

THE FORUM

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

NOVEMBER 2005

JCL THE LARGEST CLUB AT MG

The Junior Classical League (JCL) at Mount Greylock is the largest club at Mount Greylock with a membership last year of 80. Why is the JCL the largest club at the school? Why do students want to join JCL? What IS the JCL?

The National JCL is the 2nd largest youth organization (2nd to the Boy Scouts) that offers Latin students all over the country and Canada the chance to participate in local, state, and national activities, contests, and leadership opportunities. Students who join the Mount Greylock Chapter of the JCL also automatically become members of the Massachusetts state chapter and of the national organization. Not only may students participate in the myriad of JCL activities offered by their Mount Greylock Chapter, but they may also participate at the state and national levels in writing contests, webpage contests, creative arts contests, academic contests and much, much more. The JCL offers students the chance to win awards in many different contests, the opportunity to become a member of the National Latin Honor Society, the chance to win college scholarships, and the chance to share their celebration of Latin and have fun doing it.

The Mount Greylock JCL is very active at the local and state levels. MGJCL has been the state champions at four out of the last five State Conventions. Throughout the school year MGJCL members plan several JCL activities. Some of these activities are having a booth at the annual "Words Are Wonderful" fair at the Williamstown Elementary School, hosting the annual MassJCL Catapult Contest, sponsoring performances by Legion XIV, Odds Bodkin, and for this year, Toga Man. Several students have traveled with Mrs. Keeley to National Conventions and have returned with awards in their hands.

The JCL is an excellent organization for all Latin students. The variety of contests and activities allows most students to succeed in some way, if they try. Students may join JCL beginning the first day of school by paying the \$30 activity fee to Latin teachers Mrs. Keeley and Mrs. Laidlaw (checks made out to "MGJCL"). The membership drive will last until October 14th. Students who join JCL are expected to participate in the annual JCL raffle and will be inducted officially into the JCL sometime in November.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Keeley at e-mail: makeeley@mgrhs.org or telephone: 413-458-9582, Ext. 118.

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.

LATIN STUDENTS WIN AWARDS AT NATIONAL JCL CONVENTION

One thousand five hundred and fifty (1,550) JCL students, sponsors, SCL'ers, and chaperones from 34 states, the District of Columbia, and the Canadian province of Ontario convened at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia, from July 26th through July 31st to attend NJCL's 51st annual convention. Among them were two Mount Greylock students and their sponsor, Mrs. Marjorie Keeley.

At this annual convention students compete for individual sweepstakes points in four different categories: Creative Arts, Graphic Arts, Academics, and Olympika. The top ten students in each of these four categories get medals, and the top point scorers overall receive trophies. At the end of the convention, students learn their ranking compared to the rest of the delegates attending the convention.

The two Mount Greylock Latin students who attended this year's convention are Grace Laidlaw (2007) and Carl Kubler (2006). Grace Laidlaw won 2nd place in Reading Comprehension; 3rd place in the girls' dramatic interpretation contest - Level II; 4th place in the Slogan Contest with her slogan: "If Latin is dead, then JCL is Latin heaven"; and 5th place in the 9th grade girls' essay contest.

Carl Kubler won many awards, the most remarkable of which are: 5th place in the 400 meter boys' track; 4th place in the 200 meter boys' track; 3rd place in boys' high jump, black ink drawing contest, and the cartoon contest; 2nd place in black pencil and acrylic contest; and 1st place in boys' dramatic interpretation contest, 10th grade boys' essay contest, watercolor contest, and the long jump. Carl also received two medals--one for 8th place in Creative Arts and the other was 8th place in Graphic Arts. Overall, in the sweepstakes Carl ranked 13, which is quite honorable, considering there were over one thousand Latin students competing. Great job!

The Mount Greylock JCL Scrapbook won 10th place at the convention in the large-school category. Next year Sponsor Marjorie Keeley hopes to take more students to the University of Missouri for the 52nd annual National JCL Convention. Check out other National Convention highlights at www.njcl.org.



**ANNOUNCING THE 2006 BOSTON
UNIVERSITY DESIGN COMPETITION
JUNE 4, 2006**

Boston University would like to encourage your students to participate in the 16th Annual College of Engineering Design Competition on Sunday, June 4, 2006.

Although the date may seem far away, this event has been added now to ensure that students do not miss this fun opportunity to compete with their peers as well as earn a chance to win valuable scholarships to Boston University.

More information regarding the 2005 competition, including pictures, can be found on our website at www.bu.edu/eng/design.2006.

Competition details will be released and team registration will begin in January.

Any questions? Feel free to contact the event coordinator via email or at the phone number listed below:

Karen Ryan Shaffer, Assistant Director
Events & Special Programs
College of Engineering
Undergraduate Programs
44 Cummington Street, Room 107
Boston, MA 02215
617-353-6447

HURRICANE KATRINA DRIVE



The Student Council had a drive for victims of Hurricane Katrina. A box was placed in each Block 7 classroom. Collections were held September 26th - 30th. Students who brought in the most items for the relief are being treated with a lunch from Happy Starr Restaurant (one class from the middle school and one from the high school). The lunches are being paid for by the Student Council.

Rachel Slocik brought the supplies to Pittsfield on Saturday, October 1, 2005. There were so many supplies that they filled two carloads. Filkins Transportation was bringing a tractor trailer full of supplies to Mobile, Alabama. The classrooms that won were Karl Belouin's advisory and Jenna Cece's 7th period block. They will be enjoying a lunch from Happy Starr.

Thank you for all your generous donations and the students' work in this drive!

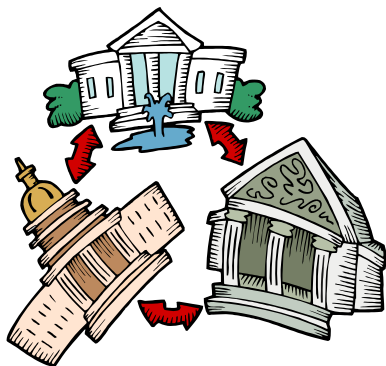
**THE 2006 NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECOGNIZES
SEMIFINALISTS AND COMMENDED
STUDENTS**

**CLOSE UP WASHINGTON, DC
MARCH 12 – 18, 2006**

The Close Up Foundation is the nation's premier civic education organization. Close Up provides exciting and unique government study programs. Close Up programs have a curriculum designed to introduce students to history, politics, and culture of our nation through a hands-on learning environment. Close Up offers an unparalleled, non-partisan learning experience through small-group seminars, workshops, meetings with congressional members, and study visits to museums and monuments.

The Close Up program is open to all students who are in 11th and 12th grade at Mt. Greylock. The all-inclusive Washington Program price is \$1,224. We are responsible for getting to and from Washington, DC, and students should budget \$150 for their travel.

The deadline for joining the Mt. Greylock contingent in 2006 is December 23, 2005. Interested students should contact Mr. Murray for Close Up applications.



The principal of Mount Greylock Regional High School, Tim Payne, announced today the names of two groups of students qualifying for recognition in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program. The first group of students has been identified as National Merit Semifinalists. These students are **Katelin Bailey, Seth Kelley, Carl Kubler, Jason Silberstein, and Kejia Tang**. There are approximately 16,000 semifinalists who have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards. These students have shown exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

The next group of individuals has been recognized as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program. These students are **Joshua Grauman, Colin MacDonald, Jesse MacDonald, Simon Reinhardt, Elizabeth Weimer, and Nathan Wooters**. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2006 competition for Merit Scholarship® awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2006 competition by taking the 2004 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT®).

A spokesperson for the National Merit Program commented, "It is important to acknowledge the attainments of academically talented students and to credit schools for the key role they play in their development. We hope the recognition received by these able young men and women who have emerged from this rigorous, nationwide competition will encourage them to take advantage of opportunities for higher education and to diligently pursue their professional goals."

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.

FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

At October's meeting of the Friends of the Arts, we reviewed the financial status of the year's theatrical productions, sketched out the year's fundraising events, and discussed possible goals for the year.

Shakespeare and Company will offer "Much Ado About Nothing" on November 9th and 10th, in the auditorium. The set-building night will be on Thursday, October 27th, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Please drop in and help if you can.

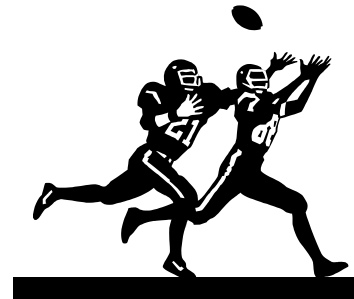
Fundraising

It appears that all events are fully funded this year, although there are some questions about the funding status of the high school musical. The 2nd annual Citrus Sale will take place later this year. Watch for announcements.

Last year's highly successful Food of Love will be making a return. It is tentatively scheduled for February 10. We discussed the possibility of a spring bulb sale. If you any have suggestions, please contact John MacDonald (jhm21857@bcn.net) or Deb Burns (deb.burns@storey.com).

Lastly, we welcome Jill Bouton as our new treasurer and thank Mary Lou DeWitt for her years of dedication and service to the high school. Thank you, Mary Lou!

MT. GREYLOCK MOUNTIES FOOTBALL



Catch The Mounties Football Highlights from the previous week's game every Tuesday night at 9:30 p.m. and again on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. on WilliNet, Channel 17, in Williamstown beginning Tuesday night, October 18, 2005.

Mounties Football Highlights Season Schedule on WilliNet, Channel 17:

Tuesday, October 18 - 9:30 p.m.
Game #5 vs Wahconah
Wednesday, October 19 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 25 - 9:30 p.m.
Game #6 vs Monument Mountain
Wednesday, October 26 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1 - 9:30 p.m.
Game #7 vs Pittsfield High
Wednesday, November 2 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 8 - 9:30 p.m.
Game #8 vs Drury
Wednesday, November 9 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15 - 9:30 p.m.
Game #9 vs Putnam
Wednesday, November 16 - 7:30 p.m.

MT. GREYLOCK BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The MGRHS Building Committee was named in the spring of 2005 to develop plans and options for addressing the long-term building needs of the School District, taking into account the space and educational needs of the students and the communities. The School Committee named the following people to sit on the Committee: Andy Hogeland, chair, Irene Addison, Thomas Bartels, Beth Goodman, Jack Hickey, Nat Karns, Ann McCallum, Bob Ericson, Lyndon Moors. The Building Committee is in the process of collecting and reviewing proposals from architects to perform a feasibility study of options for renovation or reconstruction of the school building. Proposals are due on October 20th, and the initial meeting to review the proposals will be held October 24th at 7 p.m. in Room S-1 (off of the auditorium lobby). The public is invited to attend all Building Committee meetings.

The plan is to review the candidates and hire the selected firm by sometime in November. The feasibility study will review several options, including estimates of costs, and is expected to be complete in time for the spring 2006 budget process. Based upon the results and the School Committee's decision, the subsequent year will be spent developing the more detailed plans to support an application in the summer of 2007 for state funding. Prior studies and a description of the work to be done in the feasibility study may be found on the Building Committee's website on the school's homepage.

We invite and would welcome public participation in this process. For further information, please contact the Chairperson, Andy Hogeland, at 458-5966 or hogeland@adelphia.net.

MT. GREYLOCK PTO

The next meeting of the PTO will be held on Monday, November 14th, at 7 p.m. in the school library.

Everyone is welcome to come!



CALENDARS

Please note we are including two months of calendars, the coming month and the following month. The second month contains events known about as of this publication and will be updated completely for next month's *Forum*.

WITCH HUNTS CLASS



Attorney David Chenail is working with Michelle Close's students in the Witch Hunts in History class this quarter. He is a local and very experienced criminal lawyer with experience in mock trials and in coaching/judging mock trials. He recently acted as the judge of our model mock trial in order to assist students in learning to how to prepare for and present in mock trials.

His insights into law and his experience as a trial lawyer really helped students understand their roles as lawyers and witnesses. He is presently meeting with the classes to help us define the crime that we will be trying individuals, groups and institutions on for their participation in the deadly Salem Witch Hunt. The students in the Witch Hunts in History classes will write an original mock trial and perform it with the assistance of Attorney Chenail. Ms. Close and her students are very thankful for the attorney's coaching assistance as they try to answer the essential question of the course, "Who is more powerful in starting, perpetuating and ending a witch hunt, individuals, groups or institutions?" As well as, "What is my role as an individual if a witch hunt begins?"

The class will study the post World War II Japanese Witch Hunt and then study the Communist Witch Hunt under Senator McCarthy. At that time the students will go to Images Theater to watch a new film, *Good Luck and Good Night*, directed/produced by George Clooney about Edward R. Murrows, the newscaster and McCarthy.

The actor, a Williams grad, may be coming to the theater to speak with the community and our students about the film and the themes that relate to their study of the Communist Witch Hunt. The last witch hunt to be studied will be the post 9/11 Muslim Witch Hunt.

PROGRAM AT THE CLARK

The Art of Magic and the Magic of Art October 28, 6:30 p.m. FREE

Michael Cassin, curator of education, will present an entertaining slide talk on paintings of magicians, magical apparitions, and the paintings that appear in Harry Potter movies. The talk will be followed by a special showing of the third Harry Potter movie, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

From: William Travis-

GREYLOCK BUILDING COMMITTEE MOVES INTO HIGH GEAR

The Building Committee put out an RFQ to architect design firms to prepare a feasibility study of building renovation or construction options. There were 13 firms that responded to the RFQ. On October 13th there was a building tour for any firm wanting to have a more detailed understanding of the scope of work. Nine different firms sent representatives to Mount Greylock. There was an extensive tour of the building and immediate grounds. Additional tour participants included our head custodian, Building Committee members, district administrators, a School Committee representative and a faculty member. Building Committee Chairman Andy Hogeland convened a follow-up question and answer period.

Final bids are due in the district business office on Thursday, October 20th. Copies of all submitted proposals will be prepared in time for the next Building Committee meeting set for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 24th, in room S-1 at Mount Greylock. A set of defined criteria has been developed for the uniform evaluation of proposals. The Building Committee will convene again in mid-November to discuss all the reviews and select a few firms to return for further discussions.

Please remember that all meetings are open to the public.



HEYMATH! INVITATION TO PREVIEW

HeyMath! is a program set up in formal collaboration with the University of Cambridge. The program has been implemented in many schools throughout Asia and most extensively in Singapore and India. Thomas Friedman in his book The World Is Flat credits this math initiative with offering teachers and students alike with excellent math teaching and tutoring lessons. This on-line web-based program covers modules in pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and some AP level Calculus.

I have obtained a 30-day free trial account for you and your children to evaluate HeyMath!

Your log-in details are:

URL: www.heymath.net
HeyMath! ID: evalsce8038
Password: evalsce8038

Not all features of the HeyMath! program are accessible with this trial account. I would appreciate any feedback from parents and especially on how your children responded to the program.

**REGIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY
COMMITTEE INVESTIGATES
MATHEMATICS K-12**

WATER UPDATE

The School Committee will provide an update on each of the options being actively explored to provide Mount Greylock with a source of potable running water. Explorations this fall have involved executive session discussions because of the need for negotiations with possible procurement sources. The Committee will consider in public session all the viable options at the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2005. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and be held at Mount Greylock in the Bruce R. Carlson Library.

There is a Curriculum Committee made up of teachers and administrators from Williamstown Elementary School, Lanesborough Elementary School, Hancock Elementary School and Mount Greylock currently examining instructional practices and expectations in K-12 mathematics. The Committee will investigate our multi-district mathematics curriculum materials and instructional practices. The goal will be to better align our grade level practices and find additional ways to strengthen the skills of all students. Committee updates will be provided periodically.

COMMUNITY VISITORS' DAY

Please consider spending some time with the Mount Greylock community of students and faculty. Three specific dates have been set aside to welcome parents and community members to our campus. You are welcome to accompany your child to class or let us arrange for another student to accompany you to any one of our other course offerings. Adults are also welcome to stay for lunch with the students, faculty, or administration. The co-principals and I will be available at the end of your visit to hear about your experience. A specific registration form is enclosed to help us plan your visit.

**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE OF
FORUM – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
(because of Thanksgiving)**

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.



LUNCH LINE MENUS



Mount Greylock Regional School
1679 Cold Springs Road, Williamstown, MA
Judith Richardson, Cafeteria Manager

NOVEMBER 2005 MENU

Tuesday	1	Ham & Cheese Croissant, Tomato Soup, Peas, Milk, Fruit
Wednesday	2	In-Service Day-NO LUNCH
Thursday	3	Beef Burrito, Corn Salad, Milk & Fruit
Friday	4	Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potato, Carrots, Milk, Fruit
Monday	7	Spaghetti, Caesar Salad, Milk, Fruit
Tuesday	8	Chicken Fajita Wrap, Milk & Fruit
Wednesday	9	Deli Bar, Milk, Fruit
Thursday	10	Baked Potato Bar, Chili, Cornbread, Broccoli, Milk & Fruit
Friday	11	VETERANS DAY
Monday	14	Chicken Burger Deluxe, Green Beans, Milk, Fruit
Tuesday	15	Hamburger, Oven Fries, Beans, Corn, Milk & Fruit
Wednesday	16	Turkey Club, Chips, Pickles, Milk & Fruit
Thursday	17	Taco Salad, Corn, Milk & Fruit
Friday	18	Meatball Sub, Oven Fries, Green Bean Salad, Milk & Fruit
Monday	21	Deli Bar, Milk & Fruit
Tuesday	22	Oven Baked Chicken, Mashed Potato, Stuffing, Mixed Veggies, Milk & Fruit



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!

Monday	28	Chicken Burger Deluxe, Milk & Fruit
Tuesday	29	Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Peas, Milk, Fruit
Wednesday	30	Ravioli, Salad, Garlic Bread, Milk & Fruit

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