

December 9, 2008

Good evening Superintendent Achramovitch, members of the Board and the superintendent's staff,

'Tis the season for giving! When it comes to giving AGCEP members give generously of their time and resources to support the Greece community.

On November 4th members dropped off non-perishable food items at Arcadia High School where they attended their professional development workshops. The drive was organized by Nancy Cooke from Athena HS. She collected and delivered 193 pounds of food to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Jane Pfeifer, a secretary from Arcadia High School, organized our annual clothing drive collection for the Greece Ecumenical Clothing Closet. In the past AGCEP's donation has been overwhelming for the clothing closet staff when it has been delivered. This fall Jane collected donations from the support staff at West Ridge, Pine Brook, Odyssey, Parkland, Brookside, Holmes Road, Buckman Heights, Longridge, Autumn Lane, Craig Hill, Apollo and Olympia. On November 12th her little red truck was loaded with 26 Wegmans bags, 15 tall kitchen bags, 9 larger lawn/leaf bags, 1 box, and 1 shopping bag of fall and winter clothing. On November 15th Eileen Alley, Jack Bartlett, Ann Marie and Al Paul joined Jane at the Clothing Closet to assist the clothing closet staff to unpack, sort, and fold or hang clothing. In the spring AGCEP will be collecting spring and summer clothing from the Arcadia and Athena feeder pattern schools.

And... the giving did not stop there!

During the first week of December several AGCEP members, with the help of their children, grandchildren and spouses joined the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign at the Mall at Greece Ridge. AGCEP more than doubled the participation from last year. The Brookside “Bells” were at Macy’s north entrance on Wednesday evening. It is reported that these ladies filled the air with the holiday spirit! Athena High School, Autumn Lane, Bridges, Holmes Road, Parkland and Lakeshore had representatives on Thursday and Friday evening, then again on Saturday. We brought our holiday music, caroling voices, and hot chocolate. Along with ringing bells we greeted shoppers, opened mall doors, and shared wishes for a happy holiday. A total of 15 hours was donated to support the 2008 Red Kettle campaign.

AGCEP wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to Superintendent Achramovitch, Board President Julia VanOrman and board member Dave Ferington for attending the SRP Recognition celebration on November 18. Also, appreciation goes to the building principals and teachers who also recognized their support staff with a more personal “thank you for all you do”.

AGCEP encourages the BOE to continue to increase open communication with the community and the entire staff. We ask that you be persistent with the attempts to resolve the economic and legal challenges facing the school district.

We extend our sincere wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to the Board, the Greece Central School District staff and the Greece community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!