



OCTOBER 2011

Issue 2

Written by students

# 8th Grade Academy at Greenfield High School

## RACHEL'S LEGACY

Rachel Joy Scott was a small town girl from Littleton, CO. She was born August 5, 1982 and died April 20, 1999. Rachel was known to be special since the day she was born. She was filled with joy, and happiness and was always finding the best in others. She always worried about others before herself.

Rachel had always talked about how one act of kindness could start a chain reaction. She wanted the world to be a lot kinder.

Two boys from a gang called Trench Coat Mafia at Rachel's high school were bullied by the other kids in school. They decided to plan a shooting. Then, on April 20, 1999, those boys came to Columbine High School and opened fire!

Rachel was the first to be shot of the 13 people, 12 students and one teacher who died. Many others were wounded, too. Soon after, the shooters, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold committed suicide in the library.

Before her death, Rachel talked about how she would make an impact on the world, and she has! Her cause has become an organization known as Rachel's Legacy.

~Destiny and Taylor

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### Rachel's Legacy

1. Leave a Legacy
2. Show Compassion
3. Practice pre-acceptance not pre-judice
4. Learn from your mistakes.
5. Forgive yourself and others.

### September 11, 2011



In the summer of 2009, I went to the 9/11 memorial in Shanksville, PA. Then this year on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 the 8th grade did some things in memory of September 11, 2001. What we did was we

watched some documentaries and we did an oral history by interviewing our parents or somebody older than us who experienced 9/11. I interviewed my mom. Some things I learned from her was she was preg-

nant with my little sister and that she was scared for me and her. I also chose to write my first English essay about going to the memorial and what I experienced. These opportunities changed how I look at 9/11. ~Allie F.

## Green River Cleanup—Community Service

On Saturday October 1st, my friends and I went to help clean up trash and junk from the Green River and other areas. It was POURING!

We listened to directions: be careful about glass and sharp objects and always stay with someone else. We got gloves that were donated and Mr. Martin gave us a ride to Oak Courts in his new truck.

Glass had its own pile, wood was in a different pile, and there was a pile for plastic (water bottles) and deposit cans.

Our group moved far down the creek at Oak Courts. It was messy! Andrew and Stevie slipped in the mud, and so did I! All three of us cracked up laughing. My shoe fell off, in the water, but I got it back. We kept cleaning and when we were done, we put the trash in Mr. Mar-

tin's truck,. We took pictures of all that stuff; and of us.

We went back to Murphy Park for lunch—a choice of Chinese food, subs, Thai food, pizza, cookies, and soda, water and juice boxes to drink,.

My dad picked me up at the end and said I looked like a brownie because I was covered in mud!

~Brendan H.



## Career Exploration Days—Sustainability

Nancy Hazard is a Greenfield potter, builder, project manager, and long-time advocate for the Earth.

She has worked in the field of sustainable energy and climate change solutions for over thirty years. For 15 years she ran a residential construction business which specialized in solar & energy efficient renovations and new construction. She then served as director of the Northeast

Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), and director of the Tour de Sol, America's green car festival and competition. She grew the Tour de Sol from a 6-car event to an annual 50-car event of international significance. In 2007, she co-created the *Greening Greenfield* campaign in collaboration with the *Greening Greenfield* Energy Committee and the Town of Greenfield.

From this career day, I learned that even if your job is not "green" you can still help our environment by walking to work, changing our light bulbs to be energy-efficient ones and recycling (especially paper).

She spoke to us about buying locally—from the farmers market or even growing our own food. It is cheaper and helps employ people in our community. ~Jazlyn B.

## Fall Sports

- **Field Hockey**— Field hockey is a great sport to play in Greenfield. The team is one big family. We practice every week day at 2:30 until 5:30 and some Sunday practices determined on whether we have a Monday game. I personally LOVE field hockey! Sometimes the night before a game, we go to one of the player's houses and have a spaghetti dinner and laugh, chat, and eat. Then after that we go somewhere we can cheer and get pumped for our game. Field hockey isn't just all fun and games, though. You have to be prepared for running, lots of running. It may sound intimidating, but if you ever want to play in a game you have to build endurance. I have to admit, it's hard at first, but once you are used to it is really fun and we are all one big team whether you on JV or Varsity. If you join, you will love it and at the end of every season you will not be able to wait until the next season! ~Kelsey
- **Football**— Football to me is a great sport. It's physical, mental, and stressful at times. Practice goes from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. It works out well because you can get all of your homework done before then. Even if you have no idea how to play, it is a good learning experience. Football is also about team work. If you don't work as a team then you lose the game. It's very simple, but most people always look at it as a one-man sport, but without being a team, the ball wouldn't move. If you are bored after school just join football because it gives you something fun to do. Anybody can play football, but I cannot say that the first week you are going to be a quarter back. This all takes time and if you work well under pressure and stress then football is a perfect sport for you. ~Brayten S.
- **Volleyball** — Slowly but steadily, I feel our team coming together both physically and mentally. The 2011 Volleyball team is a great way to take on something new, like making new friends and staying active. Our scores keep growing and having fun while being serious is our specialty. Our season is almost over, but we are willing and open to any new players. Come, stop by the gym sometime on a game day. (You can always tell when there's a game because we always dress out, like an insane family!) Cheer on your peers. Always remember: Bump, Set, Spike, Repeat! ~ Leah W.
- **Girls' Soccer** — The 2011 girls' JV soccer team has been successfully moving along. We are one big family, with support from our loved ones, parents, friends and even school staff! We thank you all. We have had the best attitude in all of the previous years that Coach Lepore and Coach Allis have been coaching! Every day I feel we're enthusiastic to get on the field. We are always the first ones on the field and the last ones off. Our JV team cannot forget to thank the Varsity team for practicing with us every day and for helping us improve our skills, as well as being patient with us until we get it! ~Kaila B.
- **Cross Country** — The 2011 season for Cross Country has been great! In case you didn't know, we do not have enough girls to make a complete team, and are always looking for more girls to join! The boys' team has 7 wins and 1 loss so far, so we have a pretty strong group of runners. It's a really fun sport and a great way to stay fit. The whole team is looking forward to the PVIAC race, the Western Mass. race, and State competition. I'm especially excited to see our team succeed even more this season. Keep running! ~ Claire
- **Boys' Soccer** - I feel our soccer team has been slowly but successfully coming together! We have a lot of younger kids on our team, but they are really skilled, and they always put their game faces on. Our Middle School team has been outstanding. I have to give props to our amazing and skillful coach, Coach Conway. He always teaches us new ways to improve our skills. We make a good team. We work hard and show great sportsmanship. Soccer is a good way to stay fit and have fun. Next year we 8th graders will be on JV, and we hope that the Middle School team improves. Thank you, Coach Conway for making our Middle School team the way it is cooperative and successful! ~Austin P.

## Band goes to the Big E!

Our reward for spending a summer week at Band Camp was to go to the Big E and have fun! And we performed in the Big E parade. The band arrived at GHS at 7:30 am. We left on the buses after loading

our instruments and uniforms at 8:00 am. We arrived at the Big E around 9:00 am. We got into groups with our friends and we left for our hours of fun! After several hours, we went back to

the buses, got dressed in our uniforms, and got our instruments. At 5:00 p.m., we formed our block and started the parade. That was what the band's day at the Big E was like. ~Ryan B.

## October 2011

8th Grade Academy  
at Greenfield High School  
1 Lenox Avenue  
Greenfield, MA 01301

Phone: 413-772-1350 x117  
Fax: 413-774-6204

▶ Check our PowerSchool!  
<http://powerschool.gpsk12.org>

Every Friday is Green  
and White Day!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Quarter ends: November 4, 2011

Franklin County Tech School visit— Oct. 28

1/2 day of school—October 28

Stay tuned for more information about our  
solar system "planet walk"

coming in November.

## 2011-2012 Student—Developed Social Agreements

After many hours, our social agreements have been created! Here they are hot off the press! Stay tuned for our next newsletter for pictures of our hike to Poet Seat tower to sign them. We will proudly display our signatures in the hallway for the remainder of the school year.

1. Be respectful, support everyone and show happiness!
2. No BULLYING!
3. Participate, be safe and in control!
4. Be yourself!
5. Chase your Dreams!

