

Gr. 8 English Language Arts scores being closely reviewed

District to track individual student scores

Scotia-Glenville's grades 4 and 8 students, by and large, continued to meet state standards in reading, writing and listening based on state tests six months ago.

At the elementary level, 75% of students scored in levels 3 and 4, meaning they met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts (ELA) on the test they took in February.

At grade 8, 45% of students fell into the same two categories. When that class was the first to take the state's grade 4 test in 1999, 70% scored in levels 3 and 4. While there have been new students since that time, as well as some who moved out, the majority of the grade 8 class was in grade 4 at one of the Scotia-Glenville elementary schools.

Reviewing grades 4-8 ELA results

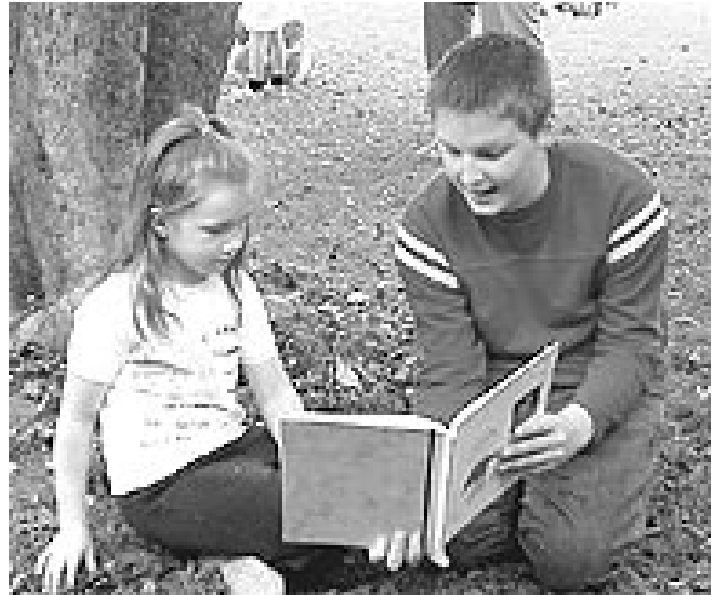
"That is an area of concern," noted Joseph F. Kavanaugh, the district's director of curriculum and instruction. "We are now reviewing those ELA results to determine why

"We are addressing this issue in a global way by trying to improve reading and writing across the curriculum...not just for a state test."

Joseph F. Kavanaugh, director of curriculum and instruction

At Scotia-Glenville, the grade 8 students took the very similar Terra Nova standardized exams in grades 5, 6 and 7 when there are no state standardized exams in English. ELA results for each student can be tracked from the time they took the grade 4 ELA.

Kavanaugh and Interim Academic Head for English Lee Ann Napolitano are reviewing the results this summer and



Lincoln grade 2 student **Adele Borbee**, left, a student in **Rosemary Stedman's** class, listens as grade 6 student **Andy Swab** reads his book to her on the front lawn at Lincoln School during the last week of school. Grade 6 students in **Jeff Denney's** and **Sharon Fellner's** classes, working with reading teacher **Susan Holub-McCann**, wrote the children's books, as large as 52 pages, and had them published. The books had titles such as "The Case of the Silver Dollar," "True Story of Little Red Riding Hood," "What Do You Do Grandma" and "A Long Day."

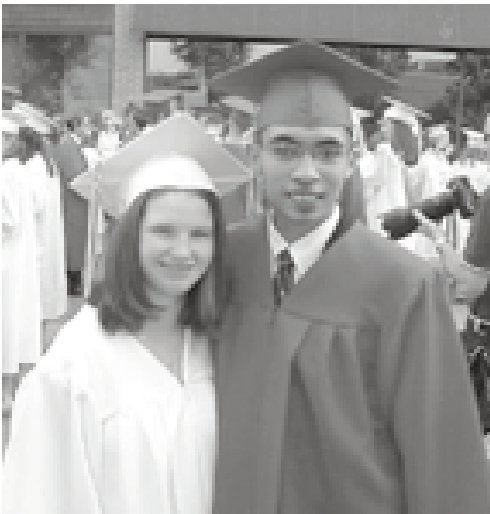
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A glimpse at the class of 2003



Above, from left, class of 2003 Scotia-Glenville graduates **Elizabeth Carboni, Leah Carboni, Stephanie Grabo** and **Lindsay Kaufman** share a moment before going into Proctor's for Scotia-Glenville's 96th commencement.



At left, **Edgar Villalta** and **Heidi Kuhn** get ready for the ceremony ...and for life beyond high school. 226 students graduated this year,

the largest class at Scotia-Glenville in 15 years. Below, from left, **Sean Villano, David Wolf** and **Theodore Slingerland** prepare for graduation.



Scotia-Glenville's class of 2003

Total number of graduates:	226 students (largest since 1988 when 232 graduated.)
Total attending college:	88.05% (199 students)
Four-year colleges:	114 students or 50.4%
Two-year colleges:	85 students or 37.6%
Getting a job immediately:	17 students or 7.52%
Entering the armed services:	6 students or 2.66%
Undecided:	4 students or 1.77%

National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test:

Commended students: **Megan Atchley, Matthew Auricchio, Daniel Coderre, Gene Davison** and **Jonathan Drechsler**

Highest averages (received Scholastic Honor Award):

Megan Atchley, Darnell Cardines, Andrea Clark, Jeffrey Darrow, Ashley Delgaudio, Lisa DeSieno, Elise Hearn, Jared Laing, Amanda Martin, Adam Mastroianni, Lindsey Quick and **Sarah Stocks**

DEPARTMENTAL AWARD – Given to a member of the graduating class in each of the disciplines.

ENGLISH	Leah Carboni
LANGUAGE	Katherine Crosby
MATHEMATICS	Jared Laing
SCIENCE/HEALTH	Ashley Delgaudio
SOCIAL STUDIES	Jennifer McKinnis
ART	Rebecca Haushalter
BUSINESS EDUCATION	Amanda Martin
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE	Rebecca Burns
MUSIC	Megan Atchley
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	Nicholas Renus
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Darnell Cardines
TECHNOLOGY	Andrew Testo

S-G students are involved in many exciting ventures all year.



*Upper left, students in **Debbie White's** gr. 1 class at Sacandaga, along with Academic Enrichment Program teacher **Nancy Rad**, studied the rainforest this year. The lessons included writing and reading lessons, drawing pictures of rainforest animals and plants and, as a finishing touch, transforming their classroom into an educational paper "rainforest."*

*Center left, Glen-Worden students **Abby Naumowicz**, left, and **Alisa Peters** hold a quilt that was donated by the school to the Family Life Center at the City Mission in Schenectady. From the City Mission are **Chris Parsons**, left, director of the center, and **Michael Saccocio**, executive director of the mission. The quilt was made by grade 4 and 5 students under the direction of Academic Enrichment Program teacher Nancy Rad. The patterns depicted*

designs that may have been used during the days of the underground railroad in the Civil War.



*Lower left, from left, sophomores **Michael Topka**, **Adam Laura**, **Catherine Kramer** and **Emily Richards** show off the work they did depicting atrocities throughout history as part of a project with English teacher **Cathy Cassady** and resource teacher **Marilyn Johnson** at the high school in May. The students saw Schindler's List as well as the 9-1-1 exhibit at the Empire State Plaza before working on the project.*

*Below, **Shawn Cooper**, a student in **Teri Lessard's** grade 3 class at Sacandaga, shows off the panda bear head and other research he did into the bears during his animal report in June.*

The entire class presented their reports in the library.



“Bringing Good Things to Scotia-Glenville”

Gr. 8 student Jack Lewis wins GE contest, sets out to strengthen local historical ties

Jack Lewis’ grandfather turned him on to local history. Now the Middle School student, entering grade 8 in September, wants other students to share that wealth.

“I don’t think kids get exposed enough to what’s right around us,” said Lewis, the son of Barbara and Kirk Lewis. “There is so much right near Scotia but a lot of my friends don’t even know those places are there.”



Gr. 8 student Jack Lewis

This topic sprung to life last year when he asked his grade 7

social studies teacher if the class could go on a field trip to the Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction. He was told that the field trip expenditures had been spoken for at that point and there was no money left.

Lewis wrote the essay as part of the General Electric’s “Bring Good Things to Life of my Community” essay contest. His English teacher was Marianne Burke. The family was honored at a banquet in the GE Executive Dining Room in the spring.

The essay proposed establishing the Scotia-Glenville Historical Society; linking local historical sites like the Scotia library, Mabee Farm, Flint House and Glen Sanders Mansion; and producing a publicity brochure for students, teachers and parents about the sites.

GE awarded him a CD player, backpack and \$500 in seed money for the project. He is working with GE volunteer mentor Richard Matthews on the project. ♡

Check us out at
ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org

Excerpts from...

How I Can Make a Difference

An essay by Jack Lewis

We live in a very historical area. Ever since Alexander Lindsay Glen settled on the north side of the Mohawk River in 1665, Scotia (named after his native Scotland) has grown from a patch of wilderness to the thriving town you see today. Glen’s mansion, the Scotia library, the Mabee Farm and the Flint House are all examples of places where we can experience our town’s great history. Unfortunately, many local kids do not know about or get to visit these historical sites. If we want kids at Scotia-Glenville to learn about our town’s history, we’re going to have to preserve it and help take care of it.

I proposed to use the money from this contest to set up an organization, the Scotia-Glenville Historical Society. The purposes of this organization would be:

1. to bring together representatives of the local historical sites to talk about the best ways to promote their sites and activities.
2. to create publicity that I would distribute to local school organizations (PTA’s, administrators, teachers and the board of education), and
3. to provide volunteers from the historical sites to give presentations to school classes and organizations.

Our schools currently do not have a strong enough budget to even provide for the smallest field trip...if the historical units in our social studies classes consist of reading old books that simply tell about past events, not only are kids not going to want to do any work, but they will have the idea that history is boring. And we all know that history is ANYTHING but boring!

I am lucky. I have experienced how fun history can be at an early age! My grandfather is part of the Schenectady County Historical Society, and he has brought me to many historical sites, such as Fort Johnson, the Glen Sanders Mansion, the Scotia library and numerous other places...

Other local kids should be able to see and feel the mark in the banister in the Glen Sanders Mansion made by an Indian hatchet thrown accidentally at Mrs. Glen! They should have a chance to get a tour of the library and see the fireplace where a secret passage was built to hide slaves. Kids should also be able to hear a storyteller tell the story of the time Mr. Glen pulled a clever trick on the French and Indians during the Schenectady Massacre, and see the kind of farmhouse and barn built by poor men out on the frontier, as they tried to make a living. The organization I proposed would make these activities possible for local kids.

To create this organization, first I would call or write a letter to the volunteers who are currently running, or taking care of, each of the local sites (Glen Sanders Mansion, Flint House, Mabee Farm, Scotia Library)...

...I’d persuade them (local schools) by pointing out that these sites are not far away, and that it wouldn’t cost the schools very much to transport kids to these places. In my research, I’ve found that it only costs schools .62 a mile for gas, for buses and only \$14.95 per hour for a driver. These costs would easily be covered by parents, if they merely paid about \$2.00 for each field trip, if the schools couldn’t afford it. In my letter, I would also offer to go and talk to classes and/or teacher groups or PTAs to tell them more about the sites and what they have to offer kids.

I would use the \$500.00 provided by this contest to pay for the publicity materials created by the Scotia-Glenville Historical Society described earlier...

My project can have a lasting impact for the kids of the Scotia-Glenville community because once schools, teachers and parents get involved and learn about the historical places in their community, they will realize how important – and easy – it is to inform others and bring their kids to these sites...

To actually see what life was like for our town’s founders is just a great experience that I think every kid should have. Once kids get out and feel and touch and see history, what they read in their books will be easier to understand and they’ll be able to imagine better what actually happened... ♡

Mean scores on the gr. 4 and 8 ELA

These average scores include all students, both general education and those with disabilities. The elementary schools' average score fell within level 3 (645-691), meaning students "demonstrate understanding" of the state standards.

School	English Language Arts average score	Reading average score
Glendaal	667.1	665.3
Glen-Worden	661.0	661.8
Lincoln	660.7	658.9
Sacandaga	669.1	663.6
Total elementary .	664.7	662.4

The elementary scores are out of a maximum of 800; the grade 8 score is out of a maximum of 830.

Grade 8 695.9

The middle school scored within 1.1 of level 3 but was within level 2 (658-696), meaning students show "partial understanding" of the standards.



Claire McDermott, kindergarten teacher at Glen-Worden, looks over some materials with grade 1 students Reagan Schaeffer, left, and Alec Swider. McDermott is the first teacher at Scotia-Glenville to receive a voluntary 10-year national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She completed an assessment process of 200 to 400 hours, prepared a portfolio, video and completed written exercises. The students were in her class last year while she worked toward certification. McDermott was recognized by the Board of Education June 23.

Scotia-Glenville reviewing ELA, from page 1

will report to the Board of Education in September.

Reading and writing across the curriculum

The Board of Education has charged administrators with strengthening reading and writing across the curriculum. For example, a student's writing quality should be a factor in determining grades in other subjects, like social studies or science.

Toward that end, all students received a reading list this summer.

"We are addressubg this issue in a global way by trying to improve reading and writing across the curriculum, not just for a state test," noted Kavanaugh.

State concerned about gr. 8 tests

When state Education Commissioner Richard Mills announced the ELA results, he said he was concerned with overall standardized testing in grade 8 statewide.

The Board of Regents is studying several proposals to strengthen middle school education as well as to be sure the grade 8 exams are true indicators of a child's knowledge.

How well do Scotia-Glenville students read, write and listen?

Based on results of state English Language Arts exam, 2003; 2002 percentage in parenthesis.

Grade 4 students	State criteria	Grade 8 students
25% (28%) (50 students)	<u>Level 4</u> Exceeds the state's standards	4% (9%) (11 students)
50% (50%) (101 students)	<u>Level 3</u> Meets the state's standards	41% (39%) (104 students)
21% (19%) (43 students)	<u>Level 2</u> Needs extra help	50% (49%) (125 students)
4% (3%) (9 students)	<u>Level 1</u> Needs academic intervention	5% (3%) (12 students)

**Gr. 4 average score: 665 of 800 (2001 average score: 672)
Gr. 8 average score of 696 of 830 (2001 average score: 701)**

S-G Recognitions

Scotia-Glenville High School musicians recently competed in the North American Music Festival in Virginia Beach.

The High School Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Allison Atchley, both received an excellent rating from the competition.

The High School Choralaires, under the direction of Jessica Dashnaw, received a superior rating.

There were more than 120 students participating from S-G High School.



S-G Board of Education member Pam Carbone has been elected to head the 34-member Capital District School Boards Association (CAPSBA) for the 2003-04 school year.

The organization is composed of representatives from the 34 area boards of education.

Carbone, in her third term on the S-G school board, has been Scotia-Glenville's representative on CAPSBA for four years. She will also serve as treasurer of the S-G PTA Council during 2003-04.



2003-04 Scotia-Glenville school calendar

Here is an overview of the district's 2003-04 calendar of vacations and state/standardized testing. A complete version will be mailed in late August to all community members.

September 1 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL	December 22-January 2 Christmas Recess & New Years' Holiday - NO SCHOOL	April 8 HALF DAY K-5 elementary report card preparation
September 2-3 Superintendent's Conf. Day - NO SCHOOL	January 5 Classes Resume	April 9 Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
September 4 First Day of School	January 13-January 14 NYS English Language Arts exam, gr. 8	April 12-16 Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL
September 15 -24 Terra Nova exams for elem.	January 19 Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL	May 1 SAT exam, High School
September 18-October 3 Terra Nova exams for gr. 6-8	January 23 HALF DAY K-5 elementary report card card preparation	May 4-5 NYS math exam, gr. 8
October 18 Pre-SAT exam, gr. 10 and 11	January 26-29 Regents exams	May 4-6 NYS math exam, gr. 4
October 13 Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL	January 29 HALF DAY middle and high school	May 14 HALF DAY middle and high school
November 4 HALF DAY K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences	January 30 Superintendent's Conf. Day - NO SCHOOL	May 24-25 NYS science exam, gr. 4
November 11 Veterans' Day - NO SCHOOL	January 26-29 Terra Nova exams, gr. 9-12	May 31 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
November 14 HALF DAY K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences	February 2-6 NYS English Language Arts exam, gr. 4	June 2-3 NYS social studies, gr. 8
November 18 HALF DAY K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences	February 16-20 President's Day/ Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL	June 9 HALF DAY K-5 elementary report card preparation
Nov. 19-Nov. 20 NYS social studies test, gr. 5	March 19 Superintendent's Conf. Day - NO SCHOOL	June 16-23 Regents
November 24 HALF DAY K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences		June 23 Last day for students
November 27-28 Thanksgiving Day Recess - NO SCHOOL		June 24 Last day for teachers
		June 26 Graduation, 9:30 a.m., Proctor's Theatre

S-G Recognitions

A small sampling of the many wonderful things happening among the students and staff in your school district.



Junior Haley Conde was among those honored by Gov. George Pataki at the governor's mansion for her inclusion as one of the 13 Kids Who Care by television channel 13.

Bruce Kohout, coordinator of the GIVE Service Learning program, said she "is a caring individual who contributes a great deal to her school and community." Conde is a member of Key Calls, served as director of the ARC's Connors House and has volunteered at Northwoods rehabilitation center.



Three Scotia-Glenville students won honors at the state History Day competition.

Valerie Shank placed third for her research paper "What Gave You the Right: Land Use in the Adirondacks." Bonnie Laing and Emily Richards placed second in the group display category for "The Underground Railroad Uncovered."



More than 40 grade 4 students at Glen-Worden participated in the Hogwart's Open House in June.

In true Hogwart's tradition, students were assigned to one of four "houses." Students visited six or seven mini-classes where they were involved in Hogwart's like potions, spells, and arithmancy. There was also a Quidditch match. The program came days before the release of JK Rowling's fifth Harry Potter book, *The Order of the Phoenix*. The program was organized by teachers Christine DeCarlo and Marcia Smith.



Staff and students at the Middle School raised money to buy hundreds of dollars worth of shrubs and other plantings for the front sign. The plants were purchased at a discount from Kulak's Nursery and Landscaping in Rexford. Teachers Carol Atkins and Allen Calhoun coordinated the plantings.



Sacandaga Principal John Tobiassen and nurse Ruth Evers were selected as "Educators of the Week" by television channel 10. They were cited for their intense school program involving training for the use of life-saving defibrillators.



Nearly one-quarter of the students showing off their inventions in this year's Invention Convention at the Schenectady Museum were from Scotia-Glenville.

There were 1,260 entries from 43 schools in the local Invention Convention. Only 100 semi-finalists were selected.

S-G semi-finalists were:

Glendaal: Bryce Campbell, Joey Holm, Rebecca VanAuken, Jared Reed, Ryan Reed, Jennifer Glenn, Cooper Wright and Jessica Hohenstein

Glen-Worden: Danielle Giammatteo, Bridie Schnore and Justina Mango

Lincoln: Sarah Taubner and Lauren Bissonette

Sacandaga: Clarissa Garvey and Elena Clark

Middle School: Jack Lewis, Kyle Capel, Meghan Mulone, Ariel Orlando, Dan Stevens, Karen Vlainich, Nate Crow and Desirae Clark

Students were asked to design an invention that is unique. S-G's inventors came up with inventions like the "glow knob," "ear warmer," "dialtone detector," "ice stick tray," "the white-out pen," "new lotion bottle," "grass-free cleats," "clever collar" and "the better magnetic pencil box."

Five semi-finalists from Scotia-Glenville

Five of the 25 semi-finalists were from S-G. The finalists were: Cooper Wright from Glendaal; Lauren Bissonette from Lincoln; Elena Clark and Clarissa Garvey from Sacandaga; and Nate Crow from the Middle School.

They received trophies and were invited to a statewide reception in Binghamton.

They were assisted with the projects by Pam Walsh and Nancy Rad, both academic enrichment teachers; Lance Keating, middle school industrial arts teacher; and Becky Ayers, Chris Bodden and Maureen McCloud, grade 6 teachers.

Student shows invention in NYC

Cooper Wright, son of Doreen and Ken Wright, was also invited to show his "Snow Plow Proof Mailbox" at a reception at Rockefeller Center in New York City to honor the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers flight in August. ❄️

Thank You Scotia-Glenville!

Budget and bus proposal approved, record turnout

The \$35,422,698 2003-04 budget was approved with a vote of 2,127 (56%) in favor to 1,680 (44%) against June 3.

The budget included a spending increase of 5.4% after \$1 million in program cuts and state aid reductions. Final tax rates will be set in August. The rate was predicted to rise by a maximum of 8.88% before STAR reductions.

The \$316,678 bus purchase proposal was approved with a vote of 2,134 (56%) in favor and 1,583 (44%) against.

The bus plan will have no tax impact until 2004-05 and calls for buying five 28-passenger diesel buses; one 23-passenger bus with a lift; and two vehicles with plows.

Voter turnout of 3,810 was a record for S-G. The 1999 building proposition vote saw 3,681 cast ballots. The next largest turnout, 3,595, was in 2001 for the budget vote.

"I want to thank all of the community members – a record number – who once again showed their support for our children and grandchildren during this very difficult budget year," said Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle.

Bradley, Carpenter easily re-elected to fourth terms

Incumbents Karen Bradley and John Carpenter were re-elected to fourth terms with 2,518 votes and 2,461 votes, respectively. Jerry Moore received 1,616 votes.

Ahnert, Smith re-elected as officers for 2003-04

Kurt Ahnert and Margaret Smith were unanimously re-elected as president and vice president, respectively, at the July organizational meeting. These will be the second terms as officers for both.

Scotia-Glenville's Calendar of Events

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Monday, September 1
Labor Day - NO SCHOOL ▶ Tuesday-Wednesday, September 2-3
Superintendent's Conference Days - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ▶ Thursday, September 4
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - ALL STUDENTS ▶ Monday, September 8
Regular Board of Ed. meeting, District Office
Opening of school update; discuss 2003-04 goals ▶ Monday, September 22
Special Board of Ed. meeting, High School
Report on testing results; adopt 2003-04 goals ▶ Monday, October 6
Regular Board of Ed. meeting, Lincoln ▶ Monday, October 13
Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Monday, October 20
Special Board of Ed. meeting, Middle School ▶ Monday, November 3
Regular Board of Ed. meeting, District Office ▶ Tuesday, November 4
HALF DAY - gr. K-5 - Parent/Teacher conferences ▶ Tuesday, November 11
Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL ▶ Friday, November 14
HALF DAY - gr. K-5 - Parent/Teacher conferences ▶ Tuesday, November 18
HALF DAY - gr. K-5 - Parent/Teacher conferences ▶ Monday, November 24
HALF DAY - gr. K-5 - Parent/Teacher conferences ▶ Monday, November 24
Special Board of Ed. meeting, District Office ▶ Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28
Thanksgiving recess - NO SCHOOL |
|--|--|

All Board of Education meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held at the District Office unless otherwise noted. The District Office is located at the end of Lark Street in the village of Scotia. Please call 382-1215 if you have any questions about time or locations.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Scotia-Glenville

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ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org



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