

## MARCH 2010

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Glenwood Families,

One of the greatest benefits of working with children at the elementary level is that they come to us with few pre-conceived notions. Typically, they are thrilled to be in school and take in every experience and lesson as if it is the best thing in the world. Their energy and enthusiasm is infectious.

Every day, our Glenwood staff members help students to formulate their definition of what learning is and what constitutes work. Building a tower with blocks can be work. For our little ones, pretending to be the teacher and playing school is work, too. Or, work can mean learning the lines to a play, the steps involved in a square dance or the process for solving a math equation. The very best elementary lessons involve play and fun, but they are really play with a purpose. If you ask your children, hopefully they will tell you that learning is fun (at least most of the time). If you ask their teachers, they would tell you the purpose of those "fun" activities and how they tie into learning.

That is our job as educators: to think about what is developmentally age-appropriate for our students - to develop activities and lessons that allow them to be successful, that provide a foundation for life-long learning and that help to instill a *love* of learning. On March 25, we have our Open House and that is perfect time for you to come and see all of the different ways that learning, work and fun come together here at Glenwood.

William Butler Yates once said, "*Education is not filling a pail, but the lighting of a fire.*" We are working hard to light the fires of learning in your children and to let them know that they can also have fun and enjoy the process. ~Doreen McSain, Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES



Top O' the Morning

- March 3:** GSCA Meeting 7 p.m.
- March 5:** Field Trip - Grade 4 to VHS for Chemistry Show, 9 a.m.
- March 12:** Field Trip - Grade 5 to Anderson Center for *Freedom Train*, 9 a.m.
- March 15:** Show of Love Assembly - All grades/
- March 16:** Kindergarten Orientation - Parent's Only, 9:30 a.m.
- March 19:** **NO SCHOOL** / Superintendent's Conference Day
- March 25:** Open House/GSCA Book Fair
- March 26:** Glenwood Gathering

## ART CORNER

Calling All Art Lovers!



Wow! Is time flying or what? It's March, the snow will be melting soon and art show season is just around the corner. Glenwood Elementary will be participating in the District Art Show, April 29, at the Middle School, as well as the daVinci Festival at the Broome County Library on May 1. More details to come soon for both events, but keep your eyes wide open for our budding artists. Several students in Glenwood will bring home invitations saying their work was chosen for these shows, but I hope all of you can make it to these wonderful events to support all the students of Glenwood. Lots of art is planned to hang in the hallways the night of Open House on March 25 as well... so make sure you take the time to view everyone's art here at Glenwood, too.

Our Artsonia is still going strong. We have raised over \$84 for Glenwood's art program and will be receiving our first shipment of new materials soon. Don't forget to check regularly for new artwork created by your son or daughter at [www.artsonia.com/glenwood25](http://www.artsonia.com/glenwood25). Thank you so much for all of your support.

So long for now ...

~ Mrs. Little

## NURSE NOTES

### ***A Good Start***

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It provides the nutrients and energy your child needs to concentrate in school. Research shows that kids who eat breakfast get better grades, pay more attention in class and behave better. Give your child a mix of protein (milk, eggs, cheese or meat) and carbohydrates (whole-grain cereal, fruit or whole-grain bread).

The carbohydrates boost energy and help your child jumpstart the day while the protein keeps his/her body going strong until lunchtime.

### ***A Friendly Reminder***

Illnesses in the classroom can be reduced if parents exercise good judgment. To ensure a healthy environment for all, a sick child should remain at home.

A child should be **fever-free for 24 hours.**

A child should **not have vomited for 24 hours.**

Remember to call the Health Office at **757-2293** if your child will be absent or coming to school late. If your child arrives after the bell rings at 8:50 a.m., an adult must sign the child in at the Main Office. A written note explaining any absences or tardiness should be given to the teacher.

~Mrs. Rhodes, school nurse



## MUSIC NOTES



As we pass the halfway mark of the school year, there seem to be musical events happening everywhere in the district.

Congratulations to the fifth-grade students who performed February 16 in the combined beginner band concert with students from Vestal Hills and Tioga Hills.

The curtain went up on the high school production of “*Evita*” in February. Elementary and Middle School students are putting the final touches on “*Suessical the Musical*” for March.

During March, select Glenwood students will be participating in BCMEA (Broome County Music Educators’ Association) All-County Festivals. Violinists Jordynn Huckabone and Chris Gardner successfully auditioned in December to be members of the fifth- and sixth-grade All-County Orchestra. Vocalists Lindsay Barber, Taylor Dubois, Cassie Grossman and Emily Rice will represent Glenwood in the fifth- and sixth-grade All-County Chorus. We also have several students who are preparing scales and solos for the NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble festival in April. These students will play for a judge who will evaluate their performances.

One of the lessons we learn in music is that a mistake is a mistake. The note is either played well or not. The instrument is in tune or not. These successful students have learned that in music, sustained effort is required to achieve a great performance. They have demonstrated that they can set the goal, do the work and accept constructive criticism to improve.

Congratulations to these students who have reached high and persevered, demonstrating those character traits that Glenwood values. ~Mrs. Reed

## PE NEWS

The physical education classes have just finished their volleyball and throwing units. Third- and fourth-graders learned several volleyball skills and played some exhibition games while the fifth-graders played a tournament. The kindergarten, first- and second-grade classes learned the correct way to throw overhand and played some games where they aimed at targets and “Cleaned Up Their Rooms.” Most of the students really enjoy this game - ask your son/daughter to tell you about it.

The students have now moved on to their dance unit; they will be learning and doing a variety of dances and learning some new, fun ways in which to move. Ask them to show you one of the dances they have learned, and you can have fun exercising together.

~Miss Cooney, student teacher



## LIBRARY CORNER

### Our Special Visit with Suzy!

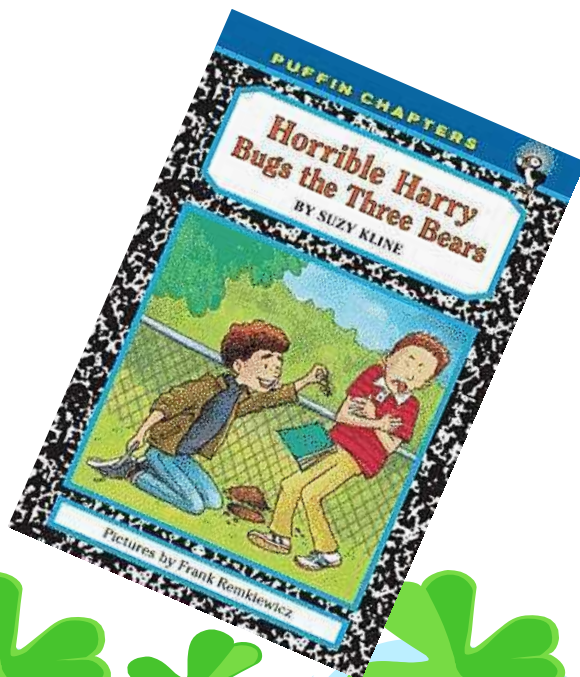
On Wednesday, February 17, all Glenwood students traveled to the new African Road auditorium for a very special visit with author, Suzy Kline. During her two presentations (one for students in K - 2 and the other for those in grades 3 - 5), Mrs. Kline shared some special moments from her life as a teacher, mother and author. She showed students some of the “story seeds” for her *Horrible Harry* and *Herbie Jones* books... the tiny pencil stub used by a long ago student; a fluffy, yellow scarf another student wore; the unique necklace she received as a gift and the plastic, purple hanger that she brought into her classroom from home. Each one of these items served as a seed from which her many books sprouted.

Suzy Kline shared her love of reading and writing with the audience and encouraged everyone to carry a small notebook at all times as she does. That’s where she writes a few words or draws simple pictures that serve as reminders of ideas for her future stories. She said, “We are all writers from an early age.”

We were surprised and flattered to find out that during her visit to Glenwood three years ago, Suzy Kline made some notes about our Starlight Café after I explained how our cafeteria came to be named. Much to our delight, in her recent book, “*Horrible Harry Bugs the Three Bears*”, Suzy thanks Glenwood School for the inspiration and names the lunchroom in the book, “The Starlight Café”....complete with a neon sign just like ours.

Heartfelt thanks to our GSCA for making this event possible. Getting up close and personal with an author of Suzy’s caliber was a meaningful experience for our students and staff.

~Mrs. Sites, Glenwood librarian



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Hold on to your hats because we've been super busy here at Glenwood.

Banana Splits continues for Grades 1 - 5, and we're having a blast while learning a lot from one another. We discuss the dynamics of a "split" family and the emotions, feelings and events that we experience. The students in Banana Splits are always eager to lend an ear to one of their peers who is looking for support.

A few weeks ago, Girls Group started in grades 3 - 5. This is a group that meets once a cycle and is open to all girls in that grade. We have spent our first few sessions talking about the things that make us special, who we are to ourselves and others, and what we need in life. Through all these great discussions, we've been working on self-esteem, self-concept and self-awareness. We've also done some conflict resolution. The response to Girls Group has been overwhelming, and I am excited to continue to work with our amazing students.

In first grade, we are reading the books "*Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?*" and "*How Full Is Your Bucket?*" These inspiring books encourage positive behavior and show how expressing kindness, appreciation and love are rewarding. The books talk about how we all have the choice to be either "bucket dippers" or "bucket fillers." These are metaphors for understanding the connection between our actions and words on the well-being of others and our own self-esteem. Once we are done learning about keeping our buckets full, we will begin discussing conflict resolution skills. First, we will differentiate between small problems and big problems. Kelso can help us solve the small problems, but if there is a big problem, we need to tell an adult we trust right away. The nine strategies that Kelso is teaching us are: share and take turns, talk it out, walk away, ignore it, tell them to stop, apologize, make a deal, wait and cool off and go to another game. Each first-grade classroom will be given a challenge to use Kelso's choices to solve their problems. If they can do a specific amount of times, they'll earn a special treat. We all know that they will be able to complete this challenge without a problem.

Also in March, I will begin a counseling curriculum called **Kelso's Choice**, in third grade. We will start our lessons by reviewing Kelso's nine choices for solving small problems. Our focus, however, will be on classroom discussions of common problems that occur with our peers - problems in the classroom, on the playground or bus and even problems with our friends outside of school.

Together, we will brainstorm which of Kelso's choices would be best suited to fix the problem.

Once in awhile, we'll even act it out and practice what we could do or say in certain situations. This is a great opportunity for our students to apply conflict resolution skills to real-life situations.



During the months of April and May, I will be visiting grades K - 5 to teach personal safety and abuse prevention. The topics include stranger-danger, physical and sexual abuse prevention and self-respect. These lessons will take place in one to two thirty-minute periods. As school counselors, we are mandated by New York State Commissioner's Regulations to provide this instruction.

Stay warm as we begin to wrap up our winter. Personally, I'm hoping for an early spring and look forward to seeing the color green again. And, of course, if I can be of any assistance to you, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, please call me at 757-2391.

~Stephanie Mitsakos, school counselor



## MARY DOWLING SCHOLARSHIP BAKE SALE



Thank you to everyone for baking, and buying, at the Bake Sale during the Science Fair. We had a very successful sale! We were able to send a check to the Vestal Dollars for Scholars for \$630. This is an ongoing fund that will be presented to a Vestal Senior who attended Glenwood. If you would like to donate in her memory, you can send a check anytime to **Vestal Dollars for Scholars**, Box 959, Vestal, NY 13851-0959, with a note designating the money go to the Mary L. Dowling Scholarship. Thank you so much for your continued support and memory of Mary.

## COMMUNITY HELP / GIRL SCOUTS



Junior Girl Scout Troop #262 is working toward their Bronze Award, and they would like your help in collecting gently-used children's clothing and shoes (please, no hats) for Mother Theresa's Attic.

Mother Theresa's Attic is a nonprofit organization which helps the homeless and less fortunate children of Broome County. The troop will be collecting the items through March. Mother Theresa's Attic is also part of a food pantry, and any food donations would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in bins located near Glenwood's main office.

Thank you for your help in getting much needed food and clothing for these families.

## AID TO HAITI



Glenwood rocks! Students and staff have been diligent in bringing in health kit items for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Items such as Band-Aids, toothbrushes, soaps, combs, washcloths and hand towels have been collected. Here's a BIG thank you to those of you who

have helped the Haitians in such a tangible way.

