



Graceville Elementary School

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Our character trait for the month of February is initiative.

Roundup In Learning

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday
February 2 *4th Grade Writing Camp	February 3 *4th Grade Writing Camp	February 4 *4th Grade Writing Camp	February 5 *4th Grade Writing Camp	February 8 *4th Grade Writing Camp *PTO Meeting 6:00 p.m.

“Paws-abilities” at GES

February

Black History Month

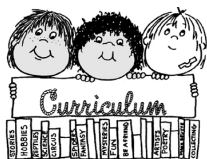
National Dental Health Month

1-8 ~ FCAT Writing Camp 4th Grade Students

8 ~ PTO Meeting 6:00 p.m.

9 ~ FCAT Writing

12 ~ Valentine Parties



3rd Grade News

It is amazing that February of 2010 is already here. Our 3rd graders are learning a variety of concepts in reading, math, and science.

In reading, students have learned author’s purpose, and the four types of author’s purpose. They are currently working on main ideas and details. Each student should be reading the story of the week every night as part of homework activities. This enables students to understand the story and how to identify the reading strategy that is being learned. When students are reading the story, fluency is improved by identifying unfamiliar words. Third graders should be reading at least 130 words per minute with full comprehension of the story.

In math, the students have been learning about the different types of graphs: pictographs, vertical bar graphs, horizontal bar graphs, and line graphs. They need to recognize the differences of each type

of graph. Students are working on multiplication tables. It is very important that each student knows the multiplication tables. Math concepts are reviewed to prepare for FCAT. Expect more math homework assignments.

Third graders have begun the unit on rocks and soil in science. Students are enhancing their minds with the three types of rocks: igneous rock, sedimentary rock, and metamorphic rock. They recognize that new soil is on the top of the surface while the old soil works its way down into the earth. This hands on project has allowed students to better understand the different types of rocks and how they are formed.

New AR goals have been set for the 3rd 9 weeks. Each student should be reading and completing AR tests to reach that goal. Please encourage your child to read his/her AR books.

Resource for Parents

The Florida Partnership for
Family Involvement in Education
www.floridapartnership.usf.edu

Worth Quoting

Success seems to be connected with action.
Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don’t quit.

Conrad Hilton—Hilton Hotels



Rachel Thomas
GES Rookie of the Year
Jackson County Rookie of the Year

Rachel Jane Thomas is 2010 Graceville Elementary School Rookie Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Thomas completed her

internship at GES last year and was hired as a Paraprofessional after completing her internship. She was then hired as a full time fourth grade teacher at GES in July of 2009. Rachel completed her Associate in Arts degree at Chipola College on December 14, 2007. She was then accepted into the Elementary Education Program at Florida State University, Panama City campus. She received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education on May 2, 2009 and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She managed to take care of her family, work a part-time job, and complete her four year degree in 2 ½ years.

Rachel has a husband named Craig and two beautiful children, a 5-year-old son named Caulin and a 3-year-old daughter named Lainee Jane. Rachel is very dedicated to her family as well as her job. She believes that each child learns on an individual basis and strives to nurture her students' individual needs. Her greatest reward is to see her students get excited about learning. She also believes in consistent and open communication with parents. She loves working with the staff at GES and could not imagine working anywhere else. Mrs. Thomas says, "I am extremely fortunate to work in such a wonderful community and to be a part of making a difference in each of my student's learning experiences. I truly believe that being a teacher is what I was meant to do. I couldn't imagine having any other career. I am personally grateful to Jackson County and their dedication to making learning a wonderful experience."

Robin Mercer

GES Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Robin Mercer, a Cottondale High School graduate, received her AA degree from Chipola College. Robin attended the University of West Florida where she received a BA in Elementary Education/ESOL ESE.



Mrs. Mercer has been a teacher for 5 years and currently teaches 1st grade. She and her husband, Noel (Andy) have 3 small children, 2 boys and a girl. Robin enjoys spending time with her family and reading books.

"Teaching is a rewarding profession because you shape and mold students' minds and attitudes for the future. I enjoy teaching because I am able to witness my students' growth throughout the year. I enjoy interacting with students on a daily basis and observing their creativity and enthusiasm for learning."



Scott Howell
GES School Related Employee of the Year

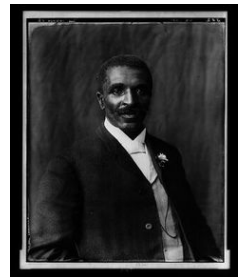
Scott Key Howell is Graceville Elementary School Related Employee of the Year. Mr. Howell has worked for

Jackson County School Board at GES for 10 years. He is the general maintenance person for the school. Scott's duties include making sure rooms have heat and air conditioning as well as proper working plumbing. He maintains the beautiful yards at Graceville Elementary and keeps the lunchroom clean.

Scott is a life long resident of Graceville and a member of First United Methodist Church. He attended Chipola College. Mr. Howell enjoys working with the staff and administrators, however he loves helping the children. Mr. Scott says, "I am truly blessed to be a part of the Jackson County School System."

In Honor of Black History Month

George Washington Carver (1864-1943)



George Washington Carver discovered many new uses for peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. These became important crops in the south. They helped southern farmers find new success.

Did you know???

Planning is vital for success in both school and the workplace. Developing good techniques for managing school work will make life less stressful and school grades will be better. This will allow more free time for fun activities.