

The Gustafson Gazette

Dr. Jan Wright, Principal

Karine Picchietti, PTO President

From the Principal



Alice Gustafson
S C H O O L

November 2011 ♦ Volume 1, Issue 3

Dear AGS Families,

The state has recently released the results of our spring 2011 state testing. All students in grades 3-8 take the Illinois Standards Achievement Test. This assesses student knowledge of reading and mathematics in grades 3-8 and science in grades 4 and 7. The percent of students at Alice Gustafson School who met state standards are below.

Contents

From the Principal	1
PTO News	1
November Book Club	2
Upcoming Fundraisers	3
Fourth Grade Poetry	4
AGS Spirit Wear!	5
AGS Calendar	6
PTO Profit/Loss	7
Kids Campus	8
Tom and Eddie's	9

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Reading	86%	87%	99%
Mathematics	98%	93%	97%
Science		87%	

We are very proud of these results and continue to provide supports and interventions for those students not meeting state standards. I encourage you to go to the following link to view the entire Alice Gustafson school report card: <http://www.bps101.net/community/about-101/school-report-cards>. Another very interesting website is the Illinois Interactive Report Card.

— Principal Jan Wright

AGS Fundraiser at Tom & Eddie's

Monday Nov. 7 and Tuesday, Nov. 8: 10 am - 9 pm

Print the last page of this newsletter and *take it with* you when you visit Tom & Eddie's (1042 Commons Drive, Geneva) for lunch or dinner anytime between 10 am & 9 pm Monday or Tuesday. **AGS will receive 10% of the net proceeds!**

Math in the Mornings!

It's time again for Sunshine Math, an enrichment math program for grades K-5, for all students who enjoy doing math, solving puzzles and being challenged. It 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. Mark your calendar... the Sunshine Math dates are the following **Mondays: November 14, December 12, January 9, February 13, March 12, April 16 and May 14.**

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 1x 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.



Kick off Meeting for
ALL interested volunteers!
**6:30-9:00* p This
Monday in the LRC!**

This meeting is for anyone interested in helping but isn't quite sure how to. We will confirm theme & date for this fun fundraiser which is **one of the most anticipated events by the students. Be a part of it!**

**Stop in when you can.*

Fun Fair 2012

Kick off

Meeting for ALL interested volunteers! **Monday Nov. 7**
AGS LRC 6:30-9:00p (Stop in anytime during the meeting.)

Join in by helping out with this fantastic fundraiser. Begin by simply coming to this meeting! You can determine where you'd like to volunteer a few hours of your time. The Fun Fair is a great way to meet and work with other families, and it's the most anticipated fundraiser by the entire student body! Be a part of it! **At this meeting we will:**

- ✓ **Confirm** the theme and the date.
- ✓ **Meet** the committee chairs, and consider joining these volunteers as a committee chair! Several committees need co-chairs and all of the committees need support members.
- ✓ **Start** a timeline, and get things organized for the event.

We invite any member of the AGS community who wants to get involved but isn't sure where and what to do.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail **Jill Stevens**, 630-326-9282
jhrstevens@gmail.com

Current Committees:

Games: OPEN

Treasurer: Brian Nallenweg

Prizes: Stacy Marlin

Food: OPEN

Publicity: Jen Meiring (would like a co-chair? Could it be you?)

Graphics: Andrea Davis

Baskets: Christy Hotham/Heidi Pryor

Decorations: Nancy Kerr

Donations: OPEN

Staffing: Cathy Dremel

AGS November Book Club

Hello AGS Parents & Students!

The November book club will be here before you know it! We had a GREAT turn-out in October and would love an EVEN BIGGER turn-out in November! November book club for grades **K-3rd grade** will meet on **Thursday, November 17**. They will meet in the LRC on Thursday morning from 8:15-8:45 am. **Grades 4 and 5** will meet **Wednesday, November 16** at 8:15 am in the LRC. Please note the different days.

Checking out books for grades KDG-3rd grade: Please email your child(ren)'s name, their teacher and grade (so Mrs. Ashby can get the book to your child) and the title of the book they wish to read to: marsha.schuster@comcast.net.

Checking out books for 4th/5th graders: It's a little different. Because they are reading the 2011 Caudill books, we have a few copies in our LRC that need to be available to all kids at AGS, so as a result Mrs. Ashby cannot reserve copies specifically for book club. The procedure to be in the 4th/5th grade book club is this: the student will check out the book with Mrs. Ashby. If we run out of copies at our LRC, simply reserve a copy at our Batavia Public Library. Easy! Also, if you are a 4th/5th grade student, please e-mail me at marsha.schuster@comcast.net just to RSVP that you will be coming. Questions? marsha.schuster@comcast.net.

Please try to sign up asap if you haven't already so your child can have ample time to read the book!

As always, if you would like to be a parent volunteer with book club, we can use your help! Please let us know when you sign your child(ren) up! A Big THANKS goes out to our parent volunteers who helped in October!

Thanks and Happy Reading!
Marsha Schuster & Cathy Dremel

November 2011 AGS Book Club Book Selections:

Kindergarten: *Clifford the Big Red Dog* by Norman Bridwell
"Emily Elizabeth has a dog. He is big. He is red. He is Clifford!"

1st Grade: *Hi! Fly Guy* by Tedd Arnold *Grades K-2*

When buzz captures a fly to enter in the Amazing Pet Show, his parents and the judges tell him that a fly cannot be a pet, but Fly Guy proves them wrong.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff *Ages 4-8*

If you give a mouse a cookie, he'll have to ask for milk. And if you give a mouse a glass of milk, what will he ask for next? The fun of the book just increases.

2nd Grade: *26 Fairmont Street* by Tomie dePaola *Grades K-4*

An autobiographical account of dePaola's childhood, centered on the building of his family's new house during the 1930s. Each short chapter is also a slice-of-life view of young Tomie's world witnessing a hurricane, a disillusioning first day of kindergarten, a much anticipated theater trip to see Disney's Snow White, and holiday gatherings.

Mark Your Calendars...



Carson's Community Days

The PTO is selling coupon books for Carson's Community Days, taking place November 11-12. Booklets are \$5 each and offer over \$200 in savings. Contact Sue Locke at 630-802-0292 or waysmeans@agspto.org if you are interested in purchasing one or more. The AGS PTO keeps every dollar made on the sale of these books. We are hoping to raise over \$1,000. This is a great opportunity to support the school and get some great bargains in the process!

It's CiCi's Mark your calendar: **December 1** for a CiCi's Pizza fundraiser! Stop on by between **4-9 pm** to visit with AGS staff volunteers, PLUS hear the infamous teacher singing group sing carols and ring the Salvation Army bells right in front of CiCi's! Forms will be coming home with your kids in the near future, and will also be available at www.agspto.org.



Target employees presented a ceremonial check to AGS for \$20,287, representative of money the store has contributed to the school through its RED Card program since 1987. Representatives from Target stayed and helped kids in various classrooms after the ceremony.

...continued November Book Club

Gooseberry Park by Cynthia Rylant & Arthur Howard Ages 8-12

An assortment of domesticated pets and untamed creatures band together to help a friend in need in the Newbery Medalist's rollicking animal tale. At the center is Stumpy, a squirrel who gives birth to triplets shortly before her nest in Gooseberry Park is destroyed by an ice storm. Thanks to the ingenuity of Gwendolyn, a Labrador owned by a retired professor; Kona, a wise old hermit crab; and a prankster bat named Murray, Stumpy's babies are rescued and taken to cozy quarters in the professor's basement. The problem? Having left the newborns under the care of Murray, Stumpy has wandered off for help and cannot be found.

3rd Grade:

Nim's Island by Wendy Orr & Kerry Millard

Nim lives on the most beautiful island in the world (its location is a closely guarded secret) with a marine iguana, a sea lion, and her scientist dad, Jack. When he goes off to explore the world of plankton, the child occupies herself with typical Swiss Family Robinson-like chores and keeping her dad's batteries charged so she can check his e-mail on the lap-top computer. When his boat becomes disabled, Nim's link to humanity becomes Alex Rover, the author of the novel she is reading, who has e-mailed Jack with some scientific questions. They correspond frequently, Nim giving Alex advice on building a raft out of coconuts, and Alex uncannily picturing spots on the island in her current book. A violent storm and volcanic eruption toward the end result in Nim saving the day, and the three characters set up life together on their paradise. And all of this occurs amid a clever plan to divert evil tourists from ever finding the island. *Grades 2-5*

Christmas Rat by Avi

Christmas vacation is supposed to be a blast. Or so Eric thinks. But with all his friends either sick in bed or out of town, Eric's getting more bored by the hour. Then he meets Anje Gabrail, exterminator. Anje's got all the normal stuff an exterminator needs, "roach powders and smoke bombs," but he also carries some extra equipment: a crossbow and metal-tipped arrows that can penetrate concrete walls and will annihilate any creature with which they come in contact. Anje's number one target? Rats. *Grades 4-7*

4th Grade & 5th Grade combined:

Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing up Scieszka by Jon Scieszka

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows and jokes told at family dinner.

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.



Spotlight on Fourth Grade

The fourth grade students have been busy creating exciting poetry. Writings include haikus, "I Am" or biography poems as well as prairie and monster poems.

It has been a busy first quarter! We are building strong word choice and fluency with these writing tasks. In April, all the children will have an opportunity to present some of their original poetry at the Fourth Grade Poetry evening. We are all looking forward to that event in the spring of 2012.

The Prairie

The interesting red-tailed hawk with the cinnamon tail.
 Wolf is running in the fresh grass.
 The super bison has a tremendous appearance.
 Golden buds swaying in the breeze.

Vacant
 Brown
 Lovely
 Rich soil with worms and bugs crawling in and out.
 Fierce digger wasp buzzing in the sun.
 Cup Plant blowing in the wind.
 Six little mice running from a hawk
 Outstanding
 Supernatural
 Gorgeous
 Tall grasses with purple flowers
 The tiny lonely mice scrambling in the grass
 Big Blue Stem in the golden field
 Ashes in the soil from a wild fire
 Vast
 Peaceful
 Flat

Olivia Bedell

The Peaceful Prairie

*Bison strolling through the thick prairie grass.
 Graceful red-tailed hawks soaring through the sky.
 Compass plant swaying in the wind
 Salamanders hunting for their lunch.
 Beautiful
 Peaceful
 Quiet
 Prairie grass blowing on a
 summer's day
 Brown bats screeching in the night
 Coyotes searching for their prey
 Beautiful forbs flowing in the
 breeze
 Remote
 Vacant
 Natural*

By Nunu McDiarmid

A Monster's Day

Monsters bite and monsters blink
 Monsters scratch and monsters stink.

Monsters bicker and monsters bite
 Monsters fidget and monsters fight.

Monsters groan and monsters growl
 Monsters creep and monsters crawl.

A monster's day is never through
 With all of those monstrous things to do.

Dana D.
 Based on a poem by Douglas Florian

A Monsters Day

By Tony Avila

**Monsters munch and monsters crunch
 Monsters scrunch and monsters punch
 Monsters gasp and monsters growl
 Monsters prowl and monsters scowl
 Monsters grin and monsters groan
 Monsters moan and monsters keep a loan
 A monsters day is never through
 With all those monsters things to do.**

AGS Spirit Wear!

[AGS Spirit Wear](#) makes a great holiday gift! Take advantage of easy online ordering from Monday, Nov. 7 to the 18. Visit [CelticCustom.com](#). Items ordered will be delivered the week of December 12. If you need special pick up arrangements, please contact Dana Andrews at dana.andrews@sbcglobal.net.

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 available from the office.

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!

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.

Calling all artists! Yearbook Cover Contest

AGS students are invited to create a yearbook cover using the theme "Today I Will Fly" which was the book which was read at the assembly on the first day of school.

Art for the yearbook cover contest is **due by the end of the school day on Tuesday, November 15th**. The student whose artwork is chosen for the front cover will receive a free yearbook!

The **guidelines** for this year's contest are as follows:

- Artwork should be done on 8 1/2" X 11" paper.
- Please draw a picture that incorporates the "Today I Will Fly" theme. You may include alligators but you don't have to.
- Please have "AGS 2011-2012" or "AGS Yearbook 2011-2012" included in your cover.
- Please use markers or crayons for your artwork. Make sure your artwork is not too light. Make it colorful!
- Please color in the background. Don't leave it white.
- Please include your name and grade on your artwork.

Please contact Dana Andrews at [\(630\) 761-1365](tel:6307611365) or email dana.andrews@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Yearbook Photos... Did you take pictures at an AGS event, such as the the Ice Cream Social, Gator Gallop or Halloween Party?

- ✓ The yearbook committee is always looking for photos to add to the yearbook, *but please do not send us all your photos*, only those that are high quality and the best of what you took.

For more information on how to submit your photos please contact dana.andrews@sbcglobal.net.

Gator Gold—A great Holiday Gift!

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](#).

AGS November Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
		1	2	3	4	5
		AM Walking Club 8-8:45pm	Market Day pick up in gym @ 3:45p	Noon Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences	NO SCHOOL	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Walking Club 3:45-4:30 Gator Gold Orders DUE 6:30-9:00p Fun Fair Kick off Meeting: LRC	AM Walking Club 8-8:45pm Choir		Picture Retake Day! Return unwanted pictures to the office as soon as possible.	AM Walking Club 8-8:45pm Student Council 8:00a Carson's Community Days	Carson's Community Days
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Sunshine Math 8:15-8:45am PM Walking Club 3:45-4:30pm PTO Board Meeting 6:30pm	AM Walking Club 8-8:45pm	4 th & 5 th Book Club 8:15-8:45 in LRC 5 th Grade Michael & Linda Presentation	K-3 Book Club 8:15-8:45 in LRC	AM Walking Club 8-8:45pm	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Thanksgiving Break - No School						
27	28	29	30	Some December Dates: December 1: AGSFundraiser at Cici's Pizza + infamous singing AGS staff carols and rings Salvation Army bell! December 5: Gator Gold Order Deadline December 12: Sunshine Math		
	PM Walking Club 3:45-4:30pm	AM Walking Club 8-8:45pm	Market Day pick up in gym @ 3:45p			

Mark your calendars for 2012 AGS performances in the new Batavia Fine Arts Centre (BFAC):

Tuesday, January 31st @ 7:00 PM: Hawaiian Concert (1st grade, 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

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

Alice Gustafson School
905 Carlisle Road
Batavia, Illinois 60510

Phone:
(630) 937-8000

Fax:
(630) 937-8001

Attendance Line:
(630) 937-8003

Alice Gustafson PTO
Profit & Loss
 July 1, 2011- October 21, 2011

	Jul '11 - Jun 12
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Yearbook	-110.00
Movie Night	-23.71
Dine Around Batavia	46.14
Market Day	291.41
Gator Gallop	4,674.38
Fall Clothing Sale	6,041.14
Gator Gold	-533.25
School Supply Kits	400.45
Target for Education	1,660.65
Cougars Night	595.00
	13,042.21
Total Income	13,042.21
Expense	
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	
PBIS	276.60
	276.60
Total PROGRAM DEVELOPME...	276.60
Curriculum	
P.E.	84.00
	84.00
Total Curriculum	84.00
GENERAL OPERATING	
Bank Service Charges	49.20
Donations to other NFP's	750.00
Administrative Expenses	26.97
Miscellaneous	125.00
	951.17
Total GENERAL OPERATING	951.17
CLASSROOM SUPPORT	
Back to School Celebration	429.68
	429.68
Total CLASSROOM SUPPORT	429.68
LRC	
Learning Center	32.27
Periodicals	463.65
LRC - Other	256.66
	752.58
Total LRC	752.58
Certified Teachers' Gift	4,875.00
	4,875.00
Total Expense	7,369.03
Net Ordinary Income	5,673.18
Net Income	5,673.18

Kids Kampus 101



Before and After School Care Program at AGS

- Open daily 6:30am-8:45am & 3:30pm-6:00pm
- Conveniently located in the multi-purpose room at AGS

For Registration Details & Program Inquiries please contact
kidskampus101@gmail.com or (630) 750-3166

• HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TOM & EDDIE'S •



Restaurant Night

November 7 & 8, 2011

10:00am - 9:00pm

Tom & Eddie's

1042 Commons Drive, Geneva

Join us for lunch or dinner at Tom & Eddie's in support of **Alice Gustafson Elementary**.

Bring your entire family, friends & neighbors to enjoy the delicious food & friendly service because 10% of the day's net proceeds will be donated to your organization.

Please bring in this flyer for the cashier.

Don't delay! Mark it in your calendars today!

Tom & Eddie's®