

Gator Gazette*

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 6

MARCH 2011



PTA Co-President's Message



Wow February always seems to fly by doesn't it? Unfortunately due to the weather, last month's PTA meeting was canceled. But that doesn't mean things still aren't going on!

Alligator Idol flyers went home and we are very excited to see the students come out and show us their talent on Sunday, March 20th. PTA meetings are open to all Gregg School parents/guardians. They are held on the 1st 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 as we have child care available. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Many thanks to those families who supported PTA at the Pasta Dinner in January! It was a great success and everyone in attendance had a great meal and a fun time!

Stacy Banas, Co-President

March Dates

- 1 PTA Meeting, 6:30
- 10 P-T Conference Half Day, 11:30
- 14 World's Fair
- 15 Kindergarten Registration
- Kindergarten
- 16 Registration P-T Conference Half Day, 11:30
- 17 Kindergarten Registration
- 20 Alligator Idol, 1:00
- 22 P-T Conference Half Day, 11:30
- 25 JRFH \$ due,

Principal Post



Dear Families,

It is now March and spring is just around the corner, right? The school year continues to move quickly as special milestones have passed us by! Valentine's Day, the 100th Day of School and Winter Break are all just memories of the 2010-11 school year.

State assessments for grades 3, 4, and 5 will be administered the weeks of May 3rd - 6th (ELA) and May 10th—13th (Math). We ask you to preserve these dates to allow students the best test taking experience with their classmates.

We have had a large interest in Alligator Idol this year. It will be held on Sunday, March 20th! Each year the event is so special and we are fortunate that the PTA continues to offer this opportunity for our students. I am looking forward to how the event spotlights our students and look forward to seeing what is in store for this year's show! Even if you do not have a child participating, please plan to attend, I guarantee that you will have a great time!

Don't miss out on our "School Spirit Fridays" every week in March! Send your children off in their Green Gator-wear or simply green attire- on Fridays and also on March 17th!

I wish you all a wonderful transition from winter to spring and all of the optimism that exists during this time of year! I look forward to the continuation of an incredible school year in partnership with you!

Wishing you the best, Mrs. Ann Collins



Pictured above with their Sea Monkeys from left: **William** and **Keaton Edwards**, **Hodrin Kamnang**, **Umer** and **Noah Khan**, and **Akiha** and **Yuto Tagawa**.

Sea Monkey Science

The Gregg School ESOL Students plunged headfirst into a watery writing adventure this month! Acting as "Sea Monkey Scientists in Training," they had the exciting opportunity to hatch their very own class sea monkeys (brine shrimp). They are currently doing daily observations of the creatures, and are recording their findings and discoveries in official sea monkey logs. Once they have completed their research, the students will be awarded honorary diplomas from The Crustacean College of Sea Monkey Knowledge.

Special Effects in Fifth Grade

Over the past two weeks, fifth grade students in Mrs. Curtis's and Mrs. Scouten's classes put their creative minds to work crafting dioramas. We read the story **Special Effects in Film and Television**, which gave the students an idea of what film artists go through when developing a scene to be filmed for a motion picture. As a culmination of our Scott Foresman Unit 3 theme of "**Artists and Inventors**", students were asked to create a diorama of a scene from a book they had read and enjoyed. This scene is one they thought might make a good movie, but hadn't been made into one yet. Students were then asked to present their dioramas to the class and answer questions about the book, scene, and materials they used. They did a FANTASTIC job! We believe we have some fledgling film artists on our hands!



Photographed: **Top:** Scene from "The Seekers", book 3 Created by **Kate Mertus**
Bottom: Scene from "Warriors" Created by **Dominic Hauptman**



Photographed at the PTA Pasta Dinner: Left: First Graders **Kyal Banas** and **Brady Smithman**, Middle: Brothers Kindergartener **Brady** and First Grader **Ryan Hughes**, Right: Staff on the serving line.

Nurses Notes

Attention Parents of 5th Graders!!!



Please note that your child will need an update on their immunizations. This is required by New York State for entrance into 6th grade. A letter with more details will be coming home within the next month, please look for it.



Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or the Health Office of the school they will be entering.

Until next time.....STAY HEALTHY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Mrs. Wood



Anti-Bullying Assembly Comes to Gregg School

On February 11, the Academic Entertainment Company shared a 50 minute presentation that was both fun and educational on the topic of bullying. Our students were involved in identifying bullying behavior and what can be done to eliminate it from our school.

Photographed above: kindergarten **Faith Skowvron** as our hero!

Third Grade World's Fair

It's almost time again for the annual Gregg School World's Fair! This year Mr. Nichols' and Mrs. Hale's **third grade students** have been busy becoming ambassadors to Antarctica, Germany, Panama, India, New York City, and South Africa. **On March 14th** the third graders will welcome Gregg School students, staff, and families to its fourth annual culture fair. Third graders have spent much of the year so far learning about different cultures and how they are represented through food, dance, music, traditions and holidays, just to name a few. They have chosen one of their favorite cultural aspects to become experts on and will share all they've learned with parents and students. During the day, classrooms will be invited to join us in the gym where they will participate in activities related to each country. We will continue the activities during the evening from 6:00-7:00 for parents and families. The third graders are very excited to show off all they've learned this year, so please join us if you can!



Photographed at last year's World's Fair are Fourth Graders **Jordan Haggard** and **Gabe Kio**.

March ART News



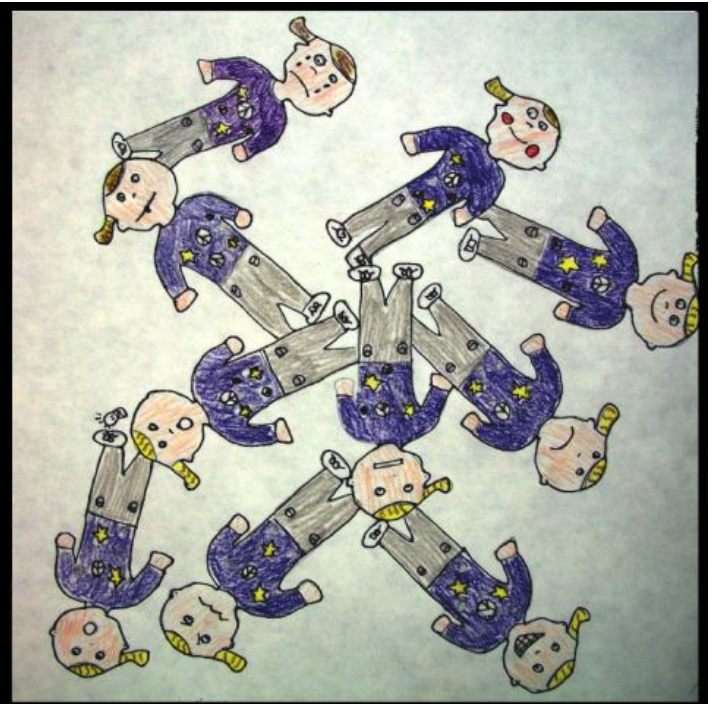
Mrs. Wukovitz

March is **Youth Art Month** and to celebrate The Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes will have student artwork on display in community businesses throughout Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben County. **Maddie Dening, Bryn Terwilliger, Connor Marciniak, Sladen Cobb, Alexis Woodcock, and Mikayla Callahan** will have artwork on display representing Gregg School. Please congratulate these students on their hard work! Below is a Negative Space Snowflake by **Mikayla Callahan** and Anime Self-Portrait by **Sladen Cobb**.

This month, **Fifth grade** students are learning to sew and making their own Ugly Dolls. Each Ugly Doll has its own personality created by the students. Then we made a sketch of what each Ugly Doll will look like. Now the students are sewing away using socks as their base and adding things like felt, buttons, beads, and fabric scraps to give their Ugly Doll character.

Fourth grade students are studying the abstract art of Bridget Riley and Op Art. Students are creating optical illusion type designs using complimentary colors to "trick the eye". For an Op Art project you can do at home, go to the Art Website and try out the SWING! Project.

Third Grade students are working on art from around the world. We just finished studying Germany and creating Rose Windows based on stained glass windows in Medieval Cathedrals. Next we are learning about India and traditional muggu and rangoli designs. We are also exploring the art of henna and how the symmetrical designs are created using basic Indian symbols.



Mikayla Callahan's Negative Space Snowflake

Sladen Cobb's Anime Self-Portrait

Physical Education News



Please remember to keep wearing your sneakers on PE days!!!

PE classes in the month of March:

Mr. Boor, our Student Teacher, will be finishing up the Handball/Speedball unit with grades 3-5 and the K-2 classes will be finishing Parachute activities.

The rest of the month will consist of two handball type games called, "Lummi Ball" and "Tchoukball." We will also play Multi-Cultural games the week of the World Fair and finish the month off with a Bowling unit.

In Intramurals, 4th and 5th grade students will be doing Floor Hockey and will probably do Handball and/or Speedball-type games prior to the Spring Recess. Students interested in the next activity will have an opportunity to sign-up and then a schedule will be provided for those participating.

JRFH UPDATE



The Jump Rope for Heart fund raiser for the American Heart Association has begun. The packet was sent home after the Snow Days. Due to the delayed start, the deadline to return money has been extended. The due date for all money raised is **March 25th**. Heart disease and stroke are America's number 1 and 3 causes of death. Heart disease affects all ages and everyone has or will have someone they care about affected by this disease. Our goal is to raise \$1500 or more. If we reach that goal, Gregg School will be awarded a \$500 gift certificate from US Games. This gift certificate would be used to enhance our PE program. Students and classes will have the opportunity to earn extra incentives.

If your child needs another form, they can get it from me or call the school and let me know and I will get them another one. On Monday, February 14th the Gregg School Staff had a Salad and Dessert Bar that raised \$131 towards the American Heart Association in support of Go Red for Women.

There has been a special Jump Rope for Heart date scheduled for those who participate. It will be held Friday, March 25th at Gregg School in the gymnasium. In order to participate the permission slip attached to the envelope and/or money needs to be turned in. This event will begin at 2:30 and end at 3:30.

Mr. Wert

Next PTA Meeting:

Tuesday, March 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>



How to Read a Report Card

In a typical school year, report cards come home every nine weeks or so. The purpose of report cards is to communicate about a child's progress across subject areas. Most report cards also include a Work Habits, Social Skills, or similar section.

Some kids, especially those having difficulty in school, dread report card time. Here are some suggestions for making report card time a little less scary and a little more productive.

- Become familiar with the grading system in your district and at your grade. Many schools use a different report card for K-2 than they use for 3-5. Are letter grades used? A numerical score from 1-3? Other letters such as O, G, S, N?
- Make sure you understand the different competencies on the report card. Many use vague descriptors such as "Uses time constructively." If something is not clear to you, ask your child's teacher.
- As you look at your child's report card, RESIST THE IMPULSE to jump directly to an area with a lower score. Find an area with a good grade or score and focus on that first. "You did a great job in ____! You must be so proud of all your hard work."
- Once you've focused on the positive, talk about areas in which your child's grade was lower. "Tell me how things have been going in science lately." Start a safe, open dialogue with your child about the difficulty he or she might be having with the subject matter.
- Together, develop strategies to help in subject areas that are difficult for your child. Is there a textbook that needs to come home more frequently? Is there a website that can help with math fact drills? If you're not sure how to best help your child, call the teacher to set up a conference.
- Last, let your child know that s/he is more than just a report card. Remind him/her of all the things that make him/her special and important in your family. Too much of a focus on grades can only increase the amount of stress your child feels.

Report cards should not contain any huge surprises about how your child is doing. Most teachers work to talk with parents if a child is having particular difficulty, whether it's through interims or informal phone calls. If that is not the case with your child and his report card, call the teacher to talk about that. An open, ongoing conversation is the best way to manage everyone's expectations.



If you have an address or phone number change



Please notify the school of any changes in contact information. In the event of an emergency, we MUST have a way to contact you!

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.



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2011

It's that time of year again! Time to shine and show your talents at the annual Gregg School "Alligator Idol" Variety Show!

Please join us on Sunday, March 20th at 1pm to watch our students SHINE!

2/17 – Registration Forms Due!

3/4 – Screening Date!
Gregg School 3-5pm
All acts must attend and be registered.

3/18 – Dress Rehearsal!
Gregg School 5pm
All acts must have been registered and screened.

3/20 – Show Time! 1pm



Gregg School's Got Talent!

Trying to "Balance Our Day" by Mrs. Keeler

Help us get the wiggles out! We need the freedom to move, yet we also need to focus and perform well in school. Sitting on exercise stability balls has been tried and tested in our classroom - the only problem is that we do not have enough for everyone.

Through the wonderful website www.donorschoose.org we have requested 12 exercise stability balls that will replace some chairs we sit in. It can be very difficult for a child to sit still and attend to tasks. We have been experimenting with the use of an exercise ball to see what effects it has on a child's ability to attend and focus. I have been absolutely amazed! Their attention to tasks has improved tremendously while sitting on an exercise ball. They are taking in so much more and making sense of so many concepts. When our bodies are engaged so are our minds!

This project is so important to my students and I. It will give so many children the chance to reach their potential by increasing their time on tasks. First grade is a very important year - many of the skills needed to be a successful student are learned in first grade. I want to give my students every chance possible to be successful.

Please visit www.donorschoose.org to learn more. Feel free to pass this on to any friends or relatives that would like to help. Thank you for your support.

