

SCHOOL CONNECTION

Canterbury Wins National Active Schools Award

Canterbury Elementary School has received the 2016 Let's Move! Active Schools National Award for its outstanding efforts in creating an Active School environment. A part of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative, the Let's Move! Active Schools National Award is the nation's top physical education and physical activity distinction for K-12 schools and celebrates a school's commitment to providing students with at least 60 minutes a day of before, during and after school physical activity. Only 544 schools across the country achieved this prestigious honor in 2016.

To earn a Let's Move! Active Schools National Award, a school must have met significant benchmarks in five areas: physical education; physical activity before and after school; physical activity during school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement. Congratulations to Canterbury staff, students, and families!

A Message from the Superintendent Gary Kiltz, Ph.D.

Save the Date: Important Greendale Schools Visioning Meeting

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start in Greendale Schools. Students are back in classrooms, and our co-curricular and athletic teams have been working hard on the fields of play. We are grateful for the continued community interest and support of our District. I hope you will join us and participate in the Community Visioning Meeting, on Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school Multipurpose Room (cafeteria).

District administrators, staff and the Board of Education are working already this fall to gather data on where our schools' achievement levels are today and to discuss ways we can expand our programs to grow student learning for the future. All of this work will help us as we develop the next Greendale Schools strategic plan. You can read more about what we are doing so far on the Strategic Plan 2016 page of our website (www.greendale.k12.wi.us/strategic-plan-2016.html).

As I have met with staff, parents, students, and various community groups, I have asked about strategic advantages (programs/processes that position Greendale well and should be continued) as well as strategic challenges (programs/processes we need to address in order to move forward) in the district. Key themes have emerged with both of these areas:

STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES

- High Quality Learning and Achievement for College and Career Readiness
- Culture of Caring and Wellness
- Staff Engagement and Wellness
- Efficient Operations

STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

- Academic Opportunity and Achievement Gaps with Demographic Groups
- Culture of Innovation & Continuous Improvement
- Community Engagement & Participation
- Facilities to Support Future Learning Environments for Students and Community
- Maintaining Highly Skilled Staff

An important step in this process is finding out more about the community's vision and priorities for its schools. That is where your input is so important. The facilitated meeting on October 27 is an opportunity for all community members to share their ideas on how we move our schools forward in the coming years.

We look forward to welcoming you and the entire community on October 27.

WATCH FOR DR. KILTZ'S "SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE" BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 23. These messages will be posted on the Greendale Schools' website at www.greendale.k12.wi.us/superintendents-message.html.

READ UPDATES ON THE GREENDALE SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS on the Strategic Plan 2016 page of our website www.greendale.k12.wi.us/strategic-plan-2016.html.

PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY VISIONING MEETING, on Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school Multipurpose Room (cafeteria). All are welcome to attend this important community conversation and visioning session.

CELEBRATE WITH THE GREENDALE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND as it prepares to perform in New York City at the 90th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. A special performance will be held for the community on Saturday, November 19, at 12 noon in Gavinski Stadium at the high school.

Learn How to Help the Groups That Support Our Schools

Each year, there are dedicated groups working hard behind the scenes to help Greendale Schools provide the quality, well-rounded educational experience families and the community have come to expect. Please consider supporting these groups that work to benefit our schools.

Greendale Education Foundation (GEF)

The Greendale Education Foundation was established in 1998 to generate financial support to provide educational opportunities for students. Its efforts have resulted in funding more than \$300,000 to various education initiatives, includes classroom technology, arts, music programs, parenting training, financial literacy programming, health and wellness projects, and other initiatives crucial to student education and development.

The Foundation's KidBoosters Program was founded in the summer of 2012 to advocate on behalf of children and families who need assistance with basic necessities for success in school. For more information on how to support GEF, visit the Greendale Education Foundation website at www.greendalefoundation.org.

Greendale Panther Athletic Booster Club (GPABC)

The Greendale Panther Athletic Booster Club was established to promote and encourage a continuing spirit of enthusiasm in and for the Greendale High School athletic program. GPABC provides support for every athletic program at the school. Specifically, the non-profit civic organization raises funds, and provides financial and physical support for GHS athletics.

GPABC has contributed over \$500,000 since 1999 to help fund Greendale High School's 22 boys and girls athletic programs, and facilities. Anyone can get involved by becoming a member, making a donation and volunteering for GPABC activities. More information is available at www.greendaleboosters.org

Friends of Music (FOM)

The Greendale Friends of Music (FOM) was founded in the early 1980s to promote participation of parents and students in the band, orchestral and vocal music programs of the Greendale School District; to advance the spirit of good music and further its performance, and to provide parental involvement and financial assistance to the music programs of Greendale Schools.

FOM is committed to maintaining the high quality music education in Greendale. As a support and advocacy group, FOM raises funds that help supplement the ever tightening school budgets. The group promotes student achievement with enrichment scholarships, sponsors concerts and special events, assists with student fundraising

for music department trips, and organizes volunteers for music department events. The community can support Friends of Music by volunteering time or by making donations through the membership drive. Contact FOM by email at fomgreendale@aol.com or call Lynn Crapitto at 425-7132.

Reading Buddies Program

The Reading Buddies program was born in the 1990's as a way for Greendale Schools to encourage and assist young readers and to connect retired or empty-nester members of the community with the schools. Today, Reading Buddies adult community volunteers visit once a week to listen to two or three first grade students read a book of their choosing. Tying the goal of connecting text to verbal discussion and the written word, each child also keeps a reading journal. At the end of the year, students keep their journals as a record of the progress they made in reading.

The program runs on the core group of adult volunteers but it also depends on a number of subs who can come to replace a regular adult buddy either on short notice or for a planned absence. Currently, about 85 adults are involved—11 of them have been volunteers since 1998. New volunteers are always needed. The groups meet on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings. For more information, contact Dee Dixon at 421-0914 or email to ddixon629@gmail.com.

Step Up to Better Health

The Step Up To Better Health Committee has been working to promote healthy lifestyles in Greendale for nearly two decades. The committee has organized healthy living events ranging from annual community walks to outdoor activity competitions for kids like the "Greendale Playground Challenge." It is best known for the "Greendale Step Up To Better Health Fun Run and Walk," a staple of the community since 2009. Get involved in any of the Step Up to Better Health activities. Call the Greendale Health Department at 423-2110, greendalehealth@greendale.org.



Thank You Greendale...

for helping to make our trip to march in The Macy's Thanksgiving Parade a reality!

We are grateful for your continued support.

*With gratitude,
The Greendale High School Marching Band*

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