



THE BEACON

MT. GREYLOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY 2, 2006

“It is better to be alone than in bad company.”

-George Washington

MGRHS Presents

Preparations are now underway for this year’s annual high school musical production. Mount Greylock Regional High School will present “Meet Me In St. Louis” on **March 2, 3, and 4 at 7:00 pm in the MGRHS auditorium.**

“Meet Me In St. Louis” is a charming musical production based on “The Kensington Stories”, an autobiographical series of articles written by Sally Benson. It tells the story of the Smith family, a middle class family from St. Louis dealing with the trials and tribulations of everyday life at the turn of the last century. Son Lon is on his way to Princeton and daughters Rose and Esther are on the brink of finding their true loves when father Alonzo Smith arrives at home one day to announce the family’s imminent move to New York City.

As the children try to come to terms with the move in various ways, Mr. Smith becomes aware of the devastating effect the move will have on his family, and on Christmas Eve after some soul searching he decides that the family will remain in their beloved city of St. Louis. All of this action, brimming with catchy and sentimental music is set against the backdrop of preparations for the 1904 St. Louis Exposition, which the family and audience enjoy at the end of the show. With such beloved and memorable musical classics as “Meet Me In St. Louis”, “The Trolley Song”, “Underneath the Bamboo Tree” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”, this show is sure to delight audiences of all ages.

Tickets are \$5.50 for senior citizens and students and \$7.00 for adults. They will be available at the door, but may also be reserved by contacting Linda Callahan at extension 162. As always, if anyone in the school community wishes to volunteer to help with tickets, set construction, make-up, or costumes, **please contact director Jeffrey Welch at extension 109.** See you at the show!

Experiencing Tolerance

At the morning meeting on Monday, January 30th, 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 to: **Nicole Clement, Sam DeMatteo, Alex Levinsky, Greg Karabinos, Alyssa Tomkowicz, and Peyton Landers.** In addition, Dr. Travis shared a 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 latest edition of the Forum.

Clearly, our 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.

Soon all of our middle school and encore teachers will be trained to use the ‘Second Step’ program, which is a violence prevention curriculum to further enhance the mission of the middle school: one that is clearly promoting an atmosphere of tolerance and respect.

If parents should have questions about the programming, or care to discuss issues of concern, please contact me, Debora Cole-Duffy, LICSW, at ext. 159 or dcole@mgrhs.org.

Middle School Dance

There will be a Valentines Dance on **Friday, February 10 from 7-10 p.m.** in the school cafeteria. A bus from Lanesboro will be leave Lanesboro Elementary at 6:45 p.m. and return to the elementary after the dance at 10 p.m. The cost of the dance is \$4.00.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

As co-editors of The Beacon, we would like to hear from you, the middle school parents, to know how this weekly newsletter can best serve you. The Beacon's mission is to bring you the most up to date information on what is going on in the middle school at Mt. Greylock. The Beacon tries to keep parents informed, involved and connected. At a glance you can see upcoming events, what your child is doing in class, how you can volunteer and much more. We also need to consider how best to get The Beacon into middle school homes. Paper or electronic?

Please e-mail us with any questions, concerns, helpful ideas or what you might like to see in upcoming Beacons. We have limited space but do want our newsletters to be worthy of your time! E-mail:
Laura Masson-Larsolaris@yahoo.com
Liz Costley-Lizcostley@adelphia.net

The Dreaded Office

Sam, Zack, Jake and I
Sat on the fire-like heaters
near the wide windy windows
Typing on our tiny alpha-smarts
We couldn't help but horse around
Little did I know
That I would end up at the dreaded office
A hurtful arm lock
A push of revenge
Astonished when a teacher came along
"You two to the office"
With somber and frightened looks on our faces
We dragged ourselves to the dreaded office
My worried brain knew that my parents would be
furious

Tom Nowlan

GOINGS ON

Thurs. Feb. 2- Groundhog Day (More Winter?) brrr
(Check out www.groundhog.org)
Fri. Feb. 3- Report Cards go home
Wed. Feb. 8: Early Release Day: 11:45 dismissal
Fri. Feb. 10-Incompletes due

Advisory Olympics

-Amy Moore-Powers

Starting **February 14**, the Middle School students will be participating in our very own Olympics here at Mt. Greylock. The event will begin with an opening ceremony including a speech by former US Olympian Brenda Smith who resides in Williamstown. During the week students will compete individually in a variety of events and through their preparation for class to earn points for their Advisory.

Then on Friday, students will compete with their advisory against other advisories in events that require teamwork to win. The emphasis of the unit is to teach students the value and benefits of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Our guiding words are the same as the guiding words of the 2006 Torino Olympics: **Friendship, Fair Play, Honor, Peace, and Glory.**

SPORTS

Girls 7/8 Basketball

Sat. Feb. 4 at 1:30 pm vs. Dalton at WES gym

Boys Basketball

Fri. Feb. 3 at 6 pm vs. Lenox-away

Tues. Feb. 7 at 5:30 pm vs. Hoosac Valley-HOME

Girls Basketball

Thurs. Feb. 2 at 5:30 pm vs. Hoosac Valley-HOME

Mon. Feb. 6 at 6 pm vs. Drury-away

Hockey

Sat. Feb. 4 at 8 pm vs. Drury-HOME

Mon. Feb. 6 at 7:30 pm vs. Taconic-HOME

Wed. Feb. 8 at 8:30 pm vs. Mt. Everett-away

Wrestling

Sat. Feb. 4 at 10 am Berkshire Duals at Pittsfield

Nordic Skiing

Sat. Feb. 4 at 9:30 am at Notchview

Alpine Skiing

Mon. Feb. 6 at 5 pm at Bosque

Please send items for the next issue of The Beacon by **noon, Tuesday, February 7 to:**
Larsolaris@yahoo.com / 458-8015 or
Lizcostley@adelphia.net / 458-5894