

Gator Gazette*

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2010



PTA Co-President's Message



I can't believe we are thinking about Christmas already! Gregg School's annual Breakfast with Santa will be on Saturday December 11th from 9-11am. Santa's Secret Workshop will also be open during the breakfast so that the children can shop for their family members and loved ones. More information will be coming home soon. We will be in need of bakers and volunteers for set-up and clean-up.

Kathy Grottenthaler, Co-President

Principal Post

Dear Families,

The holidays are upon us and everywhere we turn it is so obvious what time of year it is; the decorations are up, the catalogs have arrived and the stores are inundated with holiday merchandise! The children are so excited in anticipation of what's to come. They are immersed with reminders and distractions. Here at Gregg School, we do our best to maintain a sense of continuity and normalcy, while still acknowledging the special time of the year that it is. Through it all, we keep studying, reading, calculating and writing. While I know as well as anyone how chaotic this month can be, you can help your child and their learning by maintaining regular meals, homework, bed times and schedules as much as possible. Everyone is extra tired and a bit stressed, but by preserving the consistent plans that they are accustomed to, they will be healthy, rested and continue to succeed in school.

I extend to you wishes for a safe, happy and healthy holiday season. I am thankful to be the principal of your child's school and have a job that I love. Take time to enjoy the magic of the season through the eyes of a child! One of the joys of the season that I take pleasure in is sharing those favorite holiday classic children's books and movies with my family. It provides us an opportunity to unwind, laugh, and reflect on our lives together amidst the "hubub" of the season. I hope you can do the same!

Wishing you all the best,
Mrs. Collins



December

Dates:

3	School Physicals K, 2, 4, & students new to CPP district
3	Spirit Day- Green
7	Picture Make Up Day
7	PTA Meeting, 6:30
10	Spirit Day- Red
11	Santa's Break- fast & Santa's Secret Shop 9-11 am
14	Band/Chorus Holiday Concert, 7:00 pm
17	Spirit Day- Red and Green
22	Spirit Day- Pajama Day
23 - 31	No School

Library News Mrs. Robarge



Another New Technological Advancement in the Library

All new in our Gregg School Library is an online subscription to Recorded Books through our membership in the Greater Southern Tier BOCES. This subscription will give us access to over 850 electronic books that can be downloaded to portable MP3 players. This exciting technology will allow students and teachers with MP3 players to bring their device to school to “check out” an eBook for listening.

Although presently the library does not have school MP3 players available for checkout, our subscription will allow families with MP3 players to bring them to our library and search/download audio titles. These downloads will last for 28 days and can be renewed.

The following MP3 players have been recommended to be used with our subscription. Others may work just fine as well, including Ipods.

- Coby MP305
- Cowon S9
- Creative Zen
- Creative Zen Mosaic
- Creative ZenV Plus
- Memorex MMP8567
- Philips Go Gear SA4425
- Samsung K3
- Samsung S3
- Samsung T10
- SanDisk Sansa Clip
- Sony Walkman E438F
- Sony Walkman NWZ-S615F



I am willing to try to connect any MP3 player to our subscription at school. Please email me at rrobarge@cppmail.com with questions and requests! Remember that I am at Gregg School every Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Keep Reading! Keep Reading! Keep Reading! Keep Reading!

More Library News

Something Special in the Library

When Mrs. Mary H. Bacalles retired from Hugh Gregg Elementary School in 2009, students and staff members knew that she would continue to spread her positive influence and love of learning throughout Gregg School. That has certainly been true – we are so lucky to have Mrs. Bacalles in our building frequently as a substitute. It is a rare day when we do not see Mrs. B. in a classroom, or hear her cheerfully greeting a group of students in the hallway.

Recently a new bookcase was unveiled in the Hugh Gregg Library. This is the *Mary Bacalles Bookcase*, filled with books by some of Mrs. B's favorite authors. When Mrs. Bacalles retired in 2009, she decided that she would like any retirement contributions made in her name to be donated back to the Hugh Gregg School. Specifically, the donations were given to the library so that all students could benefit from the honor.



Investments were made in books that showcased many of Mrs. Bacalles' favorite authors.



These authors include Virginia Burton, Tomie DePaola, Beverly Cleary, Robert Munsch, Patricia Polacco, Cynthia Rylant, Allen Say, Bernard Waber, and Jane Yolen.

Additional funds from the donations were used to add to the library's graphic novel collection – one of the most popular genres of books checked out! Lastly, Gregg Library's first eight playaways were purchased with donated money.

Please stop by to check out our new bookcase when you are in the library!

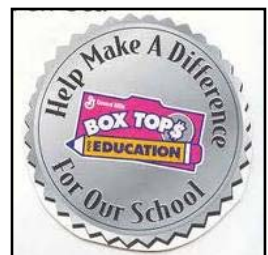
BOX TOP Update

The students and staff collected 3,811 Box Tops for Education during our Fall Box Top contest! Congratulations to Mrs. Tamaro's second grade class for bringing in 815 Box Tops. They will receive a treat from the Gregg School PTA.

A big thank you goes out to Renee Jacobs who will be taking over as our Gregg School Box Top Coordinator. Please continue to neatly cut out and send in Box Tops for Education. Box Tops can be glued onto the fun sheets that are found in the Gator Gazette or they can simply just be sent in!

Thank you for your wonderful support,

Tracie Drew, Outgoing Box Top Coordinator





Gregg Holiday Concert



The Gregg Elementary Band and Chorus students wish to invite you to their 2010 Holiday Concert.

The concert will be held on Tuesday, December 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gregg gym. Beginning Band members, performing in their first concert, will play *Jingle Bells*, *Good King Wenceslas* and *Dreydl, Dreydl*. The 4th and 5th Grade Band will then play *The Big Three*, *Stompin' on the Housetop* and *Holiday Processional*. The 4th and 5th Grade Chorus will finish the evening by performing *Crazy Carols: A Musical Revue*. **We hope to see you there!**



Coat Bank Drive

The Corning Painted Post School District PTA has created a Coat Bank for students who are in need of a warm coat.



Please donate a new or gently used coat to the Coat Drive Box located in the front hallway. These coats will be cleaned free of charge by Crystal Cleaners and Castle Cleaners and distributed to students in our district who are in need.

This is a free service offered to students in our school district. Please make requests to the school nurse or social worker, they will anonymously provide a coat.

These coats can be any size from 5-18.

If you have any questions, please call Darci Davis at 962-1514.

Thank you for your donations!!!

Thank you, Darci Davis, School Social Worker



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

Challenger Learning Center and Rochester Museum of Science

On Thursday, September 30th, the fifth grade classes from Hugh Gregg Elementary enjoyed a wonderful learning experience in Rochester.

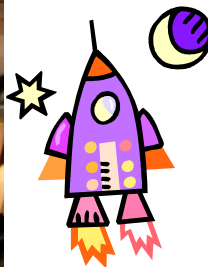
From the first day of school until the date of the trip, students from Mrs. Curtis's and Mrs. Scouten's class prepared to take part in a simulated "flight" aboard a space shuttle. They also prepared to work as a team in the mission control. Students applied for their positions and justified how they were the best person for that particular job.

When the classes arrived in Rochester, they took turns experiencing various parts of the Rochester Museum of Science. They were able to explore the "Adventure Zone", which is full of hands on and simulated activities, such as the submarine ride to the bottom of Lake Ontario, the weather forecasting station, the rock climbing wall, and the working model of the Erie Canal. Another area that students enjoyed was the "Expedition Earth" exhibit, where they could dig for fossils, see the history of the Rochester area in pre-historic times and learn about natural resources.

The classes then took turns at the Challenger Learning Center. Commanders Raab and Costanza guided the classes through a simulated space shuttle launch, probe assembly and launch, as well as a recovery of astronauts from Spirit II. Fortunately, both classes were successful in their missions, despite some "emergencies" that happened along the way. Students had to problem solve to get the mission back on track!

Students Lindsay Bagley and Adrianna Artuso designed the flight patches that now hang on the "Wall of Fame" at the CLC. They did a wonderful job representing both classes, as well as Hugh Gregg School.

Both classes learned the value of science, math and technology by experiencing this trip. They also learned about some of the things that museums have to offer, as well as appropriate museum behaviors. Most of all, they learned how to work as an amazing Gregg School team.



ART News

Mrs. Wukovitz

Kindergarten - During the month of November, kindergarten students created a mixed media collage of a turkey using coffee filters to dye the tail feathers. Next we will be working with clay to make a mouse using pinching techniques.

First grade - First grade students finished learning about texture in the month of November by creating a wax resist watercolor painting based on the book *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. For our next project, students will learn a different watercolor technique called wet-on-wet watercolors based on the painting *Goldfish* by Henri Matisse.

Second Grade - During the month of November, second grade students created a fall tree using pastels and abstract colors. The students also made leaf prints to add to their drawing. During this lesson, students learned about warm and cool colors as well as the style of Impressionism.

Third Grade - Third grade students just started learning about Japanese Animation in art class. We have been practicing drawing emotion in a cartoon style and will be starting to create self-portraits in the Anime style.

Fourth Grade - Fourth Grade students have been learning about Native American Art in art class. We started by creating Zuni Fetish Bracelets using clay techniques and then led into making traditional Native American drums. Now, we are creating weavings out of used CD's to make a circular design.

Fifth Grade - Fifth grade students are learning about the art of Kadinsky in art class and how music can be an inspiration for our artwork. First, students created their own musical composition on the internet program iNudge. Now we are working on abstract paintings that are based on the students' music.



Gregg School's Mission



Help all children learn and
Gain skills through experiences
 leading toward
Success and happiness in life.

Next PTA Meeting:

Tuesday, December 7
 at 6:30 pm



The PTA is collecting Box Tops for Education all year! Please send them in to your classroom even when it isn't "contest time." You may use the collection page on the back page of the Gator Gazette to turn in your Box Tops.

Physical Education News

December activities will include; grades K-2 doing brand new games that I brought back from a recent conference and basketball activities. Grades 3-5 will be doing conference games and basketball games. Volleyball intramurals will begin on December 1st.

With the winter-like weather on its way, please remember to pack your sneakers in your backpack or plastic bag on PE days!

Enjoy your Holidays and we will see you all in 2011!!!

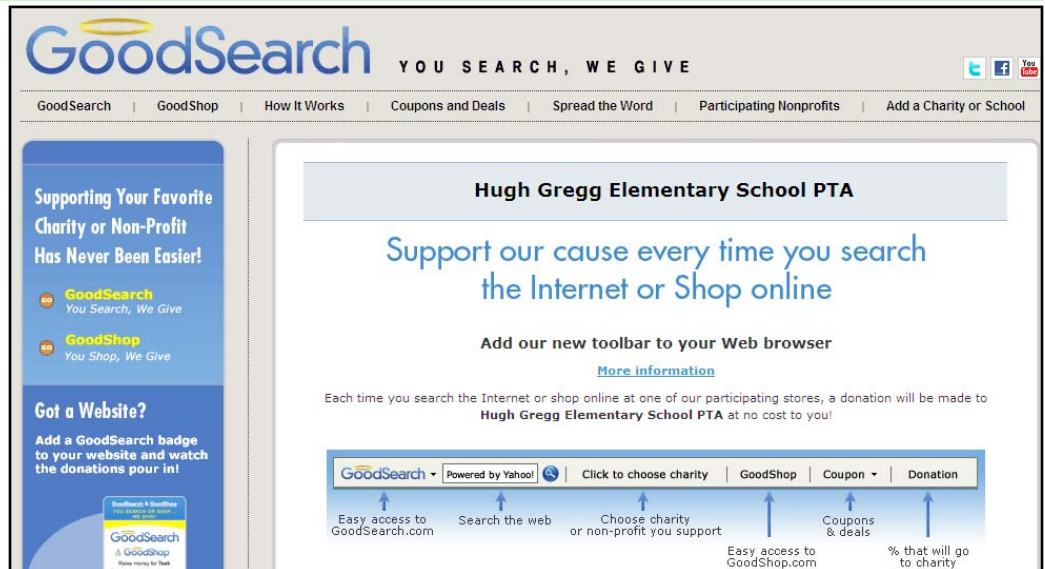


<http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/hugh-gregg-elementary-school-pta.aspx>

An easy way to raise money for Gregg School– use this search engine and we make a profit!!



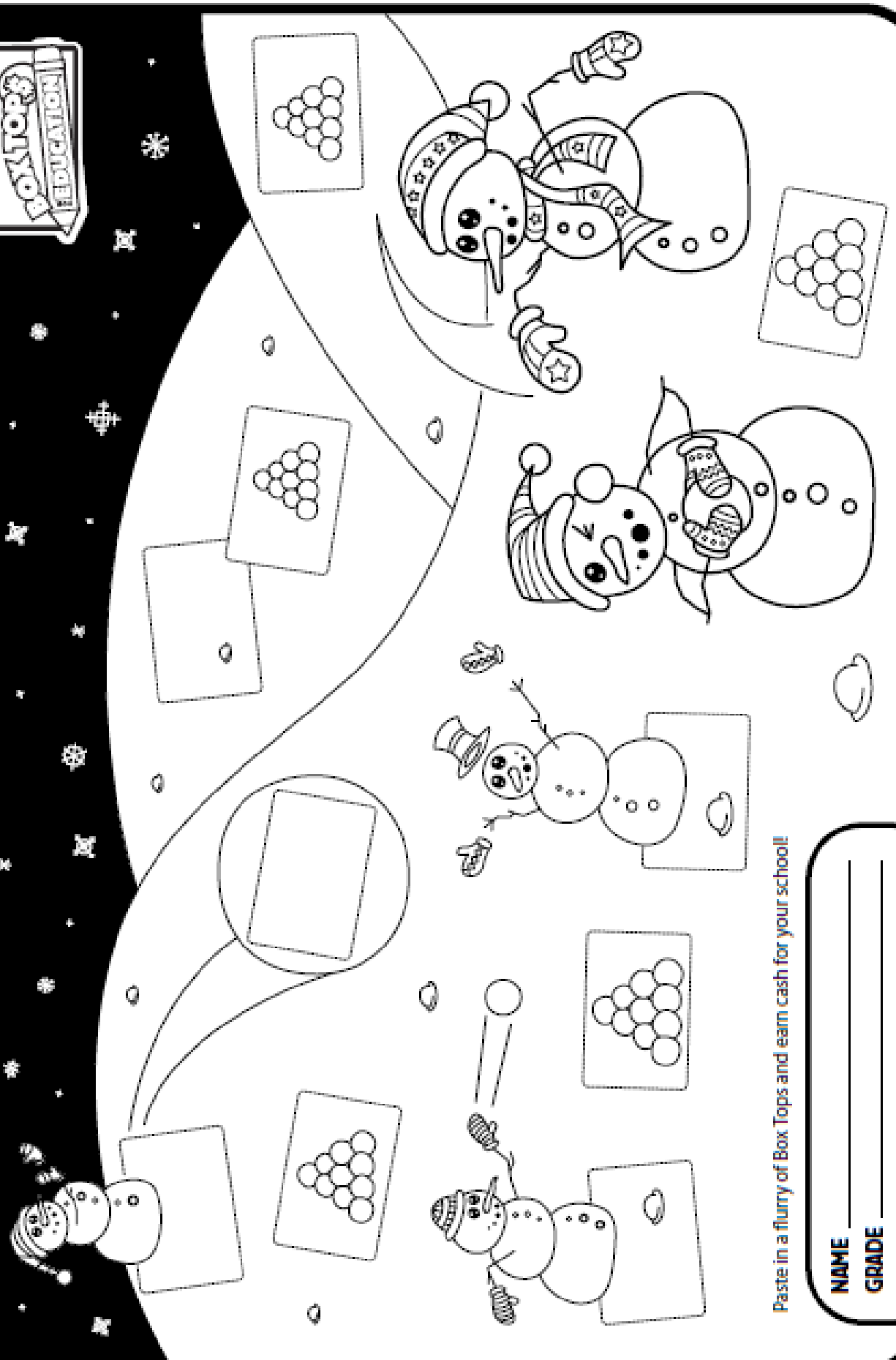
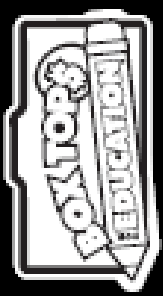
We currently have **98** members in the Gregg School PTA– we need **your** help to boost up over 100! If you would like a membership, please send in \$4.00 in an envelope labeled “PTA membership” and we will send one home! (There is a free gift with 2 paid memberships!)




PTA Food Drive

Thank you to all of the families who assisted with the annual PTA Fall Food Drive to benefit the Salvation Army. We collected almost 600 items to donate. Mrs. Keeler’s first grade received Honorable Mention with 80 boxes of Macaroni and Cheese and Mrs. Hale’s third grade class donated 145 cans of soup! Here they are with some of them!

HOORAY FOR SNOW DAYS!



Paste in a flurry of Box Tops and earn cash for your school!

NAME _____

GRADE _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____