

Gator Gazette

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

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2012



PTA President's Message

It's been a strange winter so far, hasn't it? I wish it would either finally just snow, or get warm—really, anything but this warm one week, freezing the next.

Oh well—we are still having fun at Gregg School! We hosted our 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner the last Friday of January. We had a great turn out. Thank you to all the staff and parents that helped, and to the Gregg Student Council. Having all of you involved is what really makes this event successful.

Coming up in February we will be doing pre-sale on tickets for the Applebee's Pancake Breakfast scheduled for March 25. On March 18, we will host Alligator Idol which is a fun talent show the kids put on at West High. Please keep an eye out for notes coming home this month for these events. Also keep sending in your box tops and your pop can tabs to help the kids reach their goals.

Our 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, please bring them with you. We have child care available.

Hope to see you at the meeting!

Stacy Banas, President

Principal's Post

Dear families,

We did it! We just passed the mid-way point of the school year and believe it or not, the third marking period is upon us. By now, you have obviously noticed the pace, workload and expectations continue to increase in all classrooms and at every level. We have assessed many of our students on their growth in reading and math, we continue to expect gains. The most noticeable improvements are made by those who are working hard not only at school, but who are also consistently reading. Students who read their WEB books outside of school are making gains as shown on the assessments we give. We attribute a big portion of our students' success to our leveled "take home" reading program. How is your child doing with this nightly expectation? Are you seeing/hearing their progress? Are you personally a part of this process in your child's daily school life? We appreciate everyone's efforts who contribute to this awesome feat of extra daily reading!

One of the topics you may hear discussed by educators is how well children are able to focus on the instructional tasks at school. Parents see this as they work with or observe their children complete daily homework assignments at home. Each day, students are asked to sustain their attention on matters that require concentration and take genuine effort in order to be successful. This occurs in all areas- reading, writing, math, handwriting- everything. A thought that we keep in the back of our heads is that the NYS Testing program has created assessments that range in length from 45 minutes to 70 minutes (with a short break) for third- eighth graders in ELA and Math. It is important to understand that children can improve their ability to attend with practice, feedback, and assistance. Some of our CPP assessments allow them periodic test sessions that are about 45 minutes in length, which provides them an opportunity to work for a longer duration to get an idea of how to plan and use their time efficiently under less rigorous testing conditions. Ask your 2nd- 5th grader how they think they do, what tips they use to try to keep their attention on their work, and if they are able to complete the assignment, finish early, or if they leave questions unanswered because they run out of time. Just talking about it and hearing how you work through the challenge of paying attention to the job assigned can help them learn tips they perhaps have never considered.

There are so many wonderful things going on in your child's classroom and I hope you have a chance to hear about them each day. Your students feel very lucky to be a student here and I share their commitment to this great school!

Wishing you the best,

Ann Collins, Principal



February dates to remember

February 17 & 20
NO SCHOOL

February 22
David Catrow visit

February 23
Box Tops contest deadline

February 29
3rd Grade Family Fitness Night

News From the Library

Author/Illustrator David Catrow to Visit!

Prepared to be amazed, entertained and inspired! Coming to our library in February is author and illustrator David Catrow. He will be visiting Hugh Gregg Elementary on Wednesday, February 22nd, and he will meet with all of our students throughout the day.

David Catrow is the author of the funny and easy-to-read children's series called Max Spaniel. Imagine a dog that is as cute as he is funny – going on dinosaur hunts and making pizzas to serve a crowd! Mr. Catrow's books include Max Spaniel: Dinosaur Hunt, Funny Lunch and Best in Show.

Mr. Catrow lives in Ohio and works as an author, political cartoonist, illustrator and professional painter. He has been illustrating children's books for many years, collaborating with some of the most famous authors around! He has illustrated over 60 books – including favorites like Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon, I Ain't Gonna Paint No More, I Like Myself!, Smelly Locker, and many others!

Mr. Catrow's unique illustrations and sense of humor color all of his work. There's no doubt that Mr. Catrow's work will bring chuckles, smiles and laughing out loud to all of our students at Hugh Gregg.

Check out the David Catrow Book Order Form to order a book to be signed by the author. These books will be signed and will come home with your child on the day of the visit.

You are welcome to order from an alternate site and send the book in to be signed. Please label the book with your child's name, grade and teacher. It would be helpful to have the book turned in the week PRIOR to Mr. Catrow's visit. This will keep us organized and efficient in the signing.

Library Volunteer Needed!

Do you love the smell of brand new books? Does your heart race when you see books on a shelf, just waiting to be read? You may be the perfect person to volunteer to help in our school library. The Gregg School library needs a person who would be willing to come in and re-shelve books and help with other library-related tasks. If you have some time to dedicate to this task, just drop Mrs. Robarge a quick email at robarge@cppmail.com.

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

Gator Band News

Congratulations to the following 5th grade students who have completed book 1 and are now in the book 2 club:

Alexis Woodcock, Jaren Brewer and Jordan Haggard.

Congratulations to **Nick Burdick, Seth Grotenthaler** and **Saege Holleran!** They are the first 4th grade instrumentalists to complete the lessons required to play in the 4th and 5th grade band! Many more will be joining them soon. Keep up the great work!

Box Tops Update

Our current contest will run until Thursday, February 23rd. All of the money collected will be used to purchase new equipment for the outdoor recess cart!



Clip and send in your Box Tops so we can purchase new balls, jump ropes and other fun outdoor equipment! **Thank you for your support!**

THANK YOU to everyone who made the 4th annual SPAGHETTI DINNER a success!

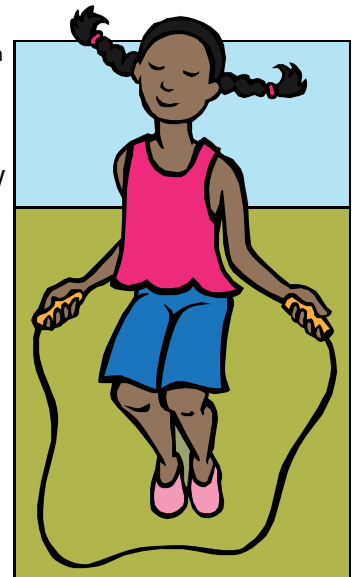


PE NEWS

In the month of February, students in grades K-2 will be participating in the following units: Basketball and Parachute activities. Grades 3-5 will be in a Games Unit: they will have the opportunity to play Crazy Ball, Castle Ball and Lummi Ball (games I have created and tried to perfect over the years) and they will also play Tchoukball (a Handball type of game played with rebounders/throw back nets).

Intramural Update: The morning Swim Program was held during much of January. The week before and after the Swim Program was the Dodge Ball and Mat Ball session. Floor Hockey intramurals will begin on February 6th, a schedule will soon follow for those that sign up.

Gregg School will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart for the 8th year in a row. This is a fund raiser for the American Heart Association. Heart disease and stroke are America's No. 1 and 3 causes of death. Heart disease effects all ages and everyone has or will know someone affected by this disease. Our goal is to raise \$1500 or more. If we can reach this goal, Gregg School will be awarded a **\$100 gift certificate from US Games**. This certificate would go towards enhancing the PE program. The informative packet will go home the first week of March and needs to be returned no later than March 30, 2012. Students and classes will have the opportunity to earn extra incentives.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

3rd Grade Fitness Night

Friday, March 30, 2012

Jump Rope for Heart

envelopes due

Special JRFH Event for all participants

Keep wearing and bringing sneakers on PE days!!!

Don't forget that means every day for all of you 2nd graders (PE4Life).

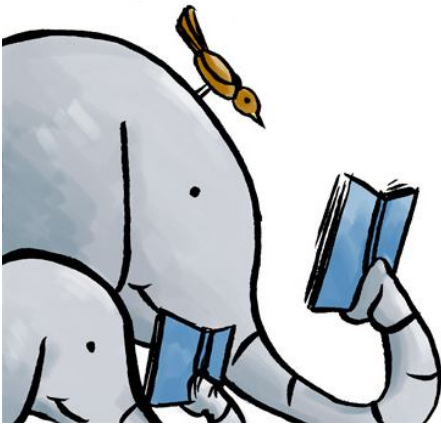
Thank you,

Mr. Wert

PE Teacher



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



Parent tips for raising strong readers and writers

Growing readers!

Brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado and LD OnLine

How to Read Nonfiction Text

Kids love to read about real people, places, and events. Nonfiction books present real information in engaging and interesting ways. However, most kids read a lot more fiction than nonfiction, so spend some extra time helping your reader learn how to navigate a nonfiction book.

Talk about nonfiction

Begin by explaining that the book you're about to share is nonfiction. That means that the book will give us information that is true. The book will be organized around a specific topic or idea, and we may learn new facts through reading. Some kids even enjoy sorting their home libraries into fiction and nonfiction books. This simple categorization task helps your child understand the difference between fiction and nonfiction.

Look at the parts

Most good nonfiction books will have helpful features that are not a part of most fiction books. These parts include a table of contents, an index, a glossary, photographs and charts with captions, and a list of sources. Share the purpose of the features with your reader.

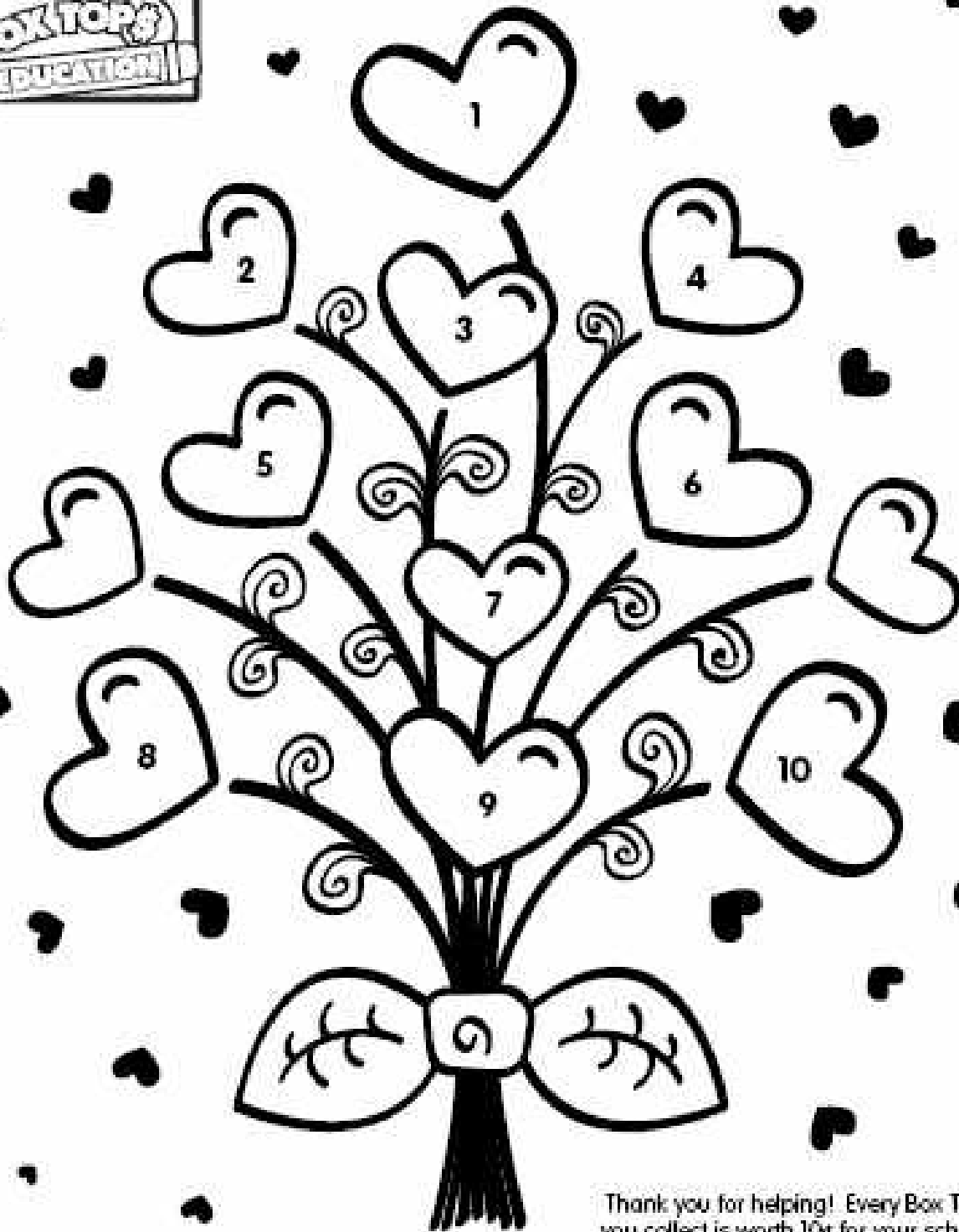
- **Table of Contents:** Located at the front of a book, the table of contents displays a list of the big ideas within the book and where to find them.
- **Index:** An index is an alphabetical list of almost everything covered within the book, with page numbers. Readers can use the index to look up specific terms or concepts and go right to the specific information they're looking for.
- **Glossary:** Located at the back of the book, a glossary contains key words that are related to the topic and their definitions. These definitions provide more information about new vocabulary words.
- **Captions:** Captions are usually right under photographs, figures, maps, and charts. Captions give a quick summary of what information is presented in the graphic.
- **Photos and Charts:** A lot of information can be found by "reading" the charts and photos found within nonfiction text. Readers will first need to figure out what information is presented. Then they'll need to discover how to navigate the information. Some charts use clear labels, others require more careful examination. Help your reader learn more about the different ways information can be displayed.

Be the reading boss

Nonfiction books do not have to be read from cover to cover. Readers can use the table of contents and index to jump right to the information they are most interested in. In that way, they are the "reading boss" of that book! However, if your reader wants to read from cover to cover, encourage him to use the table of contents to understand how the book is organized. "First we will learn about the different types of frogs. Then we'll learn where they can live, what they eat, and how they survive." Passages from the book can be re-read as often as necessary until your child understands what is written. You can refer to pictures, charts and tables over and over again as well.

As natural learners, young readers are drawn to books that give information about something or explain something they've always wondered about. With a little help and guidance about reading nonfiction, you can feel good about introducing your child to a new world of information.

Show your school you care
with a bouquet of Box Tops.



Thank you for helping! Every Box Top
you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.

Name _____
Grade _____
Teacher's Name _____

Please return by February 23!