ignorance about other cultures and religions creates mistrust and antagonism. These grants provide wonderful hands-on opportunities for our youth to experience other cultures,” stated Jennifer Dowley, Berkshire Taconic President. “I can’t think of a better way to begin to break down barriers and form bonds that might better bind the world together.”

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that cultivates philanthropy in ways that have a direct positive impact in Berkshire, Columbia, northeast Dutchess and northwest Litchfield counties. For more information please contact Berkshire Taconic at 271 Main Street, Suite 3, Great Barrington, MA, 800-969-2823, or info@berkshiretaconic.org, or visit www.berkshiretaconic.org.

"CYBER CRIMES"



On Monday, March 13, the PTO will feature **Sergeant Steve DeINegro**, Internet Crimes Against Children Coordinator for the Massachusetts State Police. He will discuss the children's use of the Internet, the many dangers posed and safety considerations. The PTO meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the library. For further information, contact Lynn Penna at Ext. 103.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

The College and Career Center above the school library has a large selection of SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES that are available to all students. Joe Colpoys, a center volunteer, has put together a few highlights that might get you thinking about other possibilities.

- *Go to a summer college with undergraduate students at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.
- *Change the world one friendship at a time in Botswana with the Experiment in International Living.
- *Hike and kayak in the Pyrenees and on the Costa Brava with Overland.
- *Be a Landmark volunteer on a maintenance project at Acadia National Park.

*Go to a musical theater camp at Oberlin College in Ohio.

*Enter the world of Leonardo da Vinci at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire.

Many more programs, camps, travel, and college summer opportunities are available for you to look through. If you need help at the Center, see Mrs. Gill or Mrs. Callahan in the guidance office.



AFTERPROM LETTER CORRECTION

To parents, guardians and students: Please note the following correction for the dates of the prom/afterprom.

The prom will take place on Monday, June 5, 2006. The afterprom takes place immediately following through Tuesday morning, June 6.

The Dinner-Silent Auction Fundraiser will be Saturday, March 25, at the Williams Inn.

For more information, as well as a preview of all Silent Auction donations, please visit our website at www.mgrhsafterprom.com.

The Afterprom Committee apologizes for the error in the letter sent home to families.

The mission of the Mount Greylock Regional School District is to serve its communities by helping all students progress toward responsible citizenship through an educationally challenging environment.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

"Dollars for Scholars" is a national organization that helps local groups raise money for graduating seniors. The "Citizen's Scholarship Fund of Lanesborough/NewAshford (CSFLNA)" has been the name of our local group. Our name has changed to "Scholarship America of Lanesborough/New Ashford (SALNA)." SALNA will be the name that appears on all future communications. Please spread the word around so that people know we're still the same group!

Donations

This month each resident of Lanesborough and New Ashford will receive a letter giving information about SALNA and requesting donations. We always receive a fantastic response to this request, from everyone, whether or not they have children, no matter the age of their children. We are fortunate to live in such supportive communities. Thank you for your devotion to the success of the children of our towns!

Seniors!

Applications for scholarships from SALNA are now available in the guidance offices of all Berkshire County high schools. If you are a graduating senior and you live in either Lanesborough or New Ashford, be sure to return to the guidance office a completed application by **March 31, 2006**.

Fundraiser

SALNA already has a fundraiser going for February/March! Juniors and seniors from Lanesborough/New Ashford, and their families and

friends, can sell and/or buy **Cherrydale Farms** items. Cherrydale Farms items include "Spring Things," "Barton's" kosher for Passover, and "David's Frozen Cookie Dough." We are also planning a Community Get Together in Lanesborough to bring together friends and neighbors. Anyone who would like to help out with this endeavor, please call Lauri Brenner at 442-2622.

Any student or student's family member who contributes to SALNA events earns points toward a scholarship for the student. ALL help is appreciated and rewarded! If you can make phone calls, help organize, bake, brainstorm events, attend meetings, or any number of other possible contributions, please contact Lauri or one of the committee officers:

Kathy Patriquin, President
442-7147

Annemarie Newton, Vice President
442-6832

Sandra Taylor, Treasurer
442-6619

Carole Chuslo Castonguay,
Secretary
443-5737

Our next meeting will be March 8, 2006, at 7 p.m. in the library at the Lanesborough Elementary School. We look forward to seeing you there!

PTO NEEDS YOUR HELP

The PTO Communication Committee is working to make the Forum more beneficial and valuable to you and would like your input.

We are doing a survey and want you to participate!

1. If the Forum appeared consistently each month in a timely manner on the school website, would you -
 - a. Still want a copy mailed to you
 - b. Have your name removed from the mailing list
2. Do you read the Forum?
 - a. Always
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never

Please respond by emailing Michele Conroy in the Superintendent's office with your answers at mconroy@mgrhs.org or calling her at 459-9582, Ext. 149.

Please act now! Deadline is Wednesday, March 15. Thank you for your help.

Summer Math Camps

Check out the following websites for information on summer math camp opportunities.

www.Wpi.edu/+frontiers

<http://www.ams.org/careers-edu/mathcamps.html>

www.mtholyoke.edu/proj/search

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE OF FORUM – FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH

Articles may be emailed to pakmach@adelphia.net.

It can be a word document attached to your email or typed in the body of the email.

It isn't necessary to format, as it will change when inputted into The Forum.



From the Superintendent's Office -

EXCITING GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT POSTSECONDARY PLANNING SESSION

For juniors and the parents of all juniors, please plan on coming to the Mount Greylock auditorium at 8 a.m. on March 8. There are specific activities and information packets to be distributed to all explaining how to plan for the next big step to college or career opportunities. The morning will be broken into several smaller sessions so you can have time to interact with counselors and their guests. This is a new approach to provide information to juniors and parents. The timing could not be more perfect as many families will be planning campus visits this spring and summer.

Please join us for a most informative morning.

(Please see announcement on next page.)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST - 7TH ANNUAL

Mr. Ostheimer coordinated the 7th Annual speaking contest on the theme of having the courage to stand up to injustice. Seven students had essays that were selected to move to the judging portion of the program. They included Katherine Wade, Devon Bryant-Bosshold, Emily Baker-White, Lindsay Maynard, Gina Nefertari Riggins, Matthew Baker-White, and Jessica Moreno. The program began with a video tribute to Rosa Parks. The Mount Greylock Senior High Choir provided a celebration of songs, "We Shall Overcome" and "O Happy Day" under the direction of senior Anthony Bellmon. Mitchell Galli played the piano and Elianny Camilo and Anthony Bellmon were soloists. Two faculty, two community members, and two students served as judges. The Williamstown Savings Bank and Water Street Books provided awards for the winners. The speeches judged as the top three went to:

- 3rd Place - Devon Bryant-Bosshold
- 2nd Place - Katherine Wade
- 1st Place - Emily Baker-White

The program was witnessed by several high school classes.



RESPECT AND TOLERANCE -- OUR MESSAGE IS GETTING OUT

I received a phone call from Dr. Elizabeth Englander, a noted authority on bullying and juvenile development. She chairs the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State College. Her center sponsored a contest for teens to submit public service announcements to address ways to reduce teen aggression and promote tolerance. Seven teams of middle school students scripted and acted in their own PSAs. High school students in Mr. Powers' digital computer classes filmed the middle school productions and edited them into DVDs matching the contest guidelines. Mount Greylock was initially recognized for having sent in the greatest number of complete programs. We next learned one of our entries was recognized with an honorable mention award. The PSA was titled "Mistreated," and the computer students getting the PSA recognition include Zack Yarter, Kris Jolin, Andrew Lenhoff, and Alicia Shampang. The PSA will be run along with other recognized entries throughout eastern Massachusetts.

**Do YOU want to know what WE are telling Juniors?
You are Invited to Find Out...**

**Help Us Kick Off the Postsecondary Planning
Process by Attending an Early Morning Presentation**

MARCH 8, 2006

8:00 AM-8:50 AM

Mount Greylock Auditorium



With renewed spirit and the desire to get all involved we are excited to present the first annual Postsecondary Planning Day for Juniors only.

We will begin with a general overview for students and parents of postsecondary options, steps in the process and parent roles. This will be followed by breakout sessions for students to include research, college admissions standards, an alumni panel, career interest inventory, and options for the non-college bound.

You are welcome to come back at 10:30 AM to hear our guest speakers discuss the college admissions process. High school guidance counselors will be available at 11:30 AM for general questions.



For More Information-

Please contact us in the Guidance Office at 458-9582 ext. 162.

*Jessica Casalino-Guidance Counselor
Beverly Maselli- Guidance Counselor*

LUNCH LINE MENUS



Mount Greylock Regional School
1781 Cold Spring Road, Williamstown, MA
Judith Richardson, Cafeteria Manager

MARCH 2006 MENU

Wednesday	1	Sausage Grinders, Onions & Peppers, Salad, Milk, Fruit
Thursday	2	Macaroni & Cheese, Broccoli, Cornbread, Milk & Fruit
Friday	3	Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potato, Carrots, Milk, Fruit
Monday	6	Meatball Subs, Caesar Salad, Oven Fries, Milk, Fruit
Tuesday	7	Taco Salad, Corn, Milk & Fruit
Wednesday	8	In-service Day
Thursday	9	Pizza, Caesar Salad, Milk & Fruit
Friday	10	Chicken Burger, Oven Fries, Mixed Vegetable, Milk, Fruit
Monday	13	Ham & Cheese Croissant, Tomato Soup, Peas, Milk, Fruit
Tuesday	14	Meatball Subs, Oven Fries, Caesar Salad, Milk & Fruit
Wednesday	15	Deli Bar, Chips, Pickles, Milk & Fruit
Thursday	16	Calzones, Salad, Milk & Fruit
Friday	17	Chicken Nuggets, Pasta Salad, Green Beans, Milk & Fruit
Monday	20	Chicken Burger Deluxe, Milk, Fruit
Tuesday	21	Fish & Chips, Cole Slaw, Milk, Fruit
Wednesday	22	Pizza, Caesar Salad, Milk, Fruit
Thursday	23	Grilled Hamburgers Deluxe, Oven Fries, Baked Beans, Milk, Fruit
Friday	24	Chicken Fajita Wrap, Rice, Corn, Milk, Fruit
Monday	27	Chicken Nuggets, Veggie Pasta Salad, Corn, Milk, Fruit
Tuesday	28	Turkey Dinner, Milk, Fruit
Wednesday	29	Taco Salad, Corn, Milk, Fruit
Thursday	30	Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Mixed Veggies, Milk, Fruit
Friday	31	Meatball Subs, Oven Fries, Green Beans, Milk, Fruit

MEAL COST: STUDENT \$2.50 & ADULT \$3.50
ALL MEALS INCLUDE THE FIVE FOOD GROUPS

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

You are cordially invited to



Mt. Greylock Afterprom 2006

Silent Auction and Dinner

Date: March 25, 2006

Bidding: 5-7 p.m.

Dinner: 7 p.m.

Place: Williams Inn

Price: \$25.00

**GRAND PRIZES: ST. CROIX VACATION GETAWAY
PUERTO RICO ADVENTURE**

*To view a complete listing of our exciting items and for more information about
the afterprom, check out our website: www.mgrhsafterprom.com*

RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____

Total Number of Reservations: _____

X \$25 per person

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

MGRHS Afterprom 2006

Dinner Choice _____ Chicken Breast Almandine

_____ Roast Sirloin of Beef

_____ Penne Pasta with Vegetables

Dinner includes: appetizers, salad, main course, non-alcoholic beverage, dessert and coffee. Cash bar.

Mail to: Lisa O'Brien, 410 Stratton Road, Williamstown, MA 01267 (413) 458-9085

Reservation deadline: March 17, 2006. Tables may be reserved for parties of 8-10.

MARCH 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				High School Musical - "Meet Me in St. Louis" - Auditorium - 7 p.m.	High School Musical - "Meet Me in St. Louis" - Auditorium - 7 p.m.	High School Musical - "Meet Me in St. Louis" - Auditorium - 7 p.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		School Committee Meeting of the Whole - Library - 5 p.m.	Half Release Day - Dismissal at 11:45 a.m. ----- School Council Meeting - Library - 4 p.m. ----- Half Way Through Third Quarter		High School Dance - Cafeteria - 8-11 p.m.	Jr. District Festival Rehearsal - West Springfield High School (Snow Date is March 12)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	School Committee Meeting - Library - 7 p.m. ----- PTO Meeting - Library - 7 p.m.	School Committee Meeting - Lanesborough Town Hall - 7 p.m.				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						Jr. District Festival Concert - UMASS Amherst (Snow Date is March 26)
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	No School for Students - Professional Day for Faculty & Staff	School Committee Meeting - Library - 7 p.m.				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	PTO Meeting - Library - 7 p.m.				Report Cards Issued	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Spring Vacation	Spring Vacation	Spring Vacation	Spring Vacation	Spring Vacation	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						