First Graders Go to College for Read Across America Day

By Mary McClintock, ’82

On March 2nd, 60 first graders from Greenfield’s Federal Street School will go to college, visiting Greenfield Community College’s Main Campus to celebrate the National Education Association’s Read Across America Day. Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate read-
ing on March 2nd, the birthday of beloved children’s author Dr. Seuss. During their day “in college” at GCC’s celebration, the children will listen to President Bob Pura read Seuss’s book The Lorax, plant seeds in the College’s greenhouses, and work on painting projects and an essay activity focusing on “If I was the Lorax, this is how I would help our Earth.” Along with President Pura, GCC faculty, staff, and student volunteers will work with the children during the day.

The Read Across America Day celebration is just one of many collabora-
tions between GCC and the Federal Street School. Melanie A. Zarnowski, Faculty in GCC’s Associate Degree Nursing Program, explained, “GCC’s Associate Degree Nursing program has worked with the Federal Street School for several years. Service Learning is a required part of our nursing program to encourage interdisciplinary community-engagement during our students’ time at GCC and after they grad-

At last year, we started bringing Federal St. School first graders to college, providing ‘classes’ on healthy eating and habits. The GCC students learned how to manage and plan teaching activities for this age group. The first graders not only had consistent contact with GCC students, they ask the nursing students about what it is like going to college and what kind of things are they learning.”

The success of the GCC-Federal St. School wellness project led to discussion between GCC and the school district about how to expand the partnership to include GCC stu-
dents from other majors. Concluded Public School District Volunteer Coordinator Marianne Hlavacek, “The expanded partnership is mutually beneficial. Nursing students have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned and engage proactively with children and the children begin to understand the importance of healthy eating, exercise, and safety as they grow and develop. A group of GCC Early Childhood edu-
dators hosted the Federal Street first graders in two literacy-based proj-

tests the partnership between GCC Nursing and the Federal Street School is mutually beneficial. Nursing students have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned and engage proactively with children and the children begin to understand the importance of healthy eating, exercise, and safety as they grow and develop. A group of GCC Early Childhood edu-
dators hosted the Federal Street first graders in two literacy-based proj-

tests the partnership between GCC Nursing and the Federal Street School is mutually beneficial. Nursing students have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned and engage proactively with children and the children begin to understand the importance of healthy eating, exercise, and safety as they grow and develop. A group of GCC Early Childhood edu-
dators hosted the Federal Street first graders in two literacy-based proj-

tests the partnership between GCC Nursing and the Federal Street School is mutually beneficial. Nursing students have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned and engage proactively with children and the children begin to understand the importance of healthy eating, exercise, and safety as they grow and develop. A group of GCC Early Childhood edu-
dators hosted the Federal Street first graders in two literacy-based proj-

tests the partnership between GCC Nursing and the Federal Street School is mutually beneficial. Nursing students have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned and engage proactively with children and the children begin to understand the importance of healthy eating, exercise, and safety as they grow and develop. A group of GCC Early Childhood edu-
dators hosted the Federal Street first graders in two literacy-based proj-

One College Drive
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301
On the Web at www.gcc.mass.edu

Thank You to Our Pacesetter Businesses for Supporting GCC!
Baystate Health/Baystate Franklin Medical Center • Cohn & Co. Real Estate Agency • Florence Savings Bank • Greenfield Co-operative Bank Greenfield Savings Bank • People’s United Bank • The Recorder (GIK) • The Sandri Companies • Sinauer Associates, Inc.