

The Greenbrier Voice

Every Child, One Voice



PTA Newsletter

853 Log Shoals Road, Greenville, SC 29607

January 2009

PTA Presidents' Letter

Hello Greenbrier Families,

First I'd like to take a moment to thank all of you for your continued support of our school during these tough economic times. Your time volunteering in the class rooms, on field trips, at home as well as in the office make our school a better place for our children's education and is greatly appreciated by the school faculty and administration.

We also appreciate the financial support you provide through our business partners. As you may know, we have two events each month that help support the PTA. StevieB's pizza night for Greenbrier is the first Thursday of the month. This is fun for the whole family and a portion of your dinner tab goes back to the PTA. In addition, the class that has the most participation at Stevie B's night wins a free pizza party during school! Many thanks to StevieB's for being a wonderful business partner and strong supporter of Greenbrier.

Chick- Fil- A is another great business partner. For the same price that you would pay for a biscuit at the restaurant you can grab a hot biscuit in the school line the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. A portion of the \$2 cost also goes to support the PTA. Special thanks goes to the volunteers that brave the weather to sell the biscuits!

Speaking of volunteers, our volunteer hours are down a little from last year. Any time you can spare to help out around the school is a great benefit! To find out how you can help just ask your teacher or a PTA board member. Helping at home is also an option. Remember, it's the volunteerism that really separates one school from another. Also, so that we can properly track the volunteer hours be sure to sign in under volunteer. Or, if you are coming in for lunch or a conference be sure to sign in as a visitor. If you need any assistance with the sign-in process someone in the office will be glad to help.

Here are some upcoming events:

- We are very excited to be hosting the South East Council PTA meeting on February 12 at Greenbrier. I believe this is a first for our school, and we're very proud to have been chosen to host this event.
- The next PTA meeting is February 9th at 6:30. The third grade will be singing. Hope to see all of you there!
- The Spring Carnival will be here before we know it. The date is set for April 24th so mark your calendar now. Your help will be needed. Last year's Spring Carnival was a tremendous success but a lot of hard work.

Tammie Creasy
PTA President

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DATES TO REMEMBER

January

27 Chick-Fil-A

February

5 Stevie B's

9 5:30 SIC meeting
6:30 PTA meeting, Third
Grade Chorus to perform

10 Chick-Fil-A

12 South East Council PTA
Luncheon at Greenbrier

24 Chick-Fil-A

27 Last day to purchase a
yearbook

PTA Executive Board:

Tammie Creasy, President
Sheryl Cannon, VP
Cherylon "Perky" Dean, Treasurer
Shauna Brink, Secretary
Vivian Lane, Vice Principal

Nicky Andrews, Principal
Main Office 355-5300
Assistant Principal 355-5311
Fax 355-5327

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Message from the Principal



Dear Greenbrier Families,

Happy New Year! We are beginning a new quarter and so much is going on at Greenbrier.

Our School Improvement Council (SIC) meetings will now be held an hour before our PTA Meetings in order to facilitate more parental and community involvement. Why participate? Because parents have knowledge and perceptions based on their own children and access to the insight of other parents can provide a positive influence in the school. Additionally, community members can make unique contributions based on their varied experiences and knowledge. Our next SIC meeting is scheduled for February 9 at 5:30 PM. You are welcomed to attend! Should you be interested in learning more about the SIC, please click [here](#) to visit our website or contact our chairman, David Griffith, at 297-9854.

If you'd like some practical strategies for taking the battle out of motivating your child to learn...and helping them develop a strong sense of responsibility and character...you don't want to miss Greenbrier's Love & Logic Parent Workshop, sponsored by our Guidance Department. Our special guest speaker will be Brenda Lipe, Mental Health Counselor from Fountain Inn Elementary. This workshop will be on Thursday, January 29th from 8:30-2:00. Love and Logic provides parents and teachers with easy-to-use, practical techniques that help adults achieve respectful and healthy relationships with children. This workshop will teach you the unique Love and Logic approach to raising children that puts teachers and parents in control, teaches children to be responsible and prepares them for the real world. This training will help you raise children who are honest, caring, and ethical, and prepared to make positive contributions. For more information, contact Mrs. Krinock at 355-5304 or kleroy@greenville.k12.sc.us for more details or to reserve your spot.

Congratulations to Jobie Henderson, 4th grade teacher, on receiving National Board certification. National Board Certified Teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards. Like board-certified doctors and accountants, teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review.

Our Awards Programs for second nine weeks accomplishments is scheduled on the following dates. Please come out and help me show our students how proud we are of their efforts!

- **KINDERGARTEN** – Thursday, January 22
- **FIRST GRADE** – Monday, January 26
- **SECOND GRADE** – Wednesday, January 28
- **THIRD GRADE** – Tuesday, January 27
- **FOURTH GRADE** – Thursday, January 29
- **FIFTH GRADE** – Friday, January 30

Compass Learning Odyssey is a computer-based program we've been using with our 4th and 5th graders in after school tutorial. The program helps students meet challenging and academic state standards. The curriculum is spiraled, so students are able to build on their knowledge as they move toward proficiency. In the next few months, information will be provided to parents so that students' individual learning paths may be accessed at home. We encourage you to use this tool to support and advance student learning.

Lastly, please consider being involved in our school. There is something for everyone, regardless of hectic schedules. Contact our PTA at 355-5315 or the school at 355-5300. Thank you for your support of Greenbrier Elementary!

Sincerely,
Nicky Andrews/Principal

Info from Guidance:

We hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday. This month is our Parent University: **Love and Logic**. The Love & Logic Parent Workshop will provide simple and practical techniques to help parents have less stress and more fun while raising responsible kids. The techniques are easy to use and ready to implement. For more information, go to www.loveandlogic.com. The program will be presented by Brenda Lipe, Mental Health Counselor from Fountain Inn Elementary, on January 29th from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM. Please contact Mrs. Krinock at 355-5304 or kleroy@greenville.k12.sc.us for details or to reserve your spot.

In guidance this month we will be discussing careers. Please speak with your child about different occupations of interest and ask them what profession they would like to have when they get older. It is never too early to begin discussing careers with your child! The Core Essentials word of the month is resourcefulness. Resourcefulness is using what you have to get the job done. Keep an eye out for the table cards coming home with fun activities for your family.

Recycling News:

Spring Recycling Club will start the week after report cards go home. That schedule will be available on the school's web site next week. Right now, the district is looking for a new Recycling vendor. So, we are not getting



our paper and cardboard recycling picked up. If any parents would like to help take bags of paper and cardboard to a recycling center, that would be a HUGE help (as I am basically taking it all on my own right now, with the help of a few other teachers). If interested, contact Ms. Koeppen at 355-5358 or jkoeppen@greenville.k12.sc.us.



ESOL

ESOL students began work with a newly purchased program called English in a Flash. This program increases vocabulary, reading, and speaking skills. Students work on picture recognition, as well as learning and identifying common language items such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, synonyms, antonyms, contractions, and interpreting short conversations. ESOL students are also working on adjectives in their writing. Upcoming: students are writing about/describing some of their favorite foods from their home culture.

Afterwards, we will have a multi-cultural luncheon where parents are encouraged to send in whatever their students wrote about. This was a HUGE hit among the ESOL parents and students last year.

Curriculum Connection with our Instructional Coach Cindy Steck

Have you been practicing using your **Thinking Maps?**

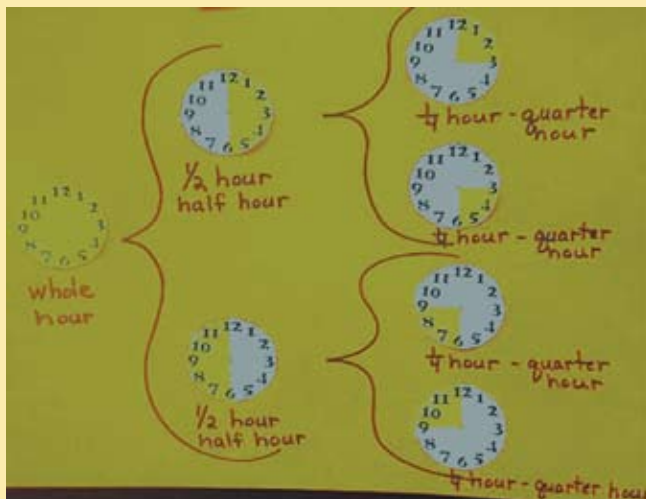
Let's examine this month's thinking Maps:

Brace Maps and Flow Maps.

The thinking process behind a Brace Map is showing whole to part relationships.

These maps use nouns to name the exact parts of an object.

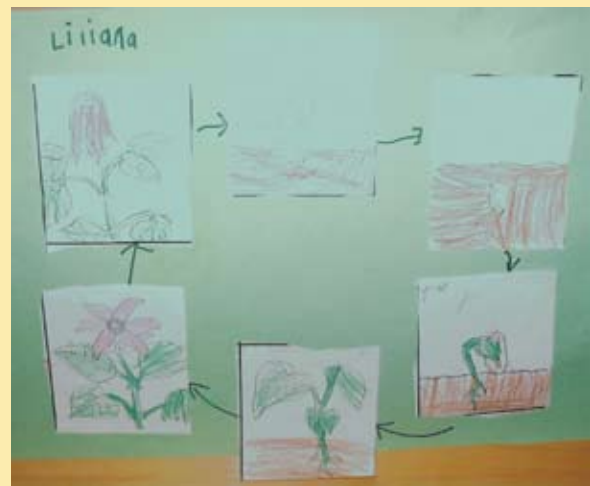
Notice in the Brace Map to the right that the daisy is broken down into its components: flower, stem, leaves, and roots.



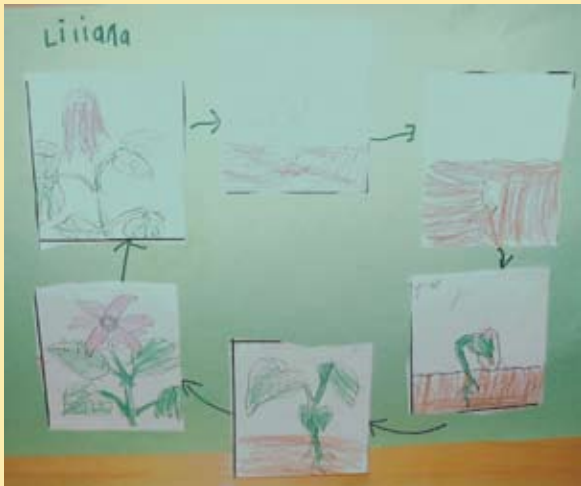
The Brace Map of the clock can be divided into, the first half of the hour and the second half of the hour. Each half hour can be broken into the first quarter hour and second quarter hour.

A Brace Map is often confused with a Tree Map. At Greenbrier, we stress to our students that the Brace Map identifies “parts of” something.

The Tree Map identifies “kinds of” things.



Maps cont.



Used in a variety of subject areas, Flow Maps can be drawn from left to right or in a cycle, as long as each box is connected to another using an arrow.

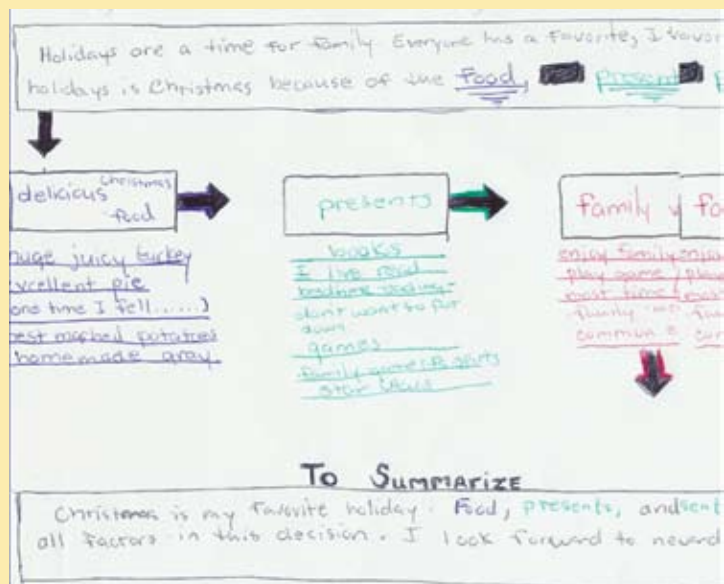
Do you see the sequence in the maps below?

In the first picture a student is putting the numbers 6-10 in order. The second picture shows the life cycle of an annual plant.

The sub-stages in the Flow Map must also be in a sequence.

In the Flow Map to the right, the student has outlined their favorite holiday, Christmas. Food, presents and family are 3 important sub-stages to the flow map, and they have listed their reason why underneath each sub-stage.

A flow map helps a student organize their writing into paragraphs.



We Ran Out of Radishes?

By Melissa Lark-Chandler and Pamela Hand

Greenbrier Garden Club held a harvest party January 8 to celebrate their participation the Grow Healthy Kids program sponsored by Greenville Organic Food Organization (GOFO) and our local 4-H office. The students were very receptive to all of the wonderful organic fruits and vegetables made available during the party. We ate vegetables with yogurt dip and had a healthy mixed greens salad. The students really loved the Asian Noodle Pasta made with whole wheat pasta. The kiwi was a big hit, too. And we ran out of radishes! All of the eaters and were receptive to trying foods in a healthier manner.

Thanks to GOFO, the fall session was our club's first time participating in the program and we learned a lot about the challenging fall growing season. A new group of students will participate in the spring session of Grow Healthy Kids beginning in February. It is a great opportunity to continue promoting lifelong healthy eating and living habits to our students.



Dean Eades, artist in residence shows the third grade the Dulcimer

Dean Eades, artist in residence, visited Greenbrier Elementary the week of January 12th. Through grants funded by the Greenbrier Elementary PTA and the SC Arts Commission, Mr. Eades worked with third grade students at Greenbrier to learn about the dulcimer. The students learned the historical background, methods of construction, and development of the Southern Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer. In a spirit of advocacy, Mr. Eades also shared secrets to a successful life including “no stinking thinking”, keep dreams alive, pay attention, and be able to laugh at oneself.

We kicked in \$750 and the Arts commission chipped in a generous \$200. As a parent, it was money well spent as the kids were in awe of Mr. Eades and he held their attention. The teachers and parents should all be proud of the 3rd graders at Greenbrier.

The “hands-on” benefit of each student using the dulcimer to learn math and music theory was truly a wonderful opportunity to integrate into other areas of study, including math, art, and history.



Mr. Eades demonstrates how to play the dulcimer



Madison Stone, Rebekah Green and Rebecca Leslie learn how to play the dulcimer

DULCIMER

Mrs. Averett and Mrs. Postich's classes enjoy going out into the community each month. These trips are an important part of our curriculum. In December our trip was to Home Depot on Fairview Road in Simpsonville. We were given a store tour, we built easels in the workshop, and Sonic provided us lunch in the employee lounge. Each student received a poinsettia plant and a snow globe as gifts. It was a wonderful trip. The management and employees of Home Depot and Sonic went overboard to make us feel welcome and we truly appreciated their thoughtfulness and generosity.



The recipe below is from Melissa Lark-Chandler who was cosponsor of the GOFO Garden Club

Asian Noodle Salad

Whole Wheat Pasta Blend-linguine style

Asian Dressing/Marinade of your choice (I used Bloom's Asian Sesame)

Chopped/Shredded Veggies (carrots and red & yellow peppers were included in this batch. Chopped and seeded cucumbers are wonderful in it)

Cook pasta according to directions then drain and allow it to cool to room temperature. Stirring in a smidge of olive oil after draining will keep it from sticking too much and make it easier to work with later. Once the pasta is cooled add your dressing and veggies. Start with two tablespoons or so of dressing at first. Stir the ingredients with the dressing adding enough to coat the pasta and veggies but not leave a puddle in the bottom of the bowl. You may serve it now or even better let it refrigerate it overnight. When ready to serve just stir and add a little more dressing to moisten the noodles if necessary. Refrigerating overnight really gets the flavor in the noodles and cucumbers if you use them.

Spring Carnival

Spring carnival is right around the corner and planning for it is in full swing. Last year it was very successful fundraiser for us and we want it to be even bigger this year. We are calling on all our parents to help make this year's carnival bigger and better. If you can donate items to the silent auction, your class basket, or your time, we would love to have the help. Please contact Amy Swain or Chris Gibson if you are willing to have fun and make all our students happy with a great spring carnival!

Applause and Accolades

Renee Freeman and Donna Campisi for their help compiling a list of new Greenbrier Family members. This was a last minute request and they came through with grace and dignity, and smiles. Thank you.

Thank you to Santa Claus and B&B Photography for their participation in the holiday festivities. They both took time out of their busiest season to make a very special visit to the amazing children at Greenbrier.

Special thanks to Melissa Lark-Chandler for her help with first semester Garden Club. She gave some extra hours and shared a recipe or two for those growing kids. She'll be back for second semester!

Thank you to Susie Q's Catering for their amazing feast shared with Greenbrier staff at the holiday luncheon. For those individuals who were not able to attend (cold and flu season wiped out most of the parent volunteers this year...), take home packages were prepared and shared. Hospitality Committee gets kudos for the sumptuous desserts provided. There were very few leftovers...

Tia Moore, Amy Swain and Chris Gibson deserve a round of applause as they lead the luncheon event (kept it under budget) and provided nearly all the ambiance and atmosphere in the multimedia room. With lots of effort and creativity they transformed the space into a cozy, relaxed environment. Great Job!

To Mrs. Campbell in the health clinic and Mr. Harper's plant engineer crews: It's cold and flu season, you guys are unstoppable and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Finally: Thank you to Mrs. Nicky Andrews for her very hard work and all the photos she has shared with the media to help promote Greenbrier and Greenbrier Elementary PTA.

Special thanks to: Publix, BiLo, To Dye For Salon, Stevie B's, and Honeywell

Huge thank you's to Honeywell for their ongoing support of our community through their employee volunteer reward program. Thanks to Philip Walbridge's family and the 50 hours of volunteer time shared, Honeywell made a very generous gift to the PTA to benefit the students at Greenbrier.

The LAST day to purchase a yearbook is February 27, 2009! Attention parents: if you have helped in the classroom or on field trips, any and all pictures that you would like to share for the yearbook would be appreciated! The pictures will need to be put on a disc and turned into the PTA room in care of Angela Vance or email: rebxavmom@gmail.com no later than February 13, 2009! I appreciate all you do.

The Greenbrier Elementary PTA Nominating Committee, Sheryl Cannon -- Chairman -- is now accepting nominations from interested individuals for the positions of President, Vice- President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you or someone you know is interested in serving the school and its community, please let Cindy Steck, Cindy Green, Jenny Leigh, Dora Evans or Sheryl Cannon know. The slate of nominees must be presented by February 9th at the PTA meeting and voting will occur in the March session. PTA phone 355-5315, School phone 355-5300. Volunteer positions come with description of duties and interviews will be offered to interested individuals.

The Greenbrier PTA would like to extend its warmest welcome to the families of the following students:

Kevin Aveiga, Ehab Bakir, Natalie Cruthirds, Courtney Culpepper, Ashiya Day-Nash, Sawsan Farhan, Tyler Gravina, Justice Haxton, Kaiden Howard, Gavin Jackson-Merritt, Heaven Manning, Trazell Hicks, Faith Brownlee, Kierra Butler, Joshua Butler, Cameron Hodges, Aiden Miller, Laura Montano, Braylen Neely, Deshawna Riley, Yusef Sadek, Arionna Triplett, Yohandy Vazquez, Anthony Williams and of course, all the other students who joined us after deadline came and went.

If you ever need help or have questions about the school or PTA, do not hesitate to ask one of the volunteers working at the school. We're here to make education the best experience for all the children and for you, the grown ups in their lives. Welcome.



TRUCOLOR IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR RECENT ADDITION

The **Xerox iGen3**

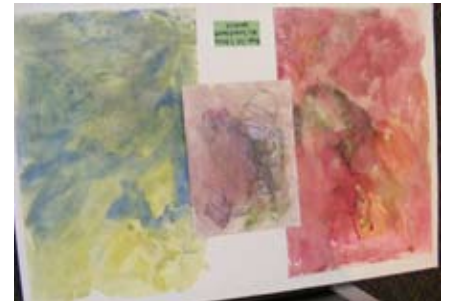
- Faster turn around time by producing up to 6,600 single sided four color sheets per hour
- Inline spectrophotometer automates adjustment and calibration to consistently deliver superior quality and color accuracy
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Greenbrier Art



Sid, Hugh and Alisha the artists