

Gator Gazette*

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2010



PTA Co-President's Message

Thank you to all that participated in the Fall Fundraiser. We collected over \$10,000 in orders which was an impressive increase from last year's event. The school only gets a percentage of this amount and we will announce the final amount that was raised as soon as we know. We have not been notified of a delivery date yet but it should be before Thanksgiving break. The next PTA sponsored event will be Santa's Breakfast and the Secret Workshop on Saturday, December 11th. More information will be coming home when the date gets closer for volunteers.

Kathy Grottenthaler, Co-President

November

Dates:

- 1- 16 Grade 4/5 Swimming, EHS, 7 am
- 2 PTA Meeting, 6:30
- 4 Parent-Teacher Conference
- Day, dismiss at 11:15
- Daylight Savings- Turn clocks back
- 7
- 11 No School- Veteran's Day
- 12 End of Marking Period 1
- 22 Report Cards Issued
- 24 No School- Thanksgiving Break
- 25 No School- Thanksgiving Break
- 26 No School- Thanksgiving Break

Principal Post

Dear Families,

As I sit to write my "post" for the month, I have been thinking a lot about the topic of Bullying that seems to be in the news everywhere. There is so much to this topic and although I'd like to believe that Gregg School is a bully-free zone, I also know that there are situations that the adults at school are simply not aware of. Given that, I am sharing a couple important points on this topic:

Empower bystanders; this means everybody! We have let everyone know that they can make a difference and that positive change is only possible when everyone assumes responsibility for reporting bullying and supporting those who are vulnerable. We ask students to help in this important job, and view the request as a sign of respect and confidence in them. It is important that they not remain silent when they experience or observe disrespect. Staff at Gregg cares and wants to know about all bullying situations. As more bystanders come forward, the cultural norm becomes reporting (not tattling) rather than withholding.

Build community, create empathy. We believe we have established a strong community in the classroom and throughout the entire school, where bullying becomes harder to keep a secret. When students come to me or parents call me to share information about a situation, I am thankful for the help in doing my job because I need to know what is going on. Together we will work to prevent future bullying.

Talk to your children. I had a powerful conversation with my three children recently on this topic and did more listening than speaking. Although they didn't feel threatened, they each had observed situations where they could have reported what they observed but did not. They were concerned that they would be targeted. This is real for them and we need to continually help them to know how to deal with the world they live in. Thank you for your continued support!

Wishing you all the best,

Mrs. Collins

Library News Mrs. Robarge



Audio Books/Playaways:



Exciting news from the library! We are introducing audio books in the form of playaways for students in grades 3, 4 and 5! Playaways are recorded MP3 files that look and play like a MP3 player. Audio books offer students the opportunity to enjoy literature that may be beyond their reading level, or allow students to read along in the book while listening to the text.



Playaways are much more expensive than regular books. They cost between \$35-60 each. If the playaway is lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for the full value of the device. This is the reason that the permission form is required before borrowing. If you would like your child to be able to borrow playaways, you must sign and return the form included in this issue of the Gator Gazette.

Tips to help children love reading:

With young children, try to pair a book theme with a song. You can read a book with farm animals and then sing "Old MacDonald." Or read about trains and sing "I've Been Working on the Railroad." Make up your own hand motions to further extend interest in the song.

Have a family book club. Many families want to spend more time together, and they know that it is important for their kids to read... Why not combine the two? Pick out a book for all of the readers in your family, whether it's something your child is reading in school, or a popular book you'd all enjoy, and take the time to share it together.

Let your child draw while you read. This is a great tip if your child is more interested in art than reading, or gets fidgety during reading time. He/She can draw illustrations to go along with the story, or draw what he/she thinks the characters look like!

Hugh Gregg Elementary
164 Flint Avenue
Corning, NY 14830
November 1, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians of Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders:

The Gregg School Library is excited to introduce playaway audio books to our library collection. Playaways are recorded MP3 files that look and play like a MP3 player. Audio books offer students the opportunity to enjoy literature that may be beyond their reading level, or allow students to read along in the book while listening to the text. Listening to books will enhance reading skills by expanding a student's vocabulary.

Playaways are exciting devices. Students can alter the volume of the player, as well as control the speed of the recorded voice. Playaways cannot be erased, and the student's stopping point will be bookmarked until the device is reset.

Earbuds will be used for listening. Students' personal ear buds or headphones can be used (if they have them), or they can be purchased from the library for \$1.00. Ear buds will be marked for that student only. They can be kept at home, or stored in the library. They will not be shared.

Playaways are much more expensive than regular books. They cost between \$35-60 each. If the playaway is lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for the full value of the device. This is the reason that the permission form is being sent home. If you would like your child to be able to borrow playaways, you must sign and return the form.

As with library books, your child will be expected to act responsibly when using borrowed materials. Do not leave library materials in direct sunlight, in extreme heat, near pets or small children, or in wet conditions. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robin Robarge

Library Media Specialist

rrobarge@cppmail.com

I have read and agree to the conditions above. My child has permission to borrow audio books from the Hugh Gregg Library. I agree that I will be financially responsible for lost or damaged library materials and agree to pay replacement costs.

Student Name - _____

Grade - (3rd/4th/5th) _____

Teacher - _____

Date - _____

Parent/Guardian Name- _____

Contact Email - _____

Contact Phone - _____

**Book Buddies From Room 113 & 114**

Photo above: third grader Willow Jones works with her Book Buddy first grader Surav Amin.

Book Buddies by Mrs. Keeler & Mrs. Hale

Could you imagine classroom teachers actually encouraging note passing? Well that is exactly what is going on in Mrs. Keeler's and Mrs. Hale's classrooms this year! This summer both teachers attended a four day workshop on promoting positive behavior.

The outcome of that workshop is a very fun program they call Book Buddies. Each first grader from Mrs. Keeler's class has been paired up with a third grader from Mrs. Hale's class. Every Friday morning book buddies get together to celebrate their week of hard work. There is a catch though...each student's homework must have been completed for the week in order for them to participate. The good news is that most weeks there is 100% participation from both classrooms. So far book buddies have read to each other, played math games, practiced spelling words together, and have even danced a bit!

And what about the note passing? Well, the Book Buddies have become such good friends that they can often be seen passing notes or drawings to each other throughout the week. That is definitely something both teachers are thrilled about!

Photo to the right: (left to right) first grader Meagan Meeker, third grader Hayley Cornish, and first grader Avianna Peterson-Boatwright share the book All About Me.



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

Need a Coat?



We currently have coats, snow pants, vests, hoodies, gloves and hats available at our school coat bank. Please let Mrs. Wood, our school nurse or Mrs. Davis, our social worker know if you are in need of any of these items. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at Gregg at 962-1514 or dadavis@cppmail.com

Thank you, Darci Davis, School Social Worker



Hello! Just a reminder that our school participates in the *Campbell's Labels for Education Program* and it is a great way for our school to earn **FREE** merchandise. Participating in the program is easy—simply save proofs of purchase from participating Campbell products and send them to our school. Campbell's has made it easier for Gregg school to reach our collection goal with products worth 5 points. Visit labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of eligible products, point values and more information about the program.

If you have any questions or would like to help with our Labels for Education collection drive, please contact our program coordinator Sandy Flick at 973-2637 or email sjflick2004@yahoo.com.

Also, the holiday season is fast approaching and as you find yourself using more Campbell Products--remind friends and family to **SAVE THOSE UPC'S !!!**

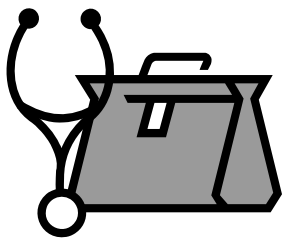
Thank you for supporting our school!





Nurse's Notes

Mrs. Wood



Attention: Regular and Special Education Students are required by state law to have a physical by their family or school physician in grades **K, 2, 4, 7, & 10.**

Elementary school physicals are scheduled with the building physician to meet the grade level requirements. Each summer, parents receive a letter with the district calendar regarding the required physical exam. Along with the letter they receive a physical form that may be completed by their own family physician to report the physical exam, if they prefer.

Our School physicals here will take place on Friday, December 3rd, 2010. The examinations will be done on those students who are in the qualifying grades AND have not had an examination already done and their physical form **TURNE**D in to the Health Office.

Please feel free to check in with me to find out the status of your child's health examinations and to see if they are current.

Until Next time.....Stay Healthy!!!!

Also.....as another reminderIf your child gets an immunization done will you please send in a copy of it on the doctor's letterhead so that I can put it into their permanent record? Remember, if you ever need a copy of their childhood immunizations, I can make you one based on those compiled throughout their elementary school years.

Gregg School's Mission



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

**Next PTA Meeting:
Tuesday, November 2
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

Congratulations to the Mercury for winning the Indoor Soccer Intramural Championship. The team players were: Lindsay Bagley, Joey DiNardo, Michael DiNardo, Amanda Flick, Jonathan Hodge, Jack Kahabka, Jacob Smith and Alexis Woodcock.

In November, students in grades K-2 will use balloons, beach balls, and play Thanksgiving Games. Students in grades 3-5 will do a volleyball unit and play Thanksgiving Games.

I have a homework assignment for each grade level to be working on throughout the school year.

- Kindergarten needs to practice their locomotor movements (skipping, galloping, sliding, jumping, hopping and running).
- Grade 1 needs to practice tying sneakers.
- Grade 2 needs to practice becoming good listeners and direction followers.
- Grade 3 – 5 need to continue working on their fitness (especially in the areas of cardiovascular endurance, upper body strength, abdominal strength, speed & agility, and flexibility).
- Grade 5 needs to continue working on their leg power (standing long jump) and speed (55 yard dash)

If a student has not yet mastered the skill(s) from the previous years, they should be continuously working in those areas, too.

Due to an unexpected change in the Elementary Swim Program the Intramural Football Session will be a little short this year. Intramural Football will be played the last week in October and then the **Swim Program for grades 4-5** will run **November 1-16 at the East High Pool**.

I will be attending the NYS AHPERD Conference in November (this is the State PE Conference). I will be presenting and attending other sessions to bring back new ideas and games that I will incorporate into our PE program.

Mr. Wert

PE Teacher



Please remember to keep wearing your sneakers on PE days!! Mr. Wert



Photo to the left:

Third grader Nicolas Burdick carefully places his freshly painted pumpkin out to dry at the Fall Festival.

Photo below:

Mrs. Keeler sits to be photographed with her former student, second grader Ryan Hughes and his brother kindergartener Brady Hughes at the PTA Fall Festival.



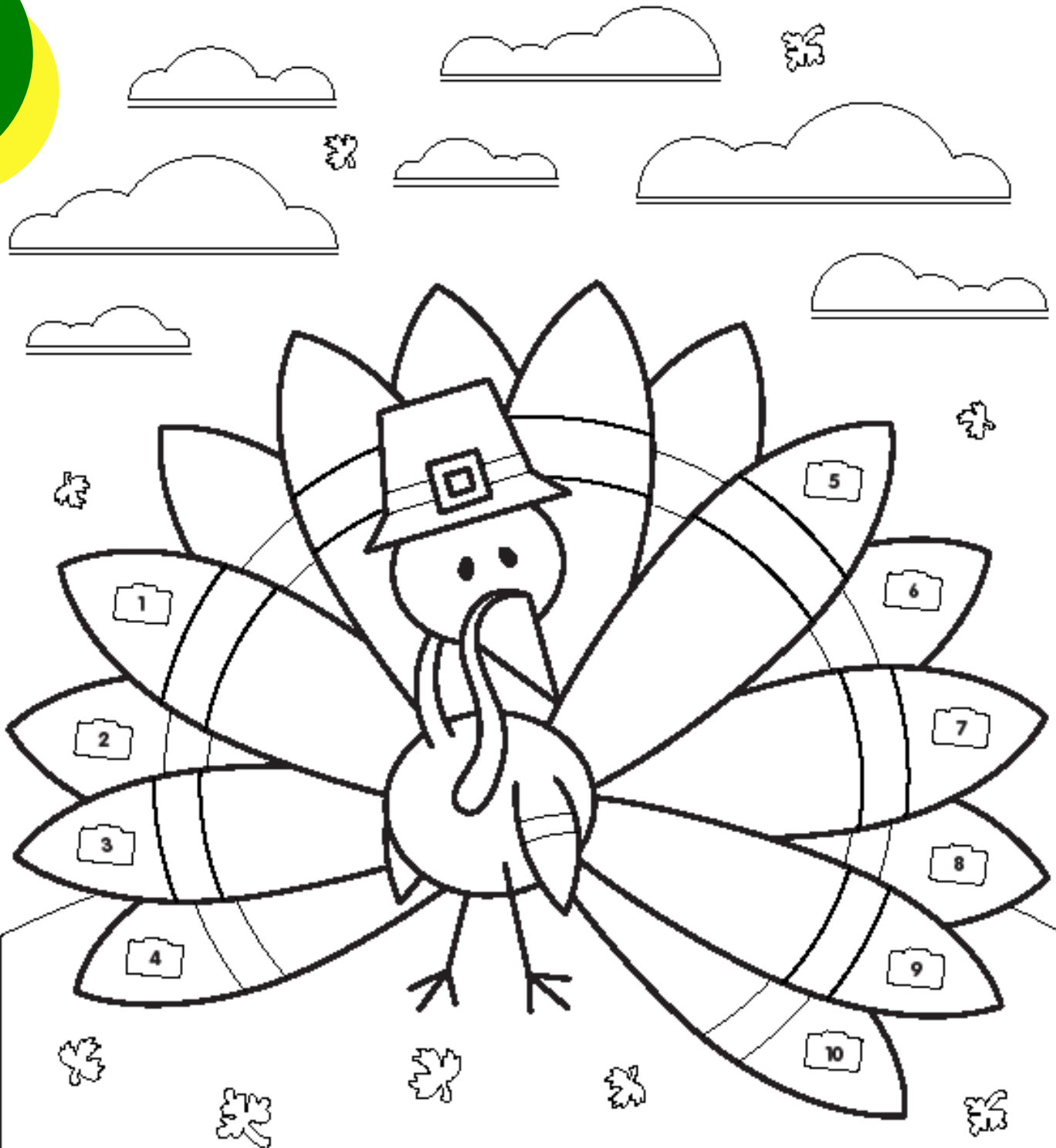
Photo to the left:

Fourth graders Jacob Serdula and Sam Dickerman enjoy a donut on a string at the PTA Fall Festival on October 22.





It's turkey time! Show your school how thankful you are with 10 Box Tops.



Name

Grade

Teacher's Name

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.
For more collection worksheets and projects, go to www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter