

Franklin County Focus

Federal Street Elementary School connecting with downtown

BY RAHIMA WADE

Federal Street Elementary is focused on developing connections with Greenfield's downtown and local community. Recently, all students in the school participated in its annual "Wreath Walk" during which they delivered class-decorated wreaths to the Fire Station, the Public Library, the Mayor's office, and seven other community locations. Students in grades two through four each take ten swimming lessons at the Greenfield YMCA downtown.

Federal Street Elementary also reaches out to parents with special events. In October, the school sponsored a free Harvest Dinner for all students' families. With a cider press loaned from Orchard Equipment of Conway and 14 crates of apples from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's orchards, students made cider, apple sauce, and apple butter. The school's food

Greenfield has four elementary schools: Federal Street, Newton, The Discovery School at Four Corners, and the 4th / 5th grades at Greenfield Middle School. This is the first of a four part series highlighting the unique aspects of these schools. All of the schools are staffed by certified teachers who offer an exemplary standards-based curriculum in literacy, math, science, social studies, and the arts. All the elementary schools emphasize a social skills curriculum based on the Responsive Classroom model, including daily morning meetings, all school community meetings and lessons in treating others with respect and kindness. Each school also has an innovative focus and features special curricular and extracurricular offerings for their students and school community.

department donated enough macaroni and cheese to feed 145 people in style. The cafeteria was transformed into an elegant setting, with table cloths and flowers.

Federal Street's teachers assure students have community experiences as part of the academic curriculum. Kindergarten classes go on field trips to the fire station, police station, local hospital and can walk to the public library so all children have library cards. First and second grade students have mixed grade "Community Days" four times a year. Based on the day's theme, students participate in music, art, cooking and other hands-on activities. The next Community Day will be a partnership with Greenfield Community College's Health Sciences programs. Students will engage in activities involving exercise, nutrition, and physical and dental health.

Principal Nancy Putnam is enthusiastic about Federal Street and welcomes parents to visit. She continues to develop Greenfield's "downtown school." "Our community activities and curriculum at Federal Street help our students and their families feel more connected to each other and to the town we live in," noted Putnam. "We are looking forward to creating even stronger partnerships with Greenfield's downtown businesses and local organizations."

For more info about Federal Street Elementary School, contact Nancy Putnam at nanput1@gpsk12.org or 772-1380. If you would like to become involved as a volunteer, contact Rahima Wade, District Volunteer Coordinator, Greenfield VIPs (Volunteers in Public Schools) at volunteer@gpsk12.org or 772-1311.

Sawmill River 10K Run results

2011 ended on a high note, as Montague Parks & Recreation hosted their Annual Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague Center on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011.

Andrew Best was the overall winner with a time of 34:53, and Kelsey Allen was the female winner with a final time of 42:09. Runners (129 total) from throughout the area and as far away as Indianapolis and Washington D.C. braved the cold and wet conditions to participate in this New Year's tradition.

Results per Division are as follows: Youth Division (Ages 18 & Under) - Female; Hope Werenski (49:26), Male; Charlie Hale (36:47), Open Division (Ages 19-39) - Female; Allen (42:09), Men; Best (34:53), Master Division (Ages 40-49) - Women; Julie Kumble (49:41), Men; Ken Clark (39:28), Senior Division (Ages 50-59) - Women; Sidney Letendre (43:26), Men; William Julien (41:58), Senior + Division (60 & Up) - Women; Carol Ball (68:39), Men; David Martula (45:12). Proceeds from the event benefit MPRD's Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program.

West County Relief Fund applications available

Deadline - Jan. 31, 2012

Applications for West County Relief Fund grants are now available for the 10 towns (Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Rowe, and Shelburne) served by the Shelburne Falls Area Business Association (SFABA). Applications will be available at each of the town offices and can also be obtained by calling the SFABA (413-625-2526) or Will Flanders (413-625-2525) or by downloading here. The deadline for applications is Jan. 31, 2012.

Shelburne Falls Area Business Association Organizes West County Relief Fund For Those Impacted By Tropical Storm Irene. The Shelburne Falls Area Business Association has established the West County Relief Fund to receive donations from the public to be used for relief from the damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene. Funds will be given out to individuals, families, and businesses to fill needs not met by funds from Federal, State and non-profit sources.

Shelburne Falls and the West County area are still very much here - please support our towns, families, and businesses by coming to visit and patronizing our shops, galleries, and restaurants.

Volunteers needed

Did you know that 1 in every 50 children in the U.S. will go to sleep without a home this year?

Horizons for Homeless Children is seeking fun-loving, dependable people to interact and play with children living in family homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters throughout Western Massachusetts. A commitment of 2 hours a week is required for at least 6 months. Day and evening hours are available. Trainings are held regularly and are listed on our website.

Our next Training will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 at Westfield State University. For more info, please email aditmer@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org or call 413-532-0526.

Chandler's and Pierce Brothers Coffee Roasters celebrate superheroes at Chefs for Jimmy

Chandler's Restaurant and Pierce Brothers Coffee Roasters will join forces with 30 other culinary "superheroes" in the area at Chefs for Jimmy at Agawam's Chez Josef on Friday, Jan. 20 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The evening will feature a superhero motif and participating restaurants and caterers will create dishes and décor to compliment this theme.

The 22nd annual Chefs for Jimmy will also include an opportunity drawing, and a silent auction. Presented by Winer Levsky Group of UBS Financial Services Inc., the event honors the memory of Neal Webber, a long-time supporter of the Jimmy Fund. Chefs for Jimmy is hosted by the Jimmy Fund Council of Western Massachusetts in association with Kix 100.9, Mix 93.1, WHYN 560, Abc40 / Fox6 Springfield, and the Valley Advocate.

Tickets to the event are \$75 and are available only in advance. Order your tickets today by calling 800-52-JIMMY or online at jimmyfund.org/chefs-for-jimmy.

The Jimmy Fund solely supports Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, raising funds for adult and pediatric cancer care and research to improve the chances of survival for cancer patients around the world. It is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, as well as the official charity of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge, and the Variety Children's Charity of New England.

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 '09 Ford Escape XLT 4x4, Moonroof, Only 49K Miles \$18,990	 '04 Chevy Trailblazer Auto, 4x4, Sunroof \$6,990	 '08 Chevrolet Impala LS FWD, Auto \$10,990	 '08 Honda Civic LX 5-Speed, Bronze \$3,990	 '03 Mini Cooper 5 Spd, Turbo, Navigation, Low Miles \$7,990

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The Greenfield Town Crier is published on Fridays.
OFFICE LOCATION:
393 Main Street,
Greenfield, MA 01301
PHONE: 413-774-7226
FAX: 413-774-6809
Editorial Email:
news@vermontobserver.com
Sales Email:
gscsales@thetowncrier.com

Publisher:
Edward L. Woods
Advertising Sales Manager:
Jordan Brechense
Editor/Layout:
Cicely Eastman
Assistant Editor/Layout:
David Aquino
Advertising Sales:
Gisele Thompson
Advertising Deadlines:
Display and Classified Advertising:
Monday at 4 p.m.
Editorial Deadlines:
Emails by Friday noon:
news@vermontobserver.com

All others ten days prior to publication.
CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL
MediaNews Group Publication
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Div. of New England Newspapers