

Gator Gazette*

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2010



PTA President's Message

With September almost under our belts hopefully everyone has settled back into their school year routines. The PTA has already had their first meeting of the year and there were many new faces which was wonderful to see. We started to plan some of the events and gather new ideas for the school year. The next PTA sponsored school event will be the Harvest Festival on Friday October 8th, more information will be coming home as the date gets closer. You will be able to purchase your PTA membership for \$4.00 during this event and if you purchase two you will receive a small gift. By purchasing a membership you are not obligated to come to the PTA meetings, but your purchase is one way to show support to your child's school. The PTA meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 in the school's cafeteria. Hope to see you there!

Kathy Grottenthaler, Co-President.

October Dates:

- 1 Student council elections
- 5 PTA Meeting, 6:30
- 12 PTA School Mall Fundraiser kick off & Fund-raiser orders due
- 18 Picture Day
- 19 Parent-Teacher Conference Day, dismiss at 11:15
- 22 PTA Fall Festival, 6:30-7:30 pm
- 27 Parent-Teacher Conference Day, dismiss at 11:15
- 29 Wear Black & Orange

Principal Post

Dear Families,

Welcome to a new and exciting school year! Something about starting over again, purchasing the new school supplies and the anticipation of what lies ahead creates a sense of excitement for me. I have been eager to welcome our 50 new students and 11 new staff members and get started on the year. We currently have 290 students enrolled and the transitions have been smooth. I have been trying to speak with families to see how the start has gone from their perspective.

I recognize the addition of a morning and afternoon bus run has been a work in progress, yet it does seem as though things have improved over the course of the month. If you were previously accustomed to driving up Flint Avenue. at 2:35 pm, you now realize that perhaps an alternate route out is quicker and less stressful. All schools deal with the "rush" at arrival and dismissal just as we do. Our main mission is the safety of the students under the watchful eyes of caring adults. We will continue to operate in that fashion.

If there has been something troubling you about school or perhaps there is a compliment that you would like to pass along, please feel free to contact me to share your thoughts. I look forward to a learning-filled school year!

Wishing you all the best,

Mrs. Collins

Meet Our



Hello, my name is Ellen Curtis. I am a 5th grade teacher who recently transferred after 20 years from Winfield St. Elementary School. I began there as a Chapter I Reading Specialist for

three years before moving into the classroom where I taught Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 5th grade.

In my spare time, I am a proud Mom who enjoys supporting two sons, Wynn and Clayton, with their schooling and sports. My eldest, Wynn, is a sophomore at East High and is a member of the JV soccer team and also the Track team. Clayton is in the sixth grade at Northside Blodgett Middle School and also plays soccer. When I get the chance, I also love to read, watch hockey, and do scrap-booking.

I am very happy to be a new addition to the Gregg School community, and I look forward to meeting you and working with your child.

Hello, my name is Darci Davis and I am the new school social worker at Gregg Elementary School. I am so glad to be a part of this wonderful school!



I have my Master's Degree in Social Work from University of North Carolina at Greensboro and my Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Brockport. I have a solid background working with children and their families for over 10 years utilizing a strength-based approach.

I have a long list of child service agencies that I have worked for starting with Hillside Children's Center and most recently at Corning Hospital and Kent Phillips Elementary.

I am married with two fantastic children. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, reading, running, and being outside whenever possible.

Please feel free to stop by or call me with any questions and/or concerns that I can help you with. Thank you for welcoming me to your school



My name is Audrey Carr, I'm the new Resource Room Teacher here at Gregg School. Although I'm new to Gregg School I am not new to the Corning School District. For 11 years, I taught at Erwin Valley and before that at Ridge Road in Horseheads.

I love working and living in Corning. My husband, Tom and I moved here 22 years ago. All of my 3 children; Brendan, Daniel and Michelle graduated from the Corning district.

During my free time I love to read, and spend time with family and friends. Stop by room 100 to say hi. I'm very happy to be a part of Gregg School.

New Staff



My name is Angela Horton and I am a new AIS teacher at Hugh Gregg and Winfield Elementary. I have worked in the Corning-Painted Post School District for the past seven years in various teaching roles, and I also taught for two years prior to that as Resource

Room teacher in Whitesville, NY. Last year was my first year as an AIS teacher, and prior to that I served as a teacher in Grade 1 and also in a self contained classroom as a teacher of Special Education in the district. I received my bachelor's degree in elementary education as well as my master's degree in special education from Mansfield University.

I currently live in Elmira, NY with my husband, my three-year-old son, and our three dogs. As a family we love to read books and listen to music.

I will be spending my mornings at Gregg (afternoons at Winfield) and look forward to the bright and cheerful faces that greet me every day!

Hi, my name is Luann Wheaton. I have been teaching for 12 years and joined the Corning Painted Post School District 4 years ago. I live in Painted Post with my husband and enjoy many outdoor activities. We have 2 grown children and like to visit with them as often as we can. The past few weeks at Gregg Elementary school have been very busy, and I look forward to working with my first grade students for the remainder of the school year.



Hello! My name is Linda Bergstrom and I am teaching instrument lessons and band at Gregg this year. Although I'm new to Gregg school, I'm not new to the Corning-Painted Post community; I've lived here for twenty-five years and this is my 10th year teaching in Corning. I received my Bachelor's in Music Education from Mansfield University and my Master's in Music Education from Ithaca College.

Outside of school, I play the horn (my favorite instrument) in the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. I love listening to music, reading, walking, scrapbooking and spending time with my three year-old daughter, Elena, and Elena's daddy, Jim. I want to thank the Gregg students and staff for the warm welcome they have given me. I'm looking forward to a great year of music-making!

Meet Our

Hello! My name is Tiffany Caruso, and I will be teaching ESOL full-time this year at Gregg School!!! :) This is my fifth year in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District, and I was instrumental in developing the district wide ESOL program that we have today.

Before arriving in Corning, NY, I earned my Bachelor of Arts Degree in TESOL (K-12) from Carroll College in Helena, Montana, and my Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in ESOL from The School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro, Vermont. I also taught ESOL in The Indian River and Union Springs Central School Districts of New York State.

I live in Ithaca, NY with an elderly sky-diving hamster, and a baby albino parakeet. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, attending multicultural, artsy, and/or seasonal events in the Finger Lakes, serving as an "Avon Lady," and I'm also getting licensed this Fall as a manicurist (nail technician).

I look forward to working with all of you, and your English Language Learners (ELLs) this school year! If you have any questions, PLEASE feel free to contact me. I am just an e-mail, phone extension, or short walk away.



My name is Wendy Amin and I am the Consultant Co-Teacher in Mrs. Perry and Mrs. Holmes classroom. A Consultant Teacher supports the academic and social needs of students in the classroom in a variety of ways. I am thrilled to be returning to teach at Hugh Gregg elementary. This is my 11th year of teaching in the Corning Painted Post School District. I have taught grades Kindergarten through sixth grade at Hugh Gregg, William Severn Elementary and Corning Free Academy. I have always wanted to be a teacher, I used to teach the neighborhood children (and even some stuffed animals) to read on my front porch. I am also a "Gator Mom", as my eldest son is in first grade, his name is Surav. My youngest son, Rohan, is three years old, and he can't wait to come to Hugh Gregg.

Visit us on the web, including a color version of this newsletter:

<http://www.corningarea schools.com/gregg/index.htm>

New Staff

Hi! I am Tracie Orrender and I will be a school monitor at Gregg School this year. I am a life long resident of the Corning area and previously worked at Erwin Valley School for almost 11 years. I am a single mom of a 17 year old daughter, Maggie. I carry her name on a blue dog bone tag on my key chain so that she is always with me.

I come from a large family of 11 siblings and had an identical twin sister who has passed away. I love to bake. My brother Darren and I spent part of the weekend making lots of pies, coconut cream and chocolate to name a couple. Occasionally we end up in a good old fashion food fight.



Hello to everyone at Gregg School! I am Mrs. Morag Davis (my friends call me Mo). I am from Scotland and only moved to the USA 2 years ago with my husband, my son (who is 11) and our dog. Last year I was a TA in Kindergarten at Smith School and I moved to be a TA in 1st Grade at Gregg School this year. I am an Occupational Therapist (OT), actually, having gained my degree 20 years ago. I am just starting my Masters degree which will allow me to work as an OT in the USA when I finish.



I bring many years of experience in enabling people to reach their goals. In class, I am guided by the teacher as to how to deliver parts of the curriculum as needed. I also help students complete their work by repeating directions or breaking each task into steps for completion, encouraging their abilities and praising their efforts. I have some experience as a clerk so I am a dab hand at sorting, filing and stapling too! Anything to help the school day run smoothly and allow the teacher more time to teach - and give everyone a chance to have some fun.



I'm very excited to be here working with Mrs. Keeler and her first graders (and this is my first week on the job".) My name is Gina Burdick-Hagerman and I grew up in the Syracuse, NY area. I have lived in Corning for 2 years. My children are in fifth and sixth grade. Previously I have worked with children in school settings.



I am making many new friends and am happy that everyone is so helpful at Gregg School to make me feel welcome.



Nurse's Notes*Mrs. Wood*

Welcome back everyone! It's been a great beginning of a new school year. I am getting acquainted with new students' faces and although it may take me a bit longer I promise to try and learn all of your names!

Typically at this time I like to review some items of importance:

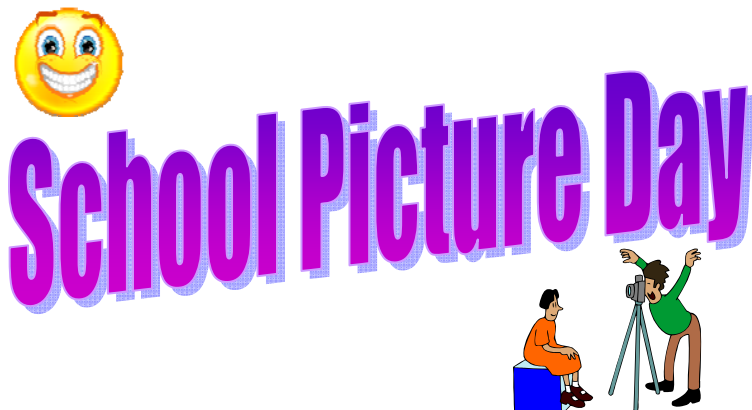
Medications: ALL medications at school must have a written doctor's order. This includes over the counter medications that you may commonly administer to your child. Please reference page 20 of the Gregg Gator Handbook.

Accidents: I make every effort to make contact with a parent if a child has been injured and it warrants a phone call. Usually you won't get a call if it's a regular "bump or fall" and your child can "tell you all about it." I also use notes as a way of sharing information with you so you may find a Nurse's Office Visit Form in your child's green folder.

Phone numbers: I can not stress the IMPORTANCE of the school having your most current and up-to-date phone number or that of a person who will act as your emergency contact. There is nothing more unsettling to your sick or injured child than to have them see that I am unable to reach you or anyone that they know in a time of emergency or illness. Please let your child's teacher or our school secretary know of any number changes as soon as they take place.

Lost & Found: There is a blue bin located outside my office that the lost items are stored. You, or your child, can look in here for anything that may not have made it home. Several times a year I will set up a table during Gregg School functions so that you can look through all of the items and see if any of them belong to someone in your family!

Finally I want you to know that I always welcome your concerns. If you ever have questions, suggestions, or need to let me know of a health issue that is taking place with your child-please contact me (962-1514). Making your student feel safe and comfortable is my number one priority!



Be sure to mark your calendars— our school picture day is MONDAY— October 18th and the schedule starts at 8:30 am!

ART UPDATE

We are off to a wonderful start this year in art class and have jumped right into creating, imagining, and inventing in art.

Kindergarten and **First grade** students will be creating illustrations with an underwater theme. Students will explore texture painting and collage to make beautiful illustrations based on the book *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni.

Second grade students are imaging their own fantasy creatures in art class. We read the poem *Night of the Gargoyles* by Eve Bunting and now will be sculpting clay gargoyle sculptures.

Third grade students will be studying world cultures in art throughout the year; the first country we are learning about is Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. We are looking at wildlife on the Galapagos Island and creating texture and camouflage on lizards in our first project using color mixing and blending.

Fourth grade students have Zuni Fetishes out of clay and Native American drums and shakers throughout the month of October.

Fifth grade students are exploring illustrations in art class by creating their own graphic novels based on the book *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. The students will be writing and illustrating their own story that will be bound at the end of the unit.

I am excited about the amount of talent we have here at Gregg School and I know it is going to be a fabulous year.

~ Mrs. Wukovitz

Physical Education News

Welcome back to Gregg School. We have our new kindergarten students and some new students who were not at Gregg School last year. We welcome you, too.

I look forward to another fun and exciting year in Physical Education. Students in grades K-2 have been playing tag games and working with yarn balls and bean bags. Students in grades 3-5 have done their soccer unit. They have learned about positions, skills, and rules of the game.

In October, students in grades K-2 will be using scooters, soccer balls, and a fall favorite "Halloween Games." Grades 3-5 will do a football unit and Halloween Games.

We kicked off the Intramural Program on September 20th. Students in grades 4-5 are currently participating in the indoor soccer session. Here is a list of possible sessions to come during the school year: project adventure, handball, mat ball, dodge ball, basketball, floor hockey, softball, flag football, volleyball, gymnastics, lacrosse, pickle ball, and speedball, outdoor games, fitness, scooter games, bowling, Frisbee games, and tchoukball.

Upcoming Events in October include:

- Walk to School Day (October 6)
- Exercise US (October 7) which is similar to Project ACES



In October and November, I am looking forward to going to conferences to present and bring back new games and ideas!

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

PTA Fall Fundraiser

The Holiday Catalog – Very Special Assortment—has been selected for this year’s only Gregg School PTA fundraiser. It is sure to once again be our most successful PTA fundraising effort as we earn a 45% profit on all the items sold!!

Profits raised from this sale will help purchase technology items for our school and fund assemblies and other PTA-sponsored events throughout the year. Catalogs and order sheets were sent home on Friday, September 24. Orders are due back to school on **Tuesday, October 12**. Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts!

If you have any questions about this sale, please call either of the PTA fundraiser chairpersons listed below:

Darcie Hughes – 962-1861

Heather Krauss – 654-1606



Next PTA Meeting:

Tuesday, October 5 at 6:30 pm

Join us!

The PTA is collecting Box Tops for Education again this year! Please send them in to your classroom. More details about this program will be shared as the year progresses



Gregg School's Mission



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

Fall Festival

Don't forget to join us on Friday, October 22 for our annual Fall Festival at Gregg School! The event will run from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm. There will be games, pumpkin painting, and face painting set up in the gymnasium and refreshments will be available in the cafeteria. This is such a fun way for students and families to celebrate the season. We hope to see you there!



~Thank you!

The PTA

