

Gator Gazette*

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2011



PTA Co-President's Message



Hi, I'm Stacy Banas, the PTA's other Co-President, and I will be keeping you up to date on all that PTA has planned for the second half of the year. In January we had our 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner, the kids always enjoy having their teachers serve them their dinner. Thank you to all of those who helped out, Gregg teachers, staff, parents, and Gregg student council. Without all of you this event wouldn't run as smoothly as it does. As we were unable to do the Applebee's Flapjack breakfast we have been looking for something else to do in February, we have a few fun things in mind so keep your eyes open for a flyer home. March 20th will be Alligator Idol, so start practicing your talents, and keep looking out for information that will be going home soon. We have also set a date for the Blacktop Carnival it will be held on June 3rd. PTA meetings are open to all Gregg school parents, they are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at 6:30pm at Gregg school. If you think you can't come because you don't have anyone to watch your children, bring them with you we have child care available. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Stacy Banas, Co-President



February Dates

1 PTA Meeting,
6:30

Spirit Day-
4 Jersey Day

Report Cards
8 Distributed

No School-
18 Winter Break

No School-
21 Winter Break

No School-
22 Winter Break

Principal Post

Dear Families,

We did it! We just passed the mid-way point of the school year and now the third quarter is upon us. By now, you have obviously noticed the pace, workload and expectations have increased in all classrooms and at every level. We have assessed many of our students on their growth in reading and math and 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 their WEB books outside of school and completing assignments. We attribute a big portion of our students' success to our leveled "take home" reading program. How is your child doing with expectation? Are you seeing/hearing their progress? Are you personally a part of this process in your child's daily school life?

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,

Mrs. Ann Collins

Library News Mrs. Robarge

From the Library – For Parents:

Are your children starting to ask questions about the birds and the bees...and developing bodies? Whether their questions make you blush, or you just need a resource with age-appropriate illustrations, our library has expanded its collection to help you out. The following books are available **to parents** to help you explain and clarify when your kids ask questions. The books use clear and straightforward language to give children information on body development and human reproduction. Take a look at the following titles. A more detailed description of each book can be emailed to you or sent home upon request.

The books will not be available to students – only to parents who request that they be sent home. Please send an email or note to Mrs. Robarge or your child's teacher and we will send the book home to you in your child's bag, or make arrangements for you to pick it up at school. (robarge@cppmail.com) Make sure you read the book(s) in its entirety to decide what to share with your child.

It's Not the Stork: A Book about Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families, and Friends – by Robie H. Harris, illus. by Michael Emberley
Kindergarten-Grade 3

It's So Amazing! A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families – by Robie H. Harris, illus. by Michael Emberley
Grade 2-Grade 4

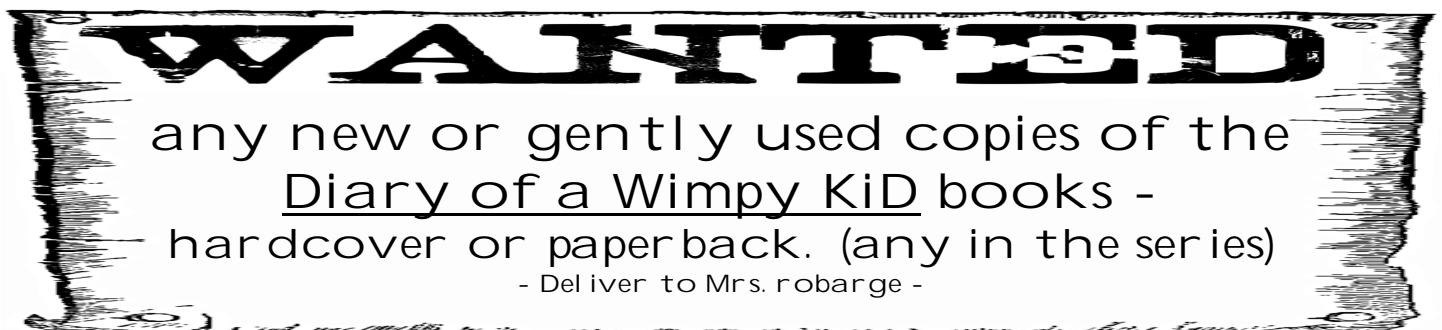
It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health – by Robie H. Harris, illus. by Michael Emberley
Grades 5-9

Growing Up- It's a Girl Thing: Straight Talk About First Bras, First Periods, and Your Changing Body – by Mavis Jukes
Grades 4-8

The Boy's Body Book – by Kelli Dunham, illus. by Steve Bjorkman
Grades 4-8

On Your Mark, Get Set, Grow! A "What's Happening to My Body?" Book for Younger Boys – by Lynda Madaras, illus. by Paul Gilligan
Grades 4-6

The Body Book for Boys: Everything You Need to Know About Growing Up – by Jonathan Mar and Grace Norwich
Grades 5-8



Nurses Notes

Once again as February rolls around I would like to remind you that it is National Dental month. Here at Gregg school we had a very special school wide presentation. Andrea, a dental hygienist, spoke to all the children about good dental care. She reviewed dental health as well as proper brushing and flossing with the children.



She does an excellent job with this –make sure to ask your student some questions about it!

Also, as part of this program she will give out applications for children to receive cleanings/screenings.

Make sure to look for this upcoming information in you child's folder!

Tooth Brushing Tips



- Make sure that toothbrushes are the proper size, small and soft bristled.
- Replace a toothbrush when it becomes worn, after serious illness, infection, or strep throat. Generally your toothbrush should be replaced every 2-3 months.
- Spend at least 2 minutes brushing twice a day.
- Use only a pea-sized amount of tooth paste, and rinse once done brushing.
- Rinse with mouthwash that contains fluoride for additional protection.
- If you can't brush after a eating, rinse with water.
- Children involved in sports should wear mouth protection.

tection.

- By the time a child reaches 8 years of age they should be able to brush teeth on their own.
- Lastly, and probably most importantly, **NEVER** scare or threaten your child with a visit to the dentist!

Until next time.....STAY HEALTHY!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mrs. Wood

FEBRUARY ART News

Mrs. Wukovitz

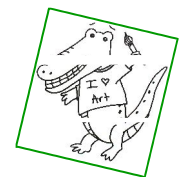


This month we will be highlighting the work of primary grade students in **Kindergarten** through **Second Grade**. **Kindergarten** students just finished creating torn paper expressive collages in art class. The students tore colored construction paper to make a collage of their faces expressing an emotion. Then we added black paint to recycled materials to add texture and designs. We also talked about how artists can make things that are abstract, or that do not look like they do in real life. The featured Kindergarten artwork is by **Maddie Dening** and **Brady Hughes**.

First grade students just finished creating pinch pots. Pictures of **Surav Amin, Tyler Dixon, and Meghan Sturdevant's** pinch pots are included. First grade students have now started studying Chinese New Year in art class. In 2011, Chinese New Year is celebrated on February 3rd. The students experimented with different painting techniques including calligraphy brush painting, stamping, and paint blowing to make fireworks and Cherry Blossom trees that are associated with Chinese New Year and the winter months.



Second grade students looked at the painting *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold. We also read the book *Tar Beach* and *Cassie's Word Quilt*, which are available at the Gregg School Library. The students then created a cityscape collage based on Ringgold's work with a border made out of fabric squares to resemble a quilt. Lastly, the students created a "flying" self portrait in their collage to represent reaching for their dreams. We also listen to the song *Anyone Can Fly* composed by Faith Ringgold. Attached are pictures of the *Tar Beach* Collages by **Ryan Hughes** and **Jaden Hurley**. To lead into Martin Luther King Day, we read the book *My Dream of Martin Luther King* by Faith Ringgold. The students then created a wax resist painting of a dream they have. We assembled all of the pictures together to make a class quilt in the style of Faith Ringgold.



Valentine's Day is coming up! If you are looking for a family project to do at home for, go to my website to find directions for two Valentine's Day projects that you can do with your family. There are also coloring pages by artist Keith Haring that have a Valentine's Day theme. To access Mrs. Wukovitz's Online Art Room please go to <http://tinyurl.com/greggschoolart>. Or you can find the website by going to the Gregg School website and go under "Staff". There you will find a "Staff Web Sites" link that lists all of the school's teacher web sites. At the bottom, you will find Mrs. Wukovitz's Online Art Room.

Physical Education News



In the month of February, students in **grades K-2** will be participating in the following units: Hula Hoops, Jump Ropes and Parachute play. **Grades 3-5** will be finishing Floor Hockey and then they will begin Game Play. This will include: Castle Ball, Crazy Ball, and Handball/Speedball.

Gregg School will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart for the 7th 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 **\$500 gift certificate from US Games**. This certificate would go towards enhancing the PE program. The informative packet will go home the first week of February and needs to be returned no later than February 28, 2011. Students and classes will have the opportunity to earn extra incentives.

I would also like to Welcome Mr. Boor to Gregg School. Mr. Boor is our Student-Teacher from SUNY Cortland. He will be with us until March 18th. Mr. Boor is from Elmira and graduated from Elmira Southside, where he played on the Soccer and Ice Hockey Teams. He also, played Rugby at SUNY Cortland.

Keep wearing and bringing sneakers on PE days!!!

Thank you,
Mr. Wert



Next PTA Meeting:

Tuesday, February 1 at 6:30 pm

Join us! Childcare available.



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

http://www.corningarea_schools.com/gregg/index.htm

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

GREGG SCHOOL PTA Is Raising Funds While Saving The Environment



- **It's Fun**
- **It's Easy**
- **It Helps the Environment**

Recycle Your Empty Inkjet Cartridges & Old Cell Phones



Drop Yours Off Today!

**We receive funds from Planet Green for every
Inkjet Cartridge and Cell Phone recycled!**

This means less landfill and a cleaner environment!



Send items in to school to our collection containers.



Lost & Found



Our lost and found is bursting with coats, clothing, hats, and gloves to the degree that it is time to clear it out!

There are tables set up with the items organized in the hallway by the cafeteria.

If your child has misplaced an article of clothing or coat, please stop by the school to check it out. Any remaining items left by February 4th will be given to the Salvation Army or the district's Coat Bank.

Fill 'er Up!

Gator Student Council reminds everyone to send in their (pop) can tabs. If we reach our school-wide goal (filling this trash can), Mrs. Collins will have a challenge that has been narrowed down to:

- Mrs. Collins buys everyone in schools a piece gum and we chew it on the same day
- Mrs. Collins is in a dunking booth
- Mrs. Collins cannot talk for one whole day!
- Mrs. Collins has to dress like a 10-year old girl (with neon green nail polish) and carry Hughey all day AND eat a pie in front of the school blindfolded without using her hands.

Won't you help Gregg School meet their goal?



*Keep
Saving
your Box
Tops for
Education!*

Gregg School's Mission



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

Bundle Up and Stay Warm!

