



THE BEACON

MT. GREYLOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER-JUNE 15, 2006

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Save a wish ... or two ... or three!

The MGRHS middle-school production of "Aladdin" will take place next **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (June 15, 16, and 17) at 7:30 pm in the Mt. Greylock auditorium.**

Adapted from the Disney motion picture, this musical draws on the great story-telling traditions of the Middle East to present a tale of intrigue, adventure, magic, and romance. The cast includes Peter Conforti as Aladdin, Gwen Tunnicliffe as Jasmine, Patrick Madden as the Sultan, Rufus Paisley as the Genie, Isabel Kaufmann as Jafar, John Kolesar as Abu, Ben Lerner as Iago, Megan Hiley as the Flying Carpet, and Melody Edwards as Scheherazade, along with many other featured soloists, singers, and dancers. Director is Kathy O'Mara, music director is Deb Burns. Accompanist will be accomplished 10th-grade pianist Mitch Galli, supplemented by additional high-school musicians.

Tickets (**\$5 for students, \$7 for adults**) will be available at the door. Refreshments will be available for sale each night.

Questions? Contact Deb Burns at deb.burns@storey.com or 458-0925.

Hold the Dates!

On Friday and Saturday, September 8 and 9, The Wizard of Oz at the Berkshire Theatre Festival will have three performances: **September 8 at 7:30 p.m., September 9 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.** More than 90 students from public schools across Berkshire County will perform and provide back-stage support as Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion travel over the rainbow to Oz.

Proceeds to benefit the Berkshire Taconic Enrichment Initiative, a collaborative effort supporting the 13 educational enrichment funds of Berkshire County, including the SEE Fund. The SEE Fund is an endowment of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. >

Book by L. Frank Baum, music and lyrics of the MGM motion picture score by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, background music by Herbert Stothart, book adaptation by John Kane from the motion picture screenplay, directed by E. Gray Simons III. **For more information and tickets: call 413-298-5536 ext. 33 or visit: www.berkshiretheatre.org**

Host Families Needed Now!

Our area is one of the select regions in the U.S. to participate in a high-priority and very successful foreign policy initiative this year. Created by the U.S. State Department after the fall of the Soviet Union, the FLEX program brings high school students from Russia, Ukraine and other republics to live and study in the U.S. for a year. Exposing these young people from these new countries to our democracy, free market economy and volunteerism are some of the goals of this program while promoting cultural diversity and mutual understanding. These children are ambassadors of their countries and are excited to learn about how we live and learn in the United States. Of the 55,000 students who applied, only 1,200 were accepted in the highly competitive process.

Four or more FLEX students, from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaidzhan and Georgia, will be spending their school year here and Dr. Travis has given permission to place two juniors at Mt. Greylock this coming year. We are currently seeking loving, caring host families who are interested in sharing their country and culture with one of these extraordinary scholarship students. You can commit to host for an 8-week period or for the entire 10 month stay. But time is of the essence. Students need to be placed by June 20th!

For more information and profiles on prospective students, please contact Kara Lozier at (802)442-8174 or (802)823-5006 or karalozier@yahoo.com. The website for the organization, Program of Academic Exchange (PAX) is www.pax.org.

THE PTO AT MT. GREYLOCK NEEDS YOU!

The PTO nominating committee is seeking 4 individuals to fill the positions of co-presidents, secretary, and director on the board. We are hoping this year to have broad representation from both Lanesboro and Williams-town, as well as the Middle and High School.

Co-Presidents

Thanks to the efforts of the outgoing co-presidents, Anne Hogeland and Nancy Nylen, in creating an efficient structure for the PTO, the work load for this year's co-presidents is expected to be significantly lighter. Co-Presidents job description (subject to flexibility from year to year):

- * Act as point person and liaison between the school administration and the parents.
- * Attend School Committee meetings (split between co-presidents)
- * Prepare and email the agenda for the monthly PTO meetings
- * Support PTO projects and initiatives
- * Review, with the secretary, the minutes of the meetings
- * Act as the PTO list serve managers
- * Coordinate with the PTO directors to carry out the mission and purposes of the PTO. [see below]

The goals for the coming year have already been discussed, which could include the following:

1. To continue with the strengthening of communications between the school, the parents, and the public.
2. A "friendraiser" to build a more active membership, with a particular emphasis on reaching out to parents from Lanesboro.
3. One or more informational forums to address issues of interest to the school community.

Of course, the new co-presidents are welcome to bring any new ideas or personal projects to the PTO. The new co-presidents can expect to spend a minimal amount of time fundraising. The PTO is currently financially sound. Fundraising for the coming year can be limited to two events: a repeat of the very successful silent auction and the equally well-attended acapella/dance performance. Several individuals have already expressed a willingness to organize and run these events and so the participation of the co-presidents is expected to be minimal.

Mission of the Mount Greylock PTO:

- * *Promoting the education and well being of Mt. Greylock students.*
- * *Developing coordinated efforts among teacher, staff,*

parents and the community for the benefit of Mt. Greylock students

- * *Facilitating financial support for school programs*
- * *Acting as a resource for parents, educators and community members*
- * *Coordinating volunteer efforts in support of students*

Secretary

Secretary's job description:

- * Take minutes at monthly meetings
- * Review minutes with co-presidents prior to submitting to members.
- * Submit a monthly summary of PTO activities to the Forum.

Director

Director's job description:

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the PTO. The Directors work with the officers to develop priorities and make major decisions for the PTO. Hopefully they will also take an active role in those PTO activities which interest them.

If you have questions or would like to nominate yourself, please contact John MacDonald (jhm21857@bcn.net or 458-0151) or Carole Castonguay (ccastonguay@msn.com).

GOINGS ON

Sun. June 18– Father's Day

Tues. June 20-8th grade "Crossing Over" ceremony then trip to Windsor Lake for picnic

**Wed thru Fri. June 21-23-EARLY RELEASE/
HALF DAY for students**

SCHOOLS OUT JUNE 23rd!

SEE YOU NEXT FALL!

Laura & Liz