

The Gustafson Gazette

Dr. Jan Wright, Principal

Karine Picchietti, PTO President

From the Principal



Alice Gustafson
S C H O O L

February 2012 ♦ Volume 1, Issue 6

Dear AGS Families,

I am happy to announce that Alice Gustafson School has, for the second year in a row, been awarded the Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education. Schools are given this award based on the following criteria:

- Schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in 2010 and 2011 as required by No Child Left Behind.
- In schools serving grades 8 and below, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for the three most recent school years.

In 2011, 96% of Alice Gustafson third, fourth, and fifth graders met or exceeded state standards in mathematics and 91% in reading. I am very proud of the hard work of our teachers and the excellent performance of our students.

— Principal Jan Wright



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Raffle Baskets

It is **YOUR** donations that will make this year's Fun Fair Classroom Baskets

"out of this world"! We still need many items to fill up these baskets! Can we count on YOU?

Don't have time to shop? Let us take the work out of it for you! Any monetary donation is wonderful, just place it in an envelope marked "classroom basket donation" and have your child give it to his/her teacher. A list of classroom basket themes can be found [here](#). Donations are due by February 10th. Thanks!

Questions? Contact Heidi or Christy heidi.pryor@sap.com chotham@comcast.net.

From the PTO The Results Are In!

Parents, you asked for it, and the AGS PTO is working hard to fulfill that request—**for increased technology in the classroom!** Stay tuned for exciting announcements in the near future, and thank you to everyone who participated in the recent survey!

AGS Feb Book Club

It's time to think about what book to read in February!

K-3 students will meet Thursday, 2/16 8:15-8:45 am in the LRC and 4th/5th GRADERS will meet on Friday, 2/17 8:15-8:45 am with Mrs. Woodruff in her room. PLEASE SIGN UP SOON.

K-3 books need to be checked out at the Batavia Public Library. 4th/5th grade readers need to check out ONE HANDED CATCH from the LRC or Batavia Public Library.

Following are the book choices for each grade this month. As always, we love our parent volunteers and would like to have some more! If you would like to help out, indicate in your email when signing up your child.

Kindergarten: CAPS FOR SALE, A TALE OF A PEDDLER, SOME MONKEYS AND THEIR MONKEY BUSINESS

by Esphyr Slobodkina A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree.

(Book Club listings continued on next page...)

Gator Gold Orders

are due on Monday. They can be sent in to school or emailed to tdnelson5@sbcglobal.net. **Gator Gold** is a gift card program for major merchants in our area (and on the internet) including restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, hotels and other retailers. The AGS PTO purchases these gift cards at a discount and sells them at face value. The difference is the PTO's revenue. This fundraiser costs you nothing more than you would already be spending at places like Jewel, Meijer, Woodman's, Panera, Starbucks and Kohl's, and many other restaurants and retailers. Order form [here](#).

Daddio's Diner Fundraiser!

Calling all AGS families! Don't forget that the **AGS Daddio's Diner fundraiser begins on February 7** and goes through **Friday, February 10**. Support your school and enjoy a meal at Daddio's Diner! Details on last page.

Year-at-a-Glance

Click [here](#) for our handy Year-at-a-Glance calendar to give you an idea of what is on tap for the upcoming academic year. Dates will be added as the year progresses—be sure to keep checking our website for updates!

(Book Club listings continued)

1st Grade: *DIGGING FOR DINOSAURS* by Judy Waite: *Dan would rather dig up a T-Rex than visit one in a museum. But he finds an exciting mystery in the museum one day.* Ages 4-8

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A biography about the civil rights leader.

2nd Grade:

DID YOU INVENT THE PHONE ALONE ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL? by Melvin Berger and Gilda Berger: Alexander Graham Bell's life as inventor, scientist and teacher is clearly told in a question-and-answer format, and complemented by a mix of photographs and illustrations. We learn not only how the telephone was invented and the mechanics behind its use, but how Bell's personal history, such as his mother being deaf, led to his interest in discovering alternate modes of communication. Ages 4-8

GREAT MIGRATIONS: ELEPHANTS by Elizabeth Carney

Many kinds of animals make annual migrations, and their stories reveal incredible strength and will to survive. These treks are magnificently documented in this children's illustrated companion to the upcoming seven-hour National Geographic television special of the same name.

3rd Grade:

HONUS AND ME by Dan Gutman

Joe Shutman finds the most valuable baseball card in the world, and he begins a time-travel adventure with Honus Wagner.

GERONIMO STILTON: FABUMOUSE SCHOOL ADVENTURE by Geronimo Stilton

When my nephew, Benjamin, invited me to Career Day at his school, things did not turn out the way I expected. I caused a volcanic explosion, got tangled in the tunnel slide on the playground, and accidentally let the class's pet gecko out of its cage! Rat munching rattlesnakes—how was I going to get myself out of this mess?

4th/5th Grade:

ONE HANDED CATCH by Mary Jane Auch

After losing his hand in an accident in his father's butcher shop in 1946, sixth-grader Norman uses hard work and humor to learn to live with his disability and to succeed at baseball, art and other activities.

Call for Auction and Raffle Donations!

The **2012 Fun Fair: Gators in Space** committee is looking for auction and raffle donations! **Donation forms [here](#) and on p.8**. Consider printing out a few to drop off at your favorite businesses, restaurants, events, etc.

For items you would like to donate, please include the donation form with your donation(s) and send to the school at the address below by February 10, 2012.

The committee would be happy to arrange to pick up your donation; contact Dana at 630-761-1365 or dana.andrews@sbcglobal.net.

Feel like you've been lost in the black hole of winter?

BLAST OUT of the blues at the
AGS Fun Fair 2012
Gators in Space!
New Games! New Prizes!



Don't miss it: Friday, March 2, 5-8pm

Enjoy an "out of this world" economical family night out with activities including:

- **NEW and DIFFERENT games** – You don't want to miss the Meteor Shower and a chance to give a teacher a galactic space shower. Try out other new games: Pluto Plinko, Alien Operation, Cosmic Bowling, Inter Galactic Space Spin, Astronaut Floor Hockey and MORE! Check out the Planetary Rock Climb/Slide inflatable and the Moon Jump along with the always popular Asteroid Cake Walk and Rocket Launch Soda Walk.
- **Shuttle passes** are used for each game. Pre-purchase or buy at the door. \$5 (for a 20 punch card). All games one punch; inflatables just two punches.
- **50/50 raffle tickets** – Win an iPad2 with accessories, a chance for your child to be AGS Principal for a morning, 4 one day Disney park hopper passes, a chance to throw out the first pitch at the AGS summer Kane County Cougars game, a 3 month Delnor fitness membership, Brookfield Zoo / museum / theater passes and much more! Purchase tickets on-site for \$1 each or six for \$5.
- **Themed baskets** – Generous donations from local merchants / organizations plus AGS and ECC families will be displayed on stage in the Chinese Raffle. Purchase tickets on-site for \$2 each.
- **Enticing cuisine fit for an astronaut** - Orbit Dogs, Planetary Pizza, Cotton Constellation Candy, Solar Slushies, Big Dipper Nachos and more. Tickets for food can be pre-purchased this year!

Credit card payments will be accepted throughout the Fun Fair. **AVOID THE LINES BY PRE-PURCHASING TICKETS.** Packets will be sent home in February with a form to pre-purchase shuttle passes, raffle tickets and food tickets. Tickets will also be pre-sold from 3-4pm in the main lobby during the week of Feb. 27.

The PTO Space Station needs plenty of volunteers to make this event an out of this world success. Please contact Cathy Dremel thedremels@comcast.net or Jill Stevens jhrstevens@gmail.com.

The annual Fun Fair is planned and conducted by the school's PTO and is one of its biggest fundraisers. Profits benefit the students by providing classroom and curriculum support, enrichment opportunities and funds for special purchases.

Visit us on Facebook!

Target Supports Education

Did you know that if you shop at Target and have a RED card, Target donates 1% of your purchase price to AGS, not to mention YOU get a 5% discount? And, you can choose to get either a credit card or a debit card? It's easy, and it's a win/win—go to www.target.com and click on RED CARD at the top of the menu. Select "Take Charge of Education" and follow the prompts. Pick AGS (school code 45152) as your school and voila, you are all set up.

Two Hours Can Make a Difference

As little as two hours of your time can make a huge impact in your child's educational experience. There are many volunteer opportunities available this year—please take a moment to see how you can help out. Volunteer forms can be downloaded from http://www.agspto.org/upload/generic_volunteer_form.pdf

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Did you know that you can bring your empty ink and toner cartridges to the AGS office? This ongoing recycling program benefits the school, so bring in those empties!



Follow us on Facebook!

Did you know that the AGS PTO is on Facebook? Simply search "Alice Gustafson Elementary School PTO" and "LIKE" it to be instantly connected.

Gators in Space

Enjoy an "out of this world" economical family night out at the AGS Fun Fair's Gators in Space on March 2 with activities including:

- **NEW and DIFFERENT games**—You don't want to miss the Meteor Shower and a chance to give a teacher a galactic space shower. Try out other new games: Pluto Plinko, Alien Operation, Cosmic Bowling, Inter Galactic Space Spin, Astronaut Floor Hockey and MORE! Check out the Planetary Rock Climb/Slide inflatable and the Moon Jump, along with the always popular Asteroid Cake Walk and Rocket Launch Soda Walk.
- **Shuttle passes** are used for each game. Pre-purchase or buy at the door. \$5 (for a 20 punch card). All games one punch; inflatables just two punches.
- **50/50 raffle tickets**—Win an iPad2 with accessories, a chance for your child to be AGS Principal for a morning, 4 one-day Disney Park Hopper passes, a chance to throw out the first pitch at the AGS summer Kane County Cougars game, a 3-month Delnor fitness membership, Brookfield Zoo/museum/ theater passes and much more! Purchase tickets on-site for \$1 each, or six for \$5.
- **Themed baskets**—Generous donations from local merchants/organizations, plus AGS and EC families, will be displayed on stage in the Chinese Raffle. Purchase tickets on-site for \$2 each.
- **Enticing cuisine fit for an astronaut**—Rocket Dogs, Planetary Pizza, Nebula Nachos, Intergalactic Ices, Space Pop Rocks, Meteorite Bites, Moon Pies, Solar Soda, and more. Tickets for food can be pre-purchased this year!

Credit card payments will be accepted throughout the Fun Fair. **AVOID THE LINES BY PRE-PURCHASING TICKETS.** Packets will be sent home in February with a form to pre-purchase shuttle passes, raffle tickets and food tickets. Tickets will also be pre-sold from 3-4 pm in the main lobby during the week of February 2nd.

Math in the Mornings!

Sunshine Math, an enrichment math program for grades K-5, for all students who enjoy doing math, solving puzzles and being challenged, will meet Mondays:

◆ February 13 ◆ March 12 ◆ April 16 ◆ May 14 ◆

This program encourages creative and independent thinking as well as team problem-solving. The program is offered at AGS as a before-school activity, and there is NO cost to participate in this program as the PTO provides funding for supplies and our students' parents/grandparents generously volunteer their time to teach the sessions. Registration form available [here](#).

TWO parent/grandparent volunteers are needed for each grade to facilitate the classroom in a fun, engaging manner and help children work through their worksheet. Materials are provided, all you need to do is commit to simply showing up by 8:10 am once a month and engaging the children in exciting grade-appropriate math fun for 30 minutes. Registration form available here. For information, contact Angela Nugent Rudny at angela@jrudny.com.

Spotlight on Kindergarten



The 100th Day of School: The Kindergarten classrooms are getting excited for the 100th Day of School! Our classrooms have been keeping track of the number of days we have been in school and can't wait to put the number 100 on our number lines. The 100th Day of School is scheduled to arrive on February 8th.

The 100th day is a big celebration for us and a day full of fun and learning. Each child will be creating their own 100th day project at home using 100 somethings: 100 goldfish in a fish bowl, 100 sugar cubes to make an igloo, or 100 gumballs on a gumball machine. The possibilities are endless and the creativity always amazes us!

We also put a strong focus on math for the 100th day. The students will take 100 steps around the building and see where they end up. They will put objects into groups of ten and count by tens to 100. We will brainstorm what we would do with \$100 and we will count by

1's, 5's, and 10's to 100.

We can't wait to celebrate 100 days of learning!

Learning Through Music and Movement: Have you ever had a silly song stuck in your head or found yourself singing a catchy tune from a commercial? Even when we don't try to memorize a song, we often find ourselves singing the words. That is because music enhances the learning process. In fact, the more sensory processes that are involved in learning something, the better the rate of retention. Multisensory approaches are beneficial to learning because numerous pathways in the brain are involved in getting the information to "stick." In kindergarten, we use a multisensory approach to learning many different concepts. For example, we sing the days of the week to help us remember their order, or we add movement and rhythm to our counting.

One area where we have utilized many approaches to help us learn is with our sight words. As a sight word is introduced, the students learn a song to help them remember not only the word, but also the spelling of the word. Movement is also incorporated as the students learn actions to go along with the songs. A poster, showing the word, the song, and a picture, aids the students in making a visual connection to the new word. So, instead of just "seeing" the newly introduced word, the students are actively engaged in learning the new word through both music and movement. It is not uncommon to hear the children singing the songs throughout the day, especially if they come across a sight word in a book. The brain. What a great way to learn and have fun at the same time!



Election Week in the LRC by Tamra Ashby



Did you know every year is an election year in the LRC? That's because our school participates in three different state programs that allow students to vote for their favorite books. Voting takes place in February, and while we are gearing up for our Election Week in the LRC I wanted to provide families information about these various programs and what you can do to make sure your child is eligible to vote.

The Monarch Award is the program for students in grades K-3. All students become eligible to participate in this program through their regularly scheduled LRC visits. Because students must have read at least five of the twenty nominated titles to be qualified to vote on their class' election day these books become my read aloud selections for students. The books nominated for this year's award include a graphic novel, a poetry book, several non-fiction books and several fun story books. You can find a list of the books nominated for this year's award on the Find a Book Section of the LRC website.

The Bluestem Award is the program for students in grades 3-5. Because the books nominated for this award are so much longer, I am not able to read many of them aloud during a class' LRC time. Therefore students are on their own to qualify to vote. They must read (or have read to them) at least four of the nominated titles. Each year in September I begin introducing the books to the students. We keep the nominated titles on a special shelf in the LRC so that they are easy for students to find. While some of the books nominated for this year's award are picture books, there are also many novels. A complete list of the nominated titles can be found on the Find a Book Section of the LRC website.

The Caudill Award is the program for students in grades 4-8. Again, because of the length of these books, students are on their own to qualify to vote by reading at least three of the nominated titles. Introductions to the year's nominees are always part of my September library lessons. The books are kept on a special shelf in the LRC so that they are easy for students to find. A complete list of the nominated titles can be found on the Find a Book Section of the LRC website.

All three of these programs provide a wonderful vehicle for introducing students to a wide variety of literature. Students often are drawn to new or different genres because of a book's inclusion in one of these programs. The Bluestem and Caudill programs also provide students with a quick selection of titles to check out from the LRC. If choosing a book from an entire library is overwhelming then the twenty titles nominated for each award provide a much smaller selection of good material from which to choose.

If you are the parent of an AGS 3-5th grader please ask your child if they are qualified to vote in either the Blue Stem or Caudill election this year. If they are not there is still time to qualify to read. The books are easy to find in the LRC and at the Batavia Public Library. If you are the parent of an AGS K-3 grader please ask your child which of the Monarch books is his or her favorite so far. Voting will take place at the end of February. **Thanks for all you do to encourage reading!**

Author Steven Layne to Visit AGS Thursday, February 9th

Dr. Steven Layne, author of "Igniting the Passion for Reading", will visit AGS Thursday, February 9th. Dr. Layne has written 24 books, among them "Love the Baby", "Share with Brother", "Stay with Sister" (coming out in February), "My Brother Dan's Delicious", and "This Side of Paradise" (suggested for 5th grade and up). Students in grades K-2 will enjoy a presentation in gymnasium at 9:10 and 3-5th grades will hear a presentation at 10:10.

10:04 PM
01/23/12
Accrual Basis

Alice Gustafson PTO
Profit & Loss
December 30, 2011 through January 23, 2012

	<u>Dec 30, '11 - Jan 23, 12</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Fun Fair	-850.00
General Mills Box Tops	1,356.20
Miscellaneous Income	30.00
Total Income	<u>536.20</u>
Expense	
Curriculum	
Field Trip Transportation	430.62
Assemblies	262.50
Total Curriculum	<u>693.12</u>
Total Expense	<u>693.12</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-156.92</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-156.92</u></u>

March Market Day

March Orders will be accepted at the school until **Wednesday, February 29**, or place your online order by Saturday, March 3, 11 pm at www.marketday.com.

March Market Day pick-up is Wednesday, March 7, 3:45-4:45 at AGS.

March Specials

- **FREE 1 lb. Pork Tenderloin** with \$90 online purchase when you enter promo code: **MARBONUS** at checkout.
- New Customers save \$5 on your online purchase \$25 or more at www.marketday.com. Enter promo code NEWFIVE at checkout.

Dessert Bonus Days

The more desserts purchased, the more AGS can earn. This is a great time to purchase holiday desserts. Enjoy bakery quality and taste, perfect to dress up any springtime gathering!

Spring Frequent Buyer-Free Cooler Tote: Make two purchases of \$40 between February and April. Then place a third order of \$40 in May to receive a FREE Cooler Tote at your May sale pick-up. Insulated, Zipper Closure, Reinforced Handle, Large Tapered Shape: 22"wx11"hx10"d, Great for the pool, beach or picnics!



Alice Gustafson School (AGS) "Gators in Space" Fun Fair Raffle/Auction *Donation Form*

Company or Family Name: _____

Contact Name: _____ Contact #: _____

Address: _____

Donation:

_____ Sponsor a Fun Fair Game

Please circle amount of Sponsorship: \$30 , \$40 , \$50 , other: _____
(please make check payable to AGS PTO)

_____ Contribute a Raffle or Auction Item (purchased with funds by an AGS Committee Member)

Note Amount : _____ (please make check payable to AGS PTO)

_____ Donate an item, tickets or certificate to be offered in Raffle or Silent Auction

Item(s) Donated : _____

Thank you in advance
for your consideration and your generosity to
donate to this event.

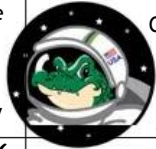
Please include this form with your donation and send to the school
at the address below by February 10, 2012.

I would also be happy to arrange to pick up your donation.

I can be reached at (630) 761-1365 or dana.andrews@sbcglobal.net

Alice Gustafson School PTO
Attention: Dana Andrews
905 Carlisle Road, Batavia, Illinois 60510

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
			1 Tae Kwon Do 3:45-4:30pm	2	3 2 nd Grade Field Trip: McAninch Arts Center @College of DuPage	4
5	6 Gator Gold Orders Due Mutual Ground Parent Presentation AGS LRC 7pm	7 Choir 3:30-4:30pm PTO Board Meeting 6:30pm	8 Tae Kwon Do 3:45-4:30pm Market Day Pick-up 3:45 in east lobby	9 Author Steven Layne visits AGS 9:10a K-2 assembly 10:10a 3-5 assembly	10 Student Council 8:00 am Classroom RAFFLE BASKET Items are Due!	11
12	13 Sunshine Math 8:15-8:45am PTO Board Meeting 6:30pm	14 1S & 1Mi Field Trip: DuPage Children's Museum Choir 3:30-4:30pm	15 1Ma Field Trip DuPage Children's Museum Tae Kwon Do 3:45-4:30pm	16 Book Club (K-3) 8:15-8:45 LRC	17 Half Day NOON DISMISSAL NO AM Walking Club Book Club (4 th /5 th) 8:15-8:45 Mrs. Woodruff's Room	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL President's Day	21 Winter Walking Club 8-8:45am Choir 3:30-4:30pm	22 Tae Kwon Do 3:45-4:30pm	23 Got Photos from school events? If so, email them (to Caroline in the ofc) for use in the yearbook <u>by</u> <u>tomorrow</u> .	24 Six Flags Reading Logs DUE Student Council 8:00am Winter Walking Club 8-8:45am	25
26	27 1 st & 4 th Mutual Ground Presentations Winter Walking Club Begins 3:45-4:30pm	28 Winter Walking Club 8-8:45am Choir 3:30-4:30pm	29 Winter Walking Club 8-8:45am Choir 3:30-4:30pm	1	2 NO SCHOOL Institute Day See you tonight! "Gators in Space" FUN FAIR! 4-5pm EC Quiet Hour 5-8pm Fun Fair	3



Mark your calendars for 2012 AGS performances in the new Batavia Fine Arts Centre (BFAC):
 Saturday, March 10th @ 9:50 AM: Elementary Chorus Festival (4th-5th Choir) @ @ BFAC
 Thursday, May 3rd @ 7:00 PM: Rock and Roll Musical Revue* (any interested 3rd-5th grader) @ @ BFAC
 (DRESS REHEARSAL* for Revue on TUESDAY, MAY 1st @ 4:00-6:30) @ BFAC

Together: Building a foundation for Achievement, Growth and Success!

Mark your calendars for 2012 AGS performances in the new Batavia Fine Arts Centre (BFAC):
 *Tuesday, January 31st @ 7:00 PM: Hawaiian Concert (1st-2nd grade, 4th-5th Choir) @ BFAC
 Saturday, March 10th @ 9:50 AM: Elementary Chorus Festival (4th-5th Choir) @ @ BFAC
 Thursday, May 3rd @ 7:00 PM: Rock and Roll Musical Revue* (any interested 3rd-5th grader) @ @ BFAC
 (DRESS REHEARSAL* for Revue on TUESDAY, MAY 1st @ 4:00-6:30) @ BFAC

Fax:
 (630) 937-8001
 Attendance Line:
 (630) 937-8003

Kids Kampus 101



Before and After School Care Program at AGS

- Open Daily from 6:45am-8:45am & 3:30pm-6:00pm
- Conveniently located in the Multi-Purpose Room at AGS

Please stop in to visit on
Tuesdays or Thursdays 3:30pm -4:30pm

For program inquiries and program details, please contact:
kidskampus101@gmail.com or (630) 750-3166



Please join us for
ALICE GUSTAFSON SCHOOL WEEK
at
DADDIO'S DINER!!!

Tuesday 2/07 through Friday 2/10
from
11:30 a.m. 'til 7:30 p.m.

Tell your friends and neighbors!
*No need to bring a flier - just let the fine servers know
you support AGS.*

10% of sales will be donated to the AGS PTO.

Come Rock the Diner!!

Comfort Food - Great Atmosphere - Great Music
Nightly Specials - Homemade Desserts - Fun for All!!

Carryout is available.

Daddio's Diner - 134 West Wilson Street
Batavia, IL 60510
630-879-5299

We look forward to seeing you there!