

**UPCOMING DATES:**

- **Early Release—**  
1/15
- **No School—**  
1/18
- **Midterm Exams—**  
1/19 to 1/22

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## We Are Changing the World

- More than 1.1 billion people in the world lack access to clean drinking water, according to the World Health Organization. It is estimated to cost \$10 billion to solve the world's water problems.
- Operation Shoebox Child – the world's largest Holiday project – has helped collect millions of shoeboxes filled by American kids with toys, pens, papers, necessity items and notes of encouragement to distribute to underprivileged children in 100 countries. In addition to kids, U.S. families, businesses, churches, schools and scout troops have also contributed to the Holiday shoe box effort.

"Under Mr. Lavigne's guidance in Advisory, we assembled the shoeboxes. It took us about 20 minutes

to put together 85 boxes. From there we spent the rest of the week giving each 8th grader a shoebox to fill with all kinds of presents. We put things like caps, shirts, toys, candy



**8th Graders with their packed shoeboxes**

canes, gum, toothpaste & toothbrushes, crayons, and much more. Inside the boxes we wrote letters describing our school and wishing them a happy holiday. We

included a picture of our whole class and packed the boxes to be shipped. We invited the kids to write back to us, but if they do, we will not receive a response until summertime." ~Lauren C.

- Soon more than 10 million needy children overseas will be holding in their hands a Holiday shoebox, which for many is the only gift they will receive this holiday.
- This project impacts the lives of children. We want to let them know that they are not forgotten. Our hope is to help break the cycle of poverty and give them hope for a better tomorrow.

(Extra special thanks to Mr. Lavigne and his family for donating all items and many hours of service!)



## Holiday Mail for Heroes

How would you feel if you were miles away from your home and loved ones fighting for your country. Then imagine receiving a holiday card from someone you don't even know supporting you.

Ms. Heathwaite's advisory let these soldiers experience this act of support. We wrote heart warming holiday cards to men and women who will be miles away from their families this holiday season.

These courageous men and women continue to risk their lives in defending all that we stand for, so these soldiers deserve a good holiday more than any of us. ~Danielle T.

## Mobile Training Unit Visits the 8th Grade Academy



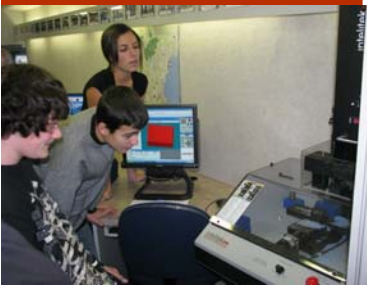
Students during the MTU Career training

The 8th grade Academy at GHS was excited to have the MassMEP Mobile Training Unit (MTU) at our school on 12/17 and 12/18. Thanks to Gary Howe from the Greenfield Career Center for helping bring this program to us. The MTU is a full size bus that has twelve computer stations and two computerized mini-machines that perform actual machining operations. The program targets 8th grade

students to assist them in their potential career choices. A recent study conducted by Northeastern University estimates that "MA stands to see more than 100,000 job openings in manufacturing by 2016."

"8th graders attended the program during their Science classes for 45 minutes. When we hopped onto the bus, we sat down in chairs at computer stations. Then we typed in coordinates that created a star. When we were done

punching in the coordinates, we hit the button and the machine went to work. After making some weird noises, it stopped and out popped a star with a circle around it! We observed a second machine whose program was more than 1,000 lines long and it created a chess pawn. After all that was over, we watched a video on careers based in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and another about the manufacturing of Boeing airplanes. All in all, it



French Trip to Boston

## Pep Rally for Turkey Day Game

GHS had a Pep Rally on November 25 in honor of the Turkey Day game against Turners Falls. And Greenfield won the game! Each grade had to perform a skit about the football game against Turners. The junior class won! Everyone thought their skit was very funny! During the breaks, while they would set up the stage for the next skit, they had energizers to keep us going. We had "hall wars" in which every

grade had to decorate their hall with their class color. Seniors were black, Juniors were white, Sophomores were green, Freshman were red, and the 8th graders were purple. The freshmen won the hall wars. The last thing that we did was penny wars. In the 8th grade each, Advisory class competed against the others. We had to collect pennies for our own advisory. We put "silver-colored" coins into other

advisory cups which subtracted from their penny donations. Mr. Cassidy's advisory won and it was NOT a close race! The money was donated to Friends of Rachel (FOR). FOR is a club which was formed after the Rachel's Challenge presentation in September. Rachel Joy Scott was the first student shot and killed in the shootings at Columbine High School ten years ago. ~Madison L.

## French Trip

For the French Club field trip, we went to Boston. We saw a movie, ate, and went to a museum. It took about two hours in a school bus filled with noise to get there.

We saw a French movie called "Coco Chanel". It

was a pretty good movie for the most part.

We were able to choose to eat at a Mexican or a French fast food sort of restaurant which were located across the way from each other.

The museum was fun. We

had to wait 30 minutes before going in. We saw a lot of art and we learned some neat stuff. The art must have been "old" because if you went to look at the small works and you got too close, the alarm type thing would go off. ~Emily F.

# Holiday Concert

GHS had a Holiday Concert on December 9th at 7pm. It snowed that day and as a result we didn't have school. The snow stopped and it left a wintry scene for our concert.

The holiday concert went great this year! The Concert sounded really fantastic. The 8th grade chorus performed in the concert for the first

time as a new addition to the classes offered at GHS. We only had 10 rehearsals before going on stage. We sang three songs - "Gypsy Rover", the Nutcracker version of "Jingle Bells" and the "Heart of Christmas". My favorite song was the "Heart of Christmas" because it is a nice and beautiful song to sing for Christmas. I felt

anxious and excited to perform for the high school.

8th grade band students performed with the high school band. They played 4 songs—"White Christmas", "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", "Farandole", and "Christmas Festival". They sounded really awesome!

~Akeya S.

*"It was nice to hear how students made up stories to go along with the morals."*

## Author Presentations

This quarter in English, we made up fables and parables for a composition project. In Mr. Lavigne's Study Skills, we presented our fables to the class and we had a lot of laughs while presenting. It was nice to hear how students made up stories to go along with the morals. I enjoyed writing my fable. It was more fun with partners, and I thought my group worked well together. My group based our story on a baseball game that actually happened.

Overall, the fable writing was a pretty fun experience. After everybody was finished with their fables, all of our Advisories had an author party. We all shared our work in front of each of our Advisories. And, of course, we couldn't have a party without food and music. Mr. Lavigne's Advisory (and mine), had a bunch of food and Michael Jackson music. It was pretty awesome. ~Drew B.

In Ms. Pfeiffer's Advisory, we had an

author party which was really fun because we got to read our own parables. Everybody's story was interesting and I liked reading mine because it was really cool. I had a lot of fun that day. ~Kryzia M.

In Ms. Heathwaite's Advisory, we brought food and other stuff. We had to read our fables. We had a lot of fun. We played games and we ate good food. I had a lot of fun during that day. ~Liudmila V.

# Franklin County Tech School Presentation

On November 12th, Mr. Carey, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, came out and told us about the Tech School, how we can get in, and what it is like there. The criteria for getting into the Tech School is behavior, grades, and effort in school. It was really cool when he showed us the pictures of the Tech School. In the slide show, students were learning CPR on a fake doll, which showed students when it needed help. He said he didn't want to talk a lot so that stu-

dents could look at what the school looked like. After the slideshow was over, we asked questions. For example, I heard that you don't have classes everyday. Mr. Carey, responded, "that it was true. Trades include Auto Body Repair, Automotive Technology, Business Technology, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electrical, Health Tech, Information Tech, Landscaping, Machine Tech, Plumbing/Heating, and Welding/Metal Fab. At the Tech School, one week is academic courses and the next

week is shop week."

It seems hard to get in, but if you work hard, you will get in, and you can be whatever you want to be when you grow up. ~Bre B.

Stay Tuned for additional information:

Next Step—Applications available with Ms. Heathwaite in January 2010.

Open House—Feb 24th 6-8

[www.fcts.org](http://www.fcts.org)



SAVE THE DATE!

# Open House

## and Awards Assembly

Come view the projects we've created

based on our readings from

"The Pearl"

### January 22, 2010

### 12:30–2:00

### 8th Grade Academy

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772-1401

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wadlavl@gpsk12.org - Math

johcasl@gpsk12.org - Social Studies

karsmil@gpsk12.org - Liaison

chrkowl@gpsk12.org - Liaison



## 1st Quarter Honor Role - WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

### HIGHEST HONORS

Anna A.

Madeline B.

Nickolas B.

Emily H.

James H.

Courtney K.

Dimitry K.

Joshua L.

Manisha M.

Colin M.

Alexis S.

### HIGH HONORS

Samantha A.

Vasiliki B.

Andrew B.

Jacob B.

Alexander B.

Rachel C.

Victor C.

Patrick C.

Eleni D.

Jacob E.

Paraskevas F.

Kayla F.

Shannon G.

Erika G.

Samuel G.

Christina H.

Garrett H.

Kyle L.

Zachariah L.

Robin M.

Luminita N.

Kaitlin P.

Vladimir P.

Eyan R.

Julien R.

Ieremia S.

Andrei T.

Danielle T.

Liudmila V.

Melissa V.

Anna W.

Jourdan Y-W.

Cybele Z.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Alexander A.

Oleg C.

Venihmin D.

Connor E.

Erika L.

Nicole M.

Rachel P.

Cameron W.

