

Gresham Arthur Academy Teacher's Corner

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New Things Happening In Kindergarten

"Nine-tenths of education is encouragement."

-Anatole France

"Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is."

-Vince Lombardi

Kindergarten families, I hope the first week of the big change went smoothly for your kiddo. I'm having a great time getting to know your child. Many of you already know me but I'd like to give a brief overview of who I am.

I earned my Masters from the University of Oregon. I was a substitute teacher in Eugene for a year, taught middle school one year and then joined Arthur Academy. My seven year old, Marcus, goes to the Reynold's Arthur Academy, and my 15 month old, Autzen, is in daycare close by.

I was the temporary school manager and kindergarten teacher last year for the second half of the year. For the beginning of this year I taught third grade. One of my main reasons for loving this new position is because I get to know every child in the school as apposed to just my class. My second reason is because I love the little guys!!

Changes that you will see in the kindergarten classroom include:

- Orange home folders: these will come home everyday. There is a keep and a return side. Please be sure to check this folder everyday and return any items the following day.

- Purple work folders: Students will have this folder on their desks every morning with starred work, fix-ups and unfinished work.
- New desk arrangement,
- Homework: Each reading group will bring home either a list of words or a short story. This is the story/words that were read during reading group. Please have your student sound out the word and then read it the "fast way". Have your student read it several times, sign it and put it in the return side of the Home Folder.
- Starred Work: Any work that we are done with at school will have a star at the top. If you find work without a star please send it back.
- Math and Reading groups will be rearranged to better accommodate all of our learners.
- Birthday celebrations will be held on a different day each month. I choose the day that is closest to all the birthday kids. I will always contact the birthday families to let you know the plan.

Contact Your Teacher

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Jump On Into 1st Grade

We are learning so much in first grade! The group of 24 students knows what it means to work hard and to feel proud of their accomplishments. They have received many compliments on how they walk in line, work quietly and use their manners in the lunchroom. I am very proud of them!

We will be having our Valentines Day Party on Friday, February 13th. It will take place during the last half hour of the school day. I will provide a treat and drink for every student. We will play some games and earlier in the day will have a craft. Your child is invited to bring Valentines for their classmates. Please make sure that they bring one for every student so we do not have any hurt feelings. I sent a letter home regarding our party including a class list. If you did not receive this, please let me know.

At the end of January, Ms. Thomas and I assessed our reading groups and made some changes. We realized that we had two groups at the same place in Reading Mastery II, (our Blue and Green group) so we decided to combine those groups and create a new group: the Teal group. Ms. Thomas teaches this group. I used to teach the Red group in the morning, and now I am teaching their group in the afternoon while Ms. Thomas teaches the Teal group. This made room for a new group, the Gold group, to have their reading group time in the

morning with me. I have not moved any students down a reading group. I simply rearranged the groups so that I am able to accommodate more students. Here are the groups:

Gold Group-Reading Mastery I, Lesson 120 :

Red Group- Reading Mastery II, Lesson

Teal Group-Reading Mastery II, Lesson 94:

I have appreciated the volunteers I have had this year. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know. I am currently looking for help with copying/pulling papers for me for various subjects. This could be once every other week for a few hours in the office. Thank you!

As for my maternity leave I plan to continue working until Spring Break (beginning March 21). This would make my last day the 20th of March. If for some reason I cannot work that long, you will be notified. As soon as we finalize the details of my replacement you will also be notified. Thank you for all your support and understanding!

Thank you for making this a wonderful year!



Catch Up With The 2nd Graders

Hi Second Grade Parents! We've been having a great time in Second Grade! We're wrapping up our study of Ancient Greece, and will soon be talking about Black History (February is Black History Month) and Life Cycles. I have very much enjoyed the moral dilemma exercises we have been doing on Fridays. We sit on the carpet and go through the scenarios together, and it's so interesting to hear all of their points of view. They are a very well spoken group! I hope that you have enjoyed discussing these issues with your student at home as much as I have in the classroom. My math group has now mastered carrying and has moved on to borrowing. In addition, these amazing kids can count by 9's! Ask them to do it for you-they're amazing!

Ms. Stoltz's math group is cruising along continuing to work on telling time, carrying, borrowing, multiplication, and some introductory algebra skills. These kids have some serious enthusiasm for math! All the reading groups are doing excellent-it truly amazes me what great readers these kids are. They all seem genuinely excited about reading. Continue to encourage your

child to read at home, and read to your child. If you ever want suggestions for books, ask me, I love children's literature!

We have a new school mascot-Roary the Lion. On Monday mornings I put the names into a hat of all the kids who turned in their homework every day for the previous week and draw 5. Each child whose name is selected gets to sit on the carpet with Roary for one day during silent reading time. So far the kids seem to like it!

We are looking forward to our class Valentines Party. It will take place on Friday, February 13th, and I will provide a small snack & we will also do an art project. If your child wants to bring Valentines for classmates you may send them on Friday & we'll hand them out throughout the day. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me! I love talking to you!

Ms. Standley

Meet The New Addition To Our Staff

. Hello friends and family of GAA! Thank you to everyone who has already welcomed me into the Gresham Arthur Academy! I have found many helping hands and warm smiles that have made this quick transition feel very smooth. I look forward to meeting all of you!

For those of you who have not yet met me, my name is Chrissy Hoeksema, the new Third Grade teacher. I am originally from Hartland, Wisconsin, but have spent the last 4 years attending Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I earned two Bachelor degrees in both Elementary Education and Spanish, and completed my student teaching semester in a dual-language immersion school. On 08-08-08, I married my husband, Nate, a college-mate that stole my heart three years earlier. The following day, we packed everything we

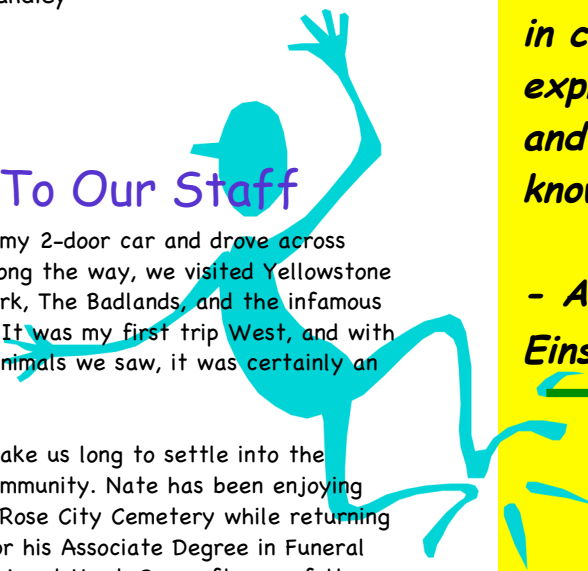
owned into my 2-door car and drove across country. Along the way, we visited Yellowstone National Park, The Badlands, and the infamous Wall Drug. It was my first trip West, and with all of the animals we saw, it was certainly an adventure.

It did not take us long to settle into the Gresham community. Nate has been enjoying working at Rose City Cemetery while returning to school for his Associate Degree in Funeral Service at Mount Hood. Soon after we felt settled, I was surprised with a new addition to our family, an adorable Black Lab puppy named Lucy. Together, the three of us have begun exploring the greater metro-Portland area and all of the beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

I am enthusiastic about jumping into this school year. I can already see that these children are exceptional, and I know it will be a wonderful rest of the year.

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

- Albert Einstein



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Rockin' With The 4th Graders

Lions

Just a little reminder that your student has just begun the OAKS state writing test and we will continue through next week as well. Please reiterate to them just how important it is for them to put in 4th grade effort and to be very careful editors of their own work. I know that encouragement can make a big difference. Wish us luck! ☺
These kids are busy readers! Ms. Brown's Decoding group is progressing while working with her twice daily on guided and independent work.

Some of my kids have jumped to the yellow group next door, which means a new book for them. Congratulations, yellow group! I'm proud of your accomplishments.

The blue group has also hopped up to a new book, which I know we are all excited about. The new book comes with the same expectations for careful independent work. I know you will give it your best.

As for the groups in my room, my Dogs group is reading about Al & Angela's many adventures around the solar system and inside the human body while learning new vocabulary and we are nearly at the end of the book. One thing that some of us need to focus on is the importance of our daily work.

The Wolves group is just beginning to read about Greek gods and goddesses. In fact, they have a poster project due on Wednesday that they will share with the group. Each person has been assigned a different deity and we are excited about this unit! Oh, and congratulations again--all Wolves received an "A" on our last test.

For math, Ms. Brown is working with her two groups on learning about fractions, estimation and division. Doing flashcards at home for +, -, / and x will continue to be crucial.

The kids in Ms. Stoltz's group are getting close to finishing the book they're in and are consistently doing well with more multiplication and division, as well as more complex number families.

My group just passed a Cume test based on problems from the past 60 lessons. We are getting into 3-digit multiplication, longer division and problems with whole numbers and fractions.

Parents, please know that no matter what the math group, flashcards are SO necessary. Thanks for your help with this! In other news, we have recently done a unit on measurement for Core and will be starting a new unit on African Kingdoms. We are also entering a Scholastic Books contest in which each student has written a letter to the new president with questions and advice. Because February is also American Heart Month, we may do some healthy heart activities as well. Speaking of hearts, we will have a Valentine's party on Friday the 13th. I will send a class list home so that every child receives a Valentine if you and your family decide to do them. If you would like to send something else in the way of a treat, please e-mail me at truaxjl@hotmail.com so that I can keep track of who would like to do what, avoid duplicates, etc. Lastly, I love having your kids. They make my job so worthwhile☺. One thing that you can help with is reminding the kids that as 4th graders, they need to remember their responsibilities regarding homework, behavior and daily effort. Thank you, as always, for your support. Happy February!

A Little Extra.....

- Valentine's Day Parties are on Friday, February 13th check with your teacher for more information.
 - No School for President's Day Monday, February 16th, 2009
 - Please remember to bring appropriate clothes for the weather.
- Please remember to stay up to date on your lunch accounts, we don't want anyone to get behind.