

Gator Gazette

HUGH GREGG SCHOOL - WHERE WE PLEDGE TO LEARN TOGETHER EVERY DAY!

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2011



PTA President's Message

WOW - back to school already! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer vacation. I know my family did, and as sad as I am that summer is over, I'm also excited that the new school year has started.



First, I would like to welcome all the new families to our Gregg family. Second, PTA has a lot of great events lined up for the 2011-2012 school year. We are planning the second annual Ice Cream Social this month, our Fall Fundraiser, the Fall Festival, Breakfast with Santa and Santa's Workshop, the Pasta Dinner and Alligator Idol.

Don't forget that Gregg School PTA has a Facebook page for you to get reminders and ask questions.

If you have a Facebook account, search for **Hugh Gregg PTA** and "like" the page to get up to the date information and reminders. This is going to be a very fun and exciting year, and we can't wait to see all the familiar and new faces at our events. PTA meetings are open to all Gregg School parents, and they are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at 6:30pm. If you think you can't come because you don't have anyone to watch your children, bring them with you as we have child care available. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Stacy Banas, President

September dates to remember

9/7

First day of school!

9/13

PTA Meeting
6:30

9/15

Ice Cream
Social
6:00-7:00

Coming soon:

Open House
October 5

Picture Day
October 13

Principal's Post

Dear families,

It's that time of the year again and some even refer to it as "the most wonderful time of the year!" For many of us parents, we are glad to see earlier bedtimes and some structure added to our lives, yet it also means that the freedoms of summer have come to an end once again.

Personally, I have had a wonderful summer mixed with the right amount of work and relaxation. I have spent time with my family, read many books and enjoyed moving at a slower pace however, I am ready to get back to the faster pace I love!

I anticipate a wonderful start to the school year!! Mr. McIlwain & Mr. Belasky have had a good deal of uninterrupted time this summer to "spruce up" the place. The library/media center has undergone a facelift and the hallways have been cleaned up with a fresh coat of paint. The building just shines!

I would just like to remind everyone that arriving on time (by 8:20) ensures an effortless transition into your child's school day. The students feel independent and successful when provided the opportunity to do this on their own! The time in the classroom unpacking, and settling in before announcements at 8:30 gives everyone a chance to "switch gears" and organize for all the learning that lies ahead. Breakfast is served starting at 7:50 and we welcome your child to join us for "the most important meal of the day."

Don't forget that we dismiss at Gregg School at 2:30 (2:25 for Kindergarten) and the kids can be upset when they don't see that familiar face upon exiting the building- I cannot stress it enough- please be on time! This year we are asking that you follow the arrows/direction through the parking lot which we hope will help traffic flow better. Your patience with arrival and dismissal is appreciated, as everyone's safety is our main goal!

On behalf of the Gregg School staff, we can't wait for all that lies ahead this year!!! It's going to be a truly wonderful learning experience for us all! If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you a smooth start,

Ann Collins, Principal



Last year, we had amazing participation in the **Box Tops** program!

Together, we earned \$1067 for Gregg School!!

Once again, we will be participating in the program and ask that you continue to clip and send in Box Tops. Details about a fall contest will be coming home soon! Thank you for your support!

Printer Ink Cartridge Recycling

Instead of throwing out your used printer ink cartridges, place them in a sandwich bag and send them to school with your child!

Gregg School participates in a recycling program, and we earn money for each ink cartridge we submit! Please note, at this time, we are unable to collect the large toner cartridges from copiers or large printers.

We have collection boxes available to anyone who is able to collect the cartridges for us at their workplace. If you would like a collection box, please contact Renee at jjacobs2@stny.rr.com or 936-0809. Thank you for your support!



Find us on
Facebook

Search for "Hugh Gregg Elementary PTA" and hit LIKE!

We will also be collecting CAMPBELLS Labels for Education this year!



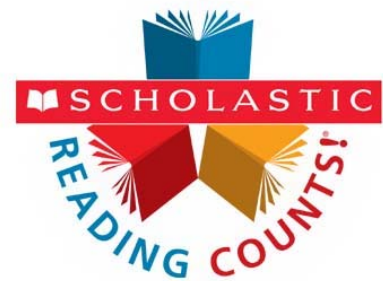
Clip Only the UPC code - NOT the entire label.
Save UPC's and beverage caps from participating products.
Send in to the school to earn points for our school!

Visit us on the web to view a color version of this newsletter:
<http://www.corningarea.schools.com/gregg/index.htm>

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS

Books, books, and more books!

The students at Gregg School will have the opportunity two times throughout the year to attend Scholastic Book Fairs. Our first book fair will be in the fall during Open House. Our second book fair will be in the spring during the Blacktop Carnival. This is a Buy One Get One Free Book Fair.



There are many things you can purchase for your children but nothing is as important as the gift of reading. Also, we would like for you to keep in mind that book fairs do not run themselves. We will be in need of volunteers to help manage these events. Keep your eyes open for requests for help. I thank you in advance for your support.

Danielle Perry
Scholastic Book Fair Chairperson

PULL TAB COLLECTION IS BACK!

We're at it again this year!! Our Pull Tab Collection was such a success that we've taken on a bigger challenge.

Last year, we collected almost 81 pounds of tabs alone. This year we're hoping to "pull" together with the entire school district as well as the community and collect 2000 pounds of tabs by the end of the school year and donate them to the Ronald McDonald House of Central New York.

Swarthout Recycling and our local McDonalds have agreed to match whatever we collect. Start pulling tabs and look for more information to come on our big end of the year collection day celebration.

Thank you to everyone for your assistance in preparing your children for another school year! We appreciate your efforts in sending them in with the requested school supplies for the year! It helps so much that everyone has the right tools to get the job done in the classroom! We look forward to a GREAT school year partnering with you!

Preparing Your Child for a Successful Academic Year

By: Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes (2011)

It is time to sit down with your family and talk about the coming school year. Coming off the last lazy days of summer, it is the discussions you have now as a family that will help to define a successful transition back into the realm of academia and less flexible schedules. By clearly defining, from the beginning, your expectations for each of your children, hopefully there will be less frustration and more joy for everyone.

A child needs to know what is expected of him and why. It helps him to understand that he is a part of a family and that everyone has jobs to do, both outside and inside the home. By including him in the planning, he knows that he has an important role in the family unit. As parents, we need to be able to communicate to him, in an age appropriate manner, just what his individual roles are to be. That is not to say that roles cannot be modified as time and circumstances change.

It is essential that children are re-evaluated as the academic year progresses and that changes are made where needed. The best laid plans all have to have an element of flexibility built into them. That is life. Begin preparing your child for it now.

Health

The importance of sleep, diet, exercise, and down-time cannot be stressed enough. As a parent, it is our job to make sure our family stays well. Put a bedtime routine in place and stick to it. As your child gets older, this can be a bit more flexible. Make sure your child has access to healthy snacks and well balanced meals.

Of course, we all know the importance of daily exercise. Make sure everyone in the family participates in this. It can be as simple as taking the family pet for a walk everyday. Finally, it is important to make sure your child has some down-time everyday. This can include recreational reading, talking on the phone to friends, watching television, playing with friends, running errands with a family member, playing a board game, or going to a movie. The focus should be on having fun and relaxing.

Activities

While it is essential that your child focus on something else besides school work, it is just as important that he is not over-scheduled. Discuss with him, at the beginning of the school year, what it is he would like to do after school for fun. Let him pick one or two activities per semester. Make sure he is doing it because he wants to, not because you want him to!

Do make sure that you can fit the chosen activities into your schedule, and if not, make other arrangements. Activities might include drama, music, sports, art, or volunteering at a local non-profit. Having something else to focus on and included in his day helps to teach him time management, working with others, and leadership; all life skills that spill over into academic success.

School/Homework

It is your child's "job" to go to school. It is your job, as a parent, to work both inside and outside the home environment. As with every job, there are certain expectations, and if they are not met, there are consequences. Let your child know from the beginning what is expected of her. Plan study time with a schedule and make sure you look ahead to see what is coming up.

Help organize your child's backpack the night before so that it is ready to go in the morning. If you start with this simple task when she is young, by the time she is in the upper grades, she will be doing this on her own. If your child takes a lunch to school everyday, perhaps making it the night before is easier than rushing in the morning to make it.

Make sure the space for homework has good lighting, is clutter free and comfortable. Distractions should be avoided during this time, including loud music, television, telephones, text messaging and electronic games. Supervise her schoolwork. Don't just take her word for it that it is done. Look at it. Give him positive feedback.

Finally, keep communication open with your child's teacher. Encourage your child to talk to her teacher. If your child needs help on how to ask something, rehearse it with her. Enabling your child can be a powerful thing. If this proves unsuccessful, make an appointment to talk to your child's teacher yourself. Problem solve with your child. This is a life-long skill that can be "taught" at a very young age. Practice with your child. All of these suggestions can be applied to every stage in a child's academic career. They help her to become independent and self-confident.

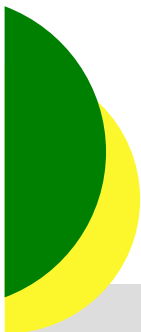
Chores

Chores are also a part of everyone's life. A child needs to know that she is a part of a whole and that everyone in the family has certain expectations. Make sure you are realistic with time, ability and age appropriateness. By doing this, a child sees that her contributions are valued and necessary. It also teaches her responsibility, a big academic success tool.

Keeping communication open between you and your child is essential to your child's academic success. This needs to be updated daily sometimes, as your child's life evolves and grows with each academic year. During dinner or before bed, ask every member of your household, one at a time, "What is the best thing that happened today?" "Nothing" is not an acceptable answer. You will be surprised at what you hear and what you learn from that one simple question. Parents participate as well!

Whatever the makeup of your family, mom, dad, child, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin, academic success depends on everyone in our daily lives. Academic success isn't just tied to our child's classroom. While that should be a main focus during the academic year, it is also what our child learns outside the classroom, in their everyday life, that helps them to succeed. Lead by example. Care. Be involved.





Next PTA Meeting:
Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm
Join us! Childcare available.

Dear Gregg School families,

Welcome back to the returning families and welcome to our new families to the 2011-2012 school year. Each year, your Gregg School PTA members and PTA officers unite with parents, faculty and staff to ensure that each student's life is enriched by the activities of their PTA.

I am extending an invitation to become a member of the PTA for the 2011-2012 school year. The membership cost is \$4.00 per person (or business), and **we welcome fathers and grandparents**. There is no obligation to attend meetings or chair events throughout the year.

Our PTA membership last year was 100 members, which included 100% of the faculty at Gregg. Please help us grow! There will be many events throughout this school year that need your support. It is not the amount of time you can contribute that's most important, but rather your commitment to help PTA make a difference in the lives of all children at Gregg School.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for a great school year!

Sincerely,

Darcie Hughes

Gregg School PTA Membership Chair

-----Clip here and return with \$4 cash or check payable to Gregg School PTA in an envelope marked PTA membership-----

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

(We use e-mails to send members meeting reminders and let members know about ongoing activities and volunteer opportunities)

Name of child's teacher(s): _____
